

Finding a Sustainable Solution to the Kayayei Problem in Ghana

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Abstract

Female porters in Ghana are known as Kayayei. They are predominantly migrants from the Northern part of Ghana. The Kayayei problem is about to be a chronic problem, and it needs a comprehensive approach. The number of Kayayei in Accra, Kumasi and Kintampo are alarming. The social problems that Kayayei and the nation are facing with their settlement in the cities are enormous. Kayayei face a range of social and psychological challenges daily, ranging from homelessness, and physical, verbal and sexual abuse such as rape. Most of the rape cases end up in teenage pregnancy, street children, robbery, prostitution diseases etc. The government's effort to resettle Kayayeis has resulted in most of them losing their accommodation and living in very deplorable conditions making them vulnerable to the weather, mosquitoes, wicked men who rob them of their earnings and also rape them. This paper provides a sound and lasting approach to solving the Kayayei problem. It presents current literature on educational, security, social, accommodation and sanitation problems facing Kayayeis and continues with a well thought out plan involving the major stakeholders to engage in a combination of strategic accommodation and education to solve such problems.

Key words: Kayayei, accommodation, migration, security, homelessness, sexual abuse of Kayayei

Introduction

The term "Kayayei" combines two words, "Kaya", meaning load or goods in the Hausa language, and "Yei", meaning women in the Ga language and "Yoo" woman (singular). Their job is to carry loads for people who shop in markets, in the cities and need such help. Many Kayayei's living conditions are perilous as they live, work and sleep in the open where they are exposed to vicious calamities such as rape, armed robbery, diseases and other forms of vulnerability.

The rise in female migration is an emerging dynamic of contemporary migration within Ghana (Awumbila & Schandorf, 2008; IOM, 2014). Females migrate from the northern parts of Ghana, comprising the Northern, Upper East and the Upper West regions of the country, to the economically rich regions in southern Ghana, particularly the Greater Accra and the Ashanti regions. This is largely due to environmental, social and economic factors (Awumbila & Schandorf, 2008). Female migration is closely linked to the gap in development between the north and south dating back to colonial times. The north has the highest concentration of the poor in Ghana (Bening, 1975; Codjoe, 2006; Ghana Statistical Service, 2007, 2012). Most women in the northern part of the country who migrate to the urban areas have low or no skills and therefore seek employment in the informal sector as manual labourers (Awumbilla, 1997; Anarfi et al. 2003).

Migration is seen by the female porters as a means to gain autonomy in their lives, a means of livelihood diversification. The migration process of female porters is enabled by social networks with varying levels of social capital which facilitates movement and settlement. Social networks provide safety nets for female porters as it increases their social asset base. The reasons for their migration are related to the declining cost of living and other

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socio-culture problems prevailing in the Northern regions in Ghana. These female porters are known as Kayayei.

. According to Awumbila & Schandorf, (2008).The residential area is also home to many armed robbers and drug dealers who largely pose risks to migrants who spend the night in the open. Besides stealing personal belongings of the migrants, the robbers and drug peddlers also engage in rape. Several migrant girls have children as a result of rape and have to go through tough times raising these children. Kayayei fall prey to rapists who rape them, some end up with pregnancies and give birth to fatherless children. Female migrants in major urban cities are confronted with difficult life circumstances and heightened stress in the migration and adjustment process, leading to diminished psychological and physical well-being (IOM, 2014). This is more so for girls as young as eight years old working as head porters (Kayayei) (Anarfi et al. 2003). Just like other migrants, they continue to experience various stressful circumstances even as they adapt to the new social environments and lifestyles.

When I first got here in Accra, I did not have money for food and even to pay for bathing and visiting toilet. Here whatever you take including drinking water you pay for it. It was my friends who always buy food, drinking water, and paid for my toilet visit. It was so embarrassing, but thanks to friendship, I was at home because my friends were there to share whatever they have with me". Pagnaa, 20 year old Kayayo from Zakpalsi in the Savelegu –Naton District.

Due to the vulnerability of the Kayayei, the rape cases would increase, and the children born from these abuses would also increase. These children grow without any form of education; both formal and informal. By virtue of their living conditions, Kayayei are usually introduced to social vices such as prostitution, drug addiction, stealing and robbery. The children born out of these rapes end joining these criminal gangs on the street and complicate the situation. Those who become hardened criminals may rob with arms/guns. Unfortunately it is the law abiding citizens of Ghana who become prey to these social vices. It is likely that in a few years to come, the country may churn out adult without any level of education, trade/job who may only survive through robbery if a lasting solution is not found for the Kayayei phenomenon.

Since the early 1980s, tens of thousands of females in northern Ghana have fled growing rural poverty as their traditional source of employment, rain-fed farming, can no longer sustain them. Some of these women too fled forced marriages as a result of their cultural practices. Yeboah and Appiah-Yeboah (2009) "Some of the women migrate to Accra either to run away from a betrothed husband or to work and save money for their wedding. Many young girls who escape from arranged and forced marriages end up in the cities working as porters." These females, the majority of whom are of school-going age, escape to cities without knowing where they will live or work, and often ultimately working as porters, carrying loads on their heads, and doing other menial jobs. Kayayei (female head porters) are now a distinct urban poor group, mostly operating in and around lorry parks and markets in Ghana's cities.

A few of these Kayayei are also students in high schools who come to look for menial jobs in the cities to earn some money to enable them continue their education. These females migrated from places like Mossi, Mamprugu, Gonja, Bimboba, Kotokoli, Dagbon, Tolon, Kumbugu, Savelugu, Garu and other parts mostly in the Northern parts of Ghana.

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The Kayayei problem has become a burden on the government of Ghana. The government and other private organisations have tried many options and put in a lot of measures to control the Kayayei phenomenon, but it appears not to be working effectively. Read for Wealth Ghana, (2010) a Ghanaian non-profit organization, claimed that by the end of 2013, they would construct a school that would educate porters, popularly known as 'Kayaye' and their children in Accra. Mr. Richard Asante, Chief Executive Officer of the organization, told the GNA, that they have registered about 700 and provided them with identification cards, introduced them to banking and carry out periodic health screening on them.

According to Kasapafmonline.com (2016)“What is even hurting us more is the fact that NHIS is collapsing. They also told us that they have provided jobs for us with the establishment of SADA and so we should go home and work and that all the guinea fowls have returned home. We boarded a car home only to be told that there is no work for us.”

The Daily Graphic on 9 March (2016) reported the Kayayei phenomenon as addressed in Parliament: The House, therefore, proposed some short, medium and long term solutions to deal with the problem. They include a national survey on the phenomenon, increasing budget for the Gender Ministry, interventions in identified migrant areas, education on family planning, strict enforcement of the Children’s Act, creation of shelters in the three regions in the north of Ghana and the development of infrastructure in the north, among other interventions.

In the year 2007, the government made some efforts which Mr Kuuzumi, the Chief Director of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, disclosed that the Ministry had changed its strategy in order to efficiently deal with this phenomenon. He said the Ministry was in the process of registering all Kayayei’s in the city to establish a database to help repatriate them to their various communities. He explained this as a way of making the activities of the Kayayei unattractive to those who otherwise might try the lifestyle. He also said the Ministry was running several training programmes in trades including hairdressing, tailoring, tie-dye and batik in order to give the Kayayei skills to live on so they could leave the streets.

The Ministry was also liaising with the various District Assemblies whose people are involved in the Kayayei phenomenon to reintegrate them back into their communities and give them the necessary skills training needed to improve upon their standard of living. This exercise he said was underway at the Agbogbloshie Market and had since its inception registered over 345 Kayayei within a period of two weeks.

It is worth mentioning that the above interventions and similar ones are directed at preventing the Kayayei from migrating to Accra and Kumasi, yet there is a very strong push factor causing the Kayayei to migrate despite the problems they face in the South. An analysis of Kayayei socio-economic status showed significant improvements in their livelihoods after migration, as well as benefits for their relatives back home. For example, after migration, Kayayei earned incomes that allowed them to care for themselves, and to save and send remittances to support families and other relatives back home.

The solution is not to stop the migration but to manage the migrants such that those who ply the trade, those who engage the Kayayei, the families and relatives of the Kayayei back at home, and the general populace will all benefit. There is a popular saying that ‘If you send 100 Kayayei from the city to their hometown, the same vehicle will bring back 200 Kayayei to the city’

Despite the above interventions interventions put up by the Government, individuals, and NGOs the problem still persists. It is necessary to analyse the existing problems and

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propose a sustainable solution to the management and provision of support to kayayeis in order to find a lasting solution to the phenomenon.

Research Objectives

1. To identify and document the problems that affect the livelihoods of Kayayei in Accra, Kumasi, and Kintampo.
2. To identify possible solutions to the specific problems that affect the livelihoods of Kayayei in Accra, Kumasi, and Kintampo.
3. To develop a model for sustainable management and provision of support for Kayayei in major cities in Ghana.

Research Methodology

The research employed qualitative data collection using social interaction and document review to collect primary and secondary data. The secondary data was derived from existing literature. Review and analysis of such literature was undertaken to identify problems associated with the Kayayei phenomenon, and the efforts made by Government, and NGOs towards solving the Kayayei problem. The primary data entailed social interactions with selected Kayayeis to identify the Kayayei problems and possible solutions. Government, Policy makers, Ministers, Parliamentarians and the Legislature, Non-Governmental Organisations, Businessmen and entrepreneurs, International Organisations, Churches, religious organization and advocacy groups, and the general public, traders, landowners, public service workers and the security services were contacted for information.

Findings and discussions

Reasons why people migrate from the North to the South

Due to the huge number of Northerners now engaged in the Kayayei trade coupled with the harsh economic conditions in these cities, the Kayayei traders live from hand-to-mouth as some of them indulge in prostitution just to buy food to eat. They eventually acquire Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) or unwanted pregnancies and have to commit abortion. Those who are also able to carry the pregnancy for nine (9) months or less, finally give birth to fatherless children. This is because, in the final analysis the paternity of such a child is not always known or determined, and the mother of the child is likely to abandon the child somewhere or “poison” the child to death as a result of frustration.

Lack of accommodation is also a serious problem to these Kayayei traders since the money they make cannot even rent a decent accommodation for them to lay their heads. Most of them wait till stores and big shops situated along the streets and markets are closed, then they go and sleep in front of these shops. Those who are lucky find some kiosks and sleep inside. They sleep on cardboards, bare floor or ground, benches and tables. As soon as the first cock crows in the morning around 4 am, they wake up and begin to walk to their various places of work to start hustling. Unfortunately, some „idiotic men“ (some of the male Kaya) and other thieves rape them mercilessly and steal the little money that they make during the day. The end result is either acquiring STIs or having unwanted pregnancies.

Besides, when it rain during the night they have to cover themselves with polythene bags or find a place and perch till the rain stops. Those who have young ones (children) also suffer the same fate and sometimes, the extreme weather conditions cause their children and themselves to fall sick or even die. “Children caring for their own children”, certainly the Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 aimed at reducing child and maternal mortality cannot be achieved in the face of these happenings.

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This finding resonates well with the findings of Awumbila & Schandorf, (2008) that the reasons for migration from the rural north to the urban south include not only the limited economic opportunities but also the poor social amenities and cultural restrictions which partly account for female poverty. Gendered poverty in the north is an important factor in the migration of females, particularly head porters. Females are generally poorer and less in resources in rural areas of Ghana, particularly in the north (GSS, 2007). While socio-economic and cultural factors act as push factors for female migration from the north, relatively favourable factors act as pull factors in various destinations in the south. For example, Awumbilla (1997) argues that the pattern of internal migration in Ghana has also been influenced by the stark differences in the levels of poverty between the north and the south. Employment opportunities resulting from the growing of industries in urban areas like Accra have contributed to the rise in the movement of young people from the north to the south (Yaro, 2004; Van der Geest, 2011)

Conflicts and war at the North is also a major reason for their migration to the South.

I migrated to Accra here because of the conflict in my area. We are not safe and free to move about. Almost every week there is gun shots in my community. To avoid death, the best thing is to migrate to the Accra to have my peace, and also make money to be able to buy my basic needs and also cater for my children at home (Saratu, 27 year old Kayayo from Bimbilla)

Problems that affect the livelihoods of Kayayei in Accra, Kumasi, and Kintampo

Kayayei face a whole array of problems including education, accommodation, security, sanitation, health, and social problems, these problems are multi-dimensional and interlinked and so contribute directly and indirectly to the reduction in the standard of living of the Kayayei. A better understanding of the nature of the problems will serve as scientific basis for finding sustainable solutions. The following represent the cluster of the problems and their proposed solutions. Most of the problems migrants face at their destinations are socioeconomic in nature and revolve mainly around their living conditions. These include having no proper place to sleep at night, poor remuneration for their services, harassments from city guards and security men (night watchmen), the cumbersome nature of their work, increased population of Kayayei that has reduced job availability

The economy of Agbogloshie is largely based on distribution of food stuffs which are imported from all parts of the country, particularly the north. Onion, yam, tomato and dry fish are among the major commodities. The migrants living in this area also control large parts of the market and are largely responsible for the importation of the commodities. The Dagomba are the majority in this group of migrants and this also reflects their share of control in the market and in the political sphere of interaction in the area. The transport of goods within the market is mainly done by truck pushers and women. Most of the women that transport the goods are migrants mostly from the north (Whitehead & Hashim, 2005). These women are considered the most exploited of labour in that microeconomic economic zone as they earn little money for the loads they carry. Meanwhile, the work is tedious and comes with several health risks (Awumbila & Schandorf, 2008).

Problem of lack of education

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Majority of the Kayayei do not have either formal or informal education which could guarantee them the basic survival skills such as basic health care practices, knowledge of fundamental human rights, child protection laws, and basic personal hygiene.

According to a 2010 survey by the Ghana Federation of the Urban Poor of Kayayei, out of 15,000 respondents were engaged in farming prior to their migration, only 11 percent had attended school, while 13 percent had been idle. Over 90 percent of the survey's Kayayei were northerners and had migrated without taking full advantage of free education. In the attempt to escape poverty, almost all the Kayayei missed out on education. With little or no education or skills, most of the migrants find it difficult to find jobs when they come to the cities and end up in the Kayayoo business. As Quaicoe (2005) points out in her article 'Woes of the Kayayoo', young girls are faced with myriad of problems which include poor housing facilities, poor health care, inadequate sanitation facilities and harassment from male colleagues

Since they have little or no formal education, they have no employable skills to enable them gain proper employment to enhance their livelihood so people take advantage of them and use them for cheap labour. The Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2) (ensuring that children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary education), as some of the Kayayei interview reported that they had had no formal education. The low educational attainment of the female porters can be attributed to poverty and culture.

I escaped narrowly from the grips of my 'madam' who wanted to sell me to ritualists to be used for 'medicine murders' after working for her for five months without pay. I overheard her in a phone conversation planning to give me out for a fee. When I mentioned to her I wanted to return to my hometown, she beat me up mercilessly and locked me up in a room. However, she run out of luck and mistakenly left her phone in the room and I quickly picked it up and dialed a fire service number she saved on it and they came to my rescue. She was later arrested and handed over to the police (13-year-old Zenabu Sawodogo, a Kayayei in Accra revealed)

Filmer and Pritchett (1999), in a cross national study of thirty-five countries, observed that low enrolment or high school dropout rates are very common among poor households. Poverty is endemic in the three northern regions of Ghana where most of these Kayayei migrated from. These regions suffer from a disproportionately higher level of poverty compared to the other regions in Ghana (World Bank, 2014). This low enrolment or lack of formal education among female porters mirrors the general low enrolment of girls in the northern part of Ghana. Approximately 40 per cent of girls of basic school age in the Northern Region are not in school (USAID, 2012). It was also reported by Fusieni (2006) that Muslims' attitude towards girl-child education has contributed to the low enrolment of Muslim girls in schools in Ghana, especially those in rural communities in the north. It means majority of the Kayayei in Ghana lack formal education, and there is the need to assist them to acquire some level of formal education through the provision of customised education provided to the Kayayei at well -defined locations.

When some of the female porters were asked about the reasons why they had not had any formal education, they reported that their parents did not have the money to send them to school. They also reported that in the eyes of their parents, investing in a girl's education is a waste of time and resources. This again is consistent with the observation by Filmer and Pritchett (1999) about the relation between poverty and high dropout rates.

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Chambers (1989) also makes the assertion that poor households do not value investment in education as they can depend on the labour of their children. Parents in the northern part of the country need to be educated on the need to give both boys and girls child equal opportunity for education. Some of the respondents indicated that their parents did not find it necessary to send them to school. They claimed that their parents consider it a waste of resources and time to send the girl child to school. This is illustrated by Awabu, a 16-year-old Kayayoo and a primary six school dropout, during an individual interview:

My father in the village prefers to send my brothers to school than the girls. In the house back in the north, we are six girls and four boys, all the boys are in school but none of the girls are in school. One day I asked my father why we the girls are not in school and he said that we are not members of the household; that very soon they will marry us out of the house and whatever benefits we get will be enjoyed by our husbands and that the boys will always be within the same compound (Awabu, a 16-year-old Kayayo from Linginsi in the East Mamprusi District)

This is the basic lifestyle of the Kayayei; always helpless and at the mercy of those seeking cheap labour (Kunateh, 2010). Black et al. and Haan, as cited in the preceding paragraphs, have identified deplorable conditions of Kayayei that are attributable to lack of work

Security problem for Kayayei

The Kayayei phenomenon has become an eminent security problem to those who ply the trade and the general populace. Most of the problems migrants face at their destinations are socioeconomic in nature and revolve mainly around their living conditions. These include having no proper place to sleep at night, poor remuneration for their services, harassment from city guards and security men (night watchmen).

In 1984, the country's urban population was 30 percent. Sixteen years later, the 2000 Population and Housing Census put Ghana's urban population at 43.8 percent. According to the 2010 Population and Housing Census, more than 50 percent of Ghanaians now live in urban areas. Part of this increase is due to the migration of women from rural areas. The Kayayei face insecurity in terms of their temporary abode (which are mostly slums) due to attacks by robbers who rob them of their day's earning and end up raping them. The armed robbers also use the slums where the Kayayei live as their temporary and even permanent hideouts where they mobilise gangs to rob citizens in nearby communities. According to Kwankye et al. (2007) accommodation is among the most important issues of concern to the migrants in addition to the risk of abuse depending on where these migrants spend the night.

In Accra, more than half of the females and a little more than a quarter of the males pass the night on the streets, at market squares and at transport stations. Many of the young migrants are exposed to risks of not only the weather but also of sexual harassment or other criminal activities. For many of the children, therefore, their sleeping places at night constitute a big risk that could be life threatening. The fact that large proportions of the migrants spend their nights at transport stations, market squares and in kiosks means that there is the possibility of exposure to reproductive and health risks. Well-built and managed hostels with adequate security for the Kayayei will serve as a solution to such a problem.

Social problems

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The Kayayei phenomenon creates very serious social problems for the nation such as unwanted pregnancies, illegal abortions, birth of children whose fathers cannot be found, and creation of conducive environment for the training of criminals. More children are being born out of rape. These children have no homes. Indeed it was indicated in *The Weekly Spectator* (1999), newspaper reports that each month about 50 per cent of all children born to *Kayayei* at the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra are abandoned by their mothers. Such children are always taken up by benevolent institutions. This situation is due to the fact that the *Kayayei* do not only lack sufficient money to foot their bills at the hospital, but they have more fundamental problems like where to sleep with their new babies. They are born to join the poverty cycle and social vices. They are exposed to drug addiction and crime at an early age due to the vulnerability and the environment they find themselves. According to (Yidana, 2012), they live in constant fear and can be easily abused by employers and others. For women in particular, the need to pay with sexual favours is common, and rape and systematic sexual exploitation are frequent features.

I was drugged and rape one night when I slept outside on cardboard during a hot weather as we usually do. What I saw in the morning was just an evidence of rape without any idea who the perpetrator was”, said a 12-year-old Mariama Yusif, a *Kayayei* who hailed from the Upper West Region of Ghana but currently resides in Accra.

There is evidence indicating that most of the rape cases involving *Kayayei* end up in pregnancy illegal abortion and birth to children without fathers. These children grow up without homes and responsible parenting. They are not given any form of education except what the hardened criminals give them on the streets where they live. Some of the *Kayayei* claimed that some of their colleagues had to agree to partner some of the hardened criminals in order to be protected from being beaten, robbed and raped. *Kayayei*'s have limited access to sexual and reproductive health support and services despite the fact that they are at high risk of sexual abuse and exploitation. For this reason health facilities and experienced practitioners must be made available and accessible to them. Health centres should be able to provide confidential services for these vulnerable women (Wamekor 2018). The unfortunate thing is that these *Kayayei* end up becoming criminals.

Most Northerners who migrate to Kumasi or Accra to do *Kayayei* often go there with high hopes of making money or enhance their condition of living. Whiles those who still have the zeal or interest to go back to school, go to look for money for their school fees and to also enable them buy learning materials, others go there to look for the money to buy some tools to learn a job to be able to secure their future. Others also go to look for the money to start a business of their own in their hometowns and villages to be able to support their immediate family members and other relations. And others are attracted to a better life-style when they migrate to the south.

I did not know anything about Accra except what I saw those who returned from Accra to my village. They looked good in terms of beauty and had a lot of utensils, cell phones, clothes and their parents were also happy about what they acquired. One of the girls who was my friend told me to also come with her the following week when she was going to return. I didn't have money but she showed me how to steal my mother's money and run away with her. I was not doing anything back home so I decided to come to Accra and also work as

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a Kayayoo so that my parents will be happy when I return with cooking utensils, cell phone, clothing and also look like a returnee from the capital city (18 year old female porter from Logri No. 1 in the West Mamprusi District)

Chieftaincy disputes, communal violence and tribal conflicts have over the past five decades forced most of the people to migrate down South to seek asylum leaving behind the aged, women and their children who are vulnerable during any outbreak of violence

A group of Kayayei interviewed at the Madina market claimed that they are students in the senior high school in the northern Region of Ghana. They came purposely to work by carrying loads in the south in order to earn money to help further their education.

There is no work at the North to do since tribal wars and flood has devastated the land and we are left with famine and poverty. Our only source of income and progress is to come to the south to work.

The problem of accommodation, water, and sanitation

Most Kayayei live typically in slum areas or sleep at lorry parks close to markets where they work. Some of the Kayayei sleep under canopies in front of shops. Some also sleep in kiosks and sheds of the local Ghana Private Road Transport Union (GPRTU) Branch in the Trotro lorry park. They pay and use a privately owned public washroom facility. Whenever it rains, they have nowhere to shelter from the rain except to huddle together temporarily till the rain stops. The floor is usually wet after the rain. According to Wemakor (2018) Lack of secure accommodation has been identified as a major barrier to safety and well-being of Kayayei therefore provision of safe houses and accommodation is a key intervention.

The presence of the Kayayei in Accra and Kumasi has also led to excessive congestion in the centre of the cities and makes the places unattractive to visitors. The situation has become so overwhelming that there is also pressure on facilities such as transport systems, sanitation facilities, water, price hikes on basic commodities in the market, and among others. More needs to be done to ensure no Kayayei sleep on the streets, outside the markets where they are vulnerable to theft, sexual harassment and rape. This could be done by government and/or the private sector could invest in building affordable accommodation for Kayayei and then allocate this employers who would be required to pay to rent the accommodation on behalf of Kayayei they employed. (Wemakor 2018).

The Kayayei also lack access to clean water and sanitation facilities in these places they live, and their considerable day-to-day struggles in meeting their shelter, water, sanitation, and livelihood needs are perennial problems they face. A well build hostel facilities will provide a sustainable solution to the Kayayei water, accommodation, and sanitation problems.

A proposed model for sustainable management and provision of support for kayayei

From the above analysis a proposed model for the sustainable management and provision of support for Kayayei in order to find a lasting solution to the Kayayei problem is a combination of accommodation and custom made education for Kayayei and their dependents. The model is in the form of hostels and customised education for the Kayayei close to the market places that they operate. Getting decent accommodation for the Kayayei would help solve 80 % of their problem. According to Kwankye et al. (2007) accommodation is among the most important issues of concern to the migrants in addition to the risk of abuse depending on where these migrants spend the night.

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According to Ziem (2012) Lack of accommodation is also a serious problem to these Kayayei traders since the money they make cannot even rent a descent accommodation for them to lay their heads. Most of them wait till stores and big shops situated along the streets and markets are closed, then they go and sleep in front of these shops. Those who are lucky find some kiosks and sleep inside. They sleep on cardboards, bare floor or ground, benches and tables. As soon as the first cock crows in the morning around 4 am, they wake up and begin to walk to their various places of work to start hustling. Unfortunately, some “idiotic men” (some of the male Kaya) and other thieves rape them mercilessly and steal the little money that they make during the day. The end result is either acquiring STIs or having unwanted pregnancies.

The Kayayei are citizens of Ghana, so these women are entitle to essential amenities like any other citizen of Ghana. The government can contribute by partnering private individuals to build hostels on lands close to the markets. The government can also help in giving land or support to private developers to build the hostels. The hostels should be built in such a way that it could take in a lot of them at the same time. For example, a four metre by four metre room can take about five or six bunk beds, as well as a kind of locker to keep some of their valuables and a proper security to care for the place. Meaning the number of occupants will be more than fifteen Kayayei. If each person pays one or two Ghana cedis a day for a better place, it would be of benefit to the developer, the Kayayei and Ghanaians as a whole. Both private educational institutions and the Ministry of Education will assist in teaching them at the specific locations of a sizeable number of Kayayei and provide them with both customised formal and non-formal education for the Kayayei and their children. The Ministry of Social Welfare and Gender protection will also take advantage of sizeable number of Kayayei and provide them with the help that they have.

Conclusion

Kayayei face a whole array of problems including education, accommodation, security, sanitation, health, and social problems, these problems are multi-dimensional and interlinked and so contribute directly and indirectly to the reduction in the standard of living of the Kayayei. A proposed model for the sustainable management and provision of interventions for Kayayei in order to find a lasting solution to the Kayayei problem will provide opportunities for the Government, NGOs, and private entrepreneurs to apply their resources sustainably towards the management and support of the Kayayei. It will also help the providers of the interventions to monitor the progress of their beneficiaries. It is when the Kayayei accommodation is addressed that these vulnerable women can be protected by the police and other law enforcement agencies. They would be protected against theft and rape and these would result in less unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortion. Secondly, the Kayayei would be able to have some form of address or identity that would help them save their money at the banks and be able to access the hospital or health facilities easily. The Kayayei, with a secure accommodation can be organised and given any form of skilled training that would build her human resource capacities so she could compete favourably with other citizens for descent jobs high value social amenities.

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