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**L'Afrique et les défis du XXIème siècle
Africa and the Challenges of the Twenty First Century
A África e os desafios do Século XXI
إفريقيا وتحديات القرن الواحد والعشرين**

**Domestic Slavery and Societal Serenity: A Study into the
Liberation of Trokosi Women in South-Eastern Ghana**

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Abstract

Although measures have been put in place to eliminate discrimination against women in Ghana, some traditional beliefs and practice make this ineffective. Trokosi is one of such beliefs. This paper assesses challenges faced by liberated Trokosiwo during and after bondage, contributions of organisations in their release, and their perception on societal reintegration. The descriptive survey design was used by employing both qualitative and quantitative research techniques in collecting data from 60 respondents in South-Eastern Ghana, where the Trokosi is practised. The was data collected using structured interview schedule and analysed in accordance with the study objectives.

The study establishes that most of the respondents are in their early adulthood stage of life which is characterised by formation and pursuance of aspirations and fulfilment of dreams. Also, the respondents spent 6 to 25 years in bondage with most of them spending more than 10 years. During these years of bondage, all the respondents bore at least one (1) child to their priests, with majority giving birth to 3 or 4 children as they did not have any power to resist sexual demands of the priest. Besides the ordeal of sexual abuse during their bondage, the enslaved women had no access to formal education, no proper health care, inadequate food and restriction of movement.

Collaborative efforts by the government and some non-government organizations led to their emancipation. Some of the interventions include negotiations for their liberation, counseling, children education, empowerment training programmes and provision of start-up capitals and tools for their businesses. The main problem faced by the women after their released is stigmatization which led to low patronage of businesses. It is therefore recommended that all parties-at-interest should continue and increase their efforts in sensitising the public to reduce the stigmatisation and public renunciation which will enable the public to patronise their goods and services thereby creating serene environment for these women to take their rightful place in society.