

## SUMMARY

A lot of young people in Northern Ghana show a high level of risky sexual behavior. This problem arises from a lack of knowledge mainly due to poverty that prevents them to be educated in general. Problems like unwanted pregnancies, HIV/Aids, other STD's, as well as sex in exchange for money or other material things are very common.

The research for this thesis took place in Bolgatanga, a city in the Upper East Region of Northern Ghana. This is where the Youth Harvest Foundation Ghana (YHFG), a non-governmental organization, is established. The YHFG tries to prevent the problems that occur in the Upper East Region by providing the accurate information through sexual and reproductive health lessons. In doing so they are trying to create a more healthy awareness amongst the adolescents within this region.

The research question is: *"To what extent does the education program on sexuality and reproductive health educated by the Youth Harvest Foundation Ghana, help to provide the needs and wishes of young adolescents in Bolgatanga?"*

The research is based on qualitative research methods, which consist of open- and classical interviews and participatory observation. The target groups are students from the Senior High Schools, based in Bolgatanga, where the YHFG gives the sexual reproductive health education. The target groups vary in age from 16 years old to 21 years old. Both boys and girls participated in this research and their religious backgrounds are Christian and Muslim.

The focus of this research is to find out about the needs of the young adolescents in relation to the sexual reproductive health lessons. By doing so, it is possible to provide the YHFG with advice on how they can improve their current education system.

The results fail to show a complete picture regarding all the needs the adolescents might have due to difficulties that emerged during the interviews. However, many interesting findings occurred regarding the young adolescents' opinions towards the education itself. An important result that appeared during the interviews and participatory observations is that the education in itself is one of their biggest needs.

The students are excited about the lessons and grateful to be educated on this subject because they see the importance of the education. The need to be educated on this subject is very high because it prepares them for the future. Another important result that emerged from this research was the appreciation that the students have towards the educators. This is related to the fact that the educators allow students to ask any question at any given time. The importance to have this freedom to the students is great since the education system in Ghana normally does not allow this and so the relation between teachers and students is normally different.

It is safe to say that the results of this research show that the students from Bolgatanga are really pleased and satisfied about receiving the sexual reproductive health education. However, this does not mean that the YHFG can't do anything to optimize their education system. For instance, using more material and making better use of the material during the classes is one thing they can do to improve their education. Students feel great importance towards being able to see the things that are being educated, it helps them to understand. Gaining more structure during the lessons is also very important. Things like walking in and out of the classroom can be very distractive for young adolescents and so the educations will not reach its full potential. Also, not only educating them about what sexual and reproductive health is, there is also great importance on the matter about students developing their skills on communicating about the subject and be able to speak for themselves.