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I was coming out from the Mchinji District Council Rest House on Sunday 14/097/01 around past five in the evening. I was going to take my supper. As I passed the main entrance of the Rest House, I saw a teenager with a two months child in her hands standing near the entrance. She called me. "Hey man, come here" said the woman. I went where she was sitting and she asked some questions and I also asked her some questions, and it was like a conversation.

W: I'd like to know you, so what is your name?

D: My name is Derek.

W: Where do you come from?

D: I come from Balaka District.

W: So, why are you found here?

D: I am doing some interviews about family health in Mkanda.

W: For how long are you going to stay here?

D: About a month.

W: When did you come here?

D: On 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2001.

W: O.k.!

D: Why are you asking me such questions?

W: I just wanted to know.

D: Why don't you ask others as we are many here, I'm not alone dwelling in the building.

W: O.k. So why are you sitting here?

W: I've just come to chat and also to pass some hours away.

D: Whose child is this?

W: Mine.

D: Don't you think that the child is feeling cold? I think it's cold today, why haven't you stayed at home with your baby?

W: She has to get used, I started walking with her while she was 10 days old.

D: O.k. So with whom are you going to chat?

W: Anyone who is interested with me.

D: Where do you live?

W: I live at Railways houses, alone.

D: Where is your husband?

W: I don't have, men are expensive (scarce) these days. If one gets married, just praise the Lord.

D: Is it?

W: Yah! Please can you assist me with K50 so that I can buy a small packet of powdered milk for my daughter?

D: O.k., don't worry, I'll give you, but let us chat. Chatting is interesting. I am tired of sleeping in my room.

W: Sometimes sleeping becomes tiresome.

D: Yah!

W: Let's go in your room!

D: The keys are with my friend, we can stay here, no matter.

W: My baby feels cold, this is why I'm saying so.

D: Just wrap her in your coat. That's helpful.

D: Suppose someone says, "You're beautiful and I'd like to be your sexual partner", what can you say?

W: I can agree and I can praise the Lord because I'm looking for such kind of people.  
D: O.k. So if he says that let's have sex, would you agree?  
W: Yah! That is what I have been doing in the past (last year). And speaking frankly, I don't know the father of this baby. I used to sleep with many sexual partners.  
D: Why did you do like that?  
W: Very good. Let me tell you my background. Both my father and mother passed away two years ago and I'm the only child who has remained. I went to school and dropped it when I was in Standard 6, that was in 1995 due to lack of support, my parents were poor. So, because I have got no person to support me, then I sacrificed myself that there is nothing I can do other than staying near the boma so that I could know what to do on my own. I moved from Kausiwa village in Lilongwe near Kasungu, and came to settle here due to poverty. Luckily enough, here I met with a certain woman who is also staying near my house. And this woman used to take me here in the town (Mchinji) in the evening hours and taught me how to find money. And Im used [to it] now.  
D: So how do you get money?  
W: if I'm being proposed then I could charge the man the amount of money if he wants to have sex with me.  
D: How much money do/were you charge/ing?  
W: It depends on the type of men who propose you.  
D: What do you mean there?  
W: I'm trying to say that if a rich man proposes you, then we could charge a big amount of money like K200, but that was in 1999 but as of now it's K500.  
D: O.k., so if he is not rich, how much do/were you charge/ing?  
W: Only K100 since 1999.  
D: What about nowadays?  
W: Oh! Things are now expensive, we start at K300 short time and K600 full night. And this price is non-rich people, if rich it's K600 short time and K1500 full night.  
D: Is this protected sex or unprotected sex?  
W: It means protected sex, if unprotected then it will be twice as much.  
D: Can you accept to have unprotected sex with someone though he has got the money you charge him?  
W: Definitely yes.  
D: Aren't you afraid of STDs?  
W: I don't care, my parents died but they were not having sex with other partners except they themselves. What about me? I'll die if the time comes. Do you mean to say that all people who die are dying of STDs?  
D: I don't know, tell me.  
W: No, some die of malaria, TB, old age, and not of STDs.  
D: Uuh.  
W: Yah! You should know that if God write that such person will die of such disease, then there is no way you can run from it. God will fulfill what he wrote. If he wrote that you'll die of AIDS, then definitely you're going to even if you become faithful to your husband/wife, the disease will come in other way round like injections from hospitals and even through other modes of transmission.  
D: Yah! I see!  
W: Yah! Don't e cheated.  
D: O.k., so can you remember the richest man you had sex with as compared to all the sexual partners you have had?  
W: Yah, I can tell you and he's the one whom I'm waiting for here.  
D: Where does he stay?  
W: Just nearby.  
D: Nearby?  
W: Yes.  
D: Who is this one?  
W: He is the man of a big responsibility in the government. But I can't remember his name.  
D: Tell me, I can't tell someone, I'll keep this confidential.  
W: I'm afraid maybe you can tell your friends.  
D: No, I can't.

W: He is the owner of this Rest House (spoke silently).  
D: Owner of this Rest House?  
W: Yah!  
D: Who is this one?  
W: The District Commissioner.  
D: District Commissioner?  
W: Yah! He used to give me K2000 and even K3000 after 2-3 days, especially during elections because he gets higher allowances.  
D: Yah! I see!  
W: But don't tell your friends, he told me that I shouldn't tell anyone, and I've told you because we are chattin and I trust you.  
D: Verily! So did he tell you to meet with him here?  
W: Yah! And we used to meet here especially around 6 pm. In those self-contained rooms.  
D: Good! So does he use a condom or not?  
W: Sometimes, not usual.  
D: Great.  
W: He says that he would like to marry me and will chase away his wife.  
D: Good. I think you're very beautiful, that's why he would like to do so.  
W: Yah! He tells me so.  
(Both laugh)  
D: Well done. So when did you start having sex with him (District Commissioner)?  
W: In 1999.  
D: Were you having sex with other partners as well?  
W: Yah! But he doesn't know this. I do it secretly, after all if someone has got cash. And I cheated him that he had impregnated me.  
D: Did he accept?  
W: He was hesitant but I tried to convince him.  
D: So what was his final decision?  
W: He just accepted but not with the whole heart.  
D: O.k.! Does he care for the baby?  
W: Unless we do sex but count that nothing.  
W: So give me 50k, I'd like to buy milk for my daughter.  
D: Here it is.  
W: Thank you.  
D: So why did you make that hole on your nose?  
W: It's for beauty, hey, he is coming, look he is the one in that car.  
D: O.k.! We shall meet, O.k.  
Off I leave.  
I then went for my supper and when I came back I went behind the resthouse with Roben Haji where there is a beerhall. I found the District Commissioner with her drinking beer while the child was at her back. The District Commissioner is the owner of the beerhall and the Resthouse too.