

Street women prostitutes in Agartala city

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ABSTRACT

In this study an attempt was made to assess the overall profile of street women prostitutes in Agartala, particularly in terms of income and social status. The results indicated that prostitution is the major challenge before the society. It was evident from the study that the poor financial condition and family problem were the basic reasons for it. Bengali women were more involved in this profession and they are easily identified for their dresses and makeup. Women prostitutes are facing more health hazards because most of them do not use any preventive measures. Thus, the paper suggests that government should take initiatives for rehabilitate those prostitutes.

KEY WORDS : Customer, Income, Prostitution, Sex

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Prostitution is low-skill, labour intensive, female, and well paid. Street level prostitution entails sexual acts for money or for barter that occur on and off the streets and include sexual activities in cars and hotels, as dancers in gentlemen's clubs, massage parlor work, truck stops, and crack house work. It represents that segment of the prostitution industry where there is the most violence.

Viewing street level prostitution as a combination of both pimp-controlled prostitution and independent entrepreneurial prostitution is probably more representative of the phenomenon of street work. A pimp is one who controls the actions and lives off the proceeds of or more women who work the streets. Pimps call themselves one "players" and call their profession "the game." The mobility of the people involved in prostitution has always represented an element that distinguishes the phenomenon of prostitution, whether in relation to the market, to exploitation, to control systems, to government or to the repression to which this phenomenon is subjected. Street prostitution is also the most visible and, at the same time, that which creates the most attention and social alarm.

Street prostitution varies with the type of prostitutes involved and their commitment to prostitution, the market size, the community's tolerance levels, the degree to which prostitutes are organized, and the relationship of prostitution to drug use and trafficking. Street prostitution accounts

for perhaps only 10 to 20 per cent of all prostitution, but it has the most visible negative impact on the community. Street prostitution areas are typically small, less than a square mile. Larger cities usually have several such areas. They are typically industrial, declining residential, near major thoroughfares (including tunnels, bridges or airport access roads), or near transportation hubs such as train and bus stations. Street prostitution flourishes around convention centers and hotels, especially when mostly male conventions are held.

Prostitution is a multibillion dollar business that employs millions of women worldwide. A recent study by the International Labour Office estimated that in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand, between 0.25 and 1.5 per cent of the female population work as prostitutes and that the sex sector accounts for between 2 and 14 per cent of the gross domestic product. Prostitution is more common in less developed countries but far from absent in developed. The main objectives of this paper are to analyse the socio-economic status of street women prostitutes and to identify the probable solution for that problem.

The present study was conducted in Agartala city which is the capital of Tripura.. The Agartala city was selected purposely since large numbers of prostitutes are lives in this city. Forty prostitutes were selected from the

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