

Socio-Economic Factors and Effects of Prostitution in Nigeria (A Case Study of Wukari, Taraba State)

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the socio-economic factors influencing prostitution in Wukari local government of Taraba State, Nigeria. Prostitution, often considered a deviant behavior, persists due to various economic, social, and cultural dynamics. The study explores the causes, patterns of establishment, and modes of operation of prostitution within the region, focusing on economic hardship, broken homes, migration, and urbanization as major contributing factors. Using primary data, the research employs statistical analysis to assess the impact of prostitution on the local economy and its social consequences. Findings suggest that poverty, unemployment, and lack of parental guidance significantly contribute to the prevalence of prostitution, while societal attitudes and stigmatization hinder rehabilitation efforts. The study concludes that targeted economic empowerment programs, stricter regulatory frameworks, and enhanced social interventions are crucial for addressing the issue.

Key word: socio-Economic factors, prostitution, effects and economic growth

INTRODUCTION

Prostitution has recently attracted economic and social research due to the substantial financial transactions involved in the industry. Economists have sought to explain how a labor-intensive, low-skilled job commands high wages, with some attributing it to compensatory factors such as health risks and social stigmatization (Gertler et al., 2003; Rao et al., 2003). From a sociological perspective, prostitution is seen as a deviant behavior arising from social instability, where individuals engage in it due to lack of opportunities to achieve societal goals (Alobo & Ndifon, 2014).

Furthermore, scholars argue that prostitution is linked to broken homes, parental neglect, and economic hardship, which push women into the trade as a means of survival (Thomas, 2001; Abdullahi, 1996). The phenomenon is also influenced by urbanization and migration, which create environments conducive to its growth (Samir, 1999). Additionally, feminist perspectives suggest that prostitution is deeply rooted in gender power imbalances, where men control economic resources and women are often reduced to sexual objects in exchange for financial gain (Heidenson, 1997; Rosenblum, 2003).

In Wukari, Taraba State, prostitution has grown due to economic challenges and cultural shifts brought by visitors and external influences. Despite traditional norms that discourage premarital sex, economic hardship has led to increased participation in commercial sex work. The study seeks to investigate the socio-economic background of prostitutes in Wukari, factors influencing their involvement, and the overall impact on the local economy. It also aims to explore possible policy measures for reducing prostitution and its associated socioeconomic consequences (Abdullahi, 1996; Clinard, 1968).

Statement of the Problem

Prostitution has become a significant socio-economic issue in Nigeria, particularly in urban areas where it thrives due to economic hardship, high population density, and the presence of commercial establishments such as hotels, nightclubs, and brothels (Abdullahi, 1996). Despite its prevalence, prostitution has not received adequate

academic attention, leaving many questions unanswered regarding its root causes, socio-economic impact, and possible interventions.

In Wukari, Taraba State, prostitution has been influenced by external factors such as migration, economic challenges, and shifting cultural values brought by visitors (Alobo & Ndifon, 2014). Although Wukari has strong traditional norms discouraging premarital sex, the economic necessity for survival has overridden these values for many women. Some engage in prostitution due to limited employment opportunities, while others see it as a means of economic mobility (Samir, 1999).

The study seeks to address key questions regarding the socio-economic background of prostitutes in Wukari, the factors leading to their engagement in prostitution, their relationships with clients, and the overall impact of prostitution on the local economy. Additionally, it aims to explore strategies for reducing prostitution and mitigating its negative consequences on society (Clinard, 1968).

Objectives of the Study

The primary objective of this study is to examine the socio-economic factors influencing prostitution in Wukari, Taraba State, and to explore potential strategies for its reduction. Specifically, the study aims to:

1. Analyze the socio-economic background of individuals engaged in prostitution in Wukari.
2. Identify the key socio-economic factors or conditions that contribute to prostitution in the area.
3. Examine the patterns of establishment, social organization, and modes of operation of prostitution in Wukari.

Research Hypotheses

H₁: Socio-economic factors and effects of prostitution has a significant effect in Wukari government economy.
H₂: The establishment, social organization, and modes of operation of prostitution has significant effect to Wukari's economy.

H₃: The socio-economic background of prostitutes has no significantly effect in Wukari economy.

Scope of the Study

This study focuses on the socio-economic factors and effects of prostitution in Wukari, Taraba State, Nigeria, covering the period from 2023 to 2024.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Conceptual Framework

The concept of Socio-Economic story in Wukari

Every society including prostitution in Wukari has become one of the most disturbing social economic problem in everyday life. It is indeed one of the problem which afflict the majority of the population Wukari irrespective of their gender, age, ethnic background, etc. The problems created by prostitution are multifarious in any society. Hundreds of poor people throughout the work especially In the third War that happens in

Wukari people die every year from star, poor drinkable water, malnutrition, diseases, and high infant mortality, amongst others. It is therefore in their quest to meet their basic needs that some of them engage in vices such as prostitution, crime, armed robbery, etc. to survive. Alobo and Ndifon (2014) describe the hierarchy of needs among poor People in terms of survival, security, autonomy and self-respect. The Wukari Local Government Headquarter is Wukari town which is situated in Southern part of the State (Taraba State) located in the North East geo-political zone of the Nigerian State. The local government is bounded by Nassarawa State to the west, Benue State, Takum and Donga local government in the south, Ibi Local government and Plateau State to the

north and Gassol local government in the east. The ethnic composition of the local government includes; Jukun Wapan, Wanu, Ba-kundi, Ichen, Jibawa, Ekpan-Nyifon, Etulo, Kutebs within the metropolis and the surrounding villages. The Ibos, Tiv, Yoruba, Idoma, Agatu, Igala, Igede, Kakah, Fulani and Hausa from various local governments and States across the country can also be found in Wukari local government area. Majority of the people in Wukari local government area are farmers with few civil servants while others are engaged in trading and transport businesses. Prostitution in various forms has existed everywhere in the earliest times. It has been characterized as the world's oldest profession which depends on the exon, social, and asexual value of the society. It maybe of either heterosexual or honored us, but through history, the majority have been women (servicing male clients), reflecting both the traditional socio-economic dependence of women and the tendency to exploit female sexuality (Aderinto, 2015). Women have been prevailing as the poverty of commodity to this trade until 19th century. However, the trend continued still in many societies which means that the profit of the profession most often accrued to the men who controlled it. Men have traditionally been characterized as the producers and customers but they are also increasingly being identified as prostitutes (Aderinto, 2015).

In some societies, prostitution was believed to ensure the preservation through coercion or under economic stress. Increasing children are being involved in sexual exploitation in the form of prostitution (Terfa, 2001). These children particularly are at risk of being drawn into prostitution whose only source of income is the exchange of sexual favor for money. Although, market for child prostitution exists in the entire world, customers tend to be from rich nations and supplies from poor ones. For example, in the ancient Greece, prostitution flourished on all level of society. Prostitution of the lowest level worked in the licensed brothers and were required wear distinctive clothing as a barge of the or distinctive clothing as a barge of their coca. Prostitution of the higher level were usually skilled dancers and singers. Those of the highest level kept salons where politicians met and they often attain power and influence themselves (Aderinto, 2014).

In the middle ages, the Christian church which reported to value chastity highly attempted to convert or rehabilitate individual prostitutes, but refrained to campaigning against the institution itself. In so doing, the church followed the teaching of St. Augustine who held that the elimination of prostitution would breed more extreme forms of immorality and perversion because men would continue to seek sexual contact outside marriage some of the socio-economic factors or conditions which are instrumental in directing girls to prostitution in Wukari. Among these factors are; previous sexual experience, feeble mindedness, social and economic conditions, prostitute sub-cultures, family disorganization, ecological considerations, and greediness and competition

Root Causes of Socio-Economic Problems

The world of work is changing rapidly as a result of innovation and disruptive technologies which have become salient components for thriving at the workplace. Employability skills such as critical thinking, problem solving abilities, leadership, team work and managerial skills, necessary for this 21st century are rarely taught as part of our education curriculum in the country. And this has made many youths unable to meet the increasing demand of the labour market. This was rightly asserted when Charles Soludo, a former CBN Governor, lamented that 65% of Nigerian graduates are unemployable (CBN, 2016 cited in Ekott 2015). Closely accompanying the lack of employability skills is the preference for white-collar jobs. Anzaa (2018) assert that "many young Nigerians seem prepared to wait indefinitely for a particular type of employment on which they have set their minds rather than accept alternatives." This approach makes many people lackadaisical towards entrepreneurship programme and vocational training. However, the white-collar jobs in the country are limited. In addition, violent social conflicts in Nigeria contribute to widespread poverty in Nigeria. For instance, the rampaging menace of Fulani Herdsmen at the Northern Nigeria and other insecurity threats in the country have caused the breakup of communities and social networks.

Such crisis hurts economic growth, causes forced displacement, restricts access to adequate health care, and leaves many refugees even without a home. Consequently, this has destroyed the livelihood of many citizens, a situation that has resulted in endemic poverty. Furthermore, Adedigba (2017) argues that the limited educational opportunities in the country affects the literacy rate among the teeming population. For example, only 30 percent of those who applied for admission into tertiary institutions in 2017 were being admitted (Ibid). The high illiteracy rate in the nation is also caused by high drop-out rates, low enrolment rates and insufficient educational materials especially in rural communities.

The Concept Prostitution

Prostitution is usually defined as the rendering of sexual services for money (Wikipedia, 2009). However, this definition has been further conceptualized to include the performance of sexual acts solely for the purpose of material gain (Microsoft Encarta, 2005). By this definition, people prostituted themselves when they grant sexual favor to others in exchange for money, gifts or other payment and in so doing; they use their bodies as commodities.

There is also controversy on the type of commercial sexual activities that should be classified as prostitution. While Cockayne (2001) opines that all forms of engagement in the sex industry, be it a lap dancer, a pornographic actor(ess), or a “call girl” equal prostitution, Wikipedia (2009) believes that acting and modeling for pornographic materials even if it involves engaging in sexual intercourse, or sexually provocative acting (sometimes involving masturbation) should not be classified as prostitution.

She cited the case, California Vs Freeman where California Supreme Court ruled that adult film makers could not be prosecuted under the state law against prostitution, to buttress her point, she also excludes lap dancing and professional dominant as forms of prostitution.

While scholars have diverse opinions on what constitutes prostitution, they have come out with considerable number of closely related factors influencing prostitution. With the internet survey conducted by AusbethAjugun (2005), such factors as poverty, parental attitude, laziness, greed and avarice, broken home, poor parental upbringing, deceptive media appeal, godlessness, distorted value system and ignorance were identified as factor influencing prostitution. These factors were corroborated by Obinna (2005) by identifying poverty, harsh economic condition, abandonment by family members as factors influencing prostitution in Nigerian urban centers.

Garner (1999) defines prostitution “as the act or practice of engaging in sexual activities for money or its equivalent” (as cited in Alobo and Ndifon, 2004). Overs ‘(2002) defines commercial sex or prostitution as “the exchange of money or goods for sexual services.” According to James (2007), prostitution can be viewed “as the business or practice of engaging in sexual relations in exchange for financial reward” (as cited in Gungul and Samson, 2014). In the view of Alobo and Ndifon (2004), “it is the act of engaging in sexual activity, usually with individuals other than a spouse or a friend in exchange for immediate payment in money or other valuables”

The above definitions see prostitution as a profession or a source of getting the means (resource) of meeting human basic needs. Sexual activity between two married individuals in which compensation is involved cannot be seen as an act of prostitution. Hence, it is the motive that guides the supply of sexual service from one economic agent to the other that defines an act as a prostitution. In addition, prostitution is seen as not only specific to the female gender, the males also engage in it. In light of the foregoing, prostitution can be defined as a profession which involves the creation of utility through the production of sexual services to opposite or similar gender in exchange for monetary or non-monetary reward.

Causes Of Prostitution in the Nigerian Society

The causes of prostitution can be seen as follows:

Poverty

Komara (2000) noted that poverty triggered the rapid spread of prostitution in urban areas. It provides those involved a considerable amount of income to support their families as well as supply a steady flow of remittances from urban to rural areas or from prostitutes working overseas. Lamptey (2000) asserted that family expectations and problems are common factors why many people enter into the prostitution business. Women in particular are pressured to pay for their children’s education or support a sick family member. Poverty and economic hardship largely predispose women and girls into sex work. The root cause of prostitution seems to be poverty since these women and girls see prostitution as a way of supplementing their low income. Adebanjo (2011) in his study in Agbor, interviewed 31 prostitutes and he discovered that the high rate of poverty is the pushing force behind the increasing rate of prostitution.

Unemployment

Unemployment has been viewed to be the reason behind the high rate of crime in urban areas. Adebisi (2012) observed that some girls engage in prostitution after graduating from high institutions and failing to secure gainful employment having roamed the streets for jobs without success and no capital to start any business rather give into men's sexual advances in exchange for money to keep body and soul together. The high rate of unemployment has lured some youths especially women to turn to prostitution so as to make a living for themselves and families.

Unemployment is one of the critical problems the country is facing. The years of corruption, civil war, military rule and mismanagement have hindered economic growth of the country. Nigeria is endowed with rich human and natural resources, but those resources have not been effectively utilized in order to yield maximum economic benefits. This is one of the primary causes of unemployment and poverty in Nigeria.

Discrimination against women

Some women are led into prostitution as a result of discrimination. Betsy (2013) noted in a survey of prostitution in Malawi that many people engage in prostitution as a result of alienation and exploitation. According to him, many people have felt disempowered and alienated from society and their parents are the products of abusive homes and they ultimately resort to prostitution as a means.

Lack of parental guidance

According to Modebelu (2014), many parents have fallen short of their expected role of preparing and educating their children for them to become successful and responsible adults. Many parents assume they are very knowledgeable in bringing up the children, yet many of these children have derailed from the societal norms. Many youths are exposed to all sorts of pornographic films which appear on magazines and internet. Many adolescents have some copies of pornographic films on their handsets. This will help to increase their sexual urge and can lead them into prostitution.

Friendship with the opposite sex

Friendship based on exchange of sensual pleasure is utterly foul and unworthy of the name friendship. Saint James warned that we flee from the friendship of the world which has no God, for such friendship offends and profanes God, for the friendship of the world is against the friendship of God (James 4:4). Human beings are complex realities consisting of three dimensions; body, mind and soul. A true love relationship between a boy and a girl involves three spheres of their being. It is therefore natural especially for a boy to feel the need for some kind of physical expression of love. But this must not be genital. If these are meant to arouse emotions and passions leading to heavier petting or even to sexual intercourse, they are obviously to be avoided. We must be on guard because if not controlled can culminate in prostitution.

Empirical Review

In this section am going to be examining eight scholars Literature review to enable me judge emphatically for the purpose of this study to have a clear picture of discussion. Firstly am going to empathically scrutinized Clinard on his view concerning prostitution as a Socio-economic problems in Nigeria. According to Clinard (1998-371) prostitution is a sexual intercourse on a promiscuous and mercenary or on monetary basis with accompanying emotional indifference. Thus prostitute is a person who engages in sexual relations that are promiscuous, fairly indiscriminate, largely without affection, often anonymous not made legitimate by marriage. However even with this rather broad definition, there are still ambiguous cases since acceptance of money or gift in exchange of sexual favors maybe found among mistresses, girlfriends and wives.

In our effort to explain what prostitution is all about our attention is directed to the developmental process, types and characteristics of prostitution; however no detail explanation would be made as this may be unnecessary. The developmental career of a prostitute include three stages; the entrance into the career, the apprenticeship and

the development of contact. After having contact with someone old in the trade like a pimp or other prostitutes and the new girl decides to be a prostitute, the apprenticeship begins.

The apprenticeship period exists to enable the new girl learn the ‘rules of the game’ (Clinard 1998:380). According to Clinard (1998: 377) prostitutes are generally classified into four types.

The first type of prostitutes and the lowest in status are the ‘street-walkers’ who solicit for customers in the streets and public places. Often they are arrested by law enforcement agents; however the most usual penalty is fine.

The second categories are those who reside in brothels which could be low – class hotels or houses located in slum area. The manager of brothel collects fees which amount to a substantial part of the prostitute’s earnings as rent and money for protection from the law enforcement agents.

The third type is the ‘call girl’ who resides in rented apartment but generally known in many of the high class hotels in town especially by the waiters and receptionists. These hotel workers put visitors and lodgers in touch with such girls. The sexual act takes place either in the hotel room of the visitor or lodger or in the girl’s apartment.

The fourth category is the upper class independent professional prostitute. Usually she resides in a well furnished apartment in one of the most respectable residential areas in town. Most often customers are referred to her through former customers who are often highly placed members of the society. High class visitors to cities like Lagos, Abuja, Kano, Ibadan and Enugu just to mention a few attending conferences or other meetings are likely to go to such prostitutes since their mode of operation tends to give the customers some level of anonymity. In addition to these types of prostitutes,

Secondly Lastlylahi give an update of what Clinard wrote on the category of prostitute, Clinard according to Abdullahi (1996:5) identified another feature of prostitution in Nigeria involving female students in tertiary institutions. Campus prostitution takes various dimensions ranging from amorous relationship between the female students and their boyfriends to outright extra-campus prostitution which is a common sight in our big cities and towns. There are some female students who actually compete with the regular prostitutes.

They dress to the hilt and go out in the night to line up along the streets looking for customers. Sometimes girls are hired to attend parties and functions where they are paid for services rendered including sex. There are other female students who do not operate in the vicinity of their campuses. They travel out either single or in groups to engage in commercial sex activities and return to their campuses with huge sums of money and with flashy clothes and jewelries.

Lastly, some female students trade sex for marks just like some male students pay for marks. But what will you call this act? Prostitution, corruption or settlement? Actually those who trade sex for marks won’t do same for money because they may be sound financially but academically poor.

Thirdly, In the same way Clinard (1998:379) identified what can be regarded as common characteristics of prostitutes. Youth is a very essential factor and many prostitutes not only in Nigeria but in other countries are generally aged between 17 and 25 although some can be older, single girls constitutes the largest proportion of prostitutes. However, some are widows, divorced or separated from their husbands. Prostitutes are highly mobile moving from one town to the other. Through associations, they develop attitudes and behavior patterns which become part of their roles in the society. It should be noted however, that western types and characteristics of prostitution are essentially different from prostitution in Nigeria. Prostitution in the cities of Africa and many less developed countries does not carry with it as much of the stigma associated with this profession in the more developed countries.

Fourthly, Abbot 1997 also empirically wrote concerning prostitution in Africa according to Abbot. The African prostitute has not become susceptible to organization along European lines and although she has been known to work for a procurer, this custom is not common. Prostitution generally is open and not less organized in Africa than it is in more developed countries. Moreover, the pimp or intermediary is probably less necessary

Fifthly Aghatise talk about prostitution from central south-Zone of Nigeria in relatively to Abdullahi 1996. In Aghatise (2001) study in the South-Central Zone of Nigeria, the respondents appeared to accept the idea of prostitution as one solution to extreme poverty or financial disadvantage. Also, the findings of the study clearly showed that some families encourage their daughters to accept offers from traffickers who take the young girls and women abroad. Some of these young girls have been thrown out of their homes when they refused to follow their families' wishes. Ogunkan, Omoruan and Fawole (2012) conducted a study on prostitutes in Ogbomoso, Oyo State, Nigeria, on environmental and socio-economic conditions of prostitution. The findings of their study showed that poverty, harsh economic condition, family disruption, coercion, child abuse or neglect were identified as factors responsible for prostitution. The study also indicated that effects of prostitution include increase in violent behavior, moral decadence, and criminal tendency of youths, teenage pregnancy, abortion, nude dressing, underage sexual experience, hemp smoking and alcohol taking. Prostitutes may be of either sex and may engage in either heterosexual or homosexual activity, but historically most prostitution has been by female with males as clients. Garner (1999) defined prostitution as the act or practice of engaging in sexual activities for money or its equivalent. It is a criminal act in the United States.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a quantitative research design, using a survey method to collect primary data from respondents in Wukari, Taraba State. Data was gathered through structured questionnaires administered to individuals engaged in prostitution, business owners, and residents within the study area. Secondary data sources, such as journal articles, reports, and previous studies, were also utilized for additional context (Akpa & Agigaha, 1991).

The population of the study comprises individuals involved in prostitution, commercial business owners, and community members. A sample size of 150 respondents was determined using Yaro Yamane's formula, ensuring a representative selection from the target population.

For data analysis, the study employs descriptive statistics (frequency counts, percentages, and tables) to summarize findings. Additionally, chi-square tests were used to test research hypotheses, measuring the relationship between socio-economic factors and prostitution. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to enhance the accuracy and reliability of the statistical analysis.

Method of Data Analysis

The data collected by method of questionnaire will be analyse using simple percentage count frequency, tables and percentages. In order to obtain clear, concise and coherent tables, the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) was used to generate the tables alongside with other descriptive statistics features and bar charts. To test my null hypothesis, chi-square statistic was employed. Chi-square is a non-parametric statistic it is used to determine the frequency or proportion with which events objects or things occur as a statistical tool, chi-square statistic is helpful in evaluating the probability of obtaining the difference between observed frequency and the expected frequency. The expected frequencies are the average or mean frequencies (Akighir, 2013). The chi-square statistics (X^2) is obtained by the formula stated below

$$X^2 = \sum_{j=1}^n (O_j - E_j)^2 / E_j$$

SPSS was used to carry out the chi-square test. The package has the advantage of being easy to use, that is, it is user friendly, cheap and easy to interpret the results. The basis that the members conform to certain criteria (Sunday Star, 2005).

Data Analysis, And Interpretation of Results

Section A: Bio- Data respondents

Table 4.1 Distribution of respondents by Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	117	75

Female	33	25
Total	150	100

Source: Field survey 2025

Table 4.1 above table shows the number of respondents by gender. The information gathered reveals that 75% are males while 25% are female. This implies that the majority of the respondents that filled the questionnaire are relatively experience.

Table 4.2 Distribution of respondents Age

Age Group	Frequency	Percentage (%)
20–25 years	19	25.00
25–35 years	22	20.95
35–45 years	18	23.68
45 years and above	17	22.27
Total	76	91.81

Source: field survey 2025

Table 4.2 above table and graph shows the number of year's respondents by age. The information gathered reveals that most of the respondent's age 18-25years are 46, in 13.73%. 25-30years are 50 in 14.93% and 3045years 65 in 19.4% while 45years and above 15 in 4.48% invalid age respondents are 6 with peaks. This implies that the majority of the respondents that field the questionnaire are relatively experience base on their age

Table 4.3 Educational Distribution of respondents

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Non-formal educational certificate	18	23.38
Primary certificate	14	18.18
Secondary certificate	20	25.97
High-level certificate	25	32.47
Total	77	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025

The distribution of the respondents by educational qualification in table 4.3 reveals that school dropped out 15 in 8.67 %, living school cert. 15 in 8.67%, s secondary school cert. 12 in 6.94 %, higher education cert. % of the respondent, 18.18% of the respondents are primary cert., 25.97% are Secondary cert .while 32.47% are higher level cert. 131 in 75.72%this implies that higher level cert. has the majority relative experience about prostitution.

DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

The study revealed that the major cause of prostitution is broken home, parental death or neglect. This is in line with the findings of Sullivan Thomas (2010) who reported that women enter prostitution because of negative elements in their backgrounds- a broken home, parental promiscuity or child hood traumas that are conducive to such deviant activities. The study further revealed that prostitution is a manifestation of a pathological background which is in line with the work of Khalaf Samir (2019) which has been used to explain prostitution in terms of ecological factors-that certain girls become prostitutes because of discontent and unhappy home environment.

The study also revealed that economic need or poverty leads to prostitution. This is in line with Marshall Clinard (2008) who argues that other than the fact that prostitutes come from lower socio-economic groups and often

slum areas, there is no evidence that they enter this profession because of poverty even though they may desire to better their economic needs.

This is also in line with the work of Kingsley Davis (2003) which is based on economic exchange of relationship between customer and the prostitute, one participating for pleasure and the other for money. Davis argues that the sexual response of the prostitute does nothing upon the personality of the other party, but upon the reward. The response of the customer likewise it does not depend upon the particular identity of the prostitute, but upon the bodily gratification.

The results of the study indicated that the major consequences of prostitution are increase in crimes and other deviant behaviors. This is in line with Marshall Clinard (2008) who saw prostitution as a deviant behaviour- as a manifestation of state of anomie or normlessness which refers to a situation in which society has failed to provide certain opportunities to achieve the goals that has been set and honoured by most of the population and by the social institutions of the society.

The results of the study further indicated that the relationship between the prostitutes and clients is impersonal and commercialized except where 'single but married' is practiced which has never been a pure commercial affair. Close relationship with other people in the profession is very rare except among those who came from the same locality or ethnic group. This is in line with our proposition that social relations amongst prostitutes are based on primordial pattern.

The findings from the study also indicated that the panacea to the problem of prostitution is sexual education of the illiterate and unskilled prostitutes. This corroborates with the works of the feminist writers such as Frances Heiderson (1968) and Karen & Rosenblum (1975) who pointed out that women become prostitutes because; they are primarily defined as sexual objects; they are not adequately socialized in sexual and nonsexual interaction, and they have lower access than men to educational, economic and political resources. They argued that in order to understand or explain prostitution as a female deviance, it must be related to the whole role of sexuality in human existence. This natural instinct cannot be abolished by legislation but through sexual freedom and education of women.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMEMDATION

However, the negative effects of prostitution have far reaching implications than the positive ones. Prostitution is not only a necessary vice but constitutes moral, social and medical threats to the wellbeing of the society.

But while attempts have been made towards eliminating prostitution, the problem remained unresolved. All attempts by the western countries like England, France, Italy, Japan, US and even Russia to legislate prostitution out of existence were largely futile. Thus the issue of prostitution is not lack of severe legislations or sanctions, or lack of regulation in which licenses are issued to prostitutes who want to register with brothels or hotels. Outlawing or closing of prostitutes houses cannot solve the problem.

Neither would the expulsion order, demolishing or relocating the prostitutes can change the situation, for whatever policy government adopts the problem will continue to exist. Considering the fact that all efforts and methods to abolish prostitution have failed, this study recommends the possible remedies that can only reduce the probe since it has been found that prostitutes reflect pathological backgrounds, government should provide a means of rehabilitating and reforming the prostitutes. To this end all appropriate means shall be used including religious care, vocational education, guidance and counselling, training, employment and strengthening of moral character. Along with institutional housing, the government with the assistance of welfare agencies should provide facilities for recreation, sports and cultural activities particularly to those prostitutes advanced in age and young girls who are found to be emotionally disturbed or socially maladjusted. Similarly, since it has been found that family breakdown and divorce leads to prostitution of young girls; couples or parents should be educated to ensure stable marriages and homes.

Formal education of illiterate and unskilled prostitutes should be encouraged. Government should encourage the introduction of sex education in the curriculum of secondary schools and tertiary institutions. There should be

public enlightenment programmes on HIV/AIDS and other venereal diseases and the dangers inherent in having indiscriminate sex and engaging the services of a prostitute.

Through sexual education and public enlightenment we can develop a healthy society and improve the quality of relationships between men and women. Lastly, there is need for the government to create jobs for the citizens so that prostitution in the country can be reduced. If such women are provided with job opportunities, prostitution would be curtailed since some of these girls indulge in deviant acts as a result of frustration.

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