

A Sociological Study of Female Sex Workers in Kolhapur Town in Maharashtra**Dr. K. M. Desai**Assist. Professor & Head Department of Sociology,
Shri Shahaji Chh. Mahavidyalaya, Kolhapur**Introduction:**

From the earliest evidence of awareness of the link between sex and reproduction, prostitution has been part of human sexuality. However, the meaning laden in the words 'Prostitute' and Prostitution' have changed dramatically across time and space. In ancient Greece, women were the property of fathers and husbands. This was also a slave –owning where both women and men were commodities in many ways, including through their sexuality. There were as many forms of prostitution as there were differences in sexual taste and size of purse. The earliest Indian culture is popularly believed to have open sexual relationships, highly erotic sexual literature, paintings and artworks. The Kama Sutra is an ancient Indian text on sexuality, eroticism and guide on the pleasures achieved by humans during sexual practices. India was the first culture to openly provide sexual education.

India has a long recorded history and great store is set by tradition, therefore it is important to face the history of prostitution to see how for practices in the past account for the position of women in present day society. Prostitution refers the practice of exchanging sexual services for financial remuneration. Prostitutes were common during the reign of the Pandavas and Kauravas. Prostitution is one of the oldest professions of the world practiced since the birth of the organized society. Prostitution is practiced in almost all the countries and every type of society. In India, the Vedas, the earliest of the known Indian literature, abound in reference to prostitution as an organized and established institution. In Goa, a Portuguese colony in India, during the late 16th and 17th centuries, there was a community of Japanese slaves, who were usually young Japanese women and girls

brought or captured as sexual slaves by Portuguese traders and their south Asian crewmembers from Japan.

The Theoretical Perspective:

Feminist theories raise important question about women, men, sex, power and ownership. The women often referred to and the men more commonly overlooked by feminist sex works, feminisms frequently examine the sex industry as an example of present day attitudes towards sex and gender.

The Research Problem:

The present study aims was to understand and critically examine the socio-economic status and problems of female sex worker, functioning in Kolhapur town of Maharashtra.

Objectives Of Study:

The specific objectives of the present study were as under.

- 1 To study the socio-economic status of the female sex worker
- 2 To understand the problems of the female sex workers
- 3 To suggest possible recommendation with social perspective.

Hypotheses:

The specific hypotheses have been formulated of the present study as per the following.

1. The female sex worker social and economic status is very poor
2. The female sex worker education status is lower.
3. The female sex worker comes in prostitution by force.

Significance Of The Study:

The present study is mostly useful for the advancement of theoretical knowledge on the subject in particular and also for suggestion to the female

sex workers. The findings of the present study have enriched our theoretical understanding about problems and economic and social status of women sex workers in Indian society.

The Study Area:

The area for the present study is confined to Kolhapur town of Maharashtra state.

Universe Of The Study:

The focus of the present study is on the female sex workers in Kolhapur town. Therefore, all the 595 Female sex workers functioning in Kolhapur town constitutes the universe of present study, out of 595 female sex worker, the researcher confirmed 55 female sex workers functioning at the time of present study.

Research Design:

The researcher has adopted descriptive research design for the present study. The descriptive research design is most useful for description is the fact finding investigation with the adequate interpretation.

Selection Of Respondent:

As per the plan of research, the data on certain general aspects of 60 female sex workers Kolhapur region were to be collected with the help of questionnaire to be designed for this purpose. Researcher decided to undertake a survey of all the 60 female sex workers officials of which positively responded to us and expressed their willingness to respond to the questionnaire.

The offices of selected sample of female sex workers were contacted. The list of female sex workers were obtained from the office of respective. By using these lists, 05 female sex workers were selected from various places in Kolhapur town. Sixty female workers were selected by using systematic sampling procedure.

Tools And Techniques:

The researcher has used various tools in the study. The main techniques used for data collection are interview, participant and non –participant observation method. The researcher has been prepared the structured interview schedule to related objectives of the study.

Plan Of Analysis And Interpretation Of Data:

For the present study, the plan of analysis and interpretation of data has given as below:

1. The data has to be collected with the help of interview schedules, which has to be coded after preparation of code books.
2. The coded data has to be processed on computer by using SPSS software.
3. The computer output will be used for analysis and interpretation with the help of simple statistical tools such as frequency distribution and percentage.

In order to process the collected data through both the questionnaire and the interview schedule, the suitable codebooks [data definition files] were prepared. The data were processed with the help of computer. The computer generated output is used for the analysis and interpretation of the data presented in this report.

Major Findings:

The researcher has find out the five major findings in the present study which are given as below.

Satisfied:

When the question was asked about the satisfaction of the profession 92% female sex workers replied that they are satisfied with their profession. They are even not feeling guilty about profession. They are self-independent and able to complete the basic needs of the regular life.

1. Early Age:

The data clears that majority of female sex workers are entered in the profession in early age.

2. Poor Education:

The researcher find out the education status of female sex workers are very poor. 80% female sex workers are taken primary education.

3. Poor Income:

The researcher find out that majority of female sex worker are having very less income from their profession, they don't have other income sources and that results into the no saving for the future.

4. Poor Social Status:

Majority of the female workers have not their own house, they are rented. Peoples attitude to the female sex workers are not good so the status is very poor in society.

5. Health:

30% of the female sex workers responded that they are not facing any problem during the sexual

intercourse. Majority of them are aware about checking their health.

6. Satisfied:

When the question was asked about the satisfaction of the profession 92% female sex workers replied that they are satisfied with their profession. They are even not feeling guilty about profession. They are self-independent and able to complete the basic needs of the regular life.

Limitations:

1. The study area is conducted only in the Kolhapur town.
2. The study is not covered all problems of female sex workers.
3. Limited selected samples size.

Conclusion:

To conclude, the present study revealed that, social and economic condition is responsible for the lower status of female sex workers in Indian society. There is need of proper plan of rehabilitation and provide other income sources for the livelihood.

Suggestions:

The researcher has given suggestions as per the following.

1. Proper awareness about education.
2. Available other income sources.
3. Tanning camp for proper health checkup.
4. There is need of housing facility.
5. Plan for rehabilitation and give facility of social welfare.

References:

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