

## SILENTLY ENJOYING THE PAIN



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Delegation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Human Rights Congress  
(Regd: 05IWRA2)

### Abstract:

A prostitute is a person, "who allows her body to be used for lewd purposes in return for payment". Prostitution is the sale of sexual services, such as oral sex or sexual intercourse, for money. Prostitution the word itself speaks about the plight of a women .It is not a problem which exists in India but exists throughout the world. Prostitution was a part of daily life in ancient Greece. In the more important cities, and particularly the many ports, it employed a significant proportion of the population and represented one of the top levels of economic activity. A prostitute or a *tawaif* or a *devadasi* as different times have called them in India are the facilitators of what some people say the "oldest profession of the world", Prostitution. In India prostitution is legal but the other related activities such as soliciting, pimping and brothels are illegal. There are more than 20 million prostitutes in India if a *Human Rights Watch* report is to be believed — and as many as 35% of them enter at an age less than 18. Prostitution was once upon a time a theme of Indian literature and arts for centuries. But the true face still lies hidden. This paper brings out the Problems faced by Prostitutes in Nagapattinam District of Tamilnadu, South India

Keywords: *Economy, Prostitution, Society Violence, Women*

India is one of the biggest markets for prostitution in Asia with Mumbai alone accommodating 200,000 prostitutes. [Trafficking](#), sex tourism and 'clandestine' nature of the industry is further imposing problems and spread of HIV/AIDS is on the rise at an alarming rate with woman being more prone to infection. Because of such nature and lack of regulatory body the real magnitude of severity of the actual situation cannot be comprehended. Every hour, four women and girls in India enter prostitution, three of them against their will. There are around 2.8 million prostitutes in the country and their number is increasing, as informed by Lok Sabha

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Prostitution. But surely one must not be negative enough to think that this so called "oldest profession" is driven by need of physical pleasure only, but is rather driven by the economic and psychological distresses which contribute majorly to the entry of prostitutes in this profession.

In India [prostitution is legal](#) but the other related activities such as soliciting, pimping and brothels are illegal. There are more than 20 million prostitutes in India if a Human Rights Watch report is to be believed — and as many as 35% of them enter at an age less than 18. Prostitution was once upon a time a theme of Indian literature and arts for centuries. In Indian mythology there are many references of high-class prostitution in the form of celestial demigods acting as prostitutes. Poverty is one of the main causes which brings helpless woman to the doors of



prostitution. A woman distressed economically, often ill treated by parents or seduced by boyfriend who later turns out to be a pimp or procurer, and lastly uneducated or with a very low education level seldom finds any other avenues to feed herself other than prostitution. There are other social factors which are degrading the status of a woman. One such factor is the view of women being a commodity – which is pervasive in popular manifestations of culture in India.

### Radical Feminism

Alison M. Jaggar and Paula S. Rothen Berg has listed out the traits of radical feminism in the following way:

1. Women were the first oppressed group in all the historical periods.
2. In every known society women's oppression is widely spread and virtually in existence;
3. Women's oppression is deep-rooted to the extent that it hard to eradicated and even other social changes like the abolition of class cannot remove this hardest form of oppression;
4. Women's oppression causes qualitative and quantitative sufferings to victims;
5. Women's sufferings due to oppression often go unrecognized mainly due to the sexist prejudices; and
6. Women's oppression provides a conceptual model to the understanding of the rest of the oppressions.

Radical feminists are on the conviction that all women are the natural allies while all men are the enemies of women because sex-class is the basic division in the whole world. Radical feminists view that this is a

fundamental political oppression. Hence Radical feminism aimed to organize all women politically so as to destroy the sex-based-class-system in every society.

### Causes of prostitution:

- Ill treatment by parents.
- Bad company.
- Family prostitutes.
- Social customs.
- Inability to arrange marriage,
- Lack of sex education, media.
- Prior incest and rape.
- Early marriage and desertion.
- Lack of recreational facilities, ignorance, and acceptance of prostitution.
- Economic causes include poverty and economic distress.
- Psychological causes include desire for physical pleasure, greed, and dejection.

### In modern India different kinds of prostitution is prevailing apart from prostitutes in brothel there are:

- Street prostitutes
- Bar dancers
- Call girls
- Religious prostitutes
- Escort girls
- Road side brothel
- Child prostitutes
- Fricatrice prostitutes
- Gimmick prostitutes
- Beat prostitutes

### The prostitution leads to many health problems for the prostitutes like

- Cervical cancer
- Traumatic brain injury
- HIV
- STD



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- Psychological disorders

### OBJECTIVES:

1. To find out the Socio-Economic Status of Prostitutes.
2. To understand their real life situations for involving in Prostitution.
3. To study the Problem faced by women in prostitution.

### SELECTION OF SAMPLING

There are nearly 1 lakh sex workers in Tamil Nadu and over 14,000 in Chennai alone. The researcher personally verified and found nearly 75 Prostitutes in Nagapattinam District, Tamilnadu. Therefore the member of respondents who were available during the time of data collection, were included in the study. The researcher has selected 75 transgender by adopting Snowball method. A well structured interview schedule was used to elicit data with regard to problem.

### Result and Discussion

In Age wise, the majority 44% of them belongs to 20-30 years age category. In the Community Level, Out of the total, 46.67 per cent of them were belongs to SC. Regarding the educational level of the respondents, 49.34 per cent of them had their secondary education. More than half of the respondents 50.67 per cent were married.

Majority of the respondents 48 per cent states that poverty is the main reason for them to become a prostitute, 61.33 per cent of the respondents were doing prostitution in day time alone. To take care of their children, they will not be available at night time.

More than half of the prostitutes 57.33 per cent prefer lodge for doing prostitution. Two forth of the prostitutes 49.33 per cent were getting their customers by Pimp's. The People who are above the age of 50 (48%) were coming to prostitutes for prostitution.

In the sexual preference of the clients, 36 per cent of them were preferred Oral sex. 48 per cent of the respondents involves in prostitution for twice a week. In the Income level, 44 per cent of the prostitutes are getting above 4000 per week.

### Opinion of Respondents about Prostitution

Regarding opinion of the respondents, it is understood that 46.66 per cent of them are considering it as part of life, 42.67 per cent of them are considering it as a source of income, 6.67 percent of them considering it as shameful, remaining 4 per cent of them are not considering it as wrong.

### Opinion about Types of living

The above table explains about type of living which is liked by the respondents. Out of the total 46 per cent of them like to live with family. 29.33 per cent of them like to live individually. Finally only 24 per cent of them want to live with same group. They live by their own codes.

### Distribution of respondents by Problems Faced

The above table explains that 57.33 percent of them are suffered from heavy body pain after having sex with their clients. 32 per cent of them were cheated by not giving of money after having sexual intercourse. 6.67 per cent of the respondents



were sometimes heavily beaten by clients due to heavy intake of alcohol. Finally 4 per cent of them were tortured and abuse in public places like toilets and mobile places. They are forced to have oral sex with local strangers.

### Conclusion

A prostitute is said to be "one who commits common indiscriminate sexual activity for hire, in distinction from sexual activity confined exclusively to one person; therefore, a women who indulges in illicit sexual intercourse with only man has been said not to be a prostitute. On the other hand, it has been held, when a women is a common prostitute she does not depend alone upon the number of persons with whom she has illicit intercourse but rather may be judged from all the surrounding circumstances

Prostitution has been viewed in different forms. It has always aroused a wide range of emotions. Some are morally outraged by its presence, others merely curious. Some view it as a threat, others as a necessary evil. However, at least in recorded history, no society has completely accepted it as a valid and integral part of the community life. Prostitution is something to be abhorred or tolerated but never condoned. It is a nuisance, a problem, but above all, it is an embarrassment, for the religiously inclined, it reminds us that we are from the moral standards set for us by most scriptures. For the government, it is considered a sign of their mismanagement since prostitution is taken to symbolize a society in decline. Prostitution, besides having elements of venality and emotional indifference, enunciates the ingredient of exploitation.

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