



*WOMEN IN*  
**PROSTITUTION**

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## **DISCLAIMER**

THE PURPOSE OF THIS  
PRESENTATION IS TO PROVIDE FACTS  
AND INFORMATION AND NOT TO  
OFFEND ANYONE.

SOME CONTENT MIGHT BE TOO  
SENSITIVE.

# Introduction

- Business or practice of engaging in sexual activity in exchange for payment
- Sexual service, escort service, commercial services, hooking
- Euphemistically the world's oldest profession
- Person who works in this field is called as prostitute
- Prostitute is a type of sex worker (employee of sex or adult industry)
- Legal status varies across the globe
- Sex industry branches : prostitution, pornography, stripping, erotic dancing

# Classification

## Female

- Most common form of prostitution
- Mostly it is forced on women
- Physical and sexual abuses common
- Can have negative consequences

## Male

- Male sex workers
- Clients mostly include females, gay men, bisexuals etc
- Less studied by researchers and not that common
- Common in Caribbean and African countries
- Gigolos and male escorts
- Legal issues

## Child

- Using children for sexual practices
- Sexual exploitation can have long-term negative consequences
- Family problems
- Trafficking and demand for virgins in flesh trade

# Types of Prostitution

## Street

Clients solicited on the street, park, or public spaces. Services offered in short stay premises such as side streets or vehicles

## Brothel

Venues explicitly set to providing sex. Licensed by governmental authorities and much more secure than street

## Escort / Private

Clients contact sex worker via phone or hotel staff. Covert sex work and low client turnover. Serviced at client's place or hotel room/ sex worker's place

## Window or Doorway

Brothels with sex workers on public display. Windows in cold weather, doorways in hot weather

# Causes

## POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

- Single or divorced Woman choose to enter into prostitution as a last resort
- Need for shelter for themselves and children (most of the time)
- Foreign illegal sex workers earn 10 times their normal income
- Sufficient income and basic provisions to the family
- Lack of working experience implies less job opportunities
- Single-moms become prostitutes after ex-husbands fail to pay alimonies



# Causes

## WOMEN TRICKED INTO PROSTITUTION

- Women in rural areas earn less compare to in urban areas
- Tricked into prostitution with guarantees of decent job opportunities and promises of better life
- Attracted to the job in cities by the middleman
- Possibility of getting kidnapped and forced to work as prostitutes





# Causes

## DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY

- Women pressurized to pay for sibling's education or support a sick member
- Sexual abuse or dysfunctional families have led adolescents to run away
- Sexual abuse is a factor common in most prostitutes
- 68% of prostitutes in a sample are more likely to have been a victim of sexual abuse (Schudermann et al 1998)





# Causes

## CARELESS PARENTAL CARE

- To provide better education, parents sent children abroad and let them rent cheap rooms
- Exposed to “bad people”
- Idleness after school and unavailability of parents to guide, youth spend their time outside
- Possibility to discuss things like easy money, sex, or women

# Legalizing Prostitution

- Prostitution in some countries is legal and has been awarded with a job status
- The government provides welfare benefits and regular health check-ups
- In other countries, prostitution is illegal and is banned. Despite the restrictions, countries like India tend to operate brothels across some parts of the country
- Countries like New Zealand and Austria provide benefits to the sex workers
- In Belgium, the government not only legalized prostitution but is also running proper brothels with fingerprint technology and keycards
- In Bangladesh, except for male prostitution, everything else is legal
- Countries in which sex industry is legal operate in a certain area or a district of a city called Red-light Districts e.g De Wallen in Amsterdam
- Red-light districts consists of brothels, sex-shops, peep shows, sex theatres, and sex museums

# **Advantages of Legalizing Prostitution**



# 1) Preventing STDs

- Legalizing prostitution has helped curb the spread of STDs and AIDS
- Government provides welfare benefits and regular health-checkups
- Shares the responsibility for safe sexual practices with male clients
- Enforcing laws such as contraception
- Brothel owners are accountable if a client or a sex worker contracts a STD
- Medical reports required for prostitutes to certify their condition
- No state-licensed prostitute has contracted STD in Nevada as of 1989



## 2) Economic Advantage

- Legal prostitution contributes to the economic sector of a country by providing employment, generating income and national and economic growth
- International sex industry's turnover is estimated to be US\$20 billion per year
- Sex tourism is on the rise in some countries where tourists travel for sex
- Increase in foreign exchange due to sex services, accommodation and leisure
- Prostitution as a job means govt can impose taxes and spent on welfare programs for women e.g Nevada and Netherlands

## 3) Prostitute Rights



- As prostitution is legalized, sex workers pay taxes and therefore entitled to enjoy the same benefits of worker and labor rights
- Consistent working hours, retirement pension, and regular holidays, equal governmental protection
- World Charter for Prostitutes' Rights (1985) stated to guarantee all human rights and civil liberties to prostitutes
- Freedom of speech travel, immigration, work, marriage, motherhood and the right to unemployment insurance, health insurance and housing



## 4) Reduced Crime Rates



- Legalizing prostitution is a better way to protect people in sex industry from rape and violence
- Fear of being prosecuted for the crime of prostitution if illegal
- Legal brothels offer safe working conditions than illegal counterparts
- Regulated brothels offer a systematic way of dealing with pragmatic safety issues and minimizing actual violence



# **Disadvantages of Legalizing Prostitution**

# 1) STDs Transmission



- First 6–12 weeks after being infected, a prostitute may test negative
- During that time he or she may have infected a couple more of clients
- Condom policies enforced by governments are not followed as claimed by prostitutes
- According to one of CATW studies, US women in prostitution reported that 47% of men expected sex without condom, 73% of men offered to pay more for sex without condom, 45% of women were abused if they insisted men to wear condoms.

## 2) Physical and Emotional Breakdown

- A report in British medical journal interviewed 125 prostitutes as a part of Women's support project 2008
- 48% had suffered client violence. Violence included slapping, punching, kicking, strangulating, robbery, beating, attempted rape, forced to give client oral sex, vaginal rape, anal rape etc.
- Violence brings emotional health effects to prostitutes
- These women suffer difficulties in establishing intimate relationships with men
- Negative effects on sexuality, flashbacks, and nightmares
- An international survey showed that 67% of prostitutes show symptoms of post-traumatic stress syndrome (Therese 2002)
- Drug addiction and alcohol



### 3) Economic Issues

- Other businesses lose customers who refuse to shop in red-light areas
- Tax evasion occurs due to legalization of prostitution; pimps may not hand over massive profits of the sex industry
- Prostitutes do not wish to register and pay tax on money earned through unwanted sex
- Society does not want prostitution zoned into their neighborhoods or near children's school
- Negatively affects area's economy as property values reduce

## 4) Human Trafficking



- Prostitution is a market for demand and if there is a demand for illegal activity then prostitution will be provided
- Brothel owners and escort agencies are profit-maximizers
- Greater demand for trafficking victims
- Trafficking in women and children from other countries has increased significantly
- Increase in trafficking to supply legal and illegal brothels
- Demand for virgins is high

## 5) Taboo



- Although prostitution is legal in some parts of the world, it is still considered as a taboo in many societies
- Considered as an unethical and immoral job
- The clients and prostitutes do not receive the same level of respect in the society despite being a part of the same trade
- Society is very hypocritical in this sense
- Religious extremism and conservatism
- Concept of virginity is important: women have to remain virgin until marriage, does not apply to men
- Loss of virginity is often considered humiliating in the society; body defilement



# Sex Tourism

- Sex Tourism involves travel to a particular destination to pursue sexual services and activities
- Usually associated with prostitution but also includes sex shows, sex shops etc
- It is illegal in many countries
- 10 biggest sex tourism destinations in the world
- Germany: people join flesh trade willingly, advertisements and job offers from companies, Frauenhauser (women's houses)
- Dominican Republic
- Spain: party destinations include Ibiza, Barcelona, Madrid
- Malaysia: Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh; trafficking people from China
- Kenya: Legal despite high number of STD and HIV cases
- Netherlands
- The Philippines: girlie bars prevalent from World War 2
- Brazil
- Colombia: women are considered to be one of the most beautiful in the world
- Thailand: sex industry started during the Vietnam war





# Child Prostitution

- Refers to the use of children for sexual activities in exchange for another form of retribution (gifts, food clothes, etc)
- Included under the umbrella term of sexual exploitation
- Both boys and girls are driven to prostitution
- Easier to abuse a child than an adult
- Less able to defend themselves
- Certain myths in Asian countries; less chance of contracting AIDS/HIV if engage in sexual relation with young virgin girls
- Sexual relations with virgins bring longevity and success in business



# Causes of Child Prostitution

- Poverty
- Money
- Orphans



# Child Prostitution across the globe

## Asia Pacific

Over 7.6 million

## Sub-Saharan Africa

Over 1.6 million

## Middle East & North Africa

Over 750,000

## Russia & Eurasia

Over 702,000

## The Americas

Over 550,000

## Europe

Over 300,000

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