

## Girl children and prostitution: a social evil

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### ABSTRACT

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 states that “All men are born free and are equally entitled to have their basic human rights.” But it is not implying on the trafficked girl who are indulged in a forced prostitution. The observational study of two girl prostitutes, who were rescued from different brothel, shows the mental and physical sufferings of brothels and how the spirit of revenge occurs in them. Through this case study we want to show that it is urgent to listen to girls prostitute’s voice as they are detrimentally affected by an industry based on violence, domination and inequality. The outcomes of this study clearly demonstrate that girl prostitution is not only a form of violence; it is also a system and an industry, which impact are far more detrimental that we can see, because they are invisible and entrenched in mentalities.

**Keywords:** *Girl Prostitution, Mental and, Physical Condition, Counselling, Remedial measures*

Vladimir Putin quotes “prostitution is a serious, ugly social phenomenon. Young women do this connected to the fact that they cannot survive any other way and that is a problem of society.” A person who works in the field of sex work called a prostitute. Women are forced into prostitution by gender discrimination, race discrimination, poverty, abandonment, debilitating sexual and verbal abuse, lack of formal education, or a job that does not pay a living wage. Several definitions have been proposed for prostitution of children. The United Nations defines it as "the act of engaging or offering the services of a child to perform sexual acts for money or other consideration with that person or any other person" (UNICEF, 2017).

Child prostitution normally refers to prostitution of a minor or person under the legal age of consent. In most jurisdiction, Child prostitution is illegal as part of a general prohibition on prostitution. It is usually manifest in the form of sex trafficking in which a child is kidnapped or duped into becoming involved in sex trade. Girl child prostitution is an epidemic that touches every corner of the world. By one count prostitution is an \$8 billion a year industry with more two million prostitutes and 275,000 brothels. In another count in all of India, there are as many as 10 million commercial sex workers. Their core clientele has traditionally been truck drivers, migrant workers and other men separated from their families

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Received: August 31, 2020; Revision Received: September 20, 2020; Accepted: September 27, 2020

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for long periods of time (UNICEF 2014). UNICEF (2017) and Asia Society (2017) reports that there is no accurate statistics of how many people are involved in this field but it is estimated that between 5,000 and 7,000 Nepali young girls are trafficked every year across the border to India from Nepal to become prostitutes every year. National Crime Record Bureau statistics (NCRB, 2017), at least 1.2 million girls between the ages of nine and 12 were trafficked into India's sex industry from 2006 to 2016.

According to UNICEF (2017) lack of financial mean is substantial cause of child prostitution. The key factor of child prostitution is their socio-economic conditions and so that poverty is biggest factors to contribute the children ending up as prostitutes. Many teenage girls turn to prostitution to raise money for their families or out of need for money to deal with a debt or a problem related to their husbands. Some village girls are tricked into entering the trade in the cities with promises of good money or another kind of job. It was also found that a third of all prostitute enter the trade because of poverty and more than a fourth become prostitutes after marital problems. Commercial sex businesses create a hostile environment in which girls and women are continually harassed by pimps and sexual violence. The adult use of a child for sex with or without payment, when a child is incestuously assaulted the perpetrators objectification of the child victim. Incest and prostitution cause similar physical and psychological symptoms of the victim.

In India, prostitution the exchange of sexual services for money is legal, but a number of related activities, including soliciting in a public place, kerbed crawling, owning or managing a brothel, prostitution in a hotel, child prostitution, pimping and pandering, are crimes. Prostitution is legal only if carried out in private residence of a prostitute or others. But many brothels illegally operate in many Indian cities including Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata. Prostitution is technically illegal but widely practiced in India. A study conducted by border guarding force Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB, 2018) on "Human Trafficking on Indo-Nepal Border" claimed the number of victim brought illegally into the country has gone up 500% since 2013 with girls trafficked from villages and Tarai region of Nepal sold to brothel owner in Delhi, Kolkata and other cities for up to Rs. 50,000. In 2013, 108 girls were rescued at Indo-Nepal border, while 607 such victims were rescued in 2017. In India that contributes to human trafficking because of the belief system, the girls are not considered equal to men. They are more prone to the trafficking risk.

It is illegal to lure, transport, or obtain a girl child to engage in prostitution or any illegal sexual activity. Girl children involved in this form of commercial sexual exploitation are victims. Offenders of this crime, also commonly referred to as traffickers or pimps, recruit, entice, or capture children in order to sell them for sex in exchange for cash, goods, or in-kind favors. Under federal law, the prostitution of children is considered a form of human trafficking, also referred to as sex trafficking. Sex trafficking is a lucrative industry, and criminals traffic children just as they would traffic drugs or other illegal substances. This is a serious crime under federal law, and convicted offenders face serve statutory penalties. One form of sex trafficking involves the cross-border transportation of girl children. In these situations, traffickers recruit and transfer children across international borders in order to sexually exploit them in another country. The traffickers can be individuals working alone, organized crime groups, enterprises, or networks of criminals working together to traffic children into prostitution across country lines.

The prostitutes suffer from deterioration and the person who approaches her lead a sort of 'double life'. They suffer from moral collapse and lose their status and position which other

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respectable men and women enjoy in society. Respectable people hate them, avoid their company and want to isolate them in society. As a result, the pimp and the prostitute become 'hated and isolated islands. They lead a life with their own definition of promiscuous sex conduct and a life with their own definitions of promiscuous sex conduct and immoral principle. This will be quite different from the society's conception of morality. The traffickers resort to various foul methods of procuring young innocent girls and women to make their trades very prosperous and profitable. By this, they wreck the personality, communicate diseases, scatter marriage and ruin the family of many girls and people in society. These children experience repeated physical violence like beating, choking, burning, sexual assault and gang rape, psychological abuse and manipulation, threats, and blackmail at the hands of the trafficker, facilitators in the trafficking trade, and buyers. The other effect of the prostitution is found in this study was the girl prostitutions make a mind set to take revenge from the trafficker.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Data were collected from two survivors who were rescued from different brothels in and around Purnia District, Bihar and sheltered at Punarnawa shelter home, Purnia District through individual counseling sessions. Both of the survivors are in age of 17 and 15 years residing in shelter home. Their case history was observed and fictitious name used for the safety, security, reintegration, rehabilitation and respectful future life of survivors.

#### *Objective*

The main objective of this study is to understand the girl prostitution, effect of prostitution on girl prostitutes, how feeling of revenge occurs in rescued girl prostitutes and to understand the remedial measures and counseling.

#### CASE STUDY

**Case Study # 1:-** When Rashmi came at shelter home, she felt like she was drunk, her eyes looked cumbersome and felt like she was sleeping. She seems arrogant and self-centered. After one month of regular counseling session she shared that she was wondering at Kishanganj railway station with abnormal behavior and weeping, the railways police administration was asked about her identity but she was kept silence. The police administration hired a counselor to know about her but she didn't share anything about her. They sent her at Punarnawa shelter home through C.W.C. for care and protection. She shared she was married but her husband was always physically and mentally harassed her because of dowry. She shared about her problem to her parents but they were not able to fulfill her husband's demand because of low income and poor economical condition. She was then make a male friend through her mobile phone and started to spend time with him. That male friend was attracted her by showing a colourful dream of future married life, and he said you would run away from home and he would marry her. She run away for home and trapped by that trafficker, at first, he was married her and the next day sold in a brothel of Islampur, that time she was only 15 years old. She shared all her sufferings at the brothel and sometimes she used to drink alcohol for getting forgotten. After 2 years she got a chance and run away from that brothel and reached at trafficker's home. She wants to kill that trafficker, but he was not at the home that time. She shared her sufferings and criminal act of that trafficker to his mother and other family members, but they stumbled and driven out of the house. She comes to the railways station and the railway police administration was sent her to the shelter home. She didn't want to go back to her in-law's home as well as not at her parent's home. She only wants to take revenge to that trafficker. She hated adult males,

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became traumatic, lost her faith in everyone, was aggressive ever ready to fight with other survivors and staff of the shelter home.

After many counseling sessions and medical treatment, she became normal and wanted to restart her life with her parents. She was started to take tailoring training, animal husbandry and basic education. But she was not agreed to take a legal action against that trafficker, because of her social and family reputation. At present she is living happily with her parents and starts milk selling work and another income of source is tailoring work as well as she cultivates vegetables in her small land.

**Case Study 2:-** Revati was seemed annoyed sometimes, sometimes she was weeping. Her behavior was childish sometimes and sometimes she became matured. In the first counseling session shared that she was trafficked when she was in std. 9<sup>th</sup> studied at a government school, Betia. She told when she was only 7 or 8 years old her parents were died in a road accident and she has only two elder brothers, they were studied at school that time. Her father was a businessman and he had 4 or 5 shops of garment in which two are in Mumbai and rest are in Lucknau as well as a mall in Lucknau. She also told that all properties of her father are on the name of her because her father didn't want that his sons will fight each other on the ground of property. As she shared her father's friend who is a sub-inspector and his wife Kiran was always visited at her home, but Kiran was visit more than her husband, they belong from Betia, Bihar. She shared after death of her parents one day Kiran was coming at her home in the absence of her elder brothers and fetch her to Betia to coaxing that she will survive her as her parents. She changed her name and during her childhood Kiran was not allowed her to talk to her elder brothers. She shared one day she was at the shop of nearest market in Betia and one lady named Anita was told her help to carry stationary things and offer her to live within her family because Kiran is not her mother but she denied. That time two persons named babu and Vikash was made feint by a spray. When she wakes up, found, she is at the brothel in Sarasa.

She spent three months at that brothel and after that indulged in profession of prostitution. Whenever she denied they were beaten brutally and make her hunger for two to five days. She shared that so many minor girls are indulged in this profession at that place. She shared after that she made a plan and told to accept this profession regular On the day of Diwali festival (19 October, 2017) when raining she was run away from that place with an another girl of that brothel, but the staffs of that brothel were tried to captured them, both of them were half drawn in the sewer of drainage near railway line. They shouted to GRP, because GRP were escorting the railway track at that same time and GRP, Saharsa was helped them. Revati was complaint to railway police and went back to that brothel with the railway police and the brothel owner was arrested. That girl was gone to her home with the help of Railway police and Revati spent three months in Childline, Saharsa after that she was settled at the Balika Grih, Purnea and CWC, Saharsa was settled her in this shelter home. She was physically injured, exploited too, suffering from irregular menstrual problem and headache, aggressive, depressed, and anxious about her future life.

Revati always told she will try to give a brutal punishment to Kiran, who separated her from home and family as well as the owner of that brothel who ruined his life, by her own hand. In many sessions, it was explained that if she retaliated, it will be illegal, which will impair his life and they can be punished by law, which would be legal. After some months she co-operated and She was lodged a case against brothel owner of Saharsa.

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### **Remedial measures**

The government should provide good employment education for the girls so that she may not enter in such type of practices.

1. All the society evils such as dowry system, trafficking, poverty must be removed.
2. Try to inculcate scientific sex education among youngster.
3. There should be legal provision for the punishment of those people who are maintaining brothels and live on the earnings of prostitutes.
4. There should be available formal education to those victims who are still within the school going age, while non-formal education should be made accessible to adults.
5. There should be sustainable rehabilitation of rescued girl prostitutes.

### **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

The existence of prostitution anywhere is society's betrayal of woman. Our goal should be abolish prostitution, not to fix it or regulate it. We have so far passed no statutes recognizing girl prostitution as a harmful social phenomenon. All the statutes concerning, prostitution was abolished, but no new measures based on the interests of the work collective were introduced. Thus, the rounds up prostitutes are just as in the old days. This study identified that forced sex work impacts negatively on girl's mental development. It shows that engagement in forced prostitution may increase the risk of exposure to violence, aggression and feeling of revenge. It must say that prostitution must be dealt with at various levels and from various angles; it requires a radical change in the society. This would involve a comprehensive review of the whole problem of trafficked girl, who are in forced prostitution. We must therefore not only confront the problem of prostitution but seek a solution that is in line with our basic principles and the programme of social and economic changes as well as legal actions against this profession. The findings of this study suggested need for further studies to be undertaken to determine future inventions, policies, and support programme to increase healthy mental condition of girl prostitutes. Although the shelter homes provide a safe place to live, foods, clothing, basic and former educations, professionals trainings, clinical and legal help and counseling sessions for their sustainable reintegration but the peoples of society also need counseling and awareness about the trafficking of girl children as well as support the rescued girl prostitutes for their rehabilitation in society and family with their dignity.

There are some limitations of this study that the conclusion cannot be generalized for entire girl prostitutes because there are so many psychological disturbances occurs during the forced sex work and revenge is one of them.

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### ***Acknowledgments***

The author appreciates all those who participated in the study and helped to facilitate the research process.

### ***Conflict of Interest***

The author declared no conflict of interest.

***How to cite this article:*** Ranjeeta K. & Md. Rahman I. U. (2020). Girl children and prostitution: a social evil. *International Journal of Indian Psychology*, 8(3), 1744-1749. DIP:18.01.179/20200803, DOI:10.25215/0803.179