



HISTORICAL STUDY OF SEX WORKERS



Dr. Swati R. Sarode
Head, Dept.of History, Venutai Chavan College, Karad.

ABSTRACT :

With the growth of urbanization and industrialization meaning sociological problems have become more serious and complex. Prostitution is one of the oldest profession of the world practiced in almost all the countries and every type of society. It is an age old social evil. Kautilya in Arthashastra refers to the ganikas as an indispensable factor in royal courts and in India, it became institution in the post Vedic period Prostitution was an organized profession and was a source of revenue to the State in ancient times. A prostitute is a woman who sells herself for sexual purpose to a great number of men in succession and with little or no choice among them. Now a day's prostatitis also called as sex workers.

OBJECTIVES

- To study the condition and problems of sex workers.
- To study the role of governance about the rights of sex workers (prostitutes).

METHODOLOGY

This research takes into account the nineteenth and twentieth centuries of India. The research data comes from interview with sex workers, visit to Women Study Centers, religious literature, NGO reports, government reports, websites etc.

DISCUSSION

Prostitution is the granting of sexual access on a relatively indiscriminate basis for payment either in money or in goods depending on the complexity of the local economic system.¹ Prostitution is a product of civilization and byproduct of marriage institution. Prostitutes (sex workers) are found and prostitution is practiced almost all states of India.²

Various types of prostitutes like public prostitutes, roadside harlots, religious prostitutes, dancing girls, bar maids, call girls, brothel prostitutes are found in India.

ENTRY IN PROSTITUTION

1) Voluntary Prostitution: For lack of any other means of livelihood. In most cases, families are aware of it and often promote it.

2) Forced Prostitution: In many cases, women are forced into this profession through religious and customary practices, trafficking and seduction.

Prostitution remain an important part of ancient India. During this period temple prostitutes became quite visible. They not only serve the basic needs of society, but also a symbol of culture. During the Mauryan age the state controlled prostitutes. They paid money to the State by way of taxes. Since they provided an important source of revenue for the State, their rights were recognized. During 18th and 19th centuries the British government set up comfort zones for British troops wishing to make young girls and women into sex tools to satisfy the British soldiers.³ In India prostitution is legal but a number of related activities including soliciting in public places, cowering, owning or managing a brothel, prostitution in hotels, child prostitution, pimping and pandering are crimes. The increase in the tourism and the lure of high profits from the traffic trade has increased the exploitation and seduction of women from poor and tribal communities and even other sections of the society who have never practiced this profession but become victims because of poverty. In India, women do not enjoy basic rights. They are often regarded as the property of men and are treated as such.

LEGALIZATION

Prostitution as a profession has a long existed in our country and still dominant in modern society. The legal status, which deals prostitution or sex work in India, is The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act. This act came into force on 29th January 1987. The purpose of this act is to regulate and eliminate prostitution in India by progressively criminalizing various aspects of sex work.

HEALTH

A woman in commercial sex work is to provide services for a price is defined in terms of a sex commodity. Consequently, the health and other problems of women in this profession are linked to sexuality. These women have been historically blamed for being the source of sexually transmitted diseases. Public health Services are virtually beyond their access due to discriminatory attitudes and behaviors of both the medical and the Paramedical and the administrative personnel in these services, as well as inadequate health system.⁴

EDUCATION

The children of sex workers who though no fault of their survival in the situation they are forced to live in, but mainstream society rejects them.⁵ Education is their right. Children of sex workers should have the opportunity to learn in mainstream schools with reservation of seats. Facilities for vocational training to increase employment opportunities for the children are very necessary.

AGING WOMEN IN SEX WORK:

After reaching the age of puberty, sex workers face many problems in their lives.

Human rights are those rights, which are basic to human survival. They are rights and obligations, which flow out of our human needs. The human rights of women are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. Women's place in every community is vital to the well-being of that society.

Some people believe that sex workers should get equal justice and be treated with decency and their profession should be legalized. Not recognize however, some contend that their work is illegitimate and should in any consequence. Sex workers in India do not enjoy any protection like other professions under labor law, which makes it unregulated and dangerous.

CONCLUSION

Modern world has adopted a rigid attitude towards sexrelationship outside wedlock and a more liberal and practical attitude towards it. In India from time, it has been trying to keep the profession within sensible limits and has framed rules with this view. During modern times, efforts made to pass acts to demolish this social evil. However, it has been pointed out that though it has practically abolished, it has not abolished and now spread over in wider and cleaner areas. The government for the social welfare board to rehabilitate them or provide them with gainful employment has taken no concrete steps. Immediate attention must be paid to the problem of the rehabilitation of these women. Institutional programs must be designed to provide useful training in tailoring and embroidery, weaving, matchmaking etc. Police must be given special training to handle this problem. Girls must be given proper education at home and schools. Finally, our society should in stile a healthy attitude and dignity for those women and enable them to lead an honorable life once again.

REFERENCES

1. International Encyclopedia of Social Sciences, Volume 12, 1968, Page No.592
2. Note - The prohibition of Immortal Traffic and Empowerment of Sexual Workers Bill 1993, uses the operative terms 'sexual worker' in its title, in the sub-title it acknowledges a civic intention towards 'sex work'. In this article the terms 'women in prostitution and sex workers' are used interchangeably
3. Ghosh S.K., The World of Prostitutes, A.P.H. Publishing Corporation, New Delhi, 1996, Page No. 846
4. Social Violence on Women and Children in Prostitution - A Report by The National Commission for Women, New Delhi, Page No.13
5. Jain Shashi Prabha, Mamta Singh, Violence Against Women, Radha Publications, New Delhi, 2001, Page 21