



Environmental and socio – economic dimensions of prostitution in Ogbomoso, Oyo State.

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Abstract

Prostitution has become highly visible in Nigeria urban Centres. This study investigates the environmental and socio – economic implications of this menace through a detailed qualitative and quantitative study of prostitution in Ogbomoso. Data were collected through in-depth interview, case studies, structured questionnaires and direct observation. The results reveal that prostitution has physical, social, economic and psychological impacts on the overall development of urban populace. To address the problems of prostitution, it is suggested that the solution to the problem rests on various societal structures and responsibilities such as family, community, policy makers, government and urban planners

Keywords: prostitution; sex workers; child prostitutes; brothels; pimps,

Introduction

The phenomenal increase in social problems across the globe and especially in developing countries is worrisome. The situation becomes serious when the problem is multi-dimensional in nature. Prostitution has been identified by scholars (Dworkin, 1992; Raymond, 1999; Hughes, 1999; Farley, 2000; Cockayne, 2001) as a global social and urban problem which has pervaded every dimension of human survival.

The phenomenon is not peculiar to developing countries; the enormity of prostitution throughout the world is overwhelming. Across the globe, it has become prominent social problem. The presence of prostitutes in the major urban centres of the world especially the industrialized countries has transcended the level it was viewed as strictly uncommon occurrence to a worrisome global problem.

The figures from EUROPAP regional reports show that 80,000 of 60 million population of United Kingdom are engaged in prostitution while Germany has 300,000 of its 80 million populations in sex industry. In United States, 1.5 percent of the population engaged in prostitution while .25 percent is involved in Asia (PEN, 1998; ILO, 1998)

In Africa where the problem of prostitution is relatively new unlike the situation in Europe and other industrialized countries, the presence of large number of prostitutes has now become a major issue. The unprecedented growth of sex industry in Africa may not be unconnected with rapid and wide ranging socio-economic changes and globalization which has affected the value structure of African Society.

Nigeria is not spared of this scourge and prostitution has become so prominent that Nigerians refer to it as “the Italian Connection”, “sex working”, “Ashawo business” (Obinna, 2009). The outburst of prostitution in Nigeria, in a way, is comparable to Western societies, where sex trade has posed a moral challenge. The alarming dimension of this menace can be seen not only through the proliferation of brothels and hotels for sex workers in most urban centres but also in the increasing of prostitution rings in the country (Adesina, 2001).

This phenomenon has not only attracted public concern but has also become a matter of academic concern (Ausbeth-Ajagun, 2005; Obinna, 2005; Adesina, 2006; Uzokwu, 2008; Adeyinka, 2008 Accusy, 2009). However, with few exceptions on socio-cultural and socio-economic issues, most of these scholars focused on health dimensions of the problem while neglecting the environmental implications of prostitution. This may be responsible for the failure of most policies or efforts aimed at addressing the problem of prostitution.

Supporting the words of Jelili (2009), it is important for government, Non-Governmental Organizations, Stakeholders and general public to be

educated that the analysis, assessment, control and management of most sociological problems or social vices (prostitution inclusive) without recourse to their spatial and environmental implications may not yield any positive result. In view of this, this study investigates the environmental and socio economic implications of prostitution in Nigerian urban centres with Ogbomoso as a case study.

Conceptual and theoretical issues

Generally speaking, the term **prostitution** refers to the sale of sexual services for money (wikipedia, 2009). The term is sometimes used in more general meaning as having sex in order to achieve a certain goal different from procreation or pleasure (wikipedia, 2009). In this context, the term is applicable to a form of religious prostitution in which sex is practiced in compliance with religious precepts (wikipedia, 2009). Some scholars believe that prostitution encompasses much more than that. It includes all forms of engagement in sex industry, be it a lap dancing, pornographic acting etc. For the purpose of this study, however, prostitution shall be defined simply as offering of sexual services for money.

From the above, prostitute refers to a woman over the age of consent who willingly exchanges sexual services for money (Cockayne, 2001) and in derogatory sense, the term has been used as whore, sluts etc. The usage of these words is widely considered pejorative and prostitute as a less value laden term. To move away from these terms, those who work within sex industry use “sex worker” to describe someone who is a member of a legitimate profession. This term as observed by Leigh (1988) is coined to redefine commercial sex, not as the social or psychological characteristics of a class of women but as an income generating activity or a form of employment for women and men. Nevertheless, it is important to note that whatever term used; prostitute, sex worker, whore, slut etc, the fact remains that prostitutes are those who render sexual services for money.

Child prostitute is a prostitute who is under the age of consent. The concept of child prostitute is a difficult concept because its conceptualization varies depending on who is using it or the country in which it is being used. The terms child prostitution and child prostitute carry problematic connotations. Both terms failed to make it clear that children cannot be expected to make an informed choice to practice prostitution themselves and besides, the age of consent varies from country to country. This makes a universally acceptable research on child prostitution difficult. However, for the purpose of this study, a child prostitute is anybody under the age of 18 who involves in the rendering of sexual services for money.

Pimps are often used as synonym for anyone who lives off the proceeds of prostitution. They are also called a flesh monger or pander.

They manage people in prostitution – in brothels and on the streets- for the purpose of profiting their earnings. A woman is being pimped by a man when their relationship is contingent on her engaging in prostitution and relinquishing all or part of her earnings to him. In some countries, the term “pimp” extends to a prostitute’s landlord, partner, co-habitat etc and in the case of forced prostitute, pimp is also the name given to the prostitute exploiter (cockayne, 2001). Although, most people who work in managing prostitutes are men, some women work in this capacity as well, they are called mamas an or a Madame (wikipedia, 2009).

Brothel, also known as bordello, whorehouse, cathouse etc is an establishment specifically dedicated to prostitution (wikipedia, 2009). It has also been described as a house of prostitute where sex could be had for money (Longman Dictionary). According to the Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (Sixth edition), a brothel is a house where people pay to have sex with prostitutes. Brothels are usually found in rundown inner city areas (Jacob 1969)

Clients, Johns or punters are some of term used to describe anyone who buys the sexual services of another person. Client is quite straightforward if the ‘services’ are those of a consenting prostitute where prostitute is legal, but where the prostitute is under the age of consent, the client is also a pedophile.

The conceptualizations raised above are central to the understanding of this study. However, for a better understanding, it is pertinent to examine the position of various schools of thought on prostitution.

Articulating the functionalist perspectives, Schaefer (2004) contends that prostitution perform some functions to members of the society. Prostitution satisfies the emotional need of the patron that may not be readily met through more socially acceptable form such as courtship or marriage. It satisfies the emotional need of the patrons without any responsibility for procreation or sentimental attachment (Schaefer, 2004). Functionalist schools of thought also observe that prostitution provides a sexual outlet for those who are not competitive in the marriage market i.e. the physically, mentally, handicapped or the poor and for those who are away from home and the kinky (Davis, 1932).

Taylor (2005), also provides functionalist explanation of prostitution as he affirms that prostitution provides employment to the poor, the disadvantaged, the unaided individuals, who have no support or source of income. Prostitution is perceived by most commercial sex workers as a “job” and not just as a means of self-gratification. Through prostitution, sex workers are able to provide for themselves and their families with income. Prostitution is seemingly a low skill but high paying profession. For instance, some prostitutes in Jamaica earn between JA\$100(minimum) and

as high as JA\$10,000 per sexual act plus tips of between U\$20 and \$50. In Nigeria, investigation shows that, depending on her beauty, carriage and associated staying power in bed, a student prostitute could take home remuneration ranging from N10,000 to N50,000 per night (Uzokwe, 2008).

The functionalists' views on prostitution are summarized as thus
"Prostitution is, in the last analysis, economical. Enabling a small number of women to take care of the needs of a large number of men, it is the most convenient sexual outlet for an army, and for the legions of strangers, perverts, and the physically repulsive in our midst. It performs a function, apparently, which no other institution fully performs".

– Davis 1937 p. 755

Although, they believe that prostitution performs certain functions that society seems to need, functionalists do not make judgment that prostitution is a desirable or legitimate form of social behaviour but seek to explain how an aspect of society that is so frequently attacked and condemned can nevertheless manage to survive (Davis, 1937).

On the other hand, Feminist sociologists' explanation of prostitution is a sharp contrast to the functionalist view. Though, on different approaches, feminists have unambiguously demonstrated that prostitution is a consequence of male domination of women. Feminists expressed their view using four different and contradictory approaches. While Radical feminism opposes prostitution ostensibly because it degrades women and further the power politics of male gender, socialist feminism illustrates the intersection of patriarchy and capitalism as well as commoditization of sex. They oppose the sex trader's livelihood being controlled by pimp in a controlled sex industry.

Liberal feminism focuses on autonomy to choose sex work unimpeded by the state. The Liberal feminists argue that sex work not freely chosen reflect wage gap, sexual division of labour, inadequate child care and economic dependency on pimps and escort agencies.

The Postmodern feminism fractures the category "prostitute" and challenge the idea that it is an homogenous group. Post modern feminists frown at sex workers being marked by diversity such as sex, race, class, sexual orientation.

The different views notwithstanding, the point of convergent of feminists' schools of thought is that prostitution is the reflection and consequence of male domination of women. This is expressed in their various views on prostitution.

"Above all, state bodies and non-governmental organizations should understand that prostitution is a demand market created by men who buy and sell women's sexuality for their own profit and pleasure" (Hughes, 1999).

“Women are prostituted precisely in order to be degraded or subject to cruel and brutal treatment without human limit, it is the opportunity to do this that is exchanged when women are bought and sold for sex” (MacKinnon, 1993).

“When men use women in prostitution, they are expressing a pure hatred for female body. It is as pure as anything on this earth is or ever has been, a contempt so deep, that a whole human life is reduced to a few sexual orifices and he can do anything he wants” (Dworkin, 1992).

Literature review

Prostitution, described as the world oldest profession has been acknowledged to be a universal phenomenon which cuts across the countries of the world. However, there is no consensus on its conceptualization. The perception of what constitutes prostitution varied from writers to writers and from societies to societies.

Prostitution is usually defined as the rendering of sexual services for money (wikipedia, 2009). However, this definition has been further conceptualized to include the performance of sexual acts solely for the purpose of material gain (Microsoft Encarta, 2005). By this definition, people prostituted themselves when they grant sexual favour to others in exchange for money, gifts or other payment and in so doing; they use their bodies as commodities.

There is also controversy on the type of commercial sexual activities that should be classified as prostitution. While Cockayne (2001) opines that all forms of engagement in the sex industry, be it a lap dancer, a pornographic actor(ess), or a “call girl” equal prostitution, wikipedia (2009) believes that acting and modeling for pornographic materials even if it involves engaging in sexual intercourse, or sexually provocative acting (sometimes involving masturbation) should not be classified as prostitution. She cited the case, California Vs Freeman where California Supreme Court ruled that adult film makers could not be prosecuted under the state law against prostitution, to buttress her point, she also excludes lap dancing and professional dominants as forms of prostitution.

While scholars have diverse opinions on what constitutes prostitution, they have come out with considerable number of closely related factors influencing prostitution. With the internet survey conducted by Ausbeth-Ajagun (2005), such factors as poverty, parental attitude, laziness, greed and avarice, broken home, poor parental upbringing, deceptive media appeal, godlessness, distorted value system and ignorance were identified as factors influencing prostitution. These factors were corroborated by Obinna (2005) by identifying poverty, harsh economic condition, abandonment by family members as factors influencing prostitution in Nigerian urban centres.

Adesina (2006) also identifies poverty, inadequate job opportunities and greed as important factors especially in Nigeria.

Of all these factors, however, poverty is the most visible, though other factors may even be more influencing than it. It is however, imperative to note that while poverty, harsh economic condition, inadequate job opportunities appeared to be highly considerable, one cannot underestimate greediness, laziness and distorted value system as important factors influencing prostitution in Nigeria.

Having examined the factors influencing prostitution, it becomes pertinent to examine the influence of technology especially the use of internet in propagating sex industry.

Communication technology is a significant factor in the globalization of sexual exploitation through the internet and other types of telecommunication, such as satellite transmission. As observed by Hughes (2000), this technology advancement provides the sex industry with new ways of marketing and delivering women and children as sexual commodities to male buyers. This enables those with power to intensify the harm and expand sexual exploitation. The use of new internet technologies transmits the image of women's sexual exploitation from local cities anywhere in the world to computer servers in another country that have an internet connection (Hughes, 2000). This further degrades women and commoditized women as sex objects.

The use of internet also provides much information for sex workers. It provides a unique space and tool for sex workers (Cockayne, 2001). Not only can it be used for advertising and fielding clients, it becomes a true community in which sex workers can meet other sex workers, run ugly mug schemes, swap advice, share health tips and information, provides support etc (Cockayne, 2001). Websites are the most common form of static and streamed image distribution and often include bulletin boards in which viewers can comment on the sites. Internet also provides avenue for the advertisement of brothels. The importance of internet to the growth of sex industry cannot be overemphasized. This is buttressed by Hughes (2000) as he comments "The sex industry exists today because of the internet industry". By the foregoing, the sex industry and the internet industry have become partners in the globalization of sexual exploitation.

With the increasing expansion of sex industry through internet, what is the health risks associated with the industry?

The health implication of prostitution has generated discourse among scholars (Raymond, 1999; Hughes, 2000; Cockayne, 2001; Liberator, 2004). These scholars unanimously agreed that prostitution constitute immense health risks to prostitutes and their clients. Prostitutes are not only identified as being a high risk group but also a factor fueling the spread of HIV/AIDS.

As observed by Taylor (2005), the rate of infection in sex industry is three times that of the general population. Supporting this report, wikipedia (2009) contends that since prostitutes tend to have large number of sexual partners, prostitution has often been associated with the spread of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) such as HIV/AIDS. Cockayne (2001) observes that there are severe long term health implications for sex workers in form of infections, such as hepatitis C, cervical cancer, or cancer of the cervixes, reproductive health and most significantly mental health problems.

Prostitutes are also threatened by psychological health because of the stigma attached to prostitution. Farley (2000) identifies violence as a constant threat to prostitution. She stresses that women in prostitution suffer from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), a psychological reaction to extreme physical and emotional trauma which is expressed in symptoms such as acute anxiety, depression, insomnia, irritability, flashback, emotional numbing and being in a state of emotional and physical hyper alertness. The report from EUROPAP also identified that prostitutes are exposed to rape through violence or threat to violence which is often used to coerce prostitutes into unprotected sex and anal penetration which is likely to cause internal injury than consensual intercourse.

Without prejudice to the fact that much research works have not been done on the environmental implications of prostitution, it becomes imperative to review the available works on the subject matter. The negative environmental implications of prostitution may be revealed in such aspect of environment as socio-environment, environmental health and aesthetic value.

Prostitution as a social problem affects the physical and socio-environment of the people. This is supported by Adeyinka (2008), as her study establishes that brothel affects the sanitation efficiency, aesthetic, social and infrastructural provision of the area inhabiting them. The existence of brothels also encourages the unhealthy, widespread of diseases as a result of sex trading. Jacobs (1969) observes that brothels are usually found in rundown inner city areas where the physical and social environment is so unhealthy and constitute menace to physical, social and psychological development of the people especially the young ones.

According to Crofts (2007), the exposure of impressionable groups like children and adolescents to the existence of brothel is undesirable because of moral contamination. Adeyinka (2008) while corroborating this view asserts that brothels existence has led to violent immoral behaviour, criminal and immoral tendencies of the residents living close to brothels. Her work also confirms that the presence of brothels boom safety hazards as they could be hideouts for robbers.

Suggestions were also made to eradicate or reduce the negative impact of brothel on residential neighborhood. Crofts (2007) suggest

Orthodox planning regulation to restrict the location of brothel to a certain land use where it is unlikely to offend people. Adeyinka (2008) also suggests that brothel should be forestalled or eradicated from residential neighborhood to prevent moral decadence of the children and adolescents in the neighborhood.

Research aims and objectives

Although, literature is **replete** with researches conducted on several issues on prostitution thereby generated much academic discourses on these issues. However, much has not been done on the area of environmental and socio – economic dimensions of prostitution in Nigeria. This gap in the literature provided the impetus for this study.

This work attempts to understand the environmental and socio – economic implications of prostitution by:

- Investigating the incidence of brothel – dwelling prostitution in Ogbomoso and also ascertain factors that contributed to this trend.
- Examining the physical and socio-environmental impact of brothels on residential neighborhood.
- Investigating the socio – economic dimension of prostitution in the study area.
- Suggesting measure to combat the menace of prostitution in the study area and by extension to all urban centres in Nigeria.

Research Methodology

This study provides a detailed qualitative and quantitative analysis of the environmental (physical and social) and socio - economic implications of prostitution in Nigerian urban centres with Ogbomoso as a case study.

All the fourteen (14) brothels in Ogbomoso (functional and non functional) were purposively selected for the study. All ethical principles in social research were observed and followed as stipulated.

Direct observation, structured questionnaires, case studies and in-depth interviews were used as research instruments. Direct observation was used to obtain data on social and physical attributes of brothels. Structured questionnaires were used to extract the socio- demographic characteristics of the prostitutes. In addition to this the researchers also spent time mixing informally with the prostitutes. This is to facilitate some structured observation of clients that patronize the prostitutes. To supplement the information obtained through the aforementioned methods, interviews and case studies were also conducted on some selected prostitutes.

Interviews were conducted on 24 residents of Ogbomoso to explore their perspectives on issues of prostitution. The interviews were tape recorded and transcribed for contents analysis. In addition to this,

questionnaires were administered on 20 residents living approximately 100 meters to the brothels (4 for each functional brothel) to know their views on the environmental consequences of the existence of brothels in their neighbourhood. The questionnaire was designed using likert scale to rate certain environmental factors as it affects their neighbourhood.

Social and Physical Attributes of Brothels in Ogbomoso

Table 1 shows the list of brothels in Ogbomoso, their locations, status and number of resident prostitutes in them.

In all there are 14 brothels locations in Ogbomoso. However, only 5 of them are functional while the rest have become defunct. Those on operation are 007, Sharp corner, Born Best, V.C.10 and Sedawa. Ikenga, though defunct was gathered to have been the largest brothel ever existed in Ogbomoso.

Table 1 – Brothels in Ogbomoso

Brothels	Locations	Status	No of prostitutes
Ikenga	Off Tanimola road by Onile Ayo Bakery, Sabo	Not functioning	None
Igbalaye	Behind F.B.C., Okelerin	Not functioning	None
Don Paradise	Beside Ogunlola Hall, Isale Afon	Not functioning	None
Idera de	Behind Lagos Food Canteen, off NITEL road, Takie	Not functioning	None
Plastic Motel	Inside Ogbomoso Tipper Garage, Sabo	Not functioning	None
Batola	Opposite ijeru Pry schl ,Caretaker	Not functioning	None
Comfort	Beside, Trailer Park, Sabo	Not functioning	None
Kalesanmi	Beside Total petrol station, caretaker	Not functioning	None
Ghana Hotel	Opposite Trailer Park, Sabo	Not functioning	None
007	Behind wazo market, Sabo	Functioning	11
Sharp Corner	Off Abogunde road, Sabo	Functioning	06
Born Best	Behind Ijeru Pry Schl, oke- Isoko	Functioning	12
V.C. 10	Inside Akintola Shopping Centre, Sabo	Functioning	05
Sedawa	Behind, Sabo Trailer Park	Functioning	12

Social Attributes

Brothels in Ogbomoso have been discovered to have names that are either funny or inviting. The fact that most of them are in pidgin or corrupted English suggests that they are being flown by non – indigenes.

Most of the brothels are usually used as beer parlour and are common places where “fun” seeking people especially the travelers choose to relax. They are convergent places for criminals, area boys, thugs and surprisingly educated ones and students. It is not [surprising](#) therefore, that brothels are always noisy and are hide - outs for criminals and armed robbers. Hence, they are subjected to incessant raid by the police.

Physical Attributes

In Ogbomoso, brothels are located in hidden and poorly accessible spots where customers may hide from public glare .They are known for their inaccessible locations, rundown structure and generally poor quality neighbourhood.

The buildings, which could either, are bungalow or storey buildings are usually of low quality materials. They are usually of less standard and are lacking in set back and air space. The facilities such as water supply, waste disposal facilities, sewage and sewerage system e.t.c. are either absent or grossly inadequate

Socio- Demographic Characteristics of the Prostitutes

As reflected by the table 2, the incidence of prostitution is more pronounced among ladies in their 20s and 30s while it tends to decline as age increases. The table also revealed that majority of the prostitutes is Christians (67.39%) while 32.60% are Muslims. It was also revealed by the table that Igbo prostitutes have the highest percentage (34.78%), Yoruba prostitutes have 19.56% while Hausas have 17.39%.The rest 28.26% are from other tribes such as the Agatus, the Togolese and so on. The socio demographic profile of the prostitutes revealed that overwhelming majority of the prostitutes in Ogbomoso are migrant prostitutes (84.77%).30.43% of those migrant prostitutes are from outside Nigeria.

Interestingly, the study also revealed that 52.16% of the prostitutes have one time or the other got married while the 47.82% have never got married .It is important to note, however, that most of them (62.20%) whether married, single or divorced have had children while 34.78% have not.

Table 2 -= Socio- demographic Characteristics of the Prostitutes

Age		
Age Group	Frequency	Percentage
15 – 17	11	23.91
18 – 29	15	32.60
30 – 39	12	26.08
40+	08	17.39
Religion		
Religion	Frequency	Percentage
Christianity	31	67.39
Islam	15	32.60
Tribe		
Tribe	Frequency	Percentage
Yoruba	09	19.56
Igbo	16	34.73
Hausa	08	17.39
Others	13	28.26
Marital Status		
Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Married	11	23.91
Single	22	47.82
Divorced	10	21.73
Widowed	03	6.52
Number of Children		
No Of Children	Frequency	Percentage
None	16	34.78
1 – 2	12	26.08
3 – 4	10	21.73
5 +	08	17.39
Place of Origin		
Place of origin	Frequency	Percentage
Towns in Ogbomoso	07	15.21
Towns outside Ogbomoso but in Nigeria	25	54.34
Town outside Nigeria	14	30.43

Source: Authors' field Survey, 2009

From the interview and case studies conducted on prostitutes, such factors as poverty, harsh economic condition, family disruption, coercion, child abuse or neglect e.t.c. were identified as factors responsible for prostitution. However, prominent of these factors are poverty and harsh economic condition. It is discovered from the interaction with the prostitutes that majority of them see prostitution as a convenient and readily available means of earning livelihood. This finding confirms the reality of the findings

of Functionalist scholars like Davis (1935), Taylor (2005) and Uzokwe (2008) that prostitution provides employment opportunity for the poor, the unaided and disadvantaged individuals. This is also supported by the case study below

Case 1

I adopted this sex business as a strategy to cope with unfavourable economic condition, once I am able to save enough money, I will go and establish myself with more respectable business but for now, this business is “use what you have to get what you need”

Having confirmed poverty and harsh economic condition as major factors, the result of the interview conducted on some residents of Ogbomoso also recognizes greediness, Godlessness, bad company, ignorance and distorted value system as contributory factors. Buttressing one of these points, Dele, 32, a resident of Ogbomoso has this to say

...high incidence of prostitution in our society is a sign that we now celebrate mediocrity. Society does not have regard for the value system which favour hard work, anymore. As long as a woman is rich, society doesn't care if she is a prostitute who acquires her wealth by dubious means

It is important to note that laziness is also an important factor. From the interaction with the prostitutes, it is evident that majority of them have the opportunities to get out of the “sex business” but do not want to pay the price of hard work. Some of them have been in prostitution for more than five years and have gathered enough to start a legitimate and dignified business but have chosen to remain in prostitution.

Problems of Prostitutes

The case study and interview conducted with the prostitutes revealed that they are faced with problem such as health risks, problem with police, problem with area boys assault by clients (see table 3)

All the prostitutes are apprehensive of STDs and they confirmed that the spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases constitute a serious threat to their business. Although, they make the use of condom compulsory for their clients, however, they confess that condom is not 100% reliable as it may tear during sexual act. Moreover, some of the clients are stubborn and will insist on “flesh to flesh” act. Some will even entice them with double pay for “condom free” sex. This finding is in line with Taylor's (2005) that prostitutes are not only identified as being a high risk group but are the major factor fuelling the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Table 3 – Problems of Prostitutes

Problems	
Health risks	+++
Problem with police	+++
Problem with Area boys	++
Problem with clients	+
Problem with pimps and madame	++

Source: Authors' field Survey, 2009

+++ means problems facing majority of prostitutes

++ means problem faced by some reasonable number

+ means problem faced by few

Case 2

It is not easy to make it in this business at all. The Police will have to be settled otherwise they will spoil our business. The area boys will also demand their own share. You will have to pay for accommodation, pay electricity bills and take good care of yourself. The little that remains will hardly be enough to take care of your personal need

Case 3

It is not uncommon to be assaulted by some of the clients and many times one is inflicted with body injury. Some of the clients, at times, have sex with us under the influence of drugs. You can imagine the trauma.

The in-depth interview session also revealed that some of the prostitutes are being controlled by pimps and Madame and being coerced with sexual servitude by their managers

Social and Physical Environmental Impact of Prostitution

The impact of prostitution on social and physical environment can be examined by how terrible the effect of brothel on residential neighbourhood could be. This study has established that incidence of prostitution and especially the presence of brothels have generated a lot of social vices and as well distorted the physical environmental condition of the neighbourhood inhabiting them.

The interviews conducted on some residents of Ogbomoso to explore their perspectives on the effect of prostitution were transcribed for content analysis. The finding shows that prostitution in the town has led to increase in violent behaviour, moral decadence, and criminal tendency of youths. As identified by residents interviewed, such social vices as teenage pregnancy, abortion, nude dressing, under age sexual experience, hemp smoking, alcohol taking were identified with prostitution. All residents

interviewed frowned at prostitution and one them comments*Government should fight prostitution and discourage the springing up of brothels especially in residential neighbourhood, because it exposes our youth to series of social vices which have negative consequences not only on the youth but to the society at large.*

This comment was incontrovertibly supported by majority of people interviewed.

Figure 1 shows the result of the respondent rating of environmental nuisances as constituted by the presence of brothels in their neighbourhood. Noise pollution emanating from brothels was rated as the most viable environmental problem experienced by the neighbourhood residents. This is followed by waste management problem, air pollution, distorted landscape feature and inadequate parking spaces in that order.

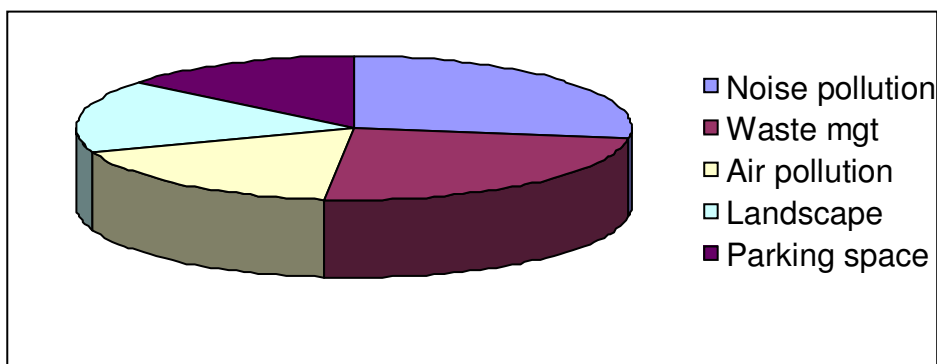


Fig. 1 – Physical environmental consequences of prostitution

Solution

This study was able to find out that the issue of prostitution cannot be related to a single cause. There are several causes of the phenomenal growth of sex industry. However, most of these causative factors are attributable to the enormous challenges associated with urban social and physical environments particularly expressed in terms of widespread poverty, overcrowding, breakdown of value system and poor or harsh economic condition. The aforementioned factors have made considerable number of young girls who migrated to urban centres in search of opportunities but are ensnared in appalling living condition to resort into prostitution.

The study also indicated that nearly half of the prostitutes claimed to be single and nearly all the rest are married or divorced. However most of them - married, divorced or 77single are supporting children back in their

home villages or towns. Probably, as determined by previous study (Orubulaye et al., 1992), a substantial number of them were really separated or divorced. However, one salient fact remains that most single prostitutes regard prostitution as the interim economic activity before marriage.

The incidence of child prostitution has also been confirmed by the study as 23.91% of the prostitutes are below the age of consent. This portrays impending danger for the social and economic future of the country as children regarded as the future of the country are being prostituted instead of being in school or under vocational training.

It was also discovered by the study that brothels are sited in residential neighbourhood as all the identified brothels in Ogbomoso are within the residential areas. This revealed the incidence of corruption among the urban planners and exposed their apathetic attitude to urban planning.

The study has also been able to establish that brothels have physical, social, and psychological impacts which have contributed negatively to the development of their neighbourhood. This is reflected in moral decadence, criminal tendencies and distorted environmental quality of environment inhabiting them.

Finally, the result of this study presents a glimpse of the endemic nature of prostitution in Nigerian urban centres. It has revealed in many ways the lackadaisical attitude of governments, urban planners, Sociologists, and society in addressing the problems of prostitution, location of brothels and various manifestation of prostitution.

Recommendations

The underlying causes of a problem provide a starting points for designing initiatives for curbing the menace (Faloore, 2009). This study, therefore suggests that the solution to the problem of prostitution is located in the various societal structure and responsibilities such as the family, community, policy makers, governments and urban planners.

Consequent upon the aforementioned and based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are suggested as ways to effectively curtail the menace and effect of prostitution in Nigerian urban centres:

Governments are advised to address the incidence of poverty in the country and also to put machineries in place to address the dwindling economic situation in the country.

All the tiers of government are also advised to create job opportunities to meet the problem of unemployment in the country.

Government is advised to stop the trend of rural urban migration by providing basic facilities for people living in the rural areas to reduce the incidence of poverty among the rural populace.

To tackle the menace of child prostitution, governments at various levels are encouraged to improve the educational infrastructure and introduce measure to ensure that all children of the relevant ages are included in compulsory education. In addition to this, the social and economic obstacles that combine to influence child prostitution should be addressed.

Prostitution revealed the breakdown of the value system and is a pointer to the failures of family and religious institutions. In view of this, parents, community and religious leaders are encouraged to teach their subject the dignity in hard work and the evil associated with prostitution.

The media is daily putting up with all kinds of messages and advertisements that portray sexual impropriety in good light. These messages send bad signals and make the idea of prostitution appealing to vulnerable minds. Therefore, our media should discourage musical videos, home movies and drama that promote waywardness. Also, adverts that promote illicit sex and the use of condom should be discouraged.

Urban planners are supposed to expunge physical and social developments that are prejudicial to physical, social, economic, and psychological development of the resident. They are, therefore, advised to discourage the location of brothels in residential neighbourhood. Not only by declining development permit for brothels but also through constant monitoring of the use to which buildings are being put.

It is also suggested that more researches be carried out on prostitution so as to reveal more of its negative impact especially on the environment.

Lastly, the true representative of the sample used in this study was difficult to evaluate. This constitutes one of the limitation of this study. To this end, governments are encouraged to embark on national survey on prostitution to enable the country to formulate policies for addressing the problem of prostitution and its various manifestations. This will also enhance future research on the subject matter.

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