

## CAUSES AND DECISION OF WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT INTO PROSTITUTION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES IN PUNJAB, PAKISTAN

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### ABSTRACT

*Prostitution is the business or practice of providing sexual services to another person in return for payment. Prostitution profession is emerging rapidly worldwide, particular in Pakistan. The purpose of this study to explore the factors inclined women towards prostitution, customers' attitude and behavior towards prostitutes and the effects of co-habitual activities on the stake holders. This study is qualitative in nature and based on in-depth interviews with the thirty three women prostitutes in three cities, Lahore, Faisalabad and Samundri, of the Punjab, Pakistan. In findings, there were multiple pushing factors of women involvement into sex work, some voluntarily and others involuntarily. In voluntarily, poverty, worse economic conditions, illness in family, debt, sex for enjoyment, peer association, family neglect, domestic clashes, drug addiction in husbands and in involuntarily, forced rap, sexual assault, early marriages, trafficking, deceived by family, deceived by lover. In view of the results, women prostitutes had to face worse and severe consequences in concern their health like unwanted pregnancy, abortion, unwanted children, HIV/AIDS, Drug addiction, ovarian issues, break the parts of the body and some other psychological and social issues and in respect of customers' behavior like refusing of payment, kidnapping and sexual assault, beating, forcefully abusive acts, violence, drug abusing, threatening, tie and sexual abuse.*

**Keywords:** Women Prostitute, Causes of Prostitution, Customers' Behavior, Health Impact

### INTRODUCTION

Around the world today, there is a human rights crisis of sexual abuse, voluntarily or involuntarily, of millions of women, children, and thousands of men in prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation. The history of prostitution is as old as human itself. Prostitution is one of the branches of the sex industry. Taylor and Jamieson (1999) state that sex industries work on the basis of the same principles of supply and demand as other industries.

Prostitution is the business or practice of providing sexual services to another person in return for payment. Prostitution is commonly defined as a custom of having sexual relations in exchange for economic gain (Wood, 2001). The person who receives payment for sexual services is called a prostitute or sex worker. Prostitution is sometimes referred to as "the world's oldest profession".

Around 300 B.C., prostitutions had been existed and found at temples, churches or sacred places. In Ancient Cyprus, it was the culture; every woman had to be prostitute herself at least once to any stranger that was the eligibility criteria for marriage (Benjamin, 1964).

In Ancient Egypt and Greece prostitution had been popular and prevalent throughout the history. In Greece there had been four main cults of the prostitutes. First was "The Hetairae"

the upper class of prostitutions who attached themselves with the most excellent, popular and rich men. Second was “The Auletrides” whose occupation was musician and dancing. Third was “The Foreigner Dicteriades” who were brothel prostitutes and the fourth one was “The Concubines” who were permanent slaves (ibid, 1964).

The 18th century is called “The Golden Age of Prostitutes”. During this era, there were many places had been established where prostitutes could get training in order to get start in professional life as prostitute, the brothels like Mme Gourdan’s in Paris, Mrs Goadsby’s and Miss Fawkland’s in London. In this period, prostitutes were very famous (Roberts 1992).

Evidences indicate that prostitution widely and rapidly emerging profession and prostitutes are existed in all major regions of the world. International Labour Organization estimates that over 1.8 million youth all over the world are involved in occupation of prostitution (ILO 2000). There 79 percent and 8000 prostitutes were working as off-street prostitutes (i.e. those working in flats, massage parlors and small building) in London (Dickson, 2004).

The prostitution profession is in its peak in sub-continent. India and Pakistan are the most vulnerable states. Sex work in India is planned and done in secret (Dandona et al., 2006). India has more than 100,000 prostitutes in the only six metropolitan cities Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Dehli, Hyderabad and Banglore (ECPAT, 2005). After the partition in 1947, Pakistan inherited the historical red-light districts in Lahore, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Karachi and Multan. It is estimated that there are approximately 26,000 women selling sex, who are living and working in four concentrated areas of Lahore (World Bank, 2006). Prostitution in Pakistan is a taboo culture of sex-trade that exists as an open secret but illegal. Culture and traditions do not allow the exposure of such profession. ANLAAP Indian NGO said that Karachi is notorious for receiving a million Bangladeshi and more than 200,000 Burmese prostitute women (Naqvi, 2005). National arrest estimates from 2009 reported that out of 36,605 adults arrested for prostitution, approximately 30% were male and 70% female (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2010). Extrapolation of surveillance data indicates that there are around 136,300 Female sex workers nationwide. They are often initiated into sex work at an early age 21 for FSWs. Sex work is often the main livelihood for sex workers, and monthly income ranged from Rs 3,000 to Rs 12,000 for FSWs (Khan et al 2005). Once a woman introduces herself to the sex industry, she is unable to return to her native place (Fredrick, 2000). Female Sex Workers in eight cities estimated that there were about 34,500 FSWs in these cities, ranging from 760 in Quetta to 14,150 in Lahore. Overall, about 58% of FSWs worked out of the homes, over 40% worked in public places and only 2% worked out of brothels (Blanchard et al 2008).

There were certain and many reasons and factors involved motivating women to adopt prostitution profession. There could be two different categories in this concern for taking initiatives of women into sex work, voluntarily and involuntarily (UNESCO, 2002). The voluntarily includes women who get start as prostitute willingly because of poverty, hunger, economic crisis, family pressure, illness etc. and the involuntarily includes women who enter in sex industry by force like trafficking, coercion, kidnapping and being deceived. In India, it has been observed that sex work is largely involuntary but some women joined knowingly (Nag, 2006). Domestic responsibilities, economic crisis and lack household economy forced women to involve in prostitution (Wawer et al., 1996). Researches show that economic reasons become the cause of women into sex work in India (Blanchard et al., 2005). Women who chose sex work for economic reasons belong to particular social, caste and class groups (Somaiya et al., 1990). Majority of women in sex work are illiterates, belong to lower castes and are from poor economic backgrounds (Ramesh et al., 2008). Slum life is one of the most factors that promote prostitution (USAID, 2003). Prevalence of prostitution due to prevailing

poverty, peer pressure and family neglect and the other major causes were illiteracy and family breakdown (Phoenix, J., 1999). Migration from less developed areas to cities facilitates women for involvement into prostitution (De, Zalduondo, 1991). Researches in Russia indicate that lack of employment opportunities are the major reason of women involvement into prostitution (Aral et al., 2003). The poverty faced by the women in Africa has led them for taking decision to sell sex in exchange for money and favors in order to support their children (Cabrera, 1998). In China, lack of money and economic necessities are the reasons of joining women sex work (Hong and Li, 2008). In USA, domestic violence leads women getting start into sex work (Dalla, 2001). Coercion, threats and deception by others, in Vitnam, were the major factors of women joining sex work (Busza, 2004). Childhood sexual abuse, parents' clashes and running away from the house are the reasons to give way participation of women into prostitution (Simons & Whitbeck, 1991). Interpersonal network influence and adult peer association pay its role of women involvement into prostitution (Dalla, 2001). A study shows that illiteracy, failure of family support and lack of ability to fulfill their basic needs of the family or children, were key factors for adopting prostitution (Chattopadhyay et al., 1994). In view of the prostitution issue, lack of employment opportunities in rural areas, many girls go to work and are trafficked to brothels in India (Ghimire, 1994). In most cases, pimps deceive the young women, sometimes marrying them, giving false assurance for job, abduct them and eventually, they are sold into brothels (ibid, 1994).

The consequences of prostitution are very bad and worse impact on women's health and social life in view of different researches. In spite of all these complications women indulge in sexual activities. Sex work has been seen as a challenge to health and economy and as a threat to social structures and the rights of women (Visser, Randers-Pehrson, & Day, 2004). Sex workers have been considered to be socially excluded and in a weak position to negotiate for their physical well-being and health (Hernandez et al., 2006; Ramaiah, 2006). Women working in a brothel as prostitutes are compelled to face the risk of HIV infection (Paudel & Carryer, 2000). The research shows that the prices paid for a prostitute's services are substantially higher when a condom is not used (Rao et al., 2003 and Gertler et al., 2005). Almost 90 percent of the people living in Kamathipura have some sexually transmitted infection at any given point in time (Gangoli, 2006) and 70 percent are estimated to be HIV positive (Menen, 2007). Female sex workers are an important risk group for transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections in South and Central Asia (Bokhari et al., 2007). The first case of AIDS was detected in Pakistan in 1987. So far, 4,000 cases of HIV infection have been confirmed in Pakistan (UNAIDS, 2008). For women prostitutes, money is more important to survival and thus may not afford to take the threat of acquiring AIDS seriously (Hosain & Chatterjee, 2005). A small price premium associated with unprotected sex (Rao et al., 2003 and Gertler et al., 2005). Prostitution leads to un-wanted pregnancy, drug addiction, conflict, HIV/AIDS which often end up in death (UNESCO, 2003).

## RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The current study aims following objectives:

- a. To dig out the socio-economic characteristics of female prostitutes.
- b. To explore the factors inclined women towards prostitution.
- c. To examine the customers' attitude and behavior towards prostitutes.
- d. To find out the effect of co-habitual activities on the stake holders.

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In 1764, the Italian scientist Cesare Beccaria gave an assumption about the action of the individuals. He stated *“Benefits out Weigh the Cost”* in which elaborated by him that people are rational and act out of their free will. He suggested that people make calculated decisions in view of benefits. They weigh the costs and benefits of an action in order to decide how to proceed. In the present research women prostitutes chose this profession in view of cost and benefits. Majority of the respondents explained that they joined this profession because they wanted more money in short time and took initiatives rationally.

*The Strain Theory*, in 1968, by Robert K. Merton in which he narrated anomie emerged when disjunction between described goals and means. Here one postulate is related to this study *“Innovation”* the condition, when individuals accept the goals of the society and reject the following means. People wish to be rich and wealthy but in the condition of poverty and economic crisis reject the means that explained to get done the goals of the society, in view of that they follow the illegal ways to fulfill their needs as well.

Emile Durkheim narrated and described the term *Anomie* in 1897, refers to the breakdown of social norms and it a condition where norms no longer control the activities of members in society. Individuals cannot find their place in society without clear rules to help guide them. Changing conditions as well as adjustment of life leads to dissatisfaction, conflict, and deviance. People take initiatives towards the fulfillment of their needs in the presence of anomie condition through adopting illegal ways like crime, sex work, theft etc.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Khan, M.S. et al., (2013) conducted a study under the topic *“Poverty of Opportunity Forcing Women into Prostitution, A Qualitative Study in Pakistan”* explored that limited opportunities, poverty, financial burdens, the desire to survive, Lacking adequate knowledge and the desire for more material assets have made girls and married women, in Lahore, enter into a web of selling sex.

Shillah, A., (2011) had done a study *“Implications of Prostitution on the Youth in Rubaga Municipality”* and the findings discovered that stake holders were involved in sustaining the prostitution business. The major causes of prostitution were, Majority of the respondents attributed prevalence of prostitution to prevailing poverty, availability or easy accessibility of condoms, peer pressure, illiteracy, family breakdown and family neglect.

Saggurti, N., et al., (2011) The study *“Harsh realities: Reasons for Women's Involvement in Sex Work in India”* shows that the social, economic, and cultural factors combine to effect women's decision to enter sex work. There were several different factors, desire to escape from marital life, freedom from violence, humiliation, earn for self-survival and family, earn easy and quick money, illness in family, lack of education, low socioeconomic conditions and dependent children pushed women into sex work.

## METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

The researchers adopted qualitative methodology and the present study had been conducted in Lahore, Faisalabad and Samundri cities. These three cities were selected randomly. The first and foremost step is to identify sex solicitation sites in each selected area. The researchers identifying some small and large sex solicitation sites including roads, bus-stands, railway stations and market areas with the help of some regular customers.

The total sample for the study was 33 female prostitutes were selected as respondents for this study. In non-probability, The Convenient sampling technique was used to approach to respondents for gathering and collecting the information. The respondents of the present study were only female prostitutes who involved in co-habitual activities to earn their livelihoods.

Data was collected using an in-depth interview guideline with additional and necessary probing questions. In-depth interviews were conducted after taking informed consent from the study participants. These face-to-face interviews were conducted in private locations that were convenient and conducive to the respondents. The interviews were conducted in the local language of the respondent in all the three cities. The interview session lasted for about 40 to 60 minutes in healthy and peaceful environment.

During these interviews information was collected on causes and decision for involvement in prostitution, age at involvement in sexual activities, customers behavior with them while sex, health implications, Social and psychological effects.

## RESULTS & DISCUSSIONS

The women prostitutes who participated in this study were thirty three (33) in counting. Fourteen (14) respondents from Lahore, eleven (11) women from Faisalabad and eight (8) sex workers from Smundri were taken for the collection of the information. In respect of the age of the respondents, seven (7) respondents were fall in 15-20 years category; twelve (12) women under 21-25 years, nine (9) prostitutes secured 26-30 years category and rest of five (5) were fall in 31 years and above category. In concern of their schooling education, among total thirty three (33), twenty one (21) women prostitutes were illiterate nothing to do with education, seven (7) secured primary education, three (3) were middle, one (1) metric and one (1) had intermediate education. In view of their marital status at the time of interview, seven (7) women were unmarried in this field, sixteen (16) were married, four (4) were divorced and six (6) respondents were widowed who were working as sex workers in different places in different time periods.

**Table 1. Socio-demographic Attributes of the prostitutes**

<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent (%)</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent (%)</i>
<i>Total Respondents</i>	33	100	<i>Total Respondents</i>	33	100
<u><i>Area</i></u>			<u><i>Education</i></u>		
Lahore	14	42	Illiterate	21	63
Faisalabad	11	33	Primary	07	21
Samundri	08	24	Middle	03	09
<u><i>Age</i></u>			Metric	01	03
15-20	07	21	Intermediate	01	03
21-25	12	36	<u><i>Marital Status</i></u>		
26-30	09	27	Unmarried	07	21
31 and above	05	15	Married	16	48
			Divorced	04	12
			Widowed	06	18

## REASONS AND DECISION OF WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT INTO PROSTITUTION

For this study, thirty three female prostitutes from different three cities were interviewed for the collection of the information in view of the involvement in sexual activities. Some women reported that there were more than one reasons for involvement in prostitution. The reasons that had been highlighted by them very complex, confusing, overlapping and harsh at all. Detailed description of the causes and decision of women's involvement into prostitution were mentioned below:

### **Economic Crisis, Poverty and Debt**

Most of the respondents reported that the biggest reason for involvement into prostitution was bad economic circumstances and conditions. Poverty is the motivating force to fend their lives for the survival of the family. Among thirty three respondents, seven narrated that they had chosen this profession under the pressure of debt on their families. One woman reported:

*“My daughter's marriage date had been set. Basically we were very poor family so; it's too tough to arrange all things in well mannered. For that my father took debt form someone. After some time the economic condition being too worse and my father was unable to re-back taken debt that had led to an increasing pressure on them to repay the loans. I was house worker and earning was not enough. We sell domestic things even our crockery but this money is not enough which repay our loan and I had to click this option at the age of 19 years old, without consulting anybody”.*

### **Illness in the Family**

Some domestic issues lead the members to crucial stages. A few women reported that the illness in the family was the reason to join this profession effectively. One women narrated:

*“My father was chronically sick having kidney problem. Our family had to spend around 75000 of rupees on my father's recovery and treatment. My father was single earning hand and in this condition our family couldn't afford all the expenses. Our all relatives left alone in this bad condition. We family didn't have any source of money. We had to sell even our house for that purpose but all in vain. I used to work as a factory laborer and was paid very little. The money was not enough and I had to decide to choose this profession.*

### **Husbands' Drug Abuse**

Some women reported that their husbands' addiction become the cause of their becoming prostitution. They narrated that their husbands used to alcohol and different types of drugs. They didn't have any concern about their families. In this situation, they were compelled and had to do something for their children. One woman stated:

*“When I was at the age of 17, my father done my marriage to an old man who used alcohol on regular basis. After two years I've two children. My husband didn't have any proper job. He started to sell the domestic using things for his addiction but not little bit caring about me and my children. When I forced him to do something for your children he beaten me very severely and threw me out of his house with my children. In this situation for the survival of my children I've to look for this field.*

### **Early marriages and Domestic Clashes**

Early marriages and domestic violence or clashes as major reasons for becoming women prostitutes according to some prostitutes. According to those women who belong to poor

families and were mostly from rural areas, their parents thought, girls were burden on them. One woman explained:

*“At the age of 16 my cousin got me married very early of my puberty age. I had four children by the age of 19 years. At that young age, it was very difficult for me to manage and maintain the home, the children and my in-laws. My in-laws and my husband always found fault with me in every piece of work and used to beat and call me names. They always had complaint to me that I was not doing the household work properly and efficiently. One day my husband beat me severely and threw me out of the house with my children. I had no other option”.*

### **Supporting Family Members**

The other reason that we found after conducting the interviews with the prostitutes was supporting the other family members. One woman narrated:

*“I have been working in a floor mill when I was 17 years old. The wages I was given was not enough to meet the expenses of my family. The supervisor always looked me lustfully. One day he offered me I had been given four times more wage if I had sex with him. Initially I refused but latter on I shacked my head in the favor of Yes because at that time I need money very badly just for the sake of my family. Since that day I used to do this regularly”.*

### **Forced Rape or Assault**

Some respondents reported that they were sexually attacked and rapped. This unfair action leads us to indulge in this profession. One woman explained how she was forced to join sex work:

*“I was joined a hotel as cook servant and I started working there. After passing some days, one person forcefully had sex with me in the hotel. No one came forward for saving me. After that incident I thought ending of my life myself but thinking of my children than I didn't take any initiative about ending of my life. I thought one person had already spoiled my life, what was the use of crying over it? Therefore, I decided to engage myself in sex work to earn more money for the happy survival in the society.”*

### **Deceiving By Family**

A rare case comes up. In this case, parents were involved in selling their daughter for the money. One woman reported:

*“My mother had been died when I was 18 years of the age. After that my father did marriage another woman who behaved with me very cruelly. She hated me. One day my step-mother took me to one lady and told me from today you will stay here and work here. She took money from that lady in my presence and left. Since then, I have been forced to have sex with many people.”*

### **Deceiving by a Lover**

A woman explained that deception by a lover took her into prostitution:

*“I was student of 10<sup>th</sup> class and I eloped with the man I loved too much. We lived together for a year outside the city and enjoyed our lives without any tension. Later we have to face some financial difficulties. One day he left me alone in that house where we lived together suddenly and did not return up till to now. One of my friends used to work as prostitutes in the area and through her I started this work. I must have been around 21 years old then.*

## Sex for Enjoyment

A case has been reported that she joined this profession for enjoyment. She said:

*“I was from upper-middle class family and everything was good in my house in every respect. We were financially happy but I want to job for my own will. After finishing my 12<sup>th</sup> class, I started looking for a job to spend my leisure time. At that time our neighborhood aunt was working as field worker. She promised me to get me a good job under very handsome salary package and very soon. After sometime she took me to a house outside of the city and made me sit outside the room. There were three or four girls as well. They were very friendly and I stayed with them for three to four days. But when I realized everybody engaging in sexual activities I also wished and desired I could do it. The owner of the house understood my feelings and sent a man to me. I had sex with him and enjoyed it. I then started doing it on a regular basis.*

## CUSTOMERS' ATTITUDE AND BEHAVIOR WHILE HAVING SEX

There are following customers' attitude and behavior with the women prostitutes happened with them in different time periods and in different places.

### Refusing for Payment

Most of the prostitutes expressed their experiences in view of reward and payment after having sex with their customers. Some women reported that initially they entertained their customers as their will and wishes but not paid for their work. They explored these incidents occurred when they were encroached far away from their home places and when didn't have pimps for this profession. Among thirty three prostitutes one described:

*“I was 17 years old when entered into prostitution. It was my first experience to go outside of my home place. It was decided before I had been paid Rs. 800/per person. Initially I was taken in a deserted area where 3 people had sex with me whole the night. I entertained them as they wanted. When I demanded my wages they snubbed me at gun point and behaved me very abusively. They abandoned me in deserted area and just paid some money so I came back to my home place”.*

One respondent narrated *“I was rapped by the customers approximately seven to eight occasions in different places, in different times. These incidents occurred to me when I was entailed by others, at gun point, knife point; threatening etc”.* She explained *“rape is the activity in which someone has sex with someone and after refuse to pay wages in the reward”*

### Kidnapping and Sexual Assault

Among thirty three female respondents, few who were kidnapped by the strangers and assaulted sexually. One woman described:

*“I was kidnapped thrice in my prostitution history and rapped”.* Another prostitute respondent narrated *“Once I was coming back to my home at the age of 19, after paying my duty in a factory at approximately 7.30 PM. A strange van came to me and picked me in it. They were three people and took me a deserted Havaily (farm house) where they rapped me one by one. They threatened me at gun point to not share anything about this incident to anyone. After that incident I joined this profession thinking that what if for crying, no one came to console to me”.*

### Beating and Call names

Most of the women prostitutes mentioned that they were often beaten and calling abuse by the customers in different time periods. In view of the collecting information, almost all the

women were beaten more and less and some or few times. They raised the issue that we were the entertaining source for men in spite of that they were treated inhumanly often. One of them answered:

*“I was beaten by the customers approximately sixteen times separately”. She explained one of her very cruel experience in this regard “I used to have sex regularly. One day my date had been fixed by my pimp and I had to approach a young man outside the city. He took me a village where I had to entertain at most four men. They people were drunkard heavily and tried to kiss my mouth and breast that not like to me. They make me naked and started having sex one by one cruelly. They spanked me on my face, breast, belly and buttocks while sex cruelly. They sucked, pinched and push my breast inhumanly that was very painful for me”.*

### **Forcefully Abusive Acts**

Most of the respondents described that they had been compelled to do abusive acts against our own will forcefully. They reported that they kept having abusive relationships with the customers and entertained them but we were treated worse as animals. One respondent explained:

*“I was hired to entertain one of my customers in winter. He filled up the bathtub with hot water and putting his body into it than I had been asked to put off my clothes. He made some space for me, ordered to sit in this bathtub. I was his property at that time. A lot of time I was just pleasing him than I had been asked to suck his penis and I had to continue sucking until he fell asleep. He said your teeth not be touched little bit... he warned me if my teeth touched him, he'd blow my head off. He ejaculated in her mouth against her wishes and then forced her to swallow their semen”.*

### **Physically Abuse and Violence**

Physically abuse and violence related cases also reported during the interviews of the women prostitutions. One prostitutes described her experience in view of violence. She explained:

*“I was 23 of age when I was physically and sexually abused by one of my customer. My clothes had been torn and made me naked, tied very tightly and put tape on my mouth. He rapped me like animals for 3 hours consecutively than He lighted a candle and its burned oil started throwing on my breast drop by drop that was very bitter and painful for me. After that he lighted a cigarette and touched it to my body on different parts. I was crying but no voice. He burned my legs (thighs), buttocks and nipple of my breast little bit”*

### **Alcohol and Drug Abusing**

Some of the respondents shared their lives' exposure regarding drug abusing customers. Among the total respondents of a few described that their husbands were the addicted of drugs that become the reason of separation and being prostitutes. One stated:

*“I was 22 years of age when I was hired for a party to entertain two people. Initially they wanted I would put off my clothes and dance for them and I had to do. They started drinking wine and dancing with me. They wished me to drink but on my refusal they made drink me forcefully. After taking too much wine in my belly, they spank me inhumanly and having sex with me. They wished me I sucked them and they sucked my breast. But of these acts hatred to me too much. They treated me cruelly and forcefully made me drunkard”.*

### **Threaten to Children's Death**

Some women explored that they wanted to be exit from this profession but remained just for the sake of their children's lives. One respondent described:

*“I was regular sex worker at the age of 25 years. I had five children who were under the control of my pimp. After the death of my husband I’d not home to live. So for that I’d join this profession for my children. My five children were in the house of my pimp. Twice, I tried to leave this profession but my pimp threatened me if I left than my daughter had to take responsibilities that would not acceptable to me so I remained and continue further”.*

### **Tie and sexual Acts**

Some women prostitutes highlighted some very severe incidents, occurred with them. One of them narrated:

*“I was booked for two men at the age of 22 years. At that time I don’t have any pimp. I was approached by the one of the customers there. After reaching there they were 7 people and I refused to have sex all of them. They put my clothes off altogether forcefully and tied me with a bed. They all had sex with me abusively one by one whole the night. I was the source of entertaining and out of senses by having excessive sex with them but they nothing care for my health little bit”.*

### **Health Implications**

Women prostitutes explored that they had been survived and sustained numerous times from very sever and different types of injuries. They stated that they had been affected by their pimps and customers both. There were following health implications derived from the women prostitutes’ interviews:

### **Unwanted Pregnancy and Abortion**

A few respondents explained that initially when they took start in this profession unknowingly pregnant. Almost all of the respondents had been pregnant once in their lives except two prostitutes. Most of them had been took initiatives for abortion from unwanted children. Among total, one woman explained:

*“I was pregnant thrice in my prostitution history when I was 14 years of age, I was pregnant first time. At the age of 14 years old, I remembered my client who was a student and he convinced me in a soft and kind manners to have sex with me without condom. Finally I convinced just some loving feelings. After passing sometime I realized I was pregnant by the young man. I wished to give birth of that baby but not by the pressure of my pimp”.*

### **Unwanted Children**

Some prostitutes who had children before joining this profession. A few were had children after entering in the field. A prostitute woman narrated:

*“At the age of 24 years with my two boys children had to leave my husband house because my mother-in-law didn’t bear me and my children’s presence in her house. My husband had been dead due to excessive drinking alcohol and drugs. In this crucial situation I badly need to do something for me and my children. I met a person who was pimp and took me in his house where he lived single. He wished to me daughter children for providing shelter in his house. For the survival of my children I had to indulge with him in illegal sexual activities. I had three unwanted children by him two boys and one daughter”.*

### **HIV/AIDS**

After collection of the information from the prostitutes, it was found that most of the women had not aware of the AIDS and transmitted diseases. Among total, seven respondents found they were the victim of AIDS. One respondent answered:

*“I was addicted of alcohol and drugs living in the circle of prostitution. In addition I had hepatitis and had to be treated several times for sexually transmitted diseases. I found I was the victim of AIDS after detailed check up by the doctor due to exposure of sexual activities. At that time I wished to leave the field for sustained but not because in need money for my family and remained in this profession while treating”.*

### **Drug Addiction**

Most of the respondents explored that they used to take drugs like smoking, alcohol etc. one respondent narrated:

*“I was 14 years of age when joined this profession voluntarily. After spending 1 and half years in this profession, became drug addicted. I used to take alcohol and smoking regularly”.*

### **Ovarian Issues**

Some women prostitutes highlighted ovarian issues that had been experienced by them in prostitution profession. One of them elaborated:

*“I regularly entertained many people approximately 11 to 13 people in day. I didn't care of my health anymore and thought about myself very young at the age of 22 years. I had venereal disease. One day I realized that I had an ovarian cyst due to excessive sexual activities. I was bleeding internally and having very severe pain. I was almost dead and thought it was my last day of life. I had been encroached to the hospital and had to emergency surgery for the survival”.*

### **Broken Parts of the Body**

Some respondents indicated that some incidents had been occurred to us that were against our health badly. One respondent described:

*“My right arm was broken twice, once by my pimp at the age of 21 years and other by one of my customers when I was 23 years of age”.*

Another woman narrated: *“My nose had been fractured for two years by my pimp”.*

One of total respondents explained: *“My toe had been broken and my leg had been wounded with knife by my customer that left long life stigmas at my body”.*

### **Some other Diseases**

Almost all the respondents had some different types of other diseases like stomach problems, headache, hepatitis, blood pressure, menstruation issues, breathing issues, liver pain and some psychological issues for instance, depression, anxiety, frustration, anger, rage etc.

### **Societal Response**

Women prostitutes who had been working for entertaining the people as their wishes but they were treated very cruelly and badly in this regard. In view of that some women shared their views and experiences as following:

One woman stated : *“Our relatives broke the family relationship just because I was working as prostitute. She said in bad situations no one came to us for help and brought out from the conditions. There was no option for me except that for the survival of my family”.*

All the respondents explored the issue that we were not considered human but animal and only the source of entertaining. People had very negative perceptions towards us without knowing our situations and circumstances. One women prostitute explained :

“Now I’m unable to participate in any social gathering because I’m a prostitute. She narrated one day I was invited in a party as guest. When I approached in the party, no one was ready to talk with me even my own regular customers who had some loving words for me always. I shocked how they people were double faced in different places. I thought myself I’m better to them in view of not having double faces”.

When women prostitutes asked about themselves “What Do You Think about Yourself as Women in this World?” Women prostitutes replied in varieties of response. One prostitute elaborated: “Men wished only two things from women, first, how to use women to get their things done and second, how to trap to have sex with her”.

Another of them described: “Men have only single purpose from women; they wanted sex, sex, and sex nothing more. Humanity not matter for them”.

## CONCLUSION

In Pakistan, there were variety of factors and reasons of women involvement into sex work. This research indicates that the social, economic, political and some hidden factors involve pushing women into prostitution. Initiation and decision to be as prostitute, some joined voluntarily and other involuntarily. In voluntarily, women who enter in sex work due to some natural and some manmade situations like lack of economic resources, illness in family, lack of education, poverty, debt burden, sex for enjoyment, peer association, family neglect, domestic clashes, drug addiction in husbands and some others. In involuntarily, forced rap, sexual assault, early marriages, trafficking, deceived by family, deceived by lover, sexual abuse in childhood and kidnapping. In view of the qualitative results, women prostitutes had to face worse and severe consequences in concern their health like unwanted pregnancy, abortion, unwanted children, HIV/AIDS, Drug addiction, ovarian issues, break the parts of the body and some other psychological and social issues. In respect of customers’ behavior like refusing of payment, kidnapping and sexual assault, beating, forcefully abusive acts, violence, drug abusing, threatening, call names, abandon in desert areas, tie and sexual abuse.

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