

Field level Difficulties faced by Female Sex Workers in Chittoor, India: A Qualitative Inquest

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Abstract:

Humans are social animals every animal has its own instincts and survival skill to sustain in their life. Work is the factor that creates survival opportunities in everyone's life. When the same work related to the females who do consensual sexual activity for the sake of things and money is called as sex work and people who do these activities are called as FSW. In India trading sex in private place is legal, but activities like brothel keeping, brokering, treated as illegal. Despite vulnerable to HIV and other STI. The research had been focused on the challenges faced by female sex workers. This article designated to understand the major problems experienced by fsws through a qualitative study covering 25 fsws who work in Chittoor. The data were gathered by utilizing in detailed interview guide, and the case study method. This article gives in detail about the problems faced by fsws in respect to social, economic, psychological aspects of their lives.

Key words: Female sex workers, Consensual sex, Chittor, Stigma, Call girls

Introduction: Seawork profession which is centuries old profession in the world, though badly stigmatized. Sex workers include men, transgender, women people, are who receive things or money in exchange of consensual sex services and they openly tell that activities all are their live hood but they could not consider that as their occupation.

According to the available literature the important types of female sex workers in present types of female sex workers in present India include street based, Brothel based, Lodge based, Dhaba based, Call girls. In brothel sex workers sell sex by the help of third party at homes called brothel based. While lodge based are part of lodges which all located in the area of the sex work activities. Dhaba based also comes under this category only. Street based sex workers do not have proper place to meet their clients in different public places, while call girls attract clients through phone. In addition to females and transgender workers, a sizable part of the sex work industry adds male sex workers on which literature available. Female sex works faces major challenges, including stigma, discrimination, violence, less chance of accessibility of public sector services such as education, health, legal, inhuman treatment from health care people, social isolation.

Female sex workers face many difficulties in their personal, family and community lives (Beattie et al, 2013; Brown et al.2006). Experiences of violence can increase stigma and negatively affect their mental health (Zhang et al. 2017). Female sex workers who are street-based workers, undocumented migrants, drug users, detainees or victims of trafficking may be at great risk of mental health problems, including depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (Macioti et al .,2017). Many studies have also printed out that there is a need for better services that are specifically designed to address the needs of FSW. Such services should provide support without increasing the stigma they already face different areas of their lives.

Sociological details

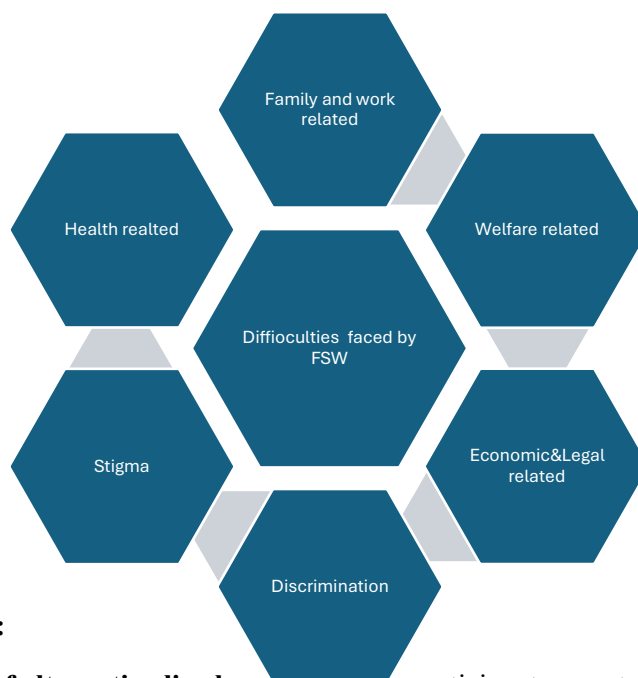
The participants in this study belongs to various social conditions that includes their age, education level, relation ship status and nature of sex work they are doing (see table 1). The age of the participants extended from 18 to 50. Most of them are not educated (N=18) or studied up to 9th class. Five of the participants had completed their degree education. Coming to their relationship position, most of them are separated or abandoned by their partners(N=16), or divorced (N=7). Two participants are unmarried and rest of them are married. Their standing in the sex work profession ranges from 6 months to 7 years. The communication medium of sex work engaged by the participants are home-based(N=09), street based(n=06) , dhaba based(N=04) , phone based(06).

Table 1 . Sociological details of participants

Sociological details	Number of participants (N=25)
Age (in years)	Extent from 18 to 50
Education	Illiterate 18 , Up to degree 5 , Up to 9 Th -02
Marital status	Umarried-02, Married -16,Divorsed-7
Years in seax work	6 months to 7 years
Mode of sex work	Home based-9,street based-6, dhababased-4,phone based-06

Source: the author

Difficulties faced by female sex workers



Economic Related :

1.Less chance of alternative live hood. All of the participants reported that the lack of other income sources is the main reason for not getting out of the sex industry. Less educational status and lack of knowledge of other jobs also make FSW glue to this sex work profession.

I am belonging to very poor family so there is no much scope for my education. Which job I get other than this? Even if I get a job I am sure I will not earn more than this sex work profession (Pushpa , 29)

I have tried many other jobs like daily wage, home maid, sweeper in companies. But I did not get much income from those jobs. Also these jobs associated with burden work hours, injuries, pain(Sami , 31)

1 a. Lack of sufficient Income: One of the main causes why women enter into sex work is lack of sufficient income. In most cases, FSWs, whom separated or divorced or widowed from their spouse or partners, are the only source of income for the whole family. Poor economic conditions push most of the girls and women into sex work.

Additional financial burden: Debt, rent for house and living expenses are impacted as the major extra financial burden facing by FSWs. Most of them do not have own house and have school going children. They are also worried about building their own house in order to up towards a economic stable life.

My husband left me and I am paying rent and debts of my husband(Riya,37)

2.Health related Difficulties: Most of the fsw mention that they have Mental health concerns that they are fear of others finding out what they do, followed by anxiety, shame about the job, concern about the biological children and others perceptions. They thought of ‘ if anybody knows about their profession what is their social reputation and family reputation’. It is like sense of frustration about their profession confidentiality, which routs them to lack of peace, lack of secutity, afraid of rejection and leads to suicidal ideation sometimes.

I have fear about what is my daughters husband knows about my sex work profession, how do they take: they got sex workers daughter. Later my daughter’s life will also be in trouble. (Fatima , 38)

There are positive aspects to this kind of work. Two participants said that after getting in to this sex work she feels sense of economical autonomy, not dependent on others and taking care of her family because of this profession.

3.Family related difficulties: Most of the participants reported that due to their spouse or partner related issues they stepped in to this profession. Many of them either separated or widowed or divorced. People who got married they are not getting economic and emotional support from their life partners and all of them said they are facing physical abuse from their spouse. Few participants said that they were forced into sex work because of fatigue at the hands of their spouse.

3a. Concern about children and family members: Family members of fsw who were aware of their work also keep s distance from them. Either they do not talk with them or in touch with them or they will keep maintain distance.no participants given any clue about their work to their family members or children and they feel concern about children coming to know about their profession.

4.Stigma and Discrimination: Major participants reported that they are being avoided by the society. They are not getting equal respect and dignity from the public services like legal, health, educations have reported that they are experiencing emotional, economical, physical violence from the clients. Economical violence means not paying for sex and taking money and things of the fsws. They also said that about their alcoholic customers.

They also reported that they are facing stigma & discrimination from the people who are in the same profession. Especially who are working in the street-based domain it includes beating in public and financial abuse like not return back money. Some times they are being narrated badly by their peer sex workers in order drag clients from them.

Discussion: The primary challenges faced by female sex workers in Chittoor are basically related to three factors economic, health, social. Economic problems were noticed as the important reason for females to step in to the sex industry and prolonging in the same. Lack of sufficient income and other alternatives to sustain their family needs such as rent of house, daily expenses, biological children’s education playing major role. Sociological conditions like educational status, and marital relationships also plays major role. Their personal identity is found in threat due to the nature of their profession because people who sells sex also considered without dignity. Family members who know about their profession they are not extending their love and support towards them. Their only hope is they need to take care of their children and secure them good future at the same time they had concern that what if they identified by their children.

Conclusion : FSWs are extremely marginalized social group, and they are experiencing many different difficulties at the field level. All these domains are connected with each other ,one thing effect another. If they are financially poor that lead to less bargain with clients. If they are not strong minded psychologically then clients or the mediators will exploit them. FSWs required a tailer made policies which covers all the aspects of their problems. Health care professionals and

policy draft persons can take these findings to create situation-based services and preventions to take care of these people.

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