

ABSTRACT

IDENTIFYING COVERT PROSTITUTION IN INDIA: SEXUAL SERVITUDE FORCED UPON TRADITIONAL COMMUNITIES¹

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Today, India is disturbed vis-à-vis the position of prostitution in the society. The government acknowledges that in our society, there are certain individuals who are often denied opportunities and can't even manage their 'two square meals a day'. It was for individuals like these that the government considered decriminalizing prostitution for those individuals, who possibly can't do any other work other than 'sex for money'. The government of India also felt the common sentiment across the nation, where it has been rampant since ages, yet considered a taboo throughout. This legalization created a much-awaited 'tailor-maid' situation for the middlemen (Pimps) and thus, the rise of organized prostitution. It wasn't quite a priority for the Indian society to reckon with a few years before but today; a great number of lives are affected and denied a 'sustainable livelihood'. Sadly, this is the reason behind the creation of a new commerce that might flourish in the near future.

At this point there is no concrete legislation or social policy that deals with a unique situation where there is no actual movement of women. On the other hand, the women can neither run away from home to some other place, since, this is the only world they have ever been exposed to, and nor can they seek any help from the government because they have never been told/taught about the concept of rights and them being available to them. This creates an unbalance of women participation in society and making them a marginalized section. In world order, it is considered very important for the marginalized to participate and help us achieve sustainable development as a whole. It is required to bring out fresh legislations and consider revising old legislations, which prohibited the 'dedication of women' like the Devadasis and many others.

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This paper aims to highlight the covert prostitution prevalent in the country run in the garb of religion or religious practice, which subsequently leads to the prostitution business of the Central Asia. The object of the paper is to bring into light the violation of human rights of the sex slaves or sex workers and the vulnerability of those as they are pushed in the perpetual cycle of sexually transmitted and infectious diseases and this paper ends with certain suggestions or ways to bring them into the society where they can live their life with the same pride and dignity as other people.