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# **LEGALIZATION OF PROSTITUTION: A STUDY FOR LEGAL STATUS OF SEX WORKERS IN INDIA**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Prostitution is one of the oldest professions in this world but it is not like other jobs. If people look at the reality of life, they will understand the sex workers in Prostitution are doing their job to earn money but the sex workers are not recognized by the people due to morals and mindset of the society which clears that it is unlike any other jobs. 98% of the people involved in Prostitution are women and 99% of the buyers/employers are men. Although this paper aims at examining moral consternation and evangelism in society but it is centred on the dynamics of consternation and the social forces promoting them and the present situation where almost no attention is given to these people by the Government.

The Government and Legislature plays an important role in this process. The question which arise from above mentioned paragraph is that selling our body or being a sex worker is ethical work or not? If we make it legalize then what will happen to the social moral? The answer to the question is that they are not. In the 20th century prostitution is an illegal act which if it becomes decriminalize, would profit and preserve the sex worker and also the society. Decriminalization of prostitution is good for the economic profit of governments around the world that lack resources.

## **1. PROSTITUTION AND SEX WORKERS IN INDIA:**

Any person who works in prostitution is referred to as a prostitute. Prostitution is the practise or business where people participate in sexual behaviour for payment. Prostitution can place in a variety of settings, and its legal position varies from country to country as well as from region to region within a country. It can range from being an upheld or unenforced violation to being uncontrolled or a directed vocation. In the same way that pornography or any other form of sexual entertainment is a component of the sex industry. Brothels are establishments that are solely focused on prostitution. Prostitution laws and conditions are generally changing globally, reflecting divergent judgements. Some people believe that prostitution contributes to the emerging crime of human trafficking by abusing or brutally treating women and children.

Individuals who engage in consensual sexual activities or perform erotic acts in exchange for money or other goods are referred to as sex workers. The term "sex worker" recognizes that sex is a form of work. On the other hand, the word "prostitution" is often associated with criminal activity and immorality. Many individuals who work in the sex industry prefer the term "sex worker" as it is less stigmatizing and derogatory than "prostitute". The stigma associated with the latter term can result in sex workers being excluded from accessing legal, medical, and social services.

## **2. GENDER BASED PROSTITUTION: DOES MEN ALSO WORK AS SEX WORKERS?**

Males were the sole clients and prostitutes in the past, but in the twenty-first century, all genders, including transgender people, now employed in this industry. The BBC report claims that the number of men working as prostitutes in India is growing quickly. Additionally, it says that they offer sex to the male clients when there are no female customers. Gigolo is the term for male prostitutes.

Some men who sell sex to other men have a sexual attraction to men and/or self-identify as gay or bisexual (or use terms with similar meanings in their native language). They engage in commercial sex because they need the money or because there are cultural norms regarding sex between older and younger men, or between different social classes, in their area. It's also important to note that some people who sell sex to men do so for a variety of reasons and do not necessarily have a sexual attraction to men or identify as homosexual or bisexual. In many places, numerous sex dealers have

straight partners or have started heterosexual families. This statement highlights that simply applying HIV prevention strategies designed for gay and bisexual individuals to men who have sex with women is not very effective. It underscores the fact that these men's sexual networks are complex and require solutions that are relevant to their specific contexts. Therefore, HIV among men who have sex with women should not be seen as a singular problem, but as a clear indication of the need for all-encompassing HIV interventions that address the requirements of this diverse group.<sup>1</sup>

The population of men who engage in sex work for money or other goods is incredibly diverse across different countries and regions. It is important to differentiate them from transgender women who work in the sex industry since these women have different needs compared to gender-conforming men who engage in sex work, which is the focus of the review by Poteat et al. Unfortunately, research often includes MSW as a subset of men who have sex with men (MSM), a subgroup in studies on sex work that primarily involve women, or as part of a larger category called "male sex workers" that often includes transgender women. Additionally, most research on male sex work as a risk factor for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections has focused on young, low-income men who often sell sex to older homosexual or bisexual men in exchange for money, gifts, drugs, shelter, or other forms of financial assistance.

### **3. CAUSES, IMPACTS AND OCCURRENCE OF PROSTITUTION:**

#### **Causes and occurrence:**

A woman may become a prostitute for a variety of reasons, but poverty and unemployment are two of the biggest motivators for women to engage in commercial sex.<sup>2</sup> It has been observed that women from distant places are vulnerable to dishonest middlemen who promise them prospects for respectable employment before tricking them into becoming sex workers. Poverty is the main factor that pushes desperate and defenceless women into prostitution. It is acknowledged that, out of all the factors responsible for prostitution, poverty is thought to be the main factor driving people to become prostitutes.

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<sup>1</sup> Bebel, August, Women In The Past, Present And Future, San Francisco International Publishing Co.1897.

<sup>2</sup> Jordar, Biswanath, Prostitution in Historical and Modern Perspective, Inter India Publication, New Delhi, 1984.



The rise in poverty, particularly among young people, has led many to migrate to urban areas where they turn to prostitution as a means of survival for themselves and their families. Prostitution was not as common in pre-modern times as it is today, and this can be attributed to the process of urbanization that has led to a shift in the structure of our society. Urbanization has brought about the growth of capitalism, which has resulted in class polarization and a rise in poverty, unemployment, crime, and isolation.<sup>3</sup> As a result, prostitution has become more prevalent, especially among females who use it as a means of coping with economic challenges. In addition, women are often forced into sex work due to a lack of job opportunities, which drives them to engage in illicit activities as a way to earn a living.

Six percent or so of the women who were raped went into prostitution. Yet frequently, the society that accuses these women of being raped makes sexual assault survivors feel guilty and stigmatises them. Additionally, in certain instances, not only has society rejected them but even their own relatives. In addition to the delay or rejection of justice, the casualties occasionally face comparable circumstances. Black world of prostitution attracts individuals who are having no home to stay, no food to eat and no place to live their life. As they come across this world they tend to accept the same with open arms because of their compulsion and bad state in outer society.<sup>4</sup>

**There are numerous root causes of prostitution. The following are the main ones:**

**Economic Root Causes- It is one of the causes of prostitution, along with other elements such;**

1. **Poverty:** Women in poverty frequently lack access to education and gainful jobs. In such a circumstance, a mother may turn to prostitution in order to support her family and provide her kids with a top-notch education.
2. **Underage employment:** Many girls who work in the hospitality industry, retail, and other sectors of the economy at a young age are easily duped by lust-seekers and end up in prostitution.

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<sup>3</sup> Karmakar, Sumati, Red Light Area: Social Environment of Sex Workers', Dominant Publishers and Distributers, Delhi, 2001.

<sup>4</sup> Kincaid, Denis, British Social Life in India, Rutledge & Kegan Paul Ltd., London, 1973.

**Social Root Causes- Social root causes can be termed as significant factors in encouraging and promoting prostitution and they include;**

1. Family causes: When parents take their daughter away because of family issues, they don't get any love and their actions aren't watched. An unloved girl will give her entire self to the person who gives her love, which could lead to prostitution.
2. Marriage-related issues: In a lot of Hindu society, it is forbidden for a widow to get married again. She is prone to abuse herself, seduce children, and other such things, though, in order to satisfy their bodily cravings. They might decide to become prostitutes though because they are poor replacements for actual sex.
3. Illegitimate motherhood: When society is aware that a woman is the mother of an illegitimate kid, no one wants to marry her but everyone wants to have sex with her. Such ladies would desperately prefer to work as regular prostitutes.

**Impacts:**

**Effects on Individuals: Prostitution has both physical and mental effects on individuals. Certain of them are:**

In the course of their prostitution activities, males abuse women. They experience moral failure and lose the respect and standing that other honourable men and women hold in society. Male pimps and prostitutes are often infected with lethal diseases like HIV/AIDS, Herpes, etc. Those who are prostitutes face prejudice from society. After engaging in prostitution, many females start using drugs. Girls (women) experience hostility, isolation, and loneliness because people avoid them in society. Even some of them kill themselves.

**Effects on Society: As long as prostitution is practised in society, the following negative effects will occur:**

Many girls are trafficked and pushed into prostitution or other illicit activities since there is a connection between it and human trafficking. When women are intended to be exploited as objects of sexual enjoyment for males, it adds to gender inequity. It destroys many women's and men's families and fragments marriages. By trafficking girls, pimps and prostitutes engage in criminal activity in society. Moreover, it causes society's morals to decline.

## 4. IS PROSTITUTION LEGAL IN INDIA?

When it comes to prostitution, there are three different types of nations:

When prostitution is prohibited and against the law, such as in Kenya, Morocco, Afghanistan, etc. Where prostitution is permitted, but only in select countries, such as India, Canada, France, etc. In countries with appropriate legal regulations, such as New Zealand, Australia, Austria, the Netherlands, etc., prostitution is permitted.

One of the crucial inquiries is whether the act of prostitution is legal in India, and if it is, what are the entitlements of individuals engaged in prostitution?

The conflict between "Yes" and "No" is the answer to this query. Although it is not expressly stated that prostitution is prohibited by law in the Indian context, several prostitution-related actions, including as operating brothels, solicitation, trafficking, and pimping, are all considered crimes in India under THE IMMORAL TRAFFIC (PREVENTION) ACT (1956).

While prostitution in general is permitted in India, some associated behaviours or activities are viewed as criminal or are penalised. If anybody is proven to have engaged in any of the following behaviours, they may be penalised in line with the applicable laws of the legal system:

Engaging in activities such as soliciting prostitution in public places, operating brothels, arranging prostitution activities in hotels, pimping, and organizing sexual services for customers are all considered forms of prostitution.<sup>5</sup> An individual who offers their body for sexual activities in exchange for money is known as a prostitute. The primary law that regulates the legal status of sex workers in India is the Immoral Traffic (Suppression) Act of 1956 (SITA). India's endorsement of the United Nations declaration on the eradication of human trafficking in New York in 1950 paved the way for the enactment of the SITA law in 1956. In actuality, SITA is hardly frequently utilised.<sup>6</sup>

The Indian Criminal Code (IPC), which precedes the SITA, is sometimes used to accuse sex workers of imprecise offences like "public indecency" or "public annoyance" without describing what these entail. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, also known as the ITPA, replaced the previous law in 1986. Although it is deemed unethical by the courts, prostitution is not prohibited in India.

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<sup>5</sup> Mukherji, K. K., Child Prostitution in India, GNK, Ghaziabad, 1997.

<sup>6</sup> Mukherji K. K. and Deepa Das, Prostitution in Metropolitan Cities of India, A Study by: Central Social Welfare Board, Samaj Bhavan, New Delhi.

**The Supreme Court of India has recognised sex work as a profession; although sex trafficking for monetary gain is illegal in India, voluntary sex labour is permitted:**

The Supreme Court of India recently stated that police harassment of sex workers is inappropriate since "sex work is a profession" like any other.

“Sex workers have a legal right to equal protection. Criminal law must always be applied uniformly, regardless of "age" and "consent." The court has ruled that if a sex worker is a consenting adult, the police should not interfere or initiate any legal action against them.<sup>7</sup> The court's decision is significant because it upholds the worth of sex workers. It will make it possible for sex workers to utilise the same services and advantages as other citizens.

It should be noted that while prostitution and sex work are both permitted in India, trafficking for sexual exploitation is against the law. The Indian Criminal Code (IPC) and the Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act both have penalties for sex work as an organised trade, which includes pimping, soliciting, exploitation, and renting out premises for sex work (ITPA).

Despite the good intentions of the court orders, advocates have noted that they can also be harmful for sex workers, such as leaving young children with their mothers in brothels. In spite of the fact that sex work is legal in India, it is difficult for any sex workers or prostitutes to engage in their trade, and they risk being arrested for client solicitation. Like to other socially forbidden occupations, there is some ambiguity and uncertainty when practising it.

When the court intended to issue orders, Additional Solicitor General Jayant Sud told the court that the government was working on a draught anti-trafficking statute. A number of progressive provisions for preventing trafficking and rehabilitating sex workers are included in the Trafficking in People (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2022. The proposal was made five years ago.<sup>8</sup>

The court raised concerns about the prolonged delay in passing the bill and pointed out that sex

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<sup>7</sup> Moushumi Das Gupta and Bhadra Sinha. ‘Consenting’ adult sex workers should not be arrested: SC panel. Hindustan Times. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india/adult-sex-worker-participating-with-consent-should-not-be-arrested-sc/story-pLs1o0QIcPRMqNjnz2PPM.html>. 14.02.16.

<sup>8</sup>Prachi Darji. Prostitution in India. MY ADVO. <https://www.myadvo.in/blog/prostitution-in-india-read-its-causes-legality-and-law/>. 12.09.19.

workers are a marginalized group that has been neglected and ignored by society.<sup>9</sup> The court highlighted that sex workers are often treated in an inhumane manner and do not receive basic human treatment.

## **5. LAWS REALTED TO PROSTITUTION AND SEX WORKERS IN INDIA:**

As per Section 2(f) of the Immoral Trafficking Act (1956), "prostitution" is defined as the act of sexually exploiting or abusing any individual for commercial purposes. Prostitution is covered in Sections 372 and 373 of the Indian Criminal Code of 1860, but exclusively with regard to child prostitution. Although the IPC's Sections 366A, 366B, and 370A separately deal with the punishment of crimes involving the procreation of minor girls, the importation of girls for intercourse from abroad, and the exploitation of trafficking individuals. Hence, there are few prostitution-related laws under the IPC.

According to Section 2(a) of the ITPA Act, any place or portion of a place, including a house, room, conveyance or other location, which is used for the sexual exploitation or abuse of individuals for the benefit of another person or for the mutual benefit of two or more prostitutes is defined as a "brothel" and considered illegal. Maintaining a brothel (Section 3), surviving off the proceeds of sex work (Section 4), or obtaining, persuading, or detaining someone for prostitution (Section 5 & Section 6) When minors are involved in the offence, the penalties are more severe (under age of 18 years), Police personnel tasked with enforcing the Act locally (Special Police Officers) as well as nationally (Trafficking Police Officers) are given special powers (Section 13) to raid, rescue, and search properties suspected of being brothels (Section 1 of the Act). Prostitution in areas notified by the police and close to public places (Section 7) and soliciting (Section 8) are both cognizable offences, meaning police do not need a warrant (Sections 16, 17, 18 & Section 20). For "rescued" sex workers, the Act offers institutional rehabilitation. (19, 21, 23, & ITPA State Regulations).<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>9</sup>Meyar, J. J., *Sexual Life in Ancient India*, Life Span Publishers and Distributors, Delhi, 2015.

<sup>10</sup> Dr. Smt. Sarode, S. R., *Role of Prostitutes in Ancient Indian Culture*, SOUVENIR (Women Empowerment), Vol. II, Nov.2011, ISBN 978-81- 922414-0-1, PP.394-95.



The Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Children Act, 1956 (SITA) was enacted on December 30, 1956, across India to address the issue of immoral trafficking in women and children, in line with the United Nations International Convention for the "Suppression of Women in Traffic in People and of the Exploitation of Others." The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act of 1956 was subsequently amended, including changes to its preamble and name, to cover all provisions related to prostitution.

Although prostitution as a profession is not specifically criminal in Indian law, a number of related behaviours are, and they are all punished under Indian law. These rules are covered under the 1956 Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act.

## **6. RIGHTS AND BENEFITS AVAILABLE FOR THE PROTECTION OF SEX WORKERS:**

The fundamental rights are guaranteed by our Indian Constitution to all people, including sex workers, who are consequently qualified to exercise those rights.

The case made clear that a prostitute has access to the right to life guaranteed by Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. Budhadev Karmaskar, the defendant in this case, was found guilty of killing a sex worker in Kolkata in 1999. The court went on to say that a woman engages in prostitution out of necessity rather than enjoyment.<sup>11</sup>

The Indian Constitution outlines essential rights in Articles 12 through 32, which are modeled after the Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution but provide more detailed language. These rights include equal treatment for all individuals under Article 15, a prohibition on human trafficking and slavery under Article 23, and a ban on employing minors in dangerous work under Article 24. Notably, the fundamental rights in the Indian Constitution are considered positive rights because they can be enforced through legal means. Additionally, the Constitution includes a set of objectives for the government to strive towards.

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<sup>11</sup> Budhadev Karmaskar v. State of West Bengal, 2007.

The Indian Constitution includes a set of desirable objectives for the government, such as providing adequate means of subsistence, ensuring a clean environment, protecting citizens, especially children, from abuse, promoting the right to work, and ensuring fair and humane working conditions. While these goals are not legally enforceable, recent court decisions suggest that the Indian legal system is becoming more attuned to them, particularly with the incorporation of public interest litigation (PIL) as a new aspect of the judicial process.<sup>12</sup> PIL has allowed for greater consideration of public interests and concerns in court proceedings, indicating a growing sensitivity towards the government's non-enforceable objectives.

The Indian government has enacted legislation to address issues faced by marginalized communities based on religion, race, gender, and socio-economic status. Such laws include the Minimum Wages Act, Code of Criminal Procedure, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act, Bonded Labour Abolition Act, Child Labour Act, Protection of Civil Rights Act, Protection of Human Rights Act, National Commission for Women Act, and relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code. These laws provide additional protections for human rights and address problems such as poverty, prejudice, child exploitation, slavery, and women's rights.

The DMSC is a forum of about 40,000 sex workers centred in the state of West Bengal that was established in July 1995. Its purpose is to forge bonds of support and build up the collective power of a wider group of sex workers.<sup>13</sup> The All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, a government organisation that conducts health research and training, in conjunction with other organisations, launched an STD/HIV intervention programme in the Sonagachi red-light district of Calcutta in 1992; many neighbourhood Non-profits.

Another significant organisation is SANGRAM, which was established in 1992 and has grown into two sizable collectives of women engaged in sex work, each with between 2000 and 3000 members. SANGRAM's primary objective, like the DMSC in West Bengal, was primarily to develop a long-lasting response to the HIV pandemic by recognising women engaged in sex work as individuals with

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<sup>12</sup> Constitution of India, Preamble.

<sup>13</sup> Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955; Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993; Indian Penal Code, 1860; Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act, 1989; Bonded Labour Abolition Act, 1976; Child Labour Act, 1976; Minimum Wages Act, 1948; Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973; and Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. Published in Bare Acts with Short Notes (New Delhi: Universal Law, 1999).

the capacity to change their circumstances.<sup>14</sup> SANGRAM thought that sex workers might influence change for both the community and for themselves. SANGRAM started a peer education programme in which women in the sex industry served as peer educators.

## **7. IF LEGAL STATUS IS PROVIDED TO PROSTITUTION AND SEX WORKERS THEN WHY IT IS CARRIED OUT IN THE DARK?**

Prostitution is included by the Indian Criminal Code of 1860, however its main focus is on kidnapping and child prostitution. According to Sections 372 and 373, it is illegal to purchase, sell, or import minors for prostitution.

This Act does not outright forbid or criminalise prostitution or the job of sex workers, but it does make certain related behaviours illegal. It is challenging for the sex workers to engage in prostitution because all the third parties involved in this industry are subject to punishment. According to me, this Act blatantly violates Articles 19 and 14 of the Indian Constitution by making it difficult for sex workers to practise their trade without worrying about getting detected.

Article 23(1) of the Indian Constitution forbids the use of beggars and other similar forms of forced labour, and any violation of this rule is a crime punishable in accordance with Article 23's laws (2). Instead than monitoring unethical human trafficking, it appears that the ITPA is more concerned with ending prostitution. Such regulations have only made life for sex workers more challenging, vulnerable, and hazardous. This is a very incorrect approach to this profession; rather than making their lives easier, the government has actually made them more difficult. With the use of laws, no nation has been able to end prostitution.<sup>15</sup>

Imagine for a moment that there are no regulations that ban sex workers from seeking clients. Without worrying about being apprehended by authorities, she can speak with the client in public. Here, the

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<sup>14</sup> See National Human Rights Commission, Annual Report 1996-97 (New Delhi: NHRC, 1997).

<sup>15</sup> Sampada Grameen Mahila Sanstha, *Of Veshya, Whores, Vamps, and Women* (Sangli, India: SANGRAM, 1999).

woman is secure and free to contact the authorities if something goes wrong, whether it be a client's use of force or failure to pay her professional fees.

But here we are in reality, where laws are limiting. By enacting these regulations, the system has created a fear of punishment in the clients. To escape the authorities, clients prefer to meet the sex worker in a private, isolated location rather than in a public setting. In these conditions, it would be quite simple for the client to commit a crime.

## **8. CONCLUSION: WHETHER LEGALIZING PROSTITUTION IN INDIA CAN BE A WAY TO A BRIGTER FUTURE?**

In modern society, some people hold the opinion that prostitution is a vice in and of itself, while others openly support its acceptance in society. As a result, it can be viewed both ways. Although there are differing opinions on prostitution, one fact that cannot be disputed is that sex workers often face sexual abuse and violence from their procurers and clients. Legalizing prostitution could potentially offer protection to these individuals from such exploitation and violence. Illegal prostitution may force sex workers to engage in sexual activity without proper protection, but decriminalization can allow the state to regulate the industry and enforce the use of condoms and other forms of protection, as sex work is subject to various health risks.

Legalizing prostitution can enable the government to establish regulations regarding minimum earnings, age requirements for prostitutes, and necessary medical facilities. This can help sex workers exercise their rights, such as equal opportunities to educate their children, access to medical care, and the ability to speak out against rape, violence, and exploitation. In countries like India, where there is a large population and limited employment opportunities, some women turn to prostitution as a means of earning a livelihood. Lack of education and awareness also contribute to the growth of the industry. By allowing prostitution, the state will be able to provide the sex workers with the fundamental education and training they need to learn skills that will help them generate income, such as weaving, sewing, knitting, painting, and other crafts. The government will be able to keep track of the amount of sex workers in our nation, which is another significant benefit of legalising it. So that the government can create new strategies for the benefit of society and the protection of sex workers. So, rather than opposing this industry, we should defend sex workers by passing regulations that are

in their best interests. They will undoubtedly receive all the privileges they require as a result. According to labour legislation, they should have the same freedom to organise as any other profession. Only until prostitution in its entirety is legalised will sex workers be able to take advantage of these privileges.

In the case, the highest court ruled that sex workers are entitled to a life of dignity because they are also people. The meaning of the word "life" in Article 21 of the Constitution is well established thanks to a number of court decisions, and it does not merely refer to an animal life.

The advantages of legalising prostitution are listed below:

A. Improvement in working conditions for sex workers: It is obvious that countries that have legalised it have only contributed to the workers' conditions getting better. According to a study done in nations where prostitution is legalised, there has been a significant decrease in violence and the spread of illness.

B. Decrease in trafficking: The main worry of legalising prostitution is that it will result in a rise in human trafficking. If prostitution is legalised without constraints like criminalising the third parties involved in it, I would argue the outcomes will be the opposite. To ensure that there are no instances of prostitution-related trafficking, the government must actively engage the community. Since legalising prostitution, Newland is a shining example of a place that has succeeded in achieving its goal of having no cases of trafficking.

C. Empowerment of Sex Workers: The legalisation of prostitution will give sex workers more authority. When their rights are violated, they will have the confidence to confront the police. As a result, when sex workers go to the police station to report a rape or a client who doesn't pay their fees, they find that the police don't take them seriously since they are aware that prostitution is not a legitimate profession and that it is still frowned upon in society.

D. Benefits in health of sex workers: The legalisation of prostitution will allow sex workers live healthier lives, which will improve their health. Legalization will support the sex worker in her struggle to exclusively engage in safer sex, which includes intercourse with condoms or other forms of protection. Legalization will make it easier for sex workers to undergo routine testing for both their



own safety and the protection of the client. This will aid in lowering STD rates. Every month, sex workers in Nevada undergo testing for sexually transmitted diseases. Nevada also requires condoms for all sex in brothels.

E. Income through tax not bribe: In the event that prostitution is legalised, taxes rather than kickbacks will be accepted as payment. It will be regarded as a career where individuals labour to support themselves, similar to any other profession. The culture of bribery is well known to us all. Sex workers must regularly pay bribes in order to work. According to Dennis Hof, "If a consumer has an option between a legitimate company location and an illegal criminal enterprise, he will choose the legal location. He does so because he is aware that there aren't any problems there ready to happen. It will also bring in money.

F. Decrease in minors' involvement in prostitution: With legalisation, both trafficking and minor involvement will decline. Every sex worker will need a licence, which will aid in keeping the government's records up to date. No one under a specific age or without a licence will be permitted to work.

G. Decrease in rape cases: Several studies have shown that legalising prostitution significantly reduces the number of rape cases. It substantially lowers the number of rape cases. The number of rape cases in Rhodes Island decreased to 39 when prostitution was made legal.

H. Right to Choice: The sex worker will have the freedom to decide who to offer their services to. The sex worker will also have the freedom to select the client, much as how advocates are free to choose the cases they wish to take on. Now that there are restrictions, they encounter violent clients and are without options or recourse.