

The Upswing of Online Sex Work in Indian Society

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Introduction

In one word, if we have to define the word prostitution then we can say that the prostitution means the pleasure of physical need commonly sex in lieu of money or any favor in kind.

Prostitution is a business carried by the prostitutes which are generally the women. The majority of prostitutes are females in India. This is generally an illegal work in the world; in India the prostitution is lawful but the associated works with the prostitution like running brothels, devadasi system, car picking, and working as pimps are illegal. A woman can merely decide to work as a prostitute out of her own free will and personal preference. I contend that the prostitute industry is like a coin with two faces. On one side of the coin is freedom, where women can choose to work as prostitutes out of their own free will. On the other side of the coin, there is no freedom for women to decide if they want to work as prostitutes or not. Women are coerced, kidnapped, or duped into prostitution on this specific side. When I use the word "force" in this situation, I don't just mean the force that traffickers or exploiters use against women. Economic and social issues are also part of the "force" that might push women into prostitution. These people are just coerced into prostitution by exploiters or traffickers without ever being asked if they want their bodies used for prostitution. Those who are socially, economically, and politically marginalised in society are the ones who are exploited by the sex business, including women and children. Women and children who are trafficked or exploited for prostitution are unable to exercise their right to self-determination since the traffickers and exploiters don't care if they provide their consent. The right to self-determination, as it applies to the southern hemisphere of the world, cannot be used to protect prostitution in this context. A country like India has millions of young forced sex workers of all the ages.

Online Prostitution: a new way of exploitation

The internet has presented the world with new obstacles; the ratio of crime in the actual world and the virtual world is practically identical, and treacherous characters may be found in both. There is no denying that the introduction of the internet has increased opportunities for development relative to the past, but it is equally undeniable that its use has increased threats to human life and specially Children and adolescents. The 21st c. is the digital century everyone is sharing he sends forth his ideas, communications, and electronic publications via the internet. It is inevitable that people will employ technology to handle a variety of daily tasks. Technological products must be used wisely in this situation in order for them to be more useful. Ignorance of its possible dangers and pitfalls has had dreadful results, particularly in the lives of children and teenagers.

In the same way that every country holds that its youth and future are its greatest resources, so do we. Therefore, in order to ensure that the younger generation understands the benefits and drawbacks of internet use, the government must take steps to protect the future. The young generation and children are actively engaging in online shopping, learning, socialising, and entertainment, but it is worrying when they become entangled in antisocial activities like cyber harassment and oppression, child pornography, sexual abuse, online provocation, identity theft, mutating, etc. Typically, this is a result of the younger generation's understanding, adequate education, and attentive parental care. Both the physical and virtual worlds are rife with criminal activity. Everything we hear, read, and see in the digital world is not always accurate and might sometimes be misleading. The same motivations that drive criminals in the actual world also drive those in the digital realm, yet the latter offers more anonymity to the offenders.

In recent years, when the internet started to replace prostitution since there is such a low likelihood of prosecution and violence, the most frightening and harmful era of the internet has begun. Given its affordability and difficulty for anybody to find, it is the greatest method of establishing a connection between clients and sex workers. The principal means of advertising for prostitute services prior to the development of the internet included newspapers, magazines, brochures in phone booths, restrooms on trains, and subway signs. Due to its vulnerability for less arrests and assaults, the internet had replaced television as the principal source of advertising by the year 2000. Thanks to the internet, prostitution has become a part of modern civilization; practically all men, aged 15 to 50, are aware of it and have at least tried it once. The use of the internet for advertising has evolved into a necessary evil, and advertising agencies also use it. There are businesses that only advertise sex workers and their services

on commercial websites. However, these sex workers primarily used their personal domain names to advertise.

The best part is the online payment option; since everything is on the internet, it has made it possible for sex workers and escorts to accept payments online. Social media, notably Facebook and Instagram, has emerged as the top-ranking advertising agencies for sex workers. The escorts were the first consumers of PayPal when it first started operating in 2001. After that, in response to the passing of time, PayPal changed its guidelines to limit illegal online transactions. As the first agency to accept Bitcoin in 2013, the English escort agency VIP became a pioneer in this field. Teenagers are accessing women's and girls' bodies online more frequently than they do on other valuable sites because to modernization, which has made the resource available. In addition to being entertaining, this activity soon turned into a habit and killed the youngsters' capacity for original thought. It is easy to see that kids who frequent porn sites more frequently are more violent than other teenagers, and that their attitudes toward women and girls have also altered. These teenagers behave in a more hostile manner than the other non-user teenager. The world of crime is interconnected; for example, prostitution plays a big role in human trafficking, and prostitution ultimately leads to other crimes, particularly crimes against women. The most crucial aspect of every organized crime is advertising, and one of the best organized crimes performed by mafias is prostitution. Advertisements for escort services, brothels, and strip clubs enable pimps and human traffickers to sell women for sex on websites and in chat rooms. The organised crime doesn't just sell sex; they also sell massages and other internet services that are related to sex. The group or mafia knew that more advertising was necessary to generate more sales, and that the only form of advertising that is incredibly accessible to the general public is the online variety. For instance, a sex shopper may begin by looking at free pornography downloads, be offered hardcore pornography for sale, and then see a pop-up advertisement for prostitution in his neighborhood. On the Internet, web-based advertising occurs every day in all business sectors. Traffickers use the same online sales tactics as other businesses, but they also have access to resources that businesses ordinarily do not, such as online forums, Skype, gaming platforms like Xbox Live, Sony Online Entertainment, or real-time games like World of Warcraft. The organised crime groups not only rely on one another but also exert influence over one another, such as when the proceeds from prostitution are used to smuggle illicit weapons and drugs.

More women and girls have demonstrated a right to use their bodies through internet access than through job, education, or other significant pursuits. In the comfort of his own home, every man who is

wealthy enough to buy a computer and pay for an ISP has access to an unending virtual harem. Advertising is the prostitution industry's USP. The sex market is not an exception to the fundamental rule that everything that looks beautiful has a strong probability of selling quickly. With services like strip clubs, scot services, personal chat rooms, etc., all of which featured images, the advertising has advanced to the next level, videos with girls describing their personal and professional content, particularly their physique types, have been used, along with a promise that the customers' information will be kept private.

In addition, since mafias entered this industry, it has taken on an unofficial character and has become more organised and planned. The mafia is fully aware that advertisements not only encourage the sex industry but have also helped young people, particularly teenagers, develop a habit that can someday be monetized by pop-up messages in private email. The mafia is utilising the same old method of advertising; they first give their clients a sense of exclusivity by offering them several deals and discounts, then once they have them hooked and dependent, they either charge them exorbitant prices or offer subpar service. The current state of the mafia's next-level tool.

History and Evaluation on Online Prostitution

Prostitution is one of the hoariest occupations in the realm and India is not an exclusion to this. As the time changes it is called by different names such as Devdasi, Tawayaf , Nagar Vadhu ,etc but the profession remain same. In the early days it has different aspect in which the prostitute has different way of life and different reputation in the society. As the time changes the life style of the sex workers are decreasing day by day and now they are in this phase that no one even wants to talk about them. The emerging dimensions of human Trafficking have lighted the matchstick in this gun powder.

Indian prostitution in ancient Period

Sex work is one of the oldest occupations in India since the birth of the structured civilization. The prostitution hires her body for the sexual satisfaction of the client in lieu of money generally but sometime gifts or other kind. For our country prostitution is not at all new thing. The origin of kamasutra and the sculptures of the sex positions on the walls of the Ajanta and Ellora caves are the examples that the prostitution was still present in the Vedic age in our country. The courtyard of the indira the king of gods are filled with the dancing girls like Rambha, Meneka and Urwasi are the authentication that the prostitution in the form of the dancing girls are existed in the Indian mythology

and it is before the starting of the Vedic period. However, there are no documents which support the existence of prostitution in Pre-Vedic Indian society.

Earlier the sunrise of the evolution there was no concept of conjugal. In this phase the men and women stay like animals and they frequently change their partners. In the pre-Vedic age, the archeological survey of India has found the proof of urbanized cities but they had not found the evidence of prostitution in that period. In the phase of Indus valley civilization, this phase is known for economic prosperity and its wealthy merchants and they can easily afford the wine and women but there is nowhere in the history has been discussed about the places of the prostitute or any places which belong for the prostitute work. The courtesan institution completely developed during the Gupta era and was very significant to the people's social and cultural lives. The courtesans and prostitutes in the city were given separate lodgings. The Gupta period has also maintained the same philosophy as what at the time of Mauryan. However, they have given the special privileges to courtesans then to normal prostitutes but at least no one exploiting them at that time and they were given a special place in military and in cultural festivals. At that time, Ujjain was a significant center for Gandharva Kala education. Because the areas where the courtesans lived during this time had their own significance, this art also incorporated a variety of information on courtesans that looks to be current. Dancing girls and temples and courts had close relationships, which led to several norms and regulations governing and regulating their interactions with these institutions.

Indian Prostitution in Medieval Period

In the early medieval period the empires like Pala, Rastrakuta and Pratihara Empire has been emerged. This period has witness the emergence of agriculture, focus on literature and temples. If we observe minutely then we will find that this is the time when the decline of the life style of the prostitute get started and they are considered as the loose character lady who only wants lust and exploit their clients for money. The synonyms like vasya has been emerged at this time and the culture of drinking alcohol became the necessary arrangements at their places which actually degrade the status of these places and the lower, middle and high class arrangement of the prostitute gas come into arrangement. In the middle of 12c and 13c there was time of the Delhi sultanate, the Muslim rulers were in the Delhi crown. The great sultant has its rise under Qutub Din Abaik, Mohammad Gori and many more, they will be leading a high standard probably highest at that time in the globe.

The Mughal Empire was controlled by Akbar, Jahangir, Shahajahan, and Aurangzeb from 1526 until 1707. The Mughal emperor kept a seraglio with 5000 women, and it had a separate staff of female

officials who took care of its administration. Akbar enacted various laws to make it more difficult for the general population to access prostitutes' services. They kept the prostitutes in a location outside the capital city. The Governors appear to have the entire world's pleasure palace inside their Mahals as they fill and adorn them with stunning women. The concubines and favorite slave girls enjoyed a comfortable life throughout the Mughal era. They used their free time to deck out their attractive counterparts and to demonstrate or develop their skills of enchantment. Their biggest aspiration was to become the preferred woman. A preferred woman enjoyed opulence, but a woman who annoyed the lord might even be put to death.

Indian Prostitution in Modern India

After the advent of the British in India the face of the prostitution has been changed in India. The Prostitution has not been considered as the noble profession anymore, the prostitute has been no more the heart of any king's courtyard. This profession was considered as the despicable profession and not required for the society. The British government is using prostitutes to keep vigilance on the king's and they used the prostitute against the king's, so that kings can't keep their administration strong and indulge in these activities only. Not only the prostitution has been influenced by the British rules and policies but also change from their laws and policies. Colonial supremacy, cultural misunderstanding and the want of exploitation play a large role in British regulation of prostitution in 20th c. The British has deep effect on prostitution both legislatively as well as socially also.

Although there were regulations present before 1864 in India for the prostitutes but first of its kind was introduced by Britishiers when the cantonment act 1864 came into force. This act is only for the British soldiers and the living of the prostitutes in the cantonment for the British soldiers. There were around 12 to 15 prostitutes were there for every regiments of about 60 to 100 troops and there were special hospitals were there for soldiers for the venereal diseases. They had to check every week for this and the prostitutes have to also check every week for the diseases. These girls were basically poor and doesn't has the opportunity other than prostitution to support themselves financial. During this period the chakala had been came into force. Chakala is basically the place where the prostitutes take rest.

After India get independence in 1947 the first and foremost question was that how to strengthen these weaker sections of the society. However, the constitution makers have tried to justify by providing fundamental rights and the DPSP but still the situation has not been changed too much.

Origin of Online Prostitution

The 20th c. has seen the most developed technologies ever human race had witnessed. The internet has given a vast land to play to the prostitutes especially with the advent of emails and private messaging apps and with the origin of online payment option they have tasted the real fun of the technology without getting easily trapped and humiliated. Those were the days when the Before the 1970s internet boom, people downloaded porn from bulletin boards. Since the 1990s, when pagers and cell phones first became available, this has been the main technology utilized by pimps and prostitutes. Online prostitution was evolving then since, first they have AOL then yahoo then came the live video, then cam sex and now the personal board messages and the strange thing is that the three are websites like Fuck book which have 1000 plus girls registered to have sex instantly all you have to do is to make you card payment for the service and the girls is at your doorstep within an hour. The dating websites and the popular social messaging apps like face book are very familiar for online prostitution now days. These apps have an option that you want one-night stand or live partner and everyone knows that want to enjoy that service with fake accounts but no one wants to talk about it and in publically they act as they don't know anything.

The year's "most significant Internet marketing innovation" was the debut of the first web-based prostitution firm, A Personal Touch Services, from Seattle, WA, U.S.A., in late September of that year. These are just a few worrying instances of how web technology benefits the human trafficking sector. By the 1999 the web developers for pornography has developed the techniques of page jack URL's sites. In this process when a user wants to open a website then a hardcore porn website emerged and in order to close this URL have to open this and either wait for few seconds to close the ad or enter the cookies so that you will get the notifications regularly. This method had generated many customers as the need of the hour; the website developers are still using this method as their best tool to make the customers.

In a 2018 study, 88% of sex consumers bought women and children for indoor sex through websites for escort services, strip clubs, gentlemen's clubs, brothels, and massage therapists. The internet has exploited to give sexual pleasure to men and exploitation to women in every part of the globe now. The internet has been useful for the pimps to provide the women all over the globe. The internet has fantasized the world of the sex industry. Earlier it was a need and the only method to grown own generation then it became the hobby for the rich people to show their richness. The thing is getting worse when the people used as a business and for the business they started exploitation of innocent girls and now the situation are more than worse because it is no for a privacy subject matter and the

teenagers have the habit of sex and the thing which make it more than worse is the entry of mafia into trafficking industry. Contact details, details about the Online platforms include information on upcoming sex acts, pornographic photographs of the lady being sold for sex, coded prices, and reviews from sex buyers. The proliferation of women working in this industry has been made incredibly simple by the internet, smartphones, and other digital platforms, not just for local men but for people all over the world. The bitcoins are currently the most destructive aspect of this sector. Online access to websites that expose explicit or inappropriately violent images of real women and children, including online auctions of such images, is being paid for using Bitcoin, an unregulated digital currency that gives the anonymity of cash as opposed to credit cards.

Conclusion

Not only has the sex industry grown, but so has global human trafficking, which is the primary cause for concern. Men can now change the foundation of prostitution from outdoor to inside activities including massage parlours, strip joints, call girls, and phone sex thanks to the internet. To meet this issue, law enforcement officers and prosecutors must keep up with traffickers' knowledge of and proficiency with computer technology. Because of the Internet, capturing pimps, traffickers, and sex buyers requires new prosecuting strategies. The borders have been dissolved by the internet; content may now be published and accessed from any location. It makes working for the agencies more challenging. Dating websites, message boards, classified advertising websites, social networking sites like Facebook, and Back Page all offer forums for prostitute marketing with a fair amount of impunity. Despite the minimal efforts outlined below, sex purchasers and traffickers profit from Internet service providers' generally lax responsibility for the content of their websites. However, it is challenging to do and difficult to gain someone's attention by the state agencies if they are well trained in technology, as is often the case with minors.

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