

STATE OF FEMALE SEX WORKERS

(A Study of Female Sex Workers in Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City)

**A Dissertation Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Prithvi Narayan Campus,
Pokhara in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of
Master Degree in Anthropology**

By

Babita Subedi

Roll no. 197/2064

TU Regd. No. 4-1-46-6-2000

Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of Sociology/Anthropology

Prithvi Narayan Campus

Pokhara, Nepal

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that Babita Subedi has completed this thesis "**State of Female Sex Workers: A Study of Female Sex Workers in Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City**" under my guidance and supervision. I forward this dissertation for examination and approval as per regular procedures in the department.

Date:

.....

(Supervisor)

Dr. Prakash Upadhyay
Associate Professor of Anthropology
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara, Nepal

LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

This thesis entitled "**State of Female Sex Workers: A Study of Female Sex Workers in Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City**" submitted to the Department of Sociology/ Anthropology; Prithvi Narayan Campus by Babita Subedi has been approved by the undersigned members of the Dissertation Evaluation Committee.

Members of Dissertation Evaluation Committee

.....

Dr. Prakash Upadhyay
Associate Professor of Anthropology
(Supervisor)

.....

Dr. Lekhnath Bhattarai
(External)

.....

Mrs. Shanti Bhusal
Department Head
Department of Sociology/ Anthropology
Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara, Nepal

Date:

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ABBREVIATIONS/ ACRONYMS

AIDS	:	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BCC	:	Behavior Change Communication Children
CSWs	:	Commercial Sex Workers
FSWs	:	Female Sex Workers
GO	:	Government Organization
HIV	:	Human Immuno Deficiency Virus
IBBS	:	Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveillance
ILO	:	International Labour Organization
INGO	:	International Non Government Organization
MOHP	:	Ministry of Health and Population
NCASC	:	National Centre for AIDS and STD Control
NGO	:	Non Government Organization
NHRC	:	Nepal Health Research Council
ONRT	:	Office of the National Repporteur on Trafficking in women and
STI	:	Sexually Transmitted Infection
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
VDRL	:	Veneral Disease Research Laboratory

ABSTRACT

This thesis entitled "State of Female Sex Workers: A Study of Female Sex Workers in Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City" had the overall objective to identify the state of female sex workers and the causes of being sex workers. The study was conducted among 100 female sex workers by applying cross sectional descriptive research design. Non probability, snowball sampling technique and technique of interview was used to collect primary data from 2071 Baisakh to 2071 Magh (almost 10 month). This study explores the multifaceted dimensions of demographic, socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents.

Findings of the study revealed that majority of the respondents 54.00 percent were in the age group of 15-19 years, and almost 71.0 percent respondents entered in the sex business at the age between 15-19 years. The mean age at entering the sex business was 18.65 years. Among them, most of the respondents 88.00 percent were from rural areas, 80.00 percent were from the followers of Hindu religion. Majority of the respondents were Dalit which comprised of 48.00 percent. Most of the respondents 40.00 percent had got Primary level education. Majority of the respondents 49.00 percent were unmarried, 32.00 percent were separated and 13.00 percent were married. A high proportion 70.00 percent of respondents' occupations who were involved in sex business was waitress in hotels and restaurants. Out of 100 respondents 30.00 percent were involved in sex business due to the influence of peer circle, 21.00 percent due to unemployment, 15.00 percent due to poverty, 15.00 percent due to divorce (left by husband), 11.00 percent due to domestic violence and remaining other are due to over ambition (6.00%), after incested(1.00%) and raped(1.00%).

The findings of the study suggested that most of the female sex workers are teenaged girls. Peer circle, domestic violence, low status of women and girls in Nepal with the lack of education and employment opportunities have led to a large number of young women into sex business. Despite having higher literacy level and proper knowledge in sexually transmitted infection, unsafe sex practices are prevalent because of the customer's desire. Most of the Female Sex workers are not satisfied with their job and willing to leave this work if opportunities is provided to them and they do have

positive expectation from society like provision of job, skill and security physically, socially, economically and politically. This study concluded that there are high chances that woman from the lowest socio-economic classes, impoverished women, women with a low level of education, women from the most disadvantaged racial and ethnic minorities are at the high risks of becoming commercial sex workers.

Pedestal on the theoretical notion of anti-prostitution feminists it is argued in this study that prostitution is a form of exploitation of women and male dominance over women, and a practice which is the result of the existing patriarchal societal order. Sex work has a very negative effect, both on the prostitutes themselves and on society as a whole, as it reinforces stereotypical views about women, who are seen as sex objects which are used and abused by men. Under this woman has sex with customers to whom she is not attracted, and which also routinely exposes the women to psychological, physical and sexual violence. The findings of this study virtually rejects the pro-sex –work feminisms logic (that women stay in sex industry because they enjoy that work) and vehemently supports the logic of anti-prostitution feminists that prostitution is an abhorrent practice not easily accepted by normal women under the normal condition because it is socially disgraceful and leads to long term negative physical, mental, social, cultural and economic effects on the prostitutes, such as trauma, stress, depression, anxiety, self medication through alcohol and drug use, eating disorders, social disgrace, boycott, and a greater risk for self harm and suicide.

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Prithvi Narayan Campus

Pokhara, Nepal

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**Women in Decision Making Process: A Study of Bharatpokhari
VDC, Kaski District, Nepal**

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in *Sociology***

By

Rabi Prasad Acharya

Roll No: 164/060

Regd. No. 6-2-297-823-2000

**Tribhuvan University
Prithvi Narayan Campus**

Pokhara

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