

Socio-psychological consequences of young women's prostitution; providing a qualitative analysis at the level of Bojnord city

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Abstract

This research deals with the analysis of the lived experience and understanding the perception of the perpetrators of prostitution of the consequences of prostitution. The current research is exploratory in terms of the research goal, in terms of the qualitative research implementation process and based on the interpretive paradigm, in terms of the results of the applied research and in terms of the time criterion of the cross-sectional study (2018-2019). From the systematic analysis of in-depth interviews with 18 people from the prostitution market (prostitutes, Qawad and Mashri) and experts in the field of prostitution using the method of grounded theory with the Strauss and Corbin approach, 12 sub-categories and 7 core categories and finally based on the selective coding of the central phenomenon in the form "Prostitution; "A devastating reality" was formed.

The results of the research showed that prostitution is affected by a set of social, economic, cultural, family and individual factors that lead to the occurrence of consequences including, "intensification of vulnerability to risky factors such as mental, physical and social injuries". "Continuous exposure to mental, sexual and physical violence", "defamilization from everyday life", "sexual exploitation of poor and socially damaged women" and "demoralization of society".

Keywords: Prostitution, contextual theory, defamilization, sexual exploitation, violence, demoralization.

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1. Introduction

Prostitution (providing sexual services to others in exchange for receiving money) (Taylor 2010, Qayyum 2013) is considered as a complex and multi-level social problem, which includes the range of suffering from childhood to old age. According to the statistics published in 2010, the age of women entering prostitution in England is 12 years old. According to the same statistics, more than 75% of prostitutes in England started prostitution before the age of 18 (Taylor, 2010). In countries such as Canada and the United States, the age of prostitution has been reduced to 14-15 years old (Sales, 2016). The study of the phenomenon of prostitution at the international level shows its high and increasing statistics; According to the statistics of the World Health Organization, there are currently four to six million prostitutes in China who are engaged in providing sexual services to others. (Sales, 2016).

At the national level, statistics indicate an increase in the number of prostitution and moral deviations among women in the last few decades: in a survey conducted in 1989, it shows that the number of women with moral crimes increased from 14% in 1981 to 26% of the total. Crimes against women reached in 2001, which is considered the highest type of crime against women along with drug-related crimes (Jerbani, 2010). Also, according to the statistics of the country's welfare organization, in 2015, nearly 2,200 prostitutes entered the centers of this organization for rehabilitation, and about 30% of them are people who enter these centers for the first time (welfare organization, 2016).

The phenomenon of prostitution has many social consequences, including an increase in the number of sexually transmitted and AIDS patients, a decrease in the number of marriages and an increase in the divorce rate, the birth of street children, and an increase in illegal abortions, etc. Of course, these abortions can cause physical and infertility problems for women. Prostitution also increases the number of children of unknown parentage and without birth certificate. These children have many mental and emotional problems and are a problem for the society (Qayyum and etc, 2013). Prostitution in its legal form also has harmful social effects; Based on a study conducted in 150 countries of the world, it shows that there is a relationship between the existence of legal prostitution and the increase in human

trafficking (Chow, 2013). This shows the complexity of prostitution and the difficulty of intervention in this area.

At the level of the studied community, that is, the city of Bojnoord, the situation of social harms of women, especially sexual deviations and prostitution, is unfavorable. According to the statistics of the country's welfare in 2016, North Khorasan, which is a relatively small and sparsely populated province, is the fourth province in the country in terms of prostitution (welfare organization, 2016). This can be explained due to the unfavorable economic situation of this province. In terms of unemployment rate, this province has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country and is considered one of the least prosperous provinces in the country (Management and Planning Organization of North Khorasan Province, 2016). In fact, the social and economic picture of the province shows widespread poverty and unemployment in the province, and this aggravates the incidence of social harm, including prostitution, in this province.

Therefore, the most important issue investigated in this article is how to construct the phenomenon of prostitution and its consequences in the studied society? Based on this, the following questions can be asked: What factors affect the behavior of prostitutes in the prostitution market? What socio-economic consequences will prostitution have? What are the family consequences of prostitution? What are the psychological and personal consequences of prostitution?

2.Review of Literature

In the definition of prostitution, most thinkers emphasize on some kind of exchange between two people. Based on this, this term refers to the continuous and unrestrained sexual transaction between men and women in order to earn money. In fact, its more accurate term is prostitution and a person earns money in this way. In other words, the motivation for creating illicit and unrestrained sexual relations and sexual and moral burden is to provide livelihood. Prostitution is providing sexual services to others in exchange for money (Taylor 2010, Qayyum 2013, Shoujaei and Darvishi, 2015) or attracting sexual attention with the aim of obtaining some kind of financial reward from the

prostitute (Scott and Marshall 2005). Sex workers may be male, female or bisexual. According to the definition of Strong, Dewalt, Said and Yerber (2005), prostitution is the exchange of sexual behaviors such as intercourse and sex for money. According to them, the most common type of prostitution is in the form of prostitution of women to men, and the second most common type of prostitution is sexual intercourse between men and men, the third type is the sexual offering of men to women, and finally, homosexual acts between women and women.

In the definition of a prostitute, Benjamin says: A prostitute is a woman (or rarely a man) who provides her living expenses in whole or in part by surrendering her body to others, and it should be added to this definition that these sexual relations are common without Love is temporary, it is paid in cash; If a woman's affection is involved in this matter, it will not be called prostitution. This term is not only applied to those who work as prostitutes all their life, but every woman or man who, while working in other jobs, sleeps with strangers from time to time by receiving money from them, is a prostitute during the time that he engages in this behavior. Benjamin, 1965: 90).

Alexander (1987), emphasizing the role of society and social, economic and cultural interactions in the formation of different types of prostitution, believes that although prostitution as an old profession is one of the common characteristics of all societies in historical periods, but in terms of content and social context and There are cultural differences in the field of prostitution; Differences in economic organization, the use of sex norms, and the relationship between economic use and identity are factors that shape the concept and structure of prostitution within each specific historical space. Surat (2005) also believes that, contrary to common thinking, prostitutes have a very heterogeneous population and have very different social and environmental backgrounds.

The common point of all the definitions related to prostitution is the emphasis on the social nature of this phenomenon, the economic need of the prostitute and performing some kind of economic-social exchange, which mainly takes place between women as suppliers and men as customers. In other words, prostitution is offering sexual services to another person in return for

money. In the following, an attempt is made to provide theoretical explanations of this phenomenon based on two sociological theories.

3. Methodology

This study is an exploratory study in terms of the purpose of the research, in terms of the qualitative research implementation process and based on the interpretive paradigm, in terms of the applied research results and in terms of the time criterion of the cross-sectional study (2017-2018). Also, the grounded theory method was used to analyze the data.

The statistical population studied in the research consists of 18 women: 10 prostitutes, 3 pimps and 3 clients, of which the prostitutes and pimps are among the welfare clients of Bojnord city, and the clients were also identified with the help of pimps and prostitutes. Based on this, in-depth interviews were conducted with the participating people in separate meetings for 1400 minutes, and the documents and files related to the people involved in prostitution were studied to achieve theoretical saturation. For data analysis, the text of the interviews was coded using Glazer and Strauss's continuous comparative analysis technique and through categorization coding in three stages, open, central and selective, and interpretation of patterns and relationships was done, the result of which was to the primary concepts, subcategories and major categories and finally the core category.

The unit of analysis of this research was at the micro level and the observation unit of the research included the state of prostitution which was calculated through observation and interviews with people who were somehow involved in this market in the form of prostitutes, pimps, clients and workers.

4. Findings

The research findings are coded in 45 concepts, 12 sub-categories, 7 major categories and one core category, so that based on it, the construction of prostitution and its social and psychological consequences from the perspective of the interested social agents can be meaningfully represented. which is discussed below:

4.1. The cycle of poverty, homelessness and sexual exploitation

One of the most important consequences of prostitution is being involved in the cycle of poverty, helplessness and sexual exploitation. In fact, prostitutes who are involved in prostitution due to poverty and social problems associated with it. They are sexually exploited and find far worse social conditions. In fact, these women, who are forced to sell themselves due to bad economic conditions and in order to meet their financial needs, after entering this field, not only their problems have not been solved, but they have been placed in more unfavorable economic and social conditions. Poor prostitutes, without social support and due to lack of economic and social independence, are sexually exploited by pimps and clients. The abundance of supply and abundance of prostitutes provides the conditions for exploitation, and in the prostitution market, customers (demand) and pimps (dealers) have the upper hand. This makes prostitutes meet the desired conditions of customers and pimps and provide sexual services with a minimal fee. In such a market, the condition of prostitutes will deteriorate and it will not be possible to free them from this cycle. The second interviewee, who was admitted to the welfare rehabilitation center, decided to get married in order to improve her social and family situation, but this marriage was more a form of sexual exploitation than a successful marriage. He says in this regard:

"In 2013, I married a married and old man. Of course, I was a concubine. Because the woman was saying that I should divorce my wife, I will definitely marry you. No matter how much I insisted, he would make an excuse. "When I saw that he was wasting time and taking advantage of me, I tore up the engagement letter after a year."

The third interviewee, who is currently living with her boyfriend, says:

"I have been living with my boyfriend for about 10 years. He wanted to make me addicted because he himself uses glass; But I didn't take it. "I gave up everything for my boyfriend, I gave up my family and my life, I did whatever he wanted, but he doesn't clarify my duties, he just wants to be with him."

According to the case worker's opinion, the boyfriend of the third interviewee made her his dependent and abused her as a pimp and earned money in this way. Due to the economic and social conditions of these women, as well as the society's negative view of this type of people and the possibility of success in the future life, it is not possible to form successful and stable families, and usually the remarriage of these people is unstable and accompanied by violence and humiliation from the family members. It is especially their husband and it usually ends in separation. The first interviewee, who got married after being discharged from rehabilitation and went through the legal process of divorce after several years of unsuccessful cohabitation, says in this regard:

"I don't want to live with him anymore. I ran away from home twice. Life has really become unbearable because of my husband's insults and beatings. He loved me very much in the beginning of my life, but now he only keeps me because of the children. Since I have a check from him, I have to stay with it. Because if I go, the first thing he will do is execute the checks and put me in jail." The living conditions of these people are such that they are disappointed with their life and future and have no motivation to live.

The tenth interviewee also says: *"I consider myself a miserable person that all the problems of the world have happened to me; The death of my father, poverty, homelessness, and addiction of all my family members, all this has happened to me."*

4.2. Intensification of vulnerability against dangerous factors

Prostitution exposes women to all kinds of social and psychological risks. Humiliation, violence, stress, poverty, etc. have made prostitutes extremely vulnerable socially and psychologically. Depression, mental disorders, hopelessness, physical diseases, infectious diseases such as AIDS and hepatitis, and many other issues and problems will arise as a result of prostitution. The

third interviewee, who is now in the Sarami welfare rehabilitation center, says about his mental and emotional conditions:

"Now that I'm in rehab I can't control myself, I either have to cry or I hurt someone or I break something. I have been taking nerve pills for three years; I even committed suicide once."

Suicide is seen as one of the social-psychological complications of prostitution in most of these women. Many of them committed suicide due to social and psychological pressures caused by living as prostitutes. The 9th interviewee, who got married after being discharged from rehabilitation (temporary marriage), is very unhappy with her living conditions and complains about her husband's violent behavior and the neglect of her paternal family. says:

"My family doesn't hear about me and it doesn't matter to them whether I was or not." My husband bothers me a lot, that's why I decided to commit suicide." Many of these women suffer from depression and mental disorders. The psychiatrist on the welfare contract also confirms the existence of various mental disorders in prostitutes. In this regard, he says: *"Almost all prostitutes who are admitted to the rehabilitation center have some kind of mental disorder. All of them have gone through a difficult period that has caused them to develop mental disorders and need special care. Even the possibility of suicide among them is high."* The physical condition of these women is also not favorable; Examining the medical records of women in rehabilitation shows the high statistics of these women suffering from digestive, cardiac, uterine diseases and even AIDS and hepatitis in some cases. The person in charge of the rehabilitation center considers the medical expenses of these women to be one of the heavy expenses of this center. Socially, these women are vulnerable. The 35th interviewee from the field of prostitution says: *"One of the hardest things we do in the field of work is empowering these women. The society's view of these women is not good."*

Finding a home to make these women independent is very difficult. Landlords usually do not trust these women, and on the other hand, the existence of these women in an independent house is disturbed by neighbors and neighbors. It is also difficult for these women to find a job and it is usually

associated with marginalization. *"The employer hardly trusts them, and on the other hand, in many cases, these women are abused by the employer or colleagues."* In fact, because of their unfavorable social status, prostitutes seem defenseless and more vulnerable to social and psychological harm.

4.3. Continuous exposure to violence

One of the prominent features of prostitution, especially poor prostitutes, is exposure to continuous sexual, physical and psychological violence. Prostitutes are constantly faced with the demands of customers, who usually determine the rates and conditions of the transaction. Attending hangouts along with the use of drugs and psychoactive substances, group sex, offensive behavior, etc., leads to sexual relations with violence for women. Even many of these women, who are trying to improve their social conditions by adopting the strategy of temporary resistance and with social support and welfare, cannot get rid of this violence and are exposed to violence in their new life. The 11th interviewee says about his unfavorable situation: *"Because I was an addict, I did everything for my addiction and had relationships with anyone and everyone. Many times men raped me, beat me and treated me like an animal."*

The first interviewee also says about his bad living conditions: *"My husband beats me. Once he beat me with a water heater pipe so that my eyes were bloodshot, he just wanted me to die. He used to say to me: You are a child of welfare, what do you expect from a child of welfare to become a woman of life."*

Most prostitutes who enter this market suffer from sexual violence. Doing sex in different ways, group sex and repeated sex in one day exposes prostitutes to physical and psychological violence. Even many of these who were labeled as prostitutes did not have security in their families and were abused and abused by family members and acquaintances.

4.4. Defamilization of everyday life

One of the most important consequences of prostitution is family breakdown, so that prostitutes cannot lead a normal life. The social and family conditions of these people are overshadowed by prostitution and are out of

balance, and their family life is far worse than in the past. Extensive sexual relations, consecutive temporary marriages, illegitimate pregnancies, deprivation of custody of children, etc. are among the prominent features of this type of family situation. Even after rehabilitation, these women cannot get favorable family conditions. Because of the label of prostitution, these women are considered deviant and unreliable people in the eyes of others, and they usually do not have much success in remarriage, and they mostly get married temporarily, and if they have a permanent marriage, they have acute family differences in their family life. and domestic violence and they are forced to divorce. The third interviewee says about his marriage:

"I was in rehabilitation when I married a 50-year-old man. He had a good financial situation. Unfortunately, his son was bothering me. He did whatever he liked and brought home whoever he liked. He and his friends had sex with me. I did not dare to tell my husband because I was afraid of him. I had to ask for a divorce, but he did not accept. "I had a boyfriend myself, and I introduced him to my husband, and when my husband found out about it, he agreed to my divorce." The eleventh interviewee also says:

"My brother and his wife are both drug addicts and we always had drugs in their house. Most of the materials were supplied by my brother-in-law and he was always with us. After some time, my brother's wife suggested that I become friends with her brother. I accepted and the result of our friendship was that I became pregnant and my child was born in eight months. "Because the child was illegitimate, they took the child from me through welfare and the prosecutor and delivered it to the nursery."

4.5. Demoralization of society

The prevalence of prostitution weakens the moral foundation in society and damages social relations. Distrust, irresponsibility, betrayal, hypocrisy and the like can be witnessed as a result of prostitution. Many of the clients are young married men who have had problems with their families because of this type of relationship. As a result of the expansion of these relationships, the moral values of the society also decrease. The 14th interviewee, who was one of the interviewee's clients, says in this regard: *"It didn't matter to me whether*

the party was single or married, my goal was to get pleasure and his goal was to get money." "Many times, I tried to show myself as loving and caring, so that I could have a better relationship with the other party. Women were also very easily deceived, and I did whatever I wanted."

Even the pimps don't spare any effort to promote their business and increase the number of prostitutes under their command. In response to the question of how to find prostitutes, one of the pimps said: *"Usually in parks, birthday parties and weddings, I identified beautiful and needy young girls who had the talent to do this, and I became friends with them. I became and I gradually pulled them in this direction."*

As a result of prostitution, illegitimate pregnancies, illegal abortions, and the birth of unidentified children have also increased. At the level of the studied society, about 40 children are given to infertile couples through adoption every year, and about 90% of them are unidentified children. They give. These children are mostly either abandoned in maternity hospitals or found in parks and even garbage bins, left alone and handed over to welfare (Deputy of Social Affairs of North Khorasan Welfare, 2017). According to Tassi, from the point of view of Sigmund Bauman (2004), who believes that today's world is a world of loose relationships, unlike the past when strong relationships prevailed, it can be said that sexual relationships in today's world have become fast food and sandwiches, which are formed very quickly and very quickly. It breaks apart soon.

5. Conclusion

According to research findings, prostitution has many social, family and psychological consequences, which shows its destructive role on the health of society and individuals. Some thinkers emphasize the necessity of empowering these women and leaving them from the field of prostitution; Highbridge (2011) while emphasizing the successful role of non-governmental organizations in the process of rehabilitation of prostituted women, believes that the process of exiting the cycle of prostitution and empowering them is a very complex and difficult matter and requires social-economic support in the fields of employment, health providing housing, training job skills and parenting skills for this group of women.

Although emotional and psychological support is necessary for the rehabilitation of these women, it is given second priority to the physical and economic needs of this group who are below the poverty line. Holly (2002) while criticizing the legalization of prostitution in some countries such as the Netherlands, Germany and Australia, believes that legalized prostitution increases prostitution, violence against women, reduces the life expectancy of prostituted women, increases human trafficking, etc. But in Sweden, a comprehensive model has been presented in the field of prostitution, according to which the law of any promotion or encouragement or abuse of sexual relations for commercial purposes is a crime and is prosecuted. In this model, the punishment is directed more towards male applicants than female prostitutes. In this model, one of the important points is the emphasis on the empowerment of prostitutes.

Therefore, in order to reduce poverty among women and prevent them from being trapped in the cycle of poverty, homelessness and sexual exploitation, it is necessary to pay attention to the livelihood and employment status of women. In fact, proper and stable employment in a safe work environment should be prioritized in the government's social policy in order to prevent the feminization of poverty and increase the social-economic empowerment of women. Also, the support umbrella of the government in the field of providing housing, insurance and livelihood for women should be expanded. Because many of the women participating in this research suffered from social

homelessness after being rejected by their families and did not receive the necessary social support. Finally, in order to rehabilitate women prostitutes under the support of the welfare organization, it is necessary to allocate sufficient funds, increase the authority of this organization and reduce the interference of other government bodies that have a negative view on the issue of prostitution in the scope of the duties of the welfare organization.

Although the above-mentioned cases are effective in the field of rehabilitation of prostitutes, but considering the special conditions that prostitutes have and the existence of personal and social problems that these women face, empowering them and returning them to a normal and independent life is very difficult. and it is necessary to provide new rehabilitation and rehabilitation models and solutions.

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