

A mixed method analysis of exploring new modes of the prostitution: A case study of Lahore

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Abstract

The oldest known profession is often referred to as the prostitution and historical traces provide evidence of its existence in different modes and shapes. Social history, a sub discipline of the history provide a greater insight of how prostitution has evolved as a social construct and with the advancement of the new technology and ways of living prostitution has taken new modes and current study is an attempt of find out new modes of prostitution that are prevalent in Lahore. The study is based on mixed method design. The qualitative part of the study is based on 20 in-depth interviews from the prostitution selected through purposive sampling technique. the qualitative part of the study is based on exploratory research design and qualitative analysis of revealed that escort individual, escort agencies, massage centers, streetwalker and social networking sites are the new modes that are prevalent in Lahore. The quantitative study is based on a sample size of 270 prostitution selected through convenient sampling as there was no sampling frame available. The quantitative research design is based on descriptive research design and quantitative analysis show that most of the prostitutions are involved into the new modes and have shifted from the traditional modes to the new modes and trends of the prostitution.

Key Words: Lahore, Social Issues, Prostitution, Causes, Modes, Trends

History of Prostitution

Prostitution has become an important concern for the governments and policy makers in the modern world. There are different views about prostitution across the globe in which some are in the favor of prostitution while the rest of them oppose it. But it neither totally accepted nor totally rejected by the world. Almost half of the world (49%) have legalized prostitution, 39 % strongly oppose it because they declared it illegal. But there are also some sanctions and limitations imposed on prostitution (Head, 2017).

There is long history of prostitution that has the deep roots of centuries. The prostitution has different dimensions associated with personal freedom, social and cultural values and religious attributes as well. Religion always played a

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significant role to stop this social evil but it is the personal freedom that promoted prostitution (Smith 2003).

The prostitution in US also faced a war between the sex industry and the religious personalities. It was legally banned in US during the phase of 1672-1699. In the next century, the riots were erupted during 1734-1855 in different cities regarding prostitution. Again in 1970, the profession of prostitution was declared illegal. The prostitution was legally banned but yet the prostitution continued to flourish. This shows the ups and downs of prostitution in United States (Hobson, 1987).

Like the European and western countries, the prostitution also has a long history in South Asia. Both Pakistan and India also faced the phenomenon of prostitution throughout history. The best example regarding prostitution can be quoted from different ruling dynasties like the Mughal era in which different emperors adopted varying policies regarding prostitution. Some of the rulers strictly prohibited this evil while some of them indirectly supported sexual activities. The Mughal emperor Akbar favored to establish the separate colony of the prostitution and Aurangzeb Alamghir strictly prohibited it (Badaoni 1980). The Mughal rule is the golden era for the prostitution in subcontinent. There were almost 6000 houses that were attached with prostitution. These prostitution houses were formally under the terms of tax collection and they had to get a formal license from the authorities in order to run a brothel (Martin, 2005).

Not only Pakistan rather India is under the great distress of prostitution. The big cities of India like Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta, Delhi and Hyderabad have the prostitution centers. The young girls are purchased from the remote areas in cheap rates and sold at these big centers for high costs at brothels (Dandona et al, 2006). Pakistan also inherited the culture of prostitution from the ruling dynasties. The big cities of Pakistan i.e. Lahore, Faisalabad, Karachi and Multan are known as the big prostitution centers. In the four major cities almost 26000 women are working as prostitutes (Khan & Khan 2005).

The whole above discussion shows that prostitution has a long history not in Pakistan and India only rather the whole world experienced it in direct or indirect ways. The countries like USA could not remain aloof from this social phenomenon. Currently, Pakistan is also facing the issue of prostitution. The big cities are the known as the big clusters of prostitution that operate the brothels and pimps in different other areas.

Types of Prostitution

Prostitution is not an emerging phenomenon rather it has a long history. Prostitution existed almost in every era in different shapes. Prostitution basically means to offer sexual services and in return the sexual service providers get monetary compensation. Prostitution means “to lay down” (Sagar 2005). Prostitution has been known by different names in different areas. The prostitutes for the upper class were known as “The Hetairea for upper class” and “Auletrides” were the names of prostitutes related to music and dancing. The eighteenth century is known as the golden age of prostitution (Roberts and Nickie 1992).

There are a number of types of prostitution under which the prostitutes perform sexual activities. These types are associated with the nature of sexual services that what measure these prostitutes adopt to provide these services. The prostitution

mainly falls under the consensual and forced prostitution. In the earlier type, the prostitutes are willing to have sex with their customers. They offer sexual services according to their consent. But on the other hand, the forced prostitution is associated with the sexual activities in which the females are forced and pressurized to perform sexual duties forcefully (Robinson et al, 2011).

Consensual prostitution is the major type that is being practiced across the globe because the large share of the prostitutes belongs to this section. The most of the prostitutes offer sexual duties by their own will. They are engaged with prostitution by different reasons like lower social class and poverty. In order to fulfill their needs, they willingly engage themselves in this field (Alasvand 2006).

According to Harcourt & Donovan (2004) there are two broader types of prostitution known as “Direct Prostitution” and “Indirect Prostitution”. The direct prostitution means the prostitutes that directly associated with sexual services. They are directly hired to provide sexual services at homes, bars, brothels, and in private rooms or villas. But on the other hand, the indirect prostitution includes the females associated with sexual duties indirectly. They do not offer sex in the straight forward way like at brothels rather they work in other ways where they are sexually abused like the females worker at homes and offices.

The street prostitution is the well-known type of prostitution in which the prostitutes sit in doors that open in the streets. They well decorate themselves in order to attract the attention of the customers. They offer sexual services in the places of the customers’ choice either at their private places or at brothels. In such type of prostitution, the sexual services may also be carried out in the private vehicles like in a car or bus. This is the cheapest and most hazardous type of prostitution (Joardar 1984). The direct prostitution has a little importance regarding the bargaining because both the prostitutes and customers at this level belong to lower class. The customers are mostly the daily wagers and the prostitutes too proved sex in minimal rates. They do not bargain for higher rates because they fear to lose the customer (Tekola, 2002).

Objectives of the study

- The primary objective of the current study is to find out the latest trends of the prostitution that are prevailing.
- The study will also shed light on some of the factors that lead to the development of the new modes of the prostitution

Methods and materials

There are different research designs that researcher adopt while conducting any research. The research methods are chosen according to the nature of the study. The current study is based on mixed methods research design. Further, there are multiple techniques of mixed methods research but the research adopted the convergent parallel design that enables the researchers to deal both types of data i.e. qualitative and quantitative on the same way (Creswell and Clark 2011).

On the same token the current study uses two different research designs to meet the objectives of the study. for the qualitative study the study is based on exploratory research design as the objective of the qualitative phase is to explore the new trends of prostitution that are prevalent in the Lahore. similarly, the

quantitative phase of the current study is based on descriptive research design as the quantitative study is directed towards finding out the frequency distribution of the prostitution activities with regard to the modes of the prostitution that are prevalent in Lahore.

Sample size

The sample size in every social research is chosen according to the requirements of research. For example, the qualitative research usually has a limited sample size while the quantitative studies normally adopt the large sample size. As the research is based on mixed methods so the sample size of both qualitative and quantitative is different. In the qualitative strand, the researcher chose the sample size of 20 respondents due to the in-depth interviews. This smaller set of the sample is due to the nature of the qualitative study as it intends to find out the in-depth understanding of the topic. On the other hand, the sample size of the quantitative section is 270 respondents. This huge sample size was the requirement of the nature of the study as quantitative study aims at generalizing the findings of the study from sample to the larger population.

Sampling technique

There are different techniques employed by the researchers to choose a representative sample. The current topic is so sensitive hence the researcher had to be very careful while choosing a sampling technique. It was not easy task to target the required sample size because normally the people do not have contacts with such respondents (prostitutes). So, in the qualitative study, the researcher chose purposive sampling technique which enables the researcher to find the most suitable sample. Through purposive sampling, the respondents with rich knowledge of the topic are selected (Newman 2000). On the other hand, in the quantitative study research adopted convenient sampling technique. This was done as there was no sampling frame of the participants of the study which lead the researcher to adopt the convenient sampling technique. In addition to that the population of the study is rare and culturally sensitive owing to many legal and religious issues.

Tool for data collection and field experience

Due to the mixed methods investigation, the researcher adopted two distinct tools for data collection. In the quantitative section, a pre-coded questionnaire was adopted as a tool for data collection. The researcher personally visited the field and collected the quantitative data from the respondents. While in the other section of the research, the researcher adopted interview guide as a tool for data collection. This qualitative tool is adopted to have the deep insight of the topic in which researcher discussed the predefined and emergent concepts related to the topic. During the course of data collection, researcher also faced some issues like the most of the respondents were not ready to provide data due to sensitivity of topic.

Analysis of the data

The quantitative data was analyzed through SPSS in which firstly researcher developed the data sheet in which the data was entered in the form of numbers.

Later, the data was analyzed through frequency distribution. On the other hand, the qualitative data is analyzed on the basis of the prevalent modes of the prostitution that were explored.

Ethical consideration

The topic of the current research is very sensitive socially that is why the ethical considerations had great concern of the researcher. The researcher adopted very careful role especially during the phase of data collection. The respondents were not willing to provide the data first but researcher assured them that their names will be kept secret hence they provided the data. The researcher followed all of the ethical rules and regulations of research.

Qualitative findings

New trends and modes of prostitution in Lahore

One of the objective of the current study was to find out the new modes of prostitution and how they are prevailing in the Lahore. Following are the new modes of the prostitution that were explored during the qualitative form of the study.

Call girls or Escort individual

This is one of the most important finding of the current study which found that most of the prostitution are active in this profession as call girls also referred to as escort individual. They run their business by operating individually with the help of personal contacts with the customers. This type of the prostitution is the latest development and many posh area girls are involved into this profession.

Escort Agencies

This is another finding of the current study which is based on the idea that some organizational structure manage the operations of the prostitution. They form a bridge between the client and sex workers. They completely organize their meeting and also adjust the money. They have their own share from both the clients and the sex workers. This type of the prostitution activities are on rise in Lahore owing to its validity and maintaining a good security matters. Escort agencies provide sex workers for not only sexual purposes but also for parties and long drives. There are many escort agencies prevalent in Lahore. This form of the prostitution is highly secure and nonviolent. However, this form of the prostitution is economically costly and less visible as both clients and sex workers try to hide their identity.

Massage centers

Providing sexual services at the massage center is another important finding of the current study. Many massage centers in the posh areas offer sexual services to the clients. They do their business by hiding their identity and also only provide sexual services to the trustworthy customers or customers who visit on the regular basis. They also advertises their services of massage centers but it has become a known fact they also offer sexual services.

Streetwalkers

A new mode and trend of the prostitution was observed during the course of the current study was in the shape of streetwalkers. This type of the prostitution is mostly attached to the college and university girls. There are two major factors of streetwalkers that have been identified in the current study.

- High society girls who work to maintain their luxurious lifestyle by getting money through sexual activities
- Low class girls from nearby towns to meet their routine expenses

Social networking sites and websites

Growing importance of media and social media is also evident in the prevalence of the prostitution activities and what has been found in the current study. The current study found that there are many websites and social media groups that serve as the purpose to adjust the terms and condition in the forms of money and meeting place regarding sexual services. The respondents of the current study provided evidence of many such websites and social media groups. This mode of prostitution is relatively secure and have lower levels of violence episodes.

So, the qualitative part of the current study explored the aforementioned modes of the prostitution and how these modes of the prostitution are operating in Lahore.

Quantitative findings

The quantitative research design is based on descriptive nature hence the quantitative data analysis is presented in the form of frequency distribution. Following are some of the important quantitative findings of the current study. In the first place some socio-demographic features are presented.

| Current working area | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | traditional | 82 | 30.4 | 30.4 | 30.4 |
| | modern | 188 | 69.6 | 69.6 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 270 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

The above table shows that frequency distribution of current working area of the prostitutions. The above table shows that most of the participants of the study

i.e.69.6% were from modern areas and they were providing sexual services in the modern areas however only 82 out 270 respondents were from the traditional areas commonly famous for providing sexual services and prostitution activities.

| duration of involvement into this profession | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | less than 1 year | 68 | 25.2 | 25.2 | 25.2 |
| | 1 to 3 years | 104 | 38.5 | 38.5 | 63.7 |
| | 3 to 5 years | 53 | 19.6 | 19.6 | 83.3 |
| | 5 to 10 years | 27 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 93.3 |
| | more than 10 years | 18 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 270 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

The above table provides the details of how long the participants of the study have been involved into the profession of the prostitution. The table shows that vast majority i.e. 38.5% were involved into this profession between 1 to 3 years and 25.2% were in this profession only one year age. Only 18 respondents that constitute only 6.7% were involved into this profession 10 years ago and only 10% were between 5 to 10 years. So, this proves that most of the participants of the study were relatively new into this profession.

| level of education | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | illiterate | 33 | 12.2 | 12.2 | 12.2 |
| | primary | 33 | 12.2 | 12.2 | 24.4 |
| | matric | 55 | 20.4 | 20.4 | 44.8 |
| | intermediate | 65 | 24.1 | 24.1 | 68.9 |
| | graduation | 63 | 23.3 | 23.3 | 92.2 |

| | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| | above BA (Graduation) | 21 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 270 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Regarding level of education above table shows that most of the respondents were having intermediate and graduation level of education which was 24.4% and 23.3% respectively. 7.8% of the respondents were having education of above MA level and only 12.2% were at the primary level. This shows that most of the respondents of the current study were well educated and smaller portion of the participants were less educated.

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|----------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | brothel houses traditional place | 53 | 19.6 | 19.6 | 19.6 |
| | brothel houses modern places | 86 | 31.9 | 31.9 | 51.5 |
| | Escort individual (Call Girl) | 37 | 13.7 | 13.7 | 65.2 |
| | Escort Agency | 27 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 75.2 |
| | Massage Centre | 11 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 79.3 |
| | street Walker | 36 | 13.3 | 13.3 | 92.6 |
| | Social Networking Cites | 15 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 98.1 |
| | Websites | 5 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 270 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

The above table shows the prevalence of the new modes of the prostitution with respect to the sample size of the current study. This will let the reader know, how the new trends of the prostitution are on rise. The above table shows that 19.6% of the respondents were from the traditional brothel houses and 31.9% were from modern brothel houses. 10% and 13.7% were respectively from escort agency and escort individual. Streetwalkers constitute 13.3% and only 1.9% were associated with providing sexual services from websites. This shows that most of the prostitutions were from modern ways of the prostitution.

Conclusion

The study concludes that owing to many factors the profession of prostitution has taken many new shapes. Mainly the study concludes that most of the prostitution have shifted from traditional location to the modern locations in Lahore. The study explored that escort agencies and individual escorts (call girls) are the new modes of the prostitution that are quite active in Lahore. In addition to that street walkers and massage centers are also new modes of the prostitution. Owing the importance of the mass media social networking sites and websites are also important new trends of providing sexual services. The study further concluded that most of the participants of the study i.e.81.4% were from new modes and only 19.6% were from traditional brothel houses.

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