



Little darling of the evening: their lifestyles, experiences, causes, modus operandi, transactions and performances

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Abstract

Prostitution flourished elsewhere for money or for whatever reasons. It is considered illegal and immoral in the country. This study aims to determine the different lifestyles, experiences, causes, modus operandi, transactions, performances and effects of relationships of the respondents. Qualitative research through case study approach was utilized. Ten respondents were used during the information gathering having the following criteria: not having more than 16 years of age, who engaged in prostitution. Cabanatuan City, Philippines was the locale of the study. Prior consent was established before the study was conducted. The data gathered were statistically treated using frequency count, percentage, and weighted mean. Survey questionnaires, interviews, observations and focus group discussion were the instruments used. Results revealed that different lifestyles, varied causes, modus operandi, transactions, and performances lure their customers. Poverty, being abandoned, sexual trauma, revenge, hopelessness and curiosity were the causes of the problem. Body languages, seductive movements and using pimps were their styles to entice their customers.

Keywords: Social science, Prostitution, Case study, Cabanatuan city, Nueva ecija, Philippines.

Introduction

Revised Panal Code, Article 202 Sec. 5¹ defines Prostitute as a woman who, for money or profit, habitually indulges in sexual intercourse or lascivious conduct. Any person found guilty shall be punished by arrestomenor or a fine not exceeding 200 pesos and in case of recidivism, by arresto mayor in its medium period to prision correctional in its minimum period or a fine ranging from 200 pesos to 2,000 pesos or both, in the discretion of the court. Although it is illegal and immoral, lawbreakers do not care the repercussion of their actions.

Revised Panal Code, Article 341 (White slave trade)² imposes a penalty to any person who "shall engage in the business or shall profit by prostitution or shall enlist the services of any other person for the purpose of prostitution." Prostitution is immoral and illegal in the Philippines. It is violation of human dignity, and destroys the positive Filipino values. Perpetrators performed discretely to earn money for their daily basic necessities. On the other hand, their short time partners wanted self – gratification and sex perversism with another new short time partners. The venue may be in agreed place like hotel, motel, rental house or boarding houses. The mode of payment may be through pimps or procurer less. Few among them or direct from the female perpetrator, enlisting sex worker may be through pimps, procurer less or direct to the sex perpetrators.

Objectives of the study: This study aimed to determine the different lifestyles, experiences of the respondents, the causes, modus operandi, transaction, performances, and effects of relationships of the respondents.

Framework: Prostitution is known to be immoral act of the perpetrator however it is viewed as the oldest profession in the world. Citing etymology prostitution existed as early as 18th century BCE, yet at present still exists. At present, prostitution in other country still exists however they are regulated, and should not be tolerated. There were three types of prostitutes. The first two, sex slaves called pornai in Greek and freeborn prostitutes who worked the streets, could be either male or female. The third class included only females. These educated prostitute-entertainers, called hetaera in Greek, were some of the wealthiest women in ancient Greece. State-sanction brothels included mainly inexpensive pornai, so that all men, despite income level, could afford to have sex. As Christianity came about prostitution began to be seen as impure. In the 590s Christian Era (CE) Spain had laws punishing women who sold sexual favors by whipping them 300 times and forced them into exile. The men who exploited these women for their 'goods' were never punished. During medieval times, prostitution was so common in large cities that it was hard for kings and queens to outlaw it completely, instead it was heavily regulated. In England, single women could only be prostitutes in brothels were inspected weekly. In the 1300-1400s in Italy, prostitution was seen as an integral part of life and many state-sponsored brothels were in operation. In the early 1800s in France, a government agency called the Bureau of Morals was created to inspect brothels to be sure that no other criminal activities were taking place. In India, laws have restricted legal prostitution to specific areas in large cities. In 1971, Nevada passed a law allowing its countries to decide to criminalize prostitution. Of the 17 countries, 11 have legalized prostitution. In 1999,

Sweden, calling prostitution a crime against women outlawed the buying of sex while still allowing the selling of sex³. Prostitution and the sex trade flourish in South Korea just under the country's shiny surface. Despite its illegality, prostitution and the sex trade is so huge that the government once admitted it accounts for as much as 4 per cent of South Korea's annual gross domestic product -- about the size of the fishing and agriculture industries combined. South Koreans are the biggest customers of the child sex industry in the region," Seoul, South Korea's largest city, prostitution is widespread and peculiarly civilized -- and a central component of the local business culture. "The majority of top-end -- that is, rich -- businessmen in Seoul are more familiar with sex-industry culture than in a number of other countries," Park wrote. "Sex and power are closely linked in this city. Prostitution as a way of life continued in one form or another over the centuries, including during Japan's occupation of Korea in the first half of the 20th century. In the 21st century, another source of prostitution comes from South Korea's impoverished northern neighbour⁴.

Prostitution has continuously been seen as a social problem and there is the need to have better informed policies to address social problems associated with prostitution. Luiz and Roets⁵ describes prostitution as perplexing, the world's oldest profession, that little is actually understood and supported by concrete research, an area clouded in myth, extreme prejudice and pietistic hypocrisy. Prostitutes in these African countries are studied from the prostitutes' own definition of their situation; the prostitutes are able to discuss issues related to their existence in society despite the social stigma attached to prostitution, their motivation to become prostitutes and their experiences with the larger society, especially their clients. The prostitutes are able to discuss what makes it difficult for them to participate adequately in the prevention and control of sexually transmitted diseases and share information on their perceived role in this matter in society. Most importantly, the prostitutes are in a position to inform policies addressing prostitution based on the experiences of prostitutes⁶.

According to a report by the Consortium against Trafficking of Children and Women for Sexual Exploitation (Catch-Wise): The Catch-Wise report was presented during the international conference on sexual exploitations and it stated that the Philippines is not only the source of 60,000 to 100,000 children for prostitution, but it is now also a transit and destination country for internationally trafficked persons. Data provided by the International Labor Organization also showed that two to 14 percent of the gross domestic product of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand comes from sex tourism⁷.

The Philippines, like some other Southeast Asian countries, has an unfortunate reputation for prostitution and sex tourism. It's a huge industry domestically with an estimated 800,000 men, women and, sadly, children working in the trade. The country's international image as a sex destination was largely a result of the US military presence here during and after World War II

when "go go" or "girlie" bars flourished around the bases at Clark and Subic Bay.

While it's illegal to sell or procure sex, the trade still operates under the guise of entertainment: sex workers are employed as singers, dancers, waitresses or "guest relations officers" in clubs and bars where they are expected to leave with any client who pays a fee. Then there's what are euphemistically dubbed "freelancers", prostitutes that independently cruise bars looking for paying customers.

According to the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, some fifteen thousand Australian men a year visit Angeles, north of Manila, on sex tours; plenty of Americans, Brits and Europeans join them, while Koreans, Taiwanese and Chinese have developed their own networks, usually based on karaoke bars and restaurants. Manila, Cebu City, Subic Bay and Pasay City are also major sex destinations.

Methodology

The qualitative type of research through a case study approach was utilized. Survey questionnaire, interview, observations and focus group discussion were used to gather data. Information from other sources was verified and the reliability of the information gathered were verified and confirmed by the researcher. Utmost confidentiality was observed on the data gathered from the respondents. Prior consent from the respondents was sought before the conduct of the research.

The respondents: The respondents were ten selected "Little Darling of the Evening": Young Prostitutes that were chosen purposively and passed the criteria set by the researcher to wit: voluntary participation during the information gathering such as during the administration of the survey questionnaire, interview and focal group discussions. Not having more than 16 years of age, with pleasing personality, and engaged in prostitution for more than two years are their characteristics. Prior consent was established before the study was conducted.

Study Locale: The study locale was at Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija during the calendar year 2013-2014.

Procedure of analysis: Qualitative research method was utilized through case study, using purposive sampling. Tools used included questionnaires, interviews, focus group discussion and observations. Utmost confidentiality on the gathered information from the respondents was observed.

The respondents used pseudo name in the presentation of data. Other sources in gathering data included were their friends who were engaged in the same activity, pimps, by standers, their customers, old and prospective customers, their immediate members of their family and other concerned citizen in their community. Percentage and Weighted mean were utilized as a statistical tool.



Figure-1: Map of Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, Philippines

Results and discussion

Profile of the respondents: Ten (10) or 100 percent ranged from 14-16 years old and 9 or 90 percent reached high school level and 1 or 10 percent was high school graduate. Majority of the respondents were at their adolescent period of development. They showed tendency to have lapses of judgment, behaved unpredictably; emotions fluctuated and wanted to achieve personal independence.

The respondents were observed to look matured at a distance. They removed their make ups and acted naturally when they were not in their activity. During daytime they slept at their friend's house, hideouts or at their boarding house. Some of them were enrolled in high school but they dropped for some time.

Interviews revealed that they were curious of what they had gone into; they were not regretful as to why they were very young in the world of lust. They kept silent and put the blame to the government due to poverty.

During the focal group discussion, the respondents were asked about why they engaged in this kind of activity. They had common answers that they had wanted to experience sex, to have money anytime, and to experience self-gratification, and as revenge from their parents.

Lifestyles: Physiological Aspects: "Strongly Agree" was the answer from these statements, "Walk seductively", WM=4.8. "Wearing short skirt", WM=4.4. "Wearing sleeveless, using heavy makeup and applying lipstick", WM=4.3.

It shows that their lifestyles in preparing their alluring tricks were not similar to each other's; it varies depending on their interest.

They were observed to have a very good body figure, and beautiful faces. Body figure was their asset to attract customers.

Since the respondents are young their body language can allure their customers. During the interview when asked how their posture was maintained? Some of them said "If possible I would convince my partner to perform standing position", or "figure 69 so that the weight of my partner would not disturb me". Some preferred standing position or dog position so that they could not bear the weight of their partner.

In the focal group discussion revealed that their customers were satisfied looking at their body. Some said "because of my perfect body even without sex they were already satisfied".

Focal group discussion among their customers revealed that were their first time sex experience, were satisfied and longing to come back if they have money. Some feel enjoyed and satisfied from their sex experiences.

Social Aspects: "Strongly Agree" was the answer to the statements: "Have many vices such as drinking, smoking and using prohibited drugs", WM=4.5. "Mingling with same people with same preference and attended party to meet new friends, WM=4.0.

Majority of the respondents concealed their activity by socializing with other people, they had vices like drinking, smoking and using prohibited drugs and mingling with other people. These were their social activities.

As observed, they were sociable. They mingled and socialized with their peers and friends. They did smoke cigar rete, drink liquor and alcoholic beverage. Some admitted taking prohibited drugs but they were doing it secretly.

Interviews revealed that they were open for invitations in any occasions. They enjoyed joining socialization activity. They used pimps, gave pictures, and mobile phone numbers to their customers.

During the focal group discussion they said that socializing with different groups were welcome to them. They were open because they could look for new customers.

On causes of prostitution: Social / environmental factors: They strongly agreed that they were: "Influenced by friends who were already engaged in prostitution WM=4.4, "Broken family, MW= 4.3. "Encouraged by obscene and pornographic materials", WM=4.3 "Always outside at home late at night with friends in the business", WM=4.2, "Presence of beerhouses and night clubs in the community influenced them", WM=4.3.

Majority of the respondents were socially and environmentally disturbed by the different situations such as influenced by friends who were already engaged in prostitution, broken families, encouraged in obscenity and pornographic materials, always outside at home late at night with friends in the business, presence of beerhouses and night clubs in the community influenced them.

Interview exposed that they openly admitted that they were pleased, and enjoyed with what they were doing especially when money is the subject matter. They did not heed the advice of their parents, relatives, and other members of their family. They enjoyed sex activity and could get easy money from their customers. They wanted sex activity at clean lodging house.

As observed, the respondents were aloof to mingle with other members in the community, were ashamed to face their peers and relatives, and were bullied by the bystanders.

Focal group discussions bared that they were not bothered being the talked of the town, unfamiliar with their peers and they just kept silent when bullied and ridiculed. They admitted that they are open for any social activities.

On financial Aspect: “Strongly Agree” was their answers on the following statements: “My family is very poor”, WM=4.4, “I want to help them”, WM=4.4, “I want to buy things that I want” WM= 4.4 “I don’t have any job”, WM=4.3, “I know that prostitution gives me easy money” WM=4.3 and “I enter prostitution because I want to support my studies” WM=4.2.

Majority of the respondents were financially handicapped, poor and wanted them to support their parents and younger siblings. Poverty and self-exploration were their reasons for entering the short time money making activity.

Interview uncovered that they wanted instant money to buy personal belongings they needed. They admitted that they engaged sex with their selected customers to make them satisfied and gratified. They needed money to support their studies and personal needs. They knew their activities as immoral but they could not stop because they needed money.

Observation among the respondents revealed that whenever they have money they buy unnecessary personal belongings, and accessories. Sometimes they buy excessive foods. They pay their boarding house rental on time. They are extravagant.

During focal group discussion the respondents when asked on money matters they revealed that some of their earned money was just enough for themselves, other said that they gave some earning to their parents and younger siblings. Some said they kept them in their wallet. Some said they used for 5-6 or usurious investment.

Psychological aspects: “Strongly Agree” was the answer to these statements: “Feeling of hopelessness in life” WM=4.6. “Curiosity in having sexual intercourse” WM=4.5. “Having broken relationship with boyfriend” WM= 4.4. “Victim of sexual abuse” WM=4.3. “Agree was the answer on the statement: “Rebellious against their parents” WM=4.0.

Majority of the respondents reasoned out that they were psychologically affected having a feeling of hopelessness in life, curious in sexual activities, broken relationship with their

boyfriends and sexually abused that is why they explored flesh trading activity. They perceived that they have no more brighter future.

During the interview when asked if they were bullied by their peers, friends and their adversaries they answered that they were not disturbed but deep in their heart and in their mind they were severely affected, they just keep silent whatever comment they heard and received.

During the focal group discussion when asked if they were bothered of what they were doing? Some of them somehow they repented, some were silent, and some smiled, some said they would return to their family if they are no longer interested in sex trading and return to normal life.

As observed, the respondents did not mind the bullying they received and experienced from any group such as adversaries, friends, peers and their relatives. Some said “I am crazy for what I am doing” I like it very much.”

On spiritual aspects: “Strongly Agree was the answer on these statements: “Feel that God abandoned them”, WM= 4.7. “I don’t attend mass”, WM=4.8. “Praying”, WM=4.8. And moderately agree were the statements. “Read bible” WM=3.0.and actively participated in religious activities” WM=3.0.

Majority of the respondents prayed to God, not hearing mass and they feel God abandoned them. Some read bible, and participated in religious activities.

During the interview when asked if they have faith in God. All of them said they do have fear and believe in God, however they do not have time to attend mass and they do not like to be exposed to the public for they don’t want to be bullied or ridiculed.

During the focal group discussion they admitted that during Sunday morning, they seldom get up early to attend mass because they were asleep, were sleepless during Saturday night because they had customers, they also confided that they do not actively participated in religious activities.

As observed they were drowsy and weak. They looked sleepy and moody.

Effects of relationships: Family relationship: “Strongly Agree” was the answer to these statements; “My family does not trust me anymore”, WM=4.8. “Their brothers and sisters were ashamed on the job they were in”, WM=4.7. “My family is avoiding me”, WM=4.4. Not able to see my family regularly because I go home late at night”, WM=4.3 and “my family quarrel me”, WM=4.3.

Majority of the respondents are no longer trusted by their immediate family members, they are being avoided and get mad at them, and quarreled by the rest of the family members.

During the interview with their family it was known that some considered them that they were no longer part of their family because they besmirched their family reputations. They were no longer accepted by the family and did not trust them.

When the researcher visited the family and relatives, observations revealed that the respondents were abandoned their family and no longer give the necessary admiration to them and they were treated unfavorably.

Focal group discussion summed up that most of them admitted that they also abandoned their family to enjoy and satisfy their personal gratifications. Some repented and that later they would return to normal life to continue their studies and have family of their own.

Relationship with their friends: “Strongly Agree” was obtained from the statements. “My friends do not trust me anymore”, WM=4.7 “I have limited time with my friends” WM=4.7, “My friends are avoiding me”, WM=4.7, “I lost my friends since they discovered my activities”, WM=4.6, and “my foe are humiliating me because of the nature of my work”, WM=4.5.

Majority of the respondents were no longer trusted by their close friends, had limited friends, avoided by their friends and humiliated by their foes. Their close friends did not like to talk with them any longer.

During the interview, their close friends could not help but they just gave comforting words that soon their mind would change and return back to normal life.

During the focal group discussion it was noticed that respondent’s friends had contentious and convinced their friends to ask forgiveness from God, parents, friends, relatives and from any person whom they had sinned.

As observed, their friends evaded and neglected them.

Relationship with the community: “Strongly Agree” was obtained from the statements. “I am always a center of attraction”, WM=4.7, “they avoid me”, WM=4.5, “some of the community members are trying to have sex with me”, WM= 4.4 and “the residents humiliates me”, WM=4.4, “they neglect me when I am visiting their home”, WM=4.3.

Majority of the respondents observed that they were the center of ridicule in the community; the community members, avoided them, bystanders incited to have sex, humiliated and neglected by the residents.

Interview results from the community revealed that the respondents had a very low self-esteem, ridiculed by the residents, criticized, and bullied instead of being given special attention to reform.

Focal group discussion revealed that they did not want the activities of the respondents. They were bullied, humiliated and disregarded. The rest of the community did not mind what they were doing.

As observed, the respondents were taken for granted in the community. They were bullied, humiliated and even ridiculed.

Modus operandi to attract customers: “Strongly Agree” was the answer to the statements: “Am wearing short skirt”, WM=4.8 and “I give my number to be able them to contact me”, WM=4.8, “I am directly asking them if they want to have sex with me”, WM=4.7 and “I used pimp “bugaw”, WM=4.7 and “I give them a wink”, WM=4.4.

Majority of the respondents had some ways to allure or seduce their customers by wearing short skirts, passing cell phone number to their customer, using pimps to look for their customer and winking to their prospective customers. As disclosed during the interview, a first timer customer said “was convinced by their smile and winked of their eyes. Other customer said “was convinced when they said we’d have sex”, the other customer said “I get attracted when she showed her breast and smiled at me. Their modus operandi is very effective.

During the focal group discussion respondents had their stories how they convinced their customers; most of them said that their breasts were their assets, some said their beautiful bodies, while others used pimps, and gave their cell phone number to convince them to do sexual acts.

As observed both the respondents and customers had common understanding.

Transactions with their customers: “Strongly Agree” was the answer to these statements: “They will pay me first before I go with them”, WM=4.9, “I don’t perform if they do not pay me first”, WM=4.8, “I offer them low prices amounting to P 500 per session”, WM=4.7, “I am offering them 3 hours of full satisfaction”, WM=4.5, and “I let them to be in the hotel first then I will follow in the room”, WM=4.5.

Majority of the respondents had varied styles of transactions in dealing with their customers such as demanding payment first before they have sex. They would not perform until they were paid, demanding a minimum of five hundred pesos (P500.00) per session, after both parties agreed on the meeting place. Interview revealed that asking payment first before doing sexual activities were their demand.

During the surveillance with the different respondents their styles and reactions on how they convinced their customers varied, it was noticed and observed that they had different styles in wearing clothes and accessories, and body language in the place and where they could display their alluring stance.

Sometimes they were victims of customers running away after sexual intercourse.

From the focal group discussion both the respondents and customers were amenable of what they agreed upon. The respondents demanded payment first before sex which the customer heeded on the request especially when they were new customers.

It was observed that meeting of the mind is necessary. Signed language was noticed between them.

Performance made by the respondents: “Strongly Agree” was the answer to these statements: “I let them do whatever they want in my body”, WM=4.9, “I make sure that they will be satisfied with my body”, WM=4.9, “I let them kiss, romance, caress and hug me”, WM=4.6, “I let them perform different styles”, WM=4.5 and “I prefer to have “blow job with them”, WM=4.4.

Majority of the respondents wanted that their customers be satisfied at all cost. Kissing, romancing, caressing, hugging and the like are normal activities of the respondents to their customers. They perform many styles as their customer demands with appropriate payment of their services.

As observed both were satisfied, and during the focal group discussion they revealed everything and enjoyed the discussion.

Conclusion

The respondent were financially handicapped, abandoned their families and victims of broken families. Vengeance for their families, self-exploration, self-gratifications and curious in sexual activities. Having a broken relationship with their boyfriends and have been a victims of sexual abuse. They feel hopelessness in their life. They were being avoided by their families, neighbors and friends. They were bullied, criticized, humiliated, neglected and ridiculed.

Recommendation: The Local Government Unit should regulate the young prostitution in the city with full force of the law. It should also Enforce Section 5, Article 202, Revised Penal Code of the Philippines and Article 341, Revised Penal Code. The law enforcing agencies like Philippine National Police, should implement, accost the street prostitutes and turn over to the Department of Social Welfare and development. In return they would take custody monitor, restrict, and educate the young

prostitute. Young prostitutes should be educated enough on the pros and cons of what they were doing. Finally, they should be given a better livelihood program for their future. Department of Social Welfare and Development should take custody of the respondents. Agencies concerned should use their police power to curve out or minimize the existing social problems.

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