

## **CHAPTER: 5**

# **MAJOR FINDINGS, DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The research study on post evacuation status of sex workers in Surat is a manoeuvre which intends to identify the overall framework of legislation, policies, societal notions and types, views, causes and ways of sex work after the evacuation. Evacuation of sex workers from their more than 200 years old sex market has given rise to the said topic of study. The red-light area of Surat was closed down by the city police in 2003 under the Immoral traffic (Prevention) Act, 1986. The hard and harsh step to abolish the sex trade has not been found successful. The sex trade has been flourishing in the whole city even after evacuation as the brothel based sex workers had started to work as street prostitutes make ends meet and survive as well as family members.

This research has focused on three major areas of the study which are;

1. Their current status after relocation.
2. The changes if any in the lifestyle of sex workers owing to evacuation
3. The changes if any in the business operations of sex workers due to evacuation
4. The changes if any in their relationship with other stakeholders because of evacuation

Listed below are the major findings of the said research covering all the three above indicated major areas with thorough discussion.

#### **MAJOR FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

##### **A. PERSONAL, DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS**

###### **Residence**

The study reveals that majority (72%) of respondents were residing at Chakla bazaar red-light area before evacuation while now majority of them (64.1%) are residing at Khajura wadi, behind Chakla bazaar after evacuation. The rest of them have also

shifted to nearby places not far from Chakla bazaar. Very few who were residing in the slums before evacuation have now shifted to the Gujarat government given houses after slum demolition which is far from the red-light area of Surat.

They have faced difficulty in searching houses on rent in Surat after Evacuation as they are sex workers. Somewhere they were afraid that they will be harassed by the neighbors when they will come to know their profession. The people of Khajura wadi which is behind Chakla bazaar were aware about their profession so they offered them houses on rent but the sex workers are paying high rent for a single room as compared to the rent for other places in Surat. Some of them moved to their native towns or have shifted to other sex market in India. Very few have left the profession after evacuation.

### **Age**

The study shows that the majority/ nearly half (45%) of the sex workers come under the age group of 35-45 years. Usually sex workers fall under the younger age group but in this study nearly half of them belonged to the age group of 35-45 years. The reason is that the study is on post evacuation status of sex workers in Surat and the evacuation had taken place before 13 years, when these respondents were younger.

### **Education**

The study indicates that the Majority (70%) of sex workers are illiterate. Usually in any research related to sex workers, it has mostly been found that sex workers belong to illiterate group in the context of education. In this study also majority of them belong to the said group.

### **Marital status**

The study shows that only 8% of sex workers are unmarried while the rest i.e. 92% of the respondents are at least once married. Their relationship status changes frequently. Here in the said study very few (8%) of the sex workers were found in unmarried category while 12.8% of them were found in the married category while the rest of them were found in more than one relationship status.

## **Caste**

The study has shown that a lot (41%) of them belong to general category across caste/class. The reason behind the above result is that majority of them have migrated from Maharashtra and South Indian regions and majority of them belong to upper caste family of their villages.

## **Native places**

The study indicates that majority (55.1%) of them belong to Maharashtra and Nepal (14.1%). The sex workers whose native is Gujarat are only 13.8%. The rest of them belong to the Andhra Pradesh, Kolkata, Karnataka and Orissa. The sex workers native to Gujarat is very low in number. While majority of them shifted from their native place to Gujarat. They were brought here by giving false promises or cheating of job/marriage by agents of their own villages and forcefully brought in the sex trade.

## **Linguistic knowledge**

The study indicates that majority of sex workers know Marathi (56%) followed by Nepali languages (14%). The reason behind knowing the above languages is that they themselves are migrants from Maharashtra and Nepal so they know these languages. Some of the sex workers have even learnt such languages from their colleague sex workers.

## **Regarding Civil Amenities**

Majority of them have Voting ID cards (86%), Adhar cards (72%) and Jan Dhan Bank Accounts (71%) but only few have Ration cards (44%). They could get Voting Cards and Adhar Cards and Jan Dhan Bank Accounts with the efforts of Sahyog Mahila Mandal (CBO- Community Based Organization). Ration cards were also given to the sex workers after the efforts of Sahyog but they were taken back saying that they are sex workers and have different state's residence.

## **Income**

The majority (69.4%) of respondents are earning less than Rs. 6000 per month. It indicates that majority belonged to poor class. Their income indicates that they may be feeding their children with very much pain in such low income. They accepted that they have been given training of sewing machine and soft toys making and phenyl

making but first two types of trading requires measurement skill which majority of them can't do as belong to illiterate category. They can make phenyl but it's not a product which has large market and if all will sell phenyl at Khajurawadi as majority of them have migrated there who will come to purchase phenyl and from whom he/she will purchase is also a question.

It is good to note that none of them fall below poverty line. It perhaps best explains WHY they take sex work as against being a farm/agriculture laborer, or a house maid in an urban area. Sex workers, though illiterate, are driven by a rational decision. Their priority is income and not a dignity or self respect/ status and rightly so, because dignity does not fill their stomach, sex work does!

### **Family background**

The study shows that majority of them belonged to joint family both in parental family (94%) and in matrimonial family (65 %.). The joint family system and poverty are the main reasons that they didn't move to their families and accepted the sex trade. Some of them were cheated and forced into this profession with false promises and giving jobs but their notion was only to earn for their family members as they belonged to the joint families.

The study has shown that nearly 60% of them were victim of child marriage. Marital mal- adjustment had forced them to land up in Surat and to indulge in such profession.

## **B. LIFE STYLE**

### **Daily routine**

The study implies that majority of the respondents (94.9%) felt that their life had been exactly the same each and every day before evacuation as they were working under the brothel keeper / Gharwali while majority (79.5%) of the respondents said that their life is constantly new and different each day after evacuation as they have started to work as street based sex workers. The entire group except one said that they would never prefer to have a life or be born to a mother who works as a sex worker both pre and post evacuation.

### **Type of Housing**

The type of house has not changed after evacuation. Majority of them were residing in *Kachchha* house on rent or in brothel before evacuation. Even today majority of them are residing in *Kachchha* house on rent. They earned lots of money before evacuation but they were not entitled to have the whole of their income with them as they were working under Gharwali/Brothel Keeper so they couldn't manage to own a Home. Even today a majority share of their income gets contributed among Middle women/Agent that brings customers or rickshaw drivers or hotel manager so they can't manage to purchase the house even now.

### **Hours of leisure time**

The study indicates that the hours of leisure time has been increased after evacuation. This suggests that their working hours have changed due to evacuation. They have started to work at night as street based sex workers unlike day time's brothel based sex work earlier.

The hours of leisure time were spent in resting before evacuation which has now changed to social activity, visiting an NGO or watching TV. The whole day brothel based sex work did not give them the opportunity of leisure time so whenever they got a chance they took rest. Evacuation has changed the picture. Now they are free for whole day as they are working at night as street based sex workers. So they visit an NGO- Sahyog or watch TV or take rest during the day time. This is a positive finding.

### **Sense of ownership of life**

The study shows that majority (92%) of them now believe that they are in complete control of their life. The belief only pertains to their employment aspect and not other than that. Although their income is shared by touts/agents, the decision making authority rests with the respondent which enhances their confidence and sense of independence.

The study indicates that majority (88.5%) respondents said that their life was out of their hands and in control of external factors before evacuation in terms of

employment as they were working under brothel keeper/Gharwali. But majority (92.3%) of them now believe that their life is in their hands and they can control it in terms of employment after evacuation as they have started to work independently as street based sex workers. Majority of respondents said that they have been very responsible persons in their family both pre (76.9%) and post evacuation (87.2%).

### **Expense on food of choice**

The study indicates that before evacuation nearly half of the respondents were able to spend money on food of their liking and choice. Only about 12.8% respondents frequently felt the inability to spend money on the same. However post evacuation more than half (56.4%) respondents frequently feel that they cannot afford to spend money on desired food. 9% of respondents simply not able to spend money on desired food post evacuation on account of decreased income.

### **Religious belief and rituals followed**

The study reveals that majority of them belong to Hindu religion (62%) which is followed by Muslim religion (33%) and Jain Religion (3.8%). It is indicated through the study that their belief in God has not been changed after evacuation. They are found to be believing more in God than before. The reason behind it may be insecurity of work and earnings.

The research reveals that both Worshiping of God daily and visits to religious institutions has been increased by about 10% after evacuation. Earlier they could not worship God daily or visit religious institutions regularly as they were working under Gharwali/Brothel Keeper and they were bound to work under them and their time limits. The evacuation has attracted them to worship God for survival and for feeding their families.

The study suggests that visits to the religious institution have increased about 9% after evacuation. It is assumed that they couldn't get time before evacuation as they were working under Gharwali/brothel keeper and majority of them were residing in brothel only. But after evacuation they have their own home and their life is in their own control so that they can visit religious institution on special days after evacuation. It seems their freedom of mobility has increased.

The study focuses that observing fast on certain days has been increased about 20% after evacuation. They couldn't observe fast on certain days before evacuation as they require to sustain themselves to provide sex services to the clients. The sex services also required energy. The increase in observing fast suggests that they started to do it because of insecurity and uncertainty of their business after evacuation.

The study implies there is a very little increase (4.3%) in practicing sex trade on the day of observance of fasting. It is assumed that though they feel tired and hungry on the day of their fast, they have to continue their business to feed their family. The respondents replied that there is a scarcity of clients. Many times it happens that they don't get a single client not only for one day but for a whole week.

The study indicates that majority of respondents did not get any economic support from religious institution both pre and post evacuation. If all religions preach not to pursue such immoral trade, they should try to stop it with their actions by supporting sex workers to quit the sex trade and by supporting their children in education.

### **C. BUSINESS OPERATIONS**

The study indicates that the brothel based business has turned into street based business but sex work has not completely stopped.

#### **Business Places**

Majority (84.6%) of the sex workers were operating their business under Gharwali/Brothel Keeper at Variyavi Bazaar red-light area, Surat before evacuation. Whereas majority (80.5%) of them operates it independently as street based sex workers now and they have not left the profession. It is said that there are about 38 contact points to contact sex workers at night in Surat. They are Majura gate, Variyavi bazaar, Raja wadi, Ghastipura, Khajurawadi, Paliya Ground, Hodi bungalow, Ved road, Athawa gate, RTO office, Saiyadpura pumping, Saiyadpura Kansakiwad, Udhana railway station, Udhana Naher, Udhana Tran Rasta, Railway yard, Udhana Darwaja, Ratan chowk, Mithi khadi, Unn, Bhestan, Sachin, Mithi khadi, Nanavat, Sahpore, Chowkbazar, Gandhibaug, Pandesara, Nagsen Nagar, Karmayogi society,



Parvat patiya, Station road, Sumul Dairy road, Varachha khand bazaar gernalu, Big Bazar piplod, Puna Kumbhariya road, Aaspas and Godadara. Only 1.3% of them are operating as home based sex workers. They operate their business at Kosad Awas which was given to them by the Government after slum demolition in 2010.

The day time business has been converted into night time street based business after evacuation. As they have started to work as street based sex workers, they have to go out at night for business. This poses a threat to their safety.

### **Age of entry**

The study reveals that a lot (59.1%) of them entered into this business between the ages of 18-23 years while quite a few (24.4%) of them continued into this business between the age group of 28-43 years after evacuation. Their age has been found older as they were evacuated before 12 years.

### **Total years in sex trade**

The study suggests that majority (78.2%) of the sex workers had operated as brothel based sex workers for 1-12 years before evacuation while majority (75.6%) of them have been operating as street based sex workers for 9-12 years after evacuation. On an average they have experiences of both modes of trade almost for same number of years.

### **Reasons for adopting sex trade**

Majority (59%) of them had adopted the sex trade under compulsion/cheating before evacuation while majority (88.5%) of them are pursuing it voluntarily at present. The economic crisis has compelled them to continue the sex trade. Stigma and discrimination towards them have also been found as an obstacle in sex work. Lack of skill is also a constraint in shifting to another profession. They were habituated to live with certain standard of life before evacuation so to fulfill their habits they have to earn more which they can't earn in another profession.

The study indicates that nearly 60% of sex workers were tortured to accept this profession while no one has been tortured for the same after evacuation. The sex workers were brought into this trade with a false promise to give work/job before

evacuation while none is brought by cheating after evacuation. The cheated sex workers were tortured both physically and mentally to accept the flesh trade before evacuation which hasn't been the case post evacuation. Their continuation in trade is out of economic compulsion rather than physical force by third party.

The study states that 20% of the family members of the respondents are pursuing the same profession and most of them are belonging to parental family. It means that they adopted the profession in heredity and not due to any helplessness or other crisis.

### **Modes of operation**

The study says that majority (84.6%) of the sex workers were operating through brothel keeper before evacuation while they are now operating through phone (35.9%) or through auto rickshaw driver or through hotel manager (46.2%). The brothel keeper has now been replaced by the auto rickshaw driver and phone. Auto rickshaw drivers can earn through them because many of them are illiterate and don't know how to operate phone so they give money to the auto rickshaw drivers for using their services for searching customers.

The study emphasizes that majority (78%) of them have adopted this profession after marriage. The marital mal- adjustment has been found as a core reason for adopting this profession.

### **Distance travelled**

Majority (80.8%) of them had to go 1-3 km away for business before evacuation while almost (50%) of them have to go 4-10 km far away for business. The reason behind this is also evacuation. They have to wander at night for searching the customers at present. Sometimes they have to go more than 10 km away too. The travelling at night and the high fare for travelling at night are the major problems they are facing in their business.

### **Monthly Expenses for sustenance in the business**

The study indicates that majority (65.3%) of them were spending Rs. 100 to Rs. 300 in a month for travelling to and fro from their home to their business place before

evacuation. While majority of them (53.8%) are spending more than Rs. 1000 at present for the same.

The helplessness and dependence is exploited by auto rickshaw drivers so they take high charges. The work at night also compels them to pay high. Some of them have pre-booked auto rickshaw drivers. Some of them hire auto rickshaw on everyday basis. According to them, they pay Rs. 300 to the auto rickshaw driver for wandering here and there for customers for three hours from Railway station to Athwa gate and if they do not find customers within that time then also they have to pay Rs. 300 to auto rickshaw drivers. The provision of paying later or next day is also given by the auto-rickshaw drivers. It must be noted that the charges for auto are much higher during day time.

### **Earnings**

The study established that their monthly income has **decreased** from anywhere between Rs. 6000 - Rs. 10000 to Rs. 3000 - Rs. 6000 per month after evacuation. The reason behind the decrease in income are so many after evacuation.

1. They don't get clients daily.
2. The charges for sex services have increased after evacuation but payment to middle woman/rickshaw driver/hotel manager decreases their net income.
3. The sex workers are found to be abused by clients by not giving money after sex or they pay less than the committed amount.

The study has shown that they were getting more younger (31%) clients before evacuation and now they are getting older clients more(46%).Reason behind it is their old age and scarcity of clients both.

## **C.1 Clients/Customers**

### **Difficulty in finding Clients/Customers**

The study suggests that majority (96.2%) of them were not facing any difficulty in searching customers before evacuation while only 6.4% of them don't face any difficulty in searching customers. Brothel based sex work never made them worry about searching customers while the street based sex work has always made them

worry about the same. The scenario has totally changed as customers were contacting the sex workers before evacuation and now sex workers are running/contacting the customers after evacuation.

### **Number of Customers**

The study shows that sex workers were getting about 120 to 200 clients per month before evacuation which is decreased up to 40 to 60 clients per month (almost half).

Brothel/Gharwali based clientele system never made them helpless for searching clients before evacuation while they have always been found dependent on 3<sup>rd</sup> Party for business contacts/clients post evacuation. This is the only reason of getting fewer clients.

### **Approach of customers**

The study has revealed that the customers behave more rowdy after evacuation. Customers are newer and not the older ones. Protection of brothel keeper/ Gharwali has also not been there. Sex work at night in open places or Jungles, Garden, under bridges has given a chance to the customers to be rowdy. The type of customers has also changed. Thugs and Alcoholics wandering at night are found as their customers.

### **Class of customers**

The study shows that the class of clients has remained almost the same after evacuation. Most of them belong to middle class. Upper class people have had their own contacts for such activities both before evacuation and after evacuation while poor class people cannot afford such expenses for the sexual pleasure so the class of clients has remained the same both before and after evacuation.

### **Ethnicity of customers**

The study shows that migrated clients are more likely to be found visiting the sex workers both before and after Evacuation. Local Clients were found to access sex workers after evacuation which was near to nil before evacuation. Surat is the hub for both textile and diamond industries which draws single male migrants laborer to the city for jobs. They being single and living away from their wife and family visited CSWs (Commercial Sex Workers) for satisfying their sexual needs before evacuation. The contact points of sex workers in Surat at almost all major locations have

compelled the local clients to think for the same. The secret ways of serving has somewhere removed the phobia of local clients to be exposed in society for visiting sex workers so the local clients have also started to visit them which was not the case before.

### **Frequency of regular customers**

The study suggests that one client was visiting the same sex worker twice or thrice for sex service in a month pre evacuation which is now changed to only once in a month. The sex workers dispersed and disguised nature has decreased their regular customers and they have to search new customers always. The customers also don't find them with ease so they don't visit them much.

### **Per visit service charges**

The study indicates that majority (89.7%) of them accepted that they were getting Rs. 51-100 for sex services per client before evacuation after giving to the brothel keeper/Agent and now they (89.7%) are getting Rs. 101-150 for the same service after giving payment to rickshaw driver/hotel manager or phone bill payment. The income of sex workers has remained the same both before and after evacuation. It is really making them unhappy that they have to give half of their income to the Agents, police etc. to continue the profession.

### **Types of sex demanded by customers**

The study indicates that the oral and anal sex had rarely been demanded by the clients which had to be fulfilled before evacuation but after evacuation such services when demanded by clients are fulfilled by sex workers. The protection and threat of Gharwali/Brothel keeper was like a blessing for sex workers. They have to go into the jungles with clients for providing them sex. They have to please them under the bridge. The customers who ask for anal and oral sex services were charged more or even scolded by the Gharwali before evacuation but today they have to please them if they ask such services as they don't want to lose their customer. Sex workers think that if they please their customer, he may contact them again. Another reason is to be safe. Sex workers have threat of physical violence by customers if they don't serve them the services they demand. She is afraid as she has to go alone with customer far

away from the proper city or if she serves in city in garden or under bridge etc., she is afraid of being caught by the police. She provides certain services after evacuation.

### **Customer's caring approach**

The study suggests that majority (52.6%) of the respondents rarely cared when they were hurt by their customers' pre evacuation while nearly 50% of them did feel bad after evacuation. Customers have been found more rowdy after evacuation as they know the helplessness of the respondents. They know that respondents don't have another choice except this work so they sometimes become annoying and violent.

### **Level of compromise in Safe sex practices**

The study reveals that the compromise in using safe sex practices is found almost same both Pre (47.4%) and Post evacuation (44.9%). Though they are aware about HIV/AIDS and how it spreads, they are found unable to deny sex without safe sex practice. The Roti is more important than the safety. To exist one has to compromise with one's own safety. Both safety from violence by customers and money are the main reasons to compromise safe sex practices after evacuation.

### **Optional/Additional source of income**

The study indicates that 24.4% of sex workers tried to look for socially acceptable mode of earning before evacuation which has increased up to 10% after evacuation. They tried to adopt socially acceptable profession but they did not succeed in the same. The work which they had started was that of maid servant, agricultural laborer, vendor, construction laborer, textile laborer etc. Earnings are found less in certain profession as compared to the sex trade.

The study indicates that 32.1% of them had tried to give up sex trade after evacuation. They had to leave it as they were afraid of working as street based sex workers after evacuation.

## **D. RESPONDENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER STAKE HOLDERS**

### **Relationship with spouse/partners**

The study suggests that majority (more than 50%) of the respondents have poor relationships with their husbands/partners. Although there seems a 2.6% decrease in the poor relationship status post evacuation, it doesn't mean that their husbands have started to behave cordial or fair with them, rather they didn't want to respond more on the said question. It can be assumed that the money matters are also pivotal in these relationships. Evacuation has decreased the income of the respondents which has in turn decreased the warmth in relationship with husbands/partner too. About 15% increase in indifferent and poor behavior by the parents towards respondents has also been observed post evacuation.

### **Frequency of visits to/by parental and matrimonial family**

The research shows that visit to parental/ matrimonial homes has been decreased after evacuation. The decrease in income is found as the main reason for the same. Second reason is their exposure to their family members as sex workers due to evacuation which has also led to fewer visits to their both parental and matrimonial family members.

It is good to note that the visits of their parental/ matrimonial family members to their home have hardly been changed. Their family members both parental and matrimonial have not changed in terms of their visits to the sex workers home.

The study indicates that the number of visits by their parental family to their home has been found higher than their matrimonial family. They are visited by their parental family members more than their matrimonial family members. Majority of them have no relation with matrimonial families or majority of them have started their sex trade after being abandoned by their matrimonial families.

### **Contact through correspondence**

The study established that majority (more than 70%) of respondents have been in contact with their families through various modes of correspondence both before and after evacuation. There is near to no change in that. Effects of technology can also be seen here. They keep in touch now not just by personal visits but also through written correspondence (letters) and also through phones/cell phones. There is near to no change in invitations to parental/matrimonial family' ceremonies both pre (71.8%) and post evacuation (70.5%).

### **Awareness of parental/matrimonial family about Respondent's profession**

The study reveals that majority members of their parental family know about the respondent's profession while few members of their matrimonial family know about respondent's profession. It indicates that majority of them are having good relation with their parental family. Parents are after all parents. They can't live without their children while majority of them came into this trade after being rejected by their matrimonial family members.

The study says that very few (16.7%) of sex workers have themselves told about their profession to any of their family member. The poor family members may feel ashamed of them after hearing such fact or they may have a feeling of rejection from their families for pursuing such profession. It reveals that family is not the affecting factor to force sex workers in such profession.

### **Relationship with previous clients**

The study describes that about 90% of sex workers are not having any relation with their old clients. (Pre evacuation). It means that they have developed new clientele system. They are now not limited to old clients and old clients may not be contacting them. They may not have their address or workplace details etc. Or they may have found their own resources.

### **Relationship with concerned NGO**

The study has shown that majority of them have been registered in a CBO(Community Based Organization) namely Sahyog both before (76.9%) and after



evacuation (84.6%). Sahyog has been working in the locality called Variyavi Bazaar-red light area before 6 years of their evacuation. It is still working and they have accepted that Sahyog has helped them in any problem till date. Very few of them have been registered in health related NACO's project. They have been registered to seek help in the time of crisis.

## **E. DISCUSSION RELATED TO ISSUES FACED DURING AND AFTER EVACUATION**

### **Year of evacuation**

The study suggests that majority (87.2%) of respondents were evacuated in August 2003 as they were residing and serving in red-light area of Surat before evacuation, while only 5.1% of them were evacuated in 2010 as they were residing in Bapunagar slum area and they were evacuated during slum demolition programme for urban development. They were also working in Chakla Bazaar red-light area and also as street based sex workers.

### **Reason for evacuation**

The study indicates that majority (92.3%) of the respondents replied that they had been forcefully evacuated from the red-light areas of Surat. 92.3% of them accepted that they were given residential facility by government after evacuation. However they also shared that they did not accept the offer for bad quality of housing and long distance, from their business place.

### **Re-habitation provided after evacuation**

The study suggests that majority (89.7%) of them were given old residence at Sachin which is nearly 17 km away from Chakla Bazaar Surat. The respondents (2.6%) who were given residence at Kosad Awas were not residing in Chakla Bazaar and evacuated from Chakla Bazaar but they were residing at Bapunagar slum area and under the urban development programme. They had been evacuated from slums and given residence at Kosad Awas but they were working as a sex workers at red-light area of Surat.

The study suggests that all respondents did not shift to Sachin where they were given old residence to stay. Respondents said that it was far away place and neighbors of those areas opposed to their shifting there. The houses were also old and not suitable to stay even for a day. So all of them did not shift there and are not using that place at present.

#### **‘Agitation/Dharana’ for Residence**

The study states that majority (91%) of respondents has asked for residential facility at place near to Chakla Bazaar red light area but their plea was not heard by the Municipal Corporation. They sat on a Dharana continuously for 244 days at the collector office for the same but they were given only oral promises for the same. Even today after 12 years of evacuation, they have not been provided any residential facility. They had also given an application with the same request but no one knows what the status of that application on this day .

#### **Duration of ill effects post evacuation**

89.7% said that the evacuation has affected their life for the last 12 years as they were evacuated from Chakla Bazaar red-light area. 2.6 % of respondents said that evacuation has affected their life for last 5 years as they were evacuated from Bapunagar Slum area and were serving as sex workers at Chakla Bazaar. Majority (92.3%) of them haven’t been able to procure normal business yet.

#### **Types of adversities faced post evacuation**

The research has shown that majority (91%) of them accepted that the evacuation has affected their business adversely and they have not got normal business setting yet. Each person wants easy and stable income under one roof. No one wants to wander/ to go hither and thither everyday for earning money. A fixed monthly income is more important than the critical question of day today earnings.

#### **Affected areas of life**

The study indicates that majority (51.3%) of respondents said that the evacuation has affected three aspects of their life namely economic security, social acceptance and children’s education. They had to resettle their business and develop new clientele system after evacuation. They are not getting as much clients as they were getting

before. They were rejected by the new neighbors where they were shifted because of their history of sex workers. Their children couldn't get education because of the respondent's economic crisis.

### **Elements responsible for evacuation**

The research indicates that there were four elements which were found responsible for the evacuation of sex workers. They are the police, Municipal Corporation, government and the builders. Respondents said that the builders were pressurizing the government to close down the brothel based sex trade in Surat so that they could buy out the land and houses and government directed respective Municipal Corporation and Municipal Corporation ordered the police to close down brothel based red- light area in Surat. Researcher has found luxurious shops and high rise buildings in that area at present. No one can even believe today that there was a red light area at that place earlier.

### **Post evacuation visit to Chakla bazaar**

The study indicates that majority (89.7%) of respondents do not visit Chakla Bazaar red-light area after evacuation while only 2.6% of respondents visit Chakla Bazaar red light area even after evacuation for customers. There is no brothel based sex work still running in Chakla Bazaar red-light area but there are 38 contact point of sex workers for customers to visit these sex workers in Surat. (Please see the map in appendix for more details).

### **View about Chakla bazaar**

The research indicates that majority of respondents believe that Chakla Bazaar red light area was far better than this evacuation. They believe so as they are finding difficulty in searching customers as they have to work as street based sex workers at present.

## **G. HEALTH PROFILE**

### **Major sicknesses**

The study suggests that majority of the respondents did not have any major sickness in the last two years while 11.5% of them are found infected with HIV and AIDS in the last two years. All respondents replied that they take allopathic treatment in sickness. Only 9% of them take treatment from private hospitals; whereas the rest 91% of them take it from government health centers.

### **Awareness about HIV/AIDS**

The study reveals that awareness about HIV/AIDS is found a little higher after evacuation than before. Sahyog, an NGO and several other NGOs tried to aware them continuously about HIV/AIDS so they have knowledge of such diseases more after evacuation.

### **Regular health checkups**

The study implies that majority of the respondents have been going for regular health checkups both before (83.3%) and after evacuation (87.2%). Many (41%) of them have been tested before more than three months. They are regularly tested for HIV infections at the interval of every 6 months.

### **HIV/AIDS infections**

The study identifies that only 1.3% sex workers were infected with HIV/AIDS before evacuation while 20.5% of them have been found infected with HIV/AIDS after evacuation. It suggests that though they have more knowledge about HIV/AIDS, they are not using safety measure while providing sex services. They explained that they will have no customer if they insisted of doing so and there are sex workers in the market who provide sex services without using safety measure which is why the clients choose them as they are paying for the service. Unprotected sex is found as the main reason for being HIV positive.

### **Health facilities/outreach work**

The study reveals that availability of health facilities has been decreased by about 32% after evacuation. The sex workers were easily approaching health care facilities before evacuation as it was available in that area only. Now they have been dispersed from that area. Locality is still the same yet distance is more so they cannot approach it easily.

The study indicates that the health service providers/Outreach workers could easily approach them before evacuation as against today. Health service providers had to visit brothel keeper to approach the sex workers and in the name of the brothel keeper they could test and serve them. Today it is difficult to provide them health care services because of their hidden status. They can't find certain sex workers at the given address.

## **H. CHILDREN**

### **Involvement of Children**

Only 2% of the older children of the respondents helped them in business pre evacuation which increased to 5% after evacuation. They either work independently or served wine and eatables to customers.

### **Children's Awareness about Respondent's profession**

The study identifies that Majority of the children have come to know about their mother's profession after evacuation. Police raids, closure of brothels and compulsion to leave the houses have made their children aware about their mother's profession. One child became aware from the news in a local newspaper. He was made aware by the hostel authority about his mother's profession which left him extremely vulnerable.

### **Feeling of neglect in the children**

The study shows that most of the children of sex workers felt that their mother spent more time with them after evacuation. Mothers could spend more time with their children post evacuation as they are not working as brothel based sex workers at present but they are working as street based sex workers at night. Pre evacuation, they were working as brothel based sex workers in a day time so they couldn't spend more time with their children.

### **Status of relationship with the children**

The study indicates that the relationship with the children has not been affected due to evacuation. The bonding between the mother and child has remained the same after evacuation. Evacuation has not affected their love and care for each other.

### **Attitude of society in general**

The study indicates that the majority (52.6%) of the children of the respondents were accepted by the neighborhood people who were not in flesh trade before evacuation which has now decreased up to 32.1% after evacuation. Children have been ignored by neighbors after they have shifted to a new place post evacuation as they are the children of sex workers.

The behavior of the *Balwadi* teachers was also found nearly the same both before and after the evacuation. The indifferent behavior of the classmates of respondent's children has been increased by up to 11.5% after evacuation. Rejection by the classmates before evacuation was only 1 % which is found 17.9% after evacuation. Behavior of the play centers, government centers and NGOs is found mostly the same both before and after evacuation. Majority (48.7%) of the respondents accepted that their children are not treated fairly by the society as they are their children.

Before evacuation it was a major issue for the respondents where to make the children stay. Find out suitable spouse for marriage of children and job/occupation of children is found as major issue after evacuation. 19.2% of respondents wished to admit their children in a hostel where both stay and education of children is free of cost.

## **I. OCCUPATIONAL ADJUSTMENT**

### **Feeling Fed-up with sex trade**

The study indicates that nearly half of the respondents frequently feel that they are fed up with their profession after evacuation which was quiet rare before evacuation. They said that they are tired because they have to wander whole night on the street (79.5%) for clients. Some of them may stand at one contact point and others visit different places by an auto. They may or may not find customers sometimes. They also fear getting arrested by police if they get caught soliciting clients at public places. They have to provide sexual services on roads, in jungles and at any place where customers desire. They may also have to pay the room rents to hotel managers if they use hotels to provide sexual services. They are also worried about thugs. They feel that customers behave rowdily with them after evacuation. They are most worried about their safety against any kind of violence. So they feel tired. Before evacuation, they did not have to worry about customers or place for business or about police or *Gundas* etc. There is almost no change in working with people whom respondent dislike both before and after evacuation.

### **Respondents Feeling of frustration pertaining to sex trade**

The research shows that majority (80%) of sex workers feel fed up with their profession frequently after evacuation as compared to before but are unable to find better option.

The sex workers are found to be tired of working as street based sex workers. Staying awake whole night for customers and wandering hither and thither on street for customers with the threat of police has made them tired. They cannot adopt another profession as they are unable to find better option. Government has taught them to use sewing machine but they are illiterate and they can't do measurements. Government has also taught them to make acids/phenyls, decoration items but who will purchase it from them as they are sex workers?!. They all are living together or near to one another, so if all of them pursue the same profession which government has trained for them, to whom would the customer go to purchase certain things is also a big question. The training as per their caliber and skill should be given. All must not be

taught one skill but different types of skills must be taught to different individuals based upon their caliber or knowhow, and choice.

### **Satisfaction with earnings**

The study suggests that majority (64.1%) of respondents hardly feel that they earn enough out of their work after evacuation which was only 39.7% before evacuation. The reason behind it is that they have started to work as street based sex workers so they are finding difficulty in attracting and serving customers. They are earning much more than before but after deducting the share of agents, auto rickshaw drivers, hotel managers and police, not much is gained out of their total earnings.

### **Progress in sex trade**

(48.7%) of respondents hardly feel that they have progressed in the sex trade as they had desired before evacuation and still many (44.9%) of the respondents do not feel that they have progressed as desired even after evacuation. The brothel based business has been closed down by city police who has shattered all desires of the respondents to progress in sex trade after evacuation. Here, the progress is in term of their professional career growth. Usually a sex worker starts her business under brothel keeper. Later on, she becomes a senior sex worker under whom several other sex workers work and then she herself becomes a brothel keeper who sets up her own premises and many sex workers work under her.

## **J. STRESSORS**

### **Feel Lonely**

Respondents frequently feel lonely after evacuation. Their unity pre evacuation never made them feel that they were alone. Gharwali had always been found as the supporting character before evacuation. Now they all are depressed and working individually and independently thus making them feel lonely.

### **Feel depressed**

The study implies that more than half (51.3%) of the respondents were sometimes feeling depressed when they saw others having well settled families and relatives as they were deprived of it before evacuation and after evacuation still a lot of them



(46.2%) felt the same way quite frequently. They may feel so because their frequency of visits both to their parental and matrimonial family has decreased after evacuation.

### **Is aging a curse?**

The study indicates that a whole lot (59%) of sex workers feel that aging is the curse for their profession after evacuation which was the case with only 16.7% of sex workers before evacuation. Brothel based sex work assured at least one customer even to the aged sex worker but street based sex work has made them realize that aging is a curse and they can't find customers. They stand mostly together for appealing sex on the roads and customers prefer younger sex workers than the aged ones. It is assumed that they must be getting fewer customers after evacuation because of their increasing age.

### **Concerned for children**

The study suggests that quite a few respondents (33.3%) frequently got concerned about the future of their children before evacuation whereas lesser than (24.4%) of them hardly felt tensed for the future of their children after evacuation. Most of the children of the respondents have grown older and got married or earning after evacuation so the tension has been decreased after evacuation.

### **Insecurity**

The study suggests that many respondents (34.6%) sometimes felt insecure when they saw younger girls joining the flesh market whereas after evacuation, majority (55.2%) of them are constantly insecure before evacuation. As per the respondents view, the street based sex work has given a chance to young college girls to indulge in such profession to live luxurious life. The college girls who have indulged in such profession may not only be for money but also for sexual pleasure. Thus respondents feel insecure as it has increased competition and adversely affects their earnings and business.

## **K. PURPOSE IN LIFE**

### **Respondent's perception about life**

The above table indicates that majority (85.9%) of the respondents felt completely unenthusiastic about their life before evacuation which has now decreased up to 11.6% after evacuation. They felt more so before evacuation as they were mostly worried about their children and their growth which has been decreased after evacuation.

Majority (57.7%) of respondents believed that their life was without any meaning before evacuation whereas post evacuation 50% of the respondents feel that they have a meaningful and a purposeful life while 50% are still of the same belief as pre evacuation. Probably their increased business independence as against their compulsion to work in and through brothel has given them the spirit to struggle for survival which itself perhaps gives meaning to their life.

### **Respondent's goals in life**

The study indicates that majority (60.3%) of the respondents had no goals in their life before evacuation which has been decreased up to 7.5% after evacuation. Majority of respondents both pre (87.2%) and post evacuation (56.4) believed that they have not made any progress in achieving life goals. Evacuation and resettlement have shaken the confidence of sex workers and they felt that there is no point in dreaming about future. They will rather lead life as it comes.

## **L. ATTITUDE TOWARDS CUSTOMERS**

### **Opinion about customers**

The study suggests that a lot (57.7%) of respondents sometimes felt that their customers were good and gentle before evacuation which was found only 12.8% after evacuation. Majority (71.7%) of the respondents hardly feel that their customers are good and gentle after evacuation. This suggests that the customers attracted to this service are more self-centered and abusive or violent after evacuation than before. Some of the respondents even said that they have mostly faced group rape after

evacuation and customers pay less than they ought to, after evacuation. Respondents have also been sent back without payment. They have sometimes been hit by customers after serving them. Nuisance of *Gundas* wandering at night on street has also been found more.

The study establishes that a lot of respondents sometimes felt they their customers paid them less before evacuation while majority (61.5%) of them frequently feel that their customers pay them less than they ought to pay after evacuation. Respondents mostly go alone to provide sexual services to customers. Customers after having sex pay less and respondents can't say anything due to the fear of violence. Respondents said that in the past there were incidents in which customers left sex workers naked and did not give their clothes after sex when they argued for money. Three sex workers were brutally murdered due to the money matter and one of the sex workers was raped by 22 persons when she argued with the customers. It suggests that respondents are afraid of customers and they take whatever amount of money customers give without arguments.

The study suggests that a lot (53.8%) of the respondents sometimes felt that their customers never cared for their feelings before evacuation while majority (56.4%) of respondents have frequently felt that their customers never care about their feelings after evacuation. Respondents said that they expect not to be merely used sexually but to be pleased sexually but customers don't understand that feeling. They use them as they want since they pay them. Majority of the respondents hardly believed that their customers come to them not only for seeking sexual pleasure but also for emotional relief both before (71.8%) and after evacuation (43.6%).

The study implies that nearly half (47.4%) of the respondents sometimes believed that customers were responsible for giving respondents diseases like STD/AIDS before evacuation while the same percentage of respondents now strongly feel that they get STD/AIDS infections from their customers post evacuation. Respondents and research both says that HIV prevalence has increased after evacuation than before. Their belief that customers spread the STD infections has strengthened post evacuation.

The study indicates that half of the respondents only sometimes felt that they were independent because of their customers before evacuation. While near (48.7%) to half

of the respondents have hardly felt that they are self dependent because of their customers. They don't feel so after evacuation as they have to work as a servant or laborer after evacuation because of the closure of brothel based sex work. They cannot be dependent for their earning purely on account of sex services as in street based sex services they may or may not find customers. One of the positive outcomes of evacuation is that, the respondents don't need to rely upon this profession to feed themselves as well as their families. Respondents have realized that they can survive through other work source also post evacuation.

### **Reactions to customer's different approaches**

The study suggests that most of the respondents rarely felt angry and would like killing the Customers when they behaved rudely with them before evacuation while 34.6% of them have frequently felt the urge to kill their customers after evacuation. The respondents frequently feel so after evacuation as they have been harassed by the customers. They are not paid enough money. They have been gang raped. They have been forced to have sex without safety measures. They have been hit and talked to in abusive languages.

## **M. ATTITUDE TOWARDS POLICE AND LEGAL AUTHORITIES**

### **Police awareness about respondent's profession**

The study says that awareness of police about their profession has decreased only by about 9% after evacuation. The street based sex work has made police aware about their contact point and the brothel keeper/Gharwali who was giving installments to the police for their brothel based work is still giving installments to make her sex worker stand for customer at the different contact points. The way to operate the sex trade has changed but sex trade has not stopped completely.

### **Arrest from workplace**

The study indicates that not a single sex worker whom the researcher had interviewed was arrested at workplace by the police before evacuation while 35% of them have been arrested by police at workplace after evacuation. Police have to show numbers of

arrest of sex workers to the government so they do so and since some of the sex workers are not working under agent/middle women they are arrested by police.

### **Change in the level of police atrocities**

The study has shown that police atrocities of respondents at workplace were little before evacuation which has been increased up to 35% after evacuation. Though the sex trade still continues by paying the *hapta's* (illegal installments) to the police, policemen are succeeded to cheat the system by showing arrests of some the sex workers who are not paying hapta (illegal installments).

### **Availability of Police assistance**

The study shows that majority (75.6%) of respondents said that they had hardly been able to avail police help around them in their need before evacuation while a lot (59%) of them still say that they do not find policemen around them in need after evacuation. However it can be seen that availability of police has increased after evacuation. This is a positive result of evacuation. Police is found easily accessible near the respondents in times of need after evacuation as compared to before.

### **Effects of presence of police at/around the workplace**

Majority (57.7%) of respondents accepted that the presence of police at their work place hardly affected on their business before evacuation while 38.5% of the respondents said that presence of police at their work place / contact points has always adversely affected their business. They get less Clients when police is there in the public area where they contact clients. The result clearly gives the picture of police harassments. The sex workers who work under the middle women/agents are allowed to pursue the profession by the Police but the sex workers who work independently are afraid of the police and the customers are also afraid to contact sex workers if they find out that police is there in that area.

### **Demand of installments by the police**

The study implies that majority of respondents both before (60.3%) and after (41%) evacuation have frequently felt that policemen visit their areas to collect installments / bribes. It indicates that the sex trade is still running in Surat after 13 years of

evacuation because of police's installments.. Almost half of respondents both before (47.4%) and after evacuation (52.6%) had frequently felt that policemen sexually exploits them. Sex workers should serve policemen without charges to continue their business. Some of the respondents said that they have to send young and different girl every time to please policemen.

#### **Willingness of legal authorities to pay heed to respondent's issues**

The study indicates that majority (82.1%) of the respondents had hardly felt that the legal authorities never gave them an opportunity to be heard before evacuation while most of the respondents have rarely felt that legal authorities never give them a fair opportunity to be heard after evacuation. Respondents had more faith in legal authorities before than now.

#### **Respondent's opinion about corruption in the judicial system**

The study indicates that majority (83.3%) of the respondents had hardly felt that the court staff was corrupted before evacuation while half of the respondents have sometimes felt it after evacuation. It can be said that they may have faced police atrocities and court cases and may have given spent money to be relieved from legal procedures, post evacuation owing to the fact that then they had to work independently as street based sex workers. And hence do not think positive of the systems performance.

#### **Respondent's hope of getting justice**

The study implies that majority (73.1%) of the respondents had hardly felt that they could never hope for justice from law before evacuation while a lot (46.2%) of them have sometimes felt that they cannot hope for justice from law after evacuation. The faith and trust in the judicial system seems to have decreased after evacuation.

#### **Attitude of justices**

The study shows that majority (75.6%) of the respondents had frequently felt that the judges were mostly sympathetic to them pre evacuation as they understood respondents problems while 44.9% of the respondents have sometimes felt that the judges are sympathetic to them and understand their problems. The faith in judges has also been decreased after evacuation.

### **Incidents of Violence**

The study has shown that violence towards sex workers has increased from 33% to 82% post evacuation. The violence pre evacuation included violence by Gharwali/brothel keeper and rarely by clients while violence after evacuation suggests violence by customers after satisfying their sexual needs for not making payment or to make less payment or to do group sex.

### **Incidents of rape**

The study reveals that the rape of sex workers and group sex/group rape has been increased after evacuation. The sex workers are contacted at their contact points by the interested client at a pre decided charge for the service. Customers bring them to their home/ preferred places for the same. If she is promised to have sex with one or two persons, she may have to satisfy more than the decided person. They face such cheatings every day but they can't oppose. If they oppose, they may be murdered. They said rape is mostly done by the clients and not by others.

### **Respondent's concern for their safety**

The study indicates that majority of the respondents were never worried about their safety when they were working under the Brothel keeper/Gharwali before evacuation as they were protected by the Brothel keeper/Gharwali whereas 78.2% of them sometimes feel safe and sometimes do not feel safe post evacuation as they have lost the support of brothel keepers. The reason behind it is their street based sex work at night. They have to go with the clients where they say. Usually they are brought to remote / jungle areas and are raped and hit and even abused by the customers.

## **N. FUTURE ASPIRATION**

### **Respondent's concerns pertaining to residential issues**

The study suggests that the concerns of sex workers for residence remained the same even after evacuation. They did not have their own houses both before evacuation and after evacuation. They found it more difficult to get a house on rent after evacuation. They are being charged more rent for occupying a house as compared to before as the owners of the properties know that they will not get a house at other places.

### **Increase in the concern due to loss of work**

The study implies that the sex workers are found more worried about the loss of work than before. A large number (54%) of sex workers are found worried about loss of work as they are now aged and working as street based sex workers. Customers usually select younger sex workers against them when they stand together to sell their sex services. In Brothel based sex trade, they found at least one customer in a day in spite of their older age.

### **Ratio of respondents willing to quit flesh trade**

The study shows that 66.7% of sex workers denied leaving flesh trade. Their habits and their easy money spending patterns prevent them to change the profession. They cannot afford expenses of Gutkha, Alcohol etc. every day if they leave such trade. On the other hand they are not skillful people who can get work and if they can get work there is no guarantee that they can continue that work. They may get dismissed when their employer will come to know about their previous profession. Their drawback in learning other work is their illiteracy. They have to do laborious work if they leave this profession and again who guarantees that they will not be exploited sexually there since the tag of being a sex worker still remains.

## **CONCLUSION**

Evacuation of sex workers has created number of problems. It has not stopped the sex trade in Surat rather it has become worse. Earlier there was only one red-light area in Surat before evacuation, while now there are almost 38 mini red light areas spread across Surat. The assumption that evacuation will lead to stopping of sex trade has proven wrong and it has only led to further spreading in Surat.

The sex workers were located at one place only before evacuation. It was out of bounds for most young girls during the pre evacuation period. Now many high school and college girls also take up sex trade for pleasure and for luxurious life as they sex trade is in many more places around the city. The evacuation has increased the number of sex workers rather than decreasing it.



The problems of sex workers have increased. They have to go for sex services at night in open/jungle area with a threat that they may not return back to their homes safely. **Their safety is the biggest issue at present** which has been pointed out through the case studies.

Sex workers now have to pay high rent for their houses as they are sex workers. They are not allowed to stay in certain localities. If they want to stay close to areas where they can get better business they have to pay much higher rents.

The sex workers now find themselves in a bind as the residence issues cause hurdles to their profession but they need to earn money to feed themselves and their families. There are few real choices available to them to leave the profession. Vocational training was provided in sewing, phenyl making, and soft toys making. However the skills taught are of very low order and cannot offer them adequate earning to sustain themselves. Moreover there are no market linkages that are provided. Mere vocational training is adequate to help sex workers take up alternative sources of livelihood. Their poor educational status is another barrier to acquire better paying vocational skills.

Earlier when they were all staying together, they were able to help one another in any problem and provide mutual support in times of difficulty. They could be united against harassment by customers and they point out that rape by customers was not heard of the pre evacuation period. But now they have become vulnerable and face threats of rape and violence.

Sex workers themselves indicate several demands and needs such as having a red – light area back within in 20 km of Surat city. They do not want to compel their children into this trade and believe that education is the only way out for their children. For this government must provide child care facilities like *Anganwadis*, free and accessible education and job preference for their children. Only when these services are provided together and consistently will it demonstrate that government is genuinely thinking of their welfare.

## **SUGGESTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

The sex work is one of the oldest social problems. It is not limited to any segment of the system one but it requires attention of almost all segments. It is not only the responsibility of the government to do something but it requires our attention too. Any evacuation violates the fundamental human rights of the concerned people. After completing 12 years of evacuation, sex workers have not been rehabilitated yet. Giving vocational training for once doesn't fulfill the responsibility of the government. They must have been given proper attention. The suggestions depicted below will have to be taken into account by various stakeholders for bringing about positive changes for resolving the problems of sex workers after evacuation.

The suggestions and recommendations therefore have been made for the following categories of stakeholders for dealing with the issue of sex workers.

1. Society
2. Police
3. Government
4. Civil Society : Human Rights Commission, Criminal Justice Department, Media

### **1. SOCIETY**

Society should treat respondents with dignity and not marginalize. Evacuation has made them realize that society will never accept them as their members so they rather continue to do what they are doing already.

### **2. POLICE**

The most significant problem faced by the sex workers is related to the police harassment and detention. The amendments instead of recognizing and addressing the issues of arbitrary police raids, seizure of money and material belongings, physical assault, torture and rape and other human rights violation of sex workers by police personnel, propose the lowering of the rank of the special police officer dealing with such offences from inspector to sub-inspector. This is likely to worsen the situation,

resulting in greater abuse of powers by the police. Instead, the focus should have been on increasing police accountability to ensure that sex workers rights are guaranteed.

## **VIGILANCE**

The sex workers deserve the same safety and protection as any other citizen. Protection of their human rights must be taken care by police vigilance . Police should not exploit their vulnerability by asking for bribe/protection. Sex workers should be provided safety and support from anti social elements and violent customers.

## **3. GOVERNMENT**

Although the amendments have recognized the inherent procedural flaws and delays in the legal process and delivery of justice, the steps taken to modify the same are grossly inadequate. It is now made mandatory for the state government to consult a non-official advisory body consisting of five leading social welfare workers of that area on questions of general importance regarding working of the ITPA Act. However, the composition criteria and membership procedures of the non-official advisory board or the areas of consultation are not specified. It is essential that membership of the board be carried out through transparent democratic procedure, and selection of social workers should be on rotation basis.

A clear definition of sex worker is required. Who can be punished and who cannot be must be clarified. Legalization and/or regulation of sex trade and issuing license to them is a need of today's sex workers so that they can pursue their profession without the threat of Police and middle women. The national centre for sex workers should be developed by government and their data base should be maintained. There should be national, state level and local level committees of Government to help sex workers for any problem. One nodal officer to help sex worker should be there in every district.

Government should try to analyze who want to pursue the sex trade and who doesn't wish to pursue the sex trade. On that basis, government should provide residence and vocational training to sex workers. Here it should be noted that all sex workers should not be given the same vocational training but they must be given it as per their interest

of work. Government should get into collaborations with different training institutes to give them vocational training. It should be taken into consideration that they can earn enough to feed their family members after training. The work should also be given by government so the issue of their sex worker history will not become an obstacle. (Specific department wise suggestion for the government as on page no. 271-273)

#### **4. CIVIL SOCIETY**

Education department should take care of the education of the children of sex workers free of cost from junior kg to the higher studies.

Health service providers including should make them aware of HIV/AIDS and should counsel them not to do sex without safe sex measures. They should take regular follow-ups and HIV testing must be done for all of them every 6 months. If any of them is found positive then they must be sent to ART (Anti retroviral Therapy) centre immediately. Health service providers should not be biased about them as they are sex workers. Now that it is known that there are 38 identified areas where sex work is practiced, Outreach work both preventive and curative should be taken up by health care givers.

Social welfare and Social justice department should try to identify and understand their problems regularly as their problems may change from time to time. Social welfare department should try to make them independent and strengthen their vocational skills so that they can earn for themselves.

Labor welfare department should try to tie up with sex workers organization and they and their children should be given jobs/works at utmost priority. They and their children should also be given opportunities if they really wish to bring them out from this profession.

#### **HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Any sex worker is after all a human. Her fundamental human rights must be taken care of. There must be personnel in each district where she can complain for violation

of her human rights. Free legal aid should be provided to her as she belongs to economically poor class.

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT:**

The trust on judiciary system and law enforcement authority has been found less than before. Judiciary system should be helpful to them in the context of the cases against them. Courts must complete their cases fast or it should be run in fast track courts. The punishment should be given to those clients who harass them sexually and who rape them. 24\*7 hours complaint centre should be run by police to reach up to their problems.

### **MEDIA:**

Media must provide a platform which can sensitize the society to accept the sex workers and not to discriminate against them. Media can bring many positive changes if it really wants to bring. Helpline for sex workers, programme on sexual and reproductive health can be telecasted by media personnel.

Media should highlight the human right violation of sex workers, incidents of rape/gang rape so as to create public opinion which compels government to take quick measures to protect these marginalized women.

The researcher would like to offer some suggestions and recommendations which are both short terms and long term.

A dedicated team of government officials must have regular monthly meetings with the sex workers in at least two areas to identify problems and work out solutions. This will create a sense of safety and offer support on a continuous basis.

Government should appoint a counselor linked with the Women and child Department at district level to help sex workers. Such a counselor can provide linkages to the Police cell and legal aid cell. The counselor must be a paid employee of the government. In addition the government could appeal to dedicated lawyers of the

concerned city and at Taluka and District level to impart honorary services for cases of sex workers.

Government should draw up a plan with the active involvement of the NGO working on sex workers to provide long term support in multiple areas.

Government should provide them housing facility either at lowest cost in schemes like Mukhyamanti Awas Yojana, etc or should provide them rental homes at cheapest price. They can be given the one room home with a condition of not to pursue sex trade there.

Government must facilitate them in such a way that they cannot bring their next generation into flesh trade. For instance government/non government organizations should take initiative to admit the children of sex workers in residential schools and educate them at least up to secondary level at free of cost. The residential school should be in nearby locality of the sex worker's residence so she can meet her child at least once in a week.

Help line services like 108/Abhayam (181) should be launched for the rescue of sex workers. Whenever they are in trouble, they can contact on the decided toll free number so that their safety can be ensured. Police and the counselors of 181 should be sensitized about the special needs of sex workers and that they should not be judgmental towards them. And that sex workers must be made aware that they can use the 181 helpline. Elderly sex workers must be given pension separately per month so that they are not compelled to become agents of sex workers.

The government can also open day/night care centers attached to Aanganwadis/Government Protection Homes for Women (*Nari Sanrakshan Gruh*) /Government '*Shishugruh*' for the children of not only sex workers, but for all poor working women whose children need day care while parents are away.

## SUGGESTED SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTIONSIN POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES OF GOVERNMENT

Sr. No.	Government Department	Suggestions / Recommendations
1	<b>GOI</b> <b>(Women and Child Development Department)</b>	1. It is noticed that the inflow of sex workers in Surat sex market is from Maharashtra and Nepal. It is time for Gujarat Government to identify the specific poverty stuck regions and correspond with their respective state government to take steps to prevent entry of women in to sex work by activating anti trafficking police units and strict vigilance on traffickers. Central Government should provide a platform for inter-state, inter-country discussion.
2	<b>State Government</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The state government of concerned regions must observe caution and prepared to take actions so as to prevent the entry of needy women into sex trade.</li> <li>2. Any awareness programme / intervention if conducted in Hindi language would click better with this population.</li> <li>3. Not only skill should be taught but government should facilitate.</li> <li>4. Government should try to offer different types of training to different respondents. Only one type of training to all may not be helpful to them. Not only skill should be taught but government should facilitate contact with certain companies to give them work continuously.</li> <li>5. Their children must be given free higher education so that they will not come in this profession.</li> <li>6. The government should support the sex workers who want to quit sex trade by giving them vocational training which will enable them to earn a monthly income equivalent their current earnings. Government should draw and sign up contracts with concerned industries so as to provide fair employment to those sex workers who have received vocational training.</li> <li>7. The sex workers who don't want to leave the flesh trade must be assured health, safety and human rights protection.</li> </ol>
3	<b>GOG</b> <b>Home Department</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Exploitation by police and illegal collection of 'protection money' from sex workers should be strictly discouraged and be made punishable.</li> <li>2. A socio-legal survey at regular intervals by Home/ MOSJE departments to monitor safety and wellbeing of sex workers and their children.</li> <li>3. Sex workers can be applied ITPA Act, 1986 and punished, if found breaking law but must also protect human</li> </ol>

		<p>rights of sex workers while dealing with them.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Safety of sex workers must be ensured by the state government.</li> <li>5. Schemes like Abhayam should be launched for the safety of sex workers</li> <li>6. Mobile literacy programme for sex workers should be organized by the government.</li> </ol>
4	<p><b>MOSJE/GOG</b></p> <p><b>Social Defense department</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Considering their vulnerability as women, as aged women and their helplessness, they deserve social security like old age pension schemes so that they are not forced to earn through illegal manner.</li> <li>2. Sexual exploitation of sex workers should be discouraged and be made punishable.</li> <li>3. Women rescued from traffickers or wanting to quit sex work should find shelter and support at least during first six months to one year.</li> <li>4. A socio-legal survey at regular intervals should be conducted by Home/MOSJE department to monitor safety and wellbeing of sex workers and their children.</li> </ol>
5	<p><b>GOG</b></p> <p><b>Department of Education</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sex workers children should have free education at least up to secondary school level preferably in residential schools. Career Guidance and counseling service at community/school.</li> <li>2. Irrespective of legitimacy of a child, all children should be admitted.</li> <li>3. Residential schools/hostels for single/vulnerable mother's children should be provided.</li> <li>4. It is found that most sex workers are illiterate and hence are compelled to take sex trade.</li> </ol>
6	<p><b>GOG</b></p> <p><b>Women and Child development department</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The needs of sex worker's children can be supported by the sponsorship scheme under the ICPS Scheme.</li> <li>2. The biological- parental families of survivors of domestic violence should be counseled and convinced if required so that destitute and deserted women are not forced for sex work.</li> <li>3. Vocational training for skills of respondent's choice which have a ready market-links should be imparted.</li> <li>4. Sexual exploitation of sex workers should be discouraged and be made punishable.</li> <li>5. Close tracking of cases of domestic violence, guidance to survivors of domestic violence is essential so that unhappy marriages/separation/widowhood do not end up in compulsion to take flesh trade.</li> </ol>
7	<p><b>Legal Department</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The biological- parental families of survivors of domestic violence should be legally compelled to provide support to deserted/harassed/single women and their dependent children.</li> </ol>



8	<b>Health and Family Welfare department</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. All sex workers should have regular health checkups which should include their physical health, counseling for emotional and psychological disorders, and counseling and rehabilitation for substance abuse.</li> <li>3. All sex workers must at least be registered with their full residential addresses with government hospital for their regular health checkups to control the spread of HIV/AIDS.</li> <li>4. Outreach health services for high risk behavior groups should also be ensured by the government.</li> <li>5. The plan for 'old age stay healthy and learn healthy practices' should be developed and implemented by public health institutions in respective locality/community.</li> <li>6. Government and NGO should organize health awareness programme.</li> </ol>
9	<b>Religious institutions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Roping in religious mentors to convince sex workers to leave the sex trade and to preach them to seek legitimate, socially accepted mode of earning for their livelihood by providing same amount of earning (as sex work) if not more!</li> <li>2. Religious organizations should support in rehabilitation of sex workers and their children.</li> </ol>
10	<b>WCD, Home, Social Defense departments of Government + Higher Education – Applied Social Sciences</b>	<p>There is paucity of official documentation in form of report by government agencies. It is suggested that government's relevant department must document a status/progress/policy implementation reports to maintain authentic reports. If they require, they may fetch academic inputs from the higher education systems.</p>

## **Scope for Further Research:**

The researcher realized that there are many areas which need to be explored and probed in- depth which may require further study through scientific research. The areas which need to be studied and require social work intervention are indicated as below.

1. Number and status of migrant Girls in Indian sex market across the border.
2. Post evacuation status of the sex workers of other districts in India.
3. HIV Prevalence among sex workers after evacuation in other districts of India.
4. Local Authority's attitude towards/ treatment to sex workers.
5. Sexual offences against sex workers.

To conclude the researcher feels that despite several PILs and legal fights by self help groups of sex workers they as a class have remained highly vulnerable and there is a lot of scope for the intervention of social workers, policy makers, legislators, judiciary, and civil society to ensure that their basic necessities are fulfilled, their human rights are protected, their children are not deprived of child rights. All in all both - the sex workers and their children - should be treated with dignity and are given all opportunities to lead a decent life. As a welfare state, it is a collective onus on the state as well as the civil society until they create an environment where no citizen has to suffer the violation of her/his fundamental rights.