

CHAPTER: 3

RESEARCH

METHODOLOGY

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This chapter contains the research methodology adopted by the researcher to study post evacuation status of sex workers in Surat. As seen in the previous chapters, the sex trade is not a new issue. The main aim of this research is to update information based on empirical data after 2003 till date, and the research methodology has been designed accordingly.

SECTION – A : RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

RATIONALE:

Many countries have legalized prostitutions while many others have not given green signal to it yet. The country where sex trade is illegal doesn't mean that there is no existence of prostitution.

According to Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act, 1986, In India, Prostitution itself is not an offence, but soliciting, brothels and pimps are illegal.

Using authority under this law, Brothels of Surat were closed down by police to end brothel based prostitution and this action forced sex workers to evacuate. When a two century old business settlement giving survival and shelter to vulnerable women is suddenly forced out, it is important and essential to know and document its after effects. Hence the study “Post evacuation status of sex workers in Surat: Social work perspective (With special reference to the effects on their Life Style, Business Operations, and Relationship with other stakeholders)”.

OBJECTIVES:

- To identify sex workers operating in Surat city.
- To prepare a personal and demographic profile of women sex workers in general and evacuated sex workers in specific.
- To explore and describe their **life style**- daily routine and identify the major difference if any that have occurred post evacuation.
- To explore the current **business operations**, processes, network and changes

- if any, post evacuation.
- To find out whether their personal **relationships with other stake holders-**
- Children, peers, family members have changed owing to evacuation.
- To explore the details about the pre and post evacuation **support systems**.
- To identify gaps between their needs and resources for decent living and to
- offer suggestions for evolving social work intervention model.

SECTION – B : SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Prostitution undoubtedly is a social evil, for it not only deprives the victim of her constitutional rights for economic and social justice, and said dignity, but also because it further leads to many more social problems like marital conflicts resulting in to broken homes, problem of legitimacy of children and sexual abuse of children.

The health hazards it can cause are far more serious. It is the most common way of spreading STD sexually Transmitted Diseases and the obnoxious disease of AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

As if their problems were not enough, the Surat city police forced through the legislative power under the Immoral Trafficking Act enforced them to evacuate. That evacuation must have changed their life. The researcher was prompted by the following questions to do research on this subject. What difficulties did they face in shifting themselves at other location?

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. Where did they move immediately after evacuation?
2. What difficulties did they face in shifting themselves at other location?
3. How did they cope up to their immediate crisis after evacuation?
4. How did evacuation affect their livelihood?
5. Is there any change in their life-style after evacuation?
6. Did they continue the same profession after their evacuation or changed it?
7. Did they continue to keep same business relations?
8. What is their present status?
9. How can they be helped through social work intervention?

Answers of the above questions may not only be helpful to the researcher but also it can draw attention of the Sociologist, Medical practitioners, Social Workers, Police and Law enforcement Authorities.

SECTION – C : RESEARCH DESIGN

UNIVERSE:

Universe for this study is Female Commercial Sex Workers (CSWs) operating in different localities in Surat including evacuated and non evacuated categories.

Although no agency claims to have the exact number of CSWs in Surat according to Researcher's own project experience and informal sources, the universe size approximately comprises of 2000 total female CSWs. This is a discreet floating population and it is likely that many of them have shifted to other established sex markets in Sonagachi Kolkata, Kamathipura Mumbai, etc.

SAMPLE:

CSWs being a masked (hidden) target group, the researcher used Snowball - non probability sampling to contact them through health care givers and NGOs. As mentioned earlier, the estimated number of research population was 2000. Fortunately after lots of efforts, she could win over the trust of a CBO (Community Based Organization) from primary stakeholders in identifying respondents. A CBO (Community Based Organization) is actually a self help group of sex workers initiated by National AIDS Control Organization (NACO). She could contact and interview 78 respondents who were willing to respond. On ethical grounds, respondents who were unwilling to talk were not forced to respond.

RESEARCH DESIGN:

Social Survey Method with exploratory-descriptive design has been used for the study. Both primary and secondary sources were tapped for data collection. Secondary sources were mainly from the NGO/ Health Service giver to locate the pockets where respondents had relocated after evacuation.

RESEACH TOOLS:

Detailed semi structured interview schedule having both open ended and closed ended questions was used. The tool was approved by the experts from (the field) Centre for Social Studies, Surat.

Researcher interviewed each respondent face-to-face and collected quantitative data.

To supplement quantitative data, qualitative data through observation, Focus Group Discussion, in-depth case studies as well as interviews with key respondents were applied. These are elaborated at appropriate places at data presentation.

SECTION – D : THEORATICAL AND OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

- **Business operations**

Business operations are the ongoing recurring activities involved in the running of a business for the purpose of producing value for the stakeholders.

Operationally, in this Research, Business Operations which are ongoing recurring activities involved in the running of sex trade. i.e. Clients, workers, market, and their commercial interplay.

- **Evacuation**

According to business dictionary, “Evacuation means temporary but rapid removal of people from building or disaster (or threatened) area as a rescue or precautionary measure”.

(<http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/evacuation.html#ixzz4C8s9DHj0>)

Operationally, evacuation in this study is permanent and involuntary removal of sex workers from their original area as a part of legal action.

- **Life style**

Life style in a Layman’s perspective is a way of Life

Life style is overall pattern of living whereby, an individual attempts to meet his or her biological, social and emotional needs. (Newman and Newman, 1980)

The researcher has used more or less the same definition for the study.

- **Prostitution**

Under the ITPA Act (1986), “Prostitution means the sexual exploitation or abuse of persons for commercial purposes”.

Operationally, only female respondents are covered by this study. The term prostitute is substituted as ‘sex worker’ so as to accord and protect dignity of respondents.

For the purpose of this study, the definition of sex worker is largely the same as in ITPA, 1986.

- **Stake holders**

With reference to sex work, stake holder means procurers, pimps, landlords, musical instrument players, intoxicant sellers, ‘*Panwalas*’, hotel keepers, flower sellers and the rough elements, whose help is sought for protection.

Operationally, the researcher has used the same definition so as to cover the relationship with the following stake holders.

They are categorized as under personal, business related, and civil society related.

Personal:

Children if any, Spouse, biological as well as matrimonial families and peers.

Business:

Customers, middleman- women, including brothel keepers and other business persons. i.e. *Lodgewala, Hotelwala*, etc. in nearby locality.

Support service givers

This includes public/private medical practitioners or health care givers.

NGO

NGO functionaries including the self help groups as well as legal / human rights protection facilitators.

Local self government functionaries

This includes the employees of Municipal Corporation, Municipal Educational Institutions.

Others:

All who are directly or indirectly connected with commercial sex workers providing or receiving services or support.

SOCIAL WORK SIGNIFICANCE

Social work profession is a helping profession. Human trafficking is well established as a priority world over as a concern for all those who believe in justice, fairness, and human rights and have faith in the dignity and ability of every human for one's own and other's wellbeing. Women trafficked/ forced into flesh trade are seriously in need of protection and support from all corners. Because of a stigma attached with sex work a dirty profession so far, very few professionals have intervened to better the life of such victims. India being a welfare state, has legislated for rescue and rehabilitation of sex workers. Despite legal provisions and directives by judiciary millions of young women are forced to land up in sex trade.

Social work professionals have an onus to evolve an operational intervention strategy to main stream these women by employing all possible techniques. It is hoped that the study will throw light on the grass root reality of the displaced sex workers and would offer workable solutions for policy makers, law makers, Judiciary and ministries of women and child development, law, health and family welfare department, social justice and empowerment.

INCLUSION CRITERIA

The study includes only women, brothel based sex workers who were evacuated from their original settlements- mostly from Variyavi Bazaar area.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Male and third gender sex service givers are excluded from this study.

DATA ANALYSIS

The quantitative data was analyzed and tabulated as simple frequency distribution. The qualitative data has been presented in a form of case studies and FGD report.

SECTION – E : LIMITATION OF STUDY

Sex work is a sensitive issue and to contact sex worker is also very difficult when they stay hidden and they are evacuated. Researcher could not contact all the sex workers who were operating in red the light area before but the researcher tried to contact a significant number as she could through her own project experience, NGO's help, and Commercial Sex workers themselves (CSWs) through snow ball technique.

RESEARCHER'S EXPERIENCE

The researcher having worked in Anti Retroviral Treatment (ART) centre, Surat, she already had good rapport with the CSWs, NGOs, CBOs (Community based organization) working for them. Researcher selected an NGO known to her. The researcher visited that NGO on every Saturday and tried to acquaint with the sex workers in the area. The researcher also contacted other NGO functionaries working on sex workers of Surat for the same. After many efforts and after the two years of hard work, the peer leaders understood the genuinity of researcher and agreed to allow access to other Commercial Sex Workers (CSW) members.

The researcher has found that sex workers were cooperative in giving data but she also noticed that they were little afraid to give details regarding police. One to one interview of the sex workers had taken almost one hour of the researcher to fill one questioner.

The next chapter will provide details about data analysis and data interpretation to know what the sex workers said when they gave information in empirical manner .

SECTION –F : RESEARCH SETTING

The City: Location & History

Geographical

Surat is located on the western coast of India in the state of Gujarat. The city is located at 21°10 'N latitude and 72°50'E longitude(www.suratmunicipal.gov.in). It has an average elevation of 13 meters. It is a port city situated on the banks of the Tapi

river. The nearest port is now in the Magdalla and Hajira area of Surat, Metropolitan regions because of damming of the Tapi (www.wikipedia.org).

According to 2011 census report, the total population of Surat is 4.462 million(www.suratmunicipal.gov.in). It is the 2nd largest city in Gujarat and 9th largest city in India in terms of area and population (www.en.wikivoyage.org).

Climate

The climate of Surat is tropical savanna which is strongly moderated by Arabian Sea. The monsoon rainfall in Surat is abundant (about 2,500 mm a year)(www.wikipedia.org).

History

Surat is believed to have been found by a Brahmin named Gopi, who named the area Surajpur or Suryapur. By 1520, the name of the city had become Surat.(www.wikipedia.org). It is a city where the British first entered in India. The Dutch and the Portuguese also established their business centers in Surat. In past, Surat was a glorious port with ships of more than 84 countries anchored in its harbor at any time. (www.suratmunicipal.gov.in).

During the Mughal Period, the Surat port became an important centre for Muslim ‘Hajis’ proceeding for ‘Mecca Haj’ from Surat (Mehta,2000).

Economic

Surat is a major hub of diamond and textile industries. It is known for diamond cutting and polishing (www.wikipedia.org). Over 92% of the world’s diamonds are cut here (www.wn.wikivoyage.org). Besides that, on the other hand, Surat is also known for producing textiles including silk. Surat is also known as the textile hub of nation or silk city of India. It is very famous for its cotton mills and Surat Zari Craft. Surat is the biggest centre of MMF (Man Made Fiber) in India. It has a total of 381 dyeing and printing mills and 41,100 power looms units. It produces 9 million meters of fabric annually, which accounts for 60% of the total polyester cloth production in India. The annual turnover of Surat ranked 10th in India with GDP of 2.60 lakh crore in fiscal year 2016 (\$ 14 billion in 2010) (www.wikipedia.org)

Sex work

After seeing the above description of the area, it would be correct to say that Surat fulfilled all the requirements for a flourishing flesh market. It was a port town and business centre attracting many visitors, pilgrims and business men and was inhabited by wealthy people who could provide patronage to art and beauty and who gave political shelter to sex workers since the time of Mughal rulers. (Mehta,2000)

Surat has continued to be an important business centre. Over and above the diamond cutting and textile industries, many new companies have established their plants and townships in the nearby Hajira, Magdalla and Urban areas. Enmass migration of labour both from within the state and outside the state to surat has ensured steady demand in the sex market. The invisible traffickers on the other hand, actively ensure that supply in the flesh market continues. (Mehta,2000).

The more details on the health of population of Surat and recent Surat sex market has already been discussed on p. n. 13,14,15 & 16.