

**CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF COMMERCIAL SEX WORK AMONG AKWA IBOM GIRLS
(A STUDY OF YOUTHS IN UYO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA)**

BY

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SOC/2009/042

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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TITLE PAGE

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SOC/2009/042

**SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
CARITAS UNIVERSITY, AMORJI-NIKE, ENUGU**

**IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT TO THE AWARD OF BACHELOR
OF SCIENCE (B.SC HONS.) IN SOCIOLOGY**

AUGUST, 2013

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that, this project on causes and effects of commercial sex work among Akwalbom girls, in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwalbom State, is a work written by Adiele, OgechiObiageri, SOC/2009/042 under a close supervision of Mr. Charles C. Onwuka of Sociology Department, Caritas University.

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DEDICATION

This research work is wholeheartedly dedicated to my mother, Late Mrs. C.U. Adiele for her love, caring and encouragement to me to achieve my educational goals. Who just left two weeks before my final year examination.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank God Almighty for guiding and directing me throughout the duration of my programme particularly in this research work.

My love and most gratitude go to my incomparable parents, Ven (Prof.) Shed Adiele and Late Mrs. C.U. Adiele, who showered me love, care, financial support and made me to understand that, with education that, I can achieve all.

I am grateful to my project supervisor Mr. C.C. Onwuka, who has dedicated his time to read through the manuscript, made the necessary corrections and facilitate the completion of this research work and also my lecturers; Mr. Aboyi, Mr. Orji, Mr. Eze, Mr. Oguamanam and Dr. Mbah who shared their wealth of experience through their advice, teaching and counseling during my studies.

My appreciation goes to my siblings; lyke, Lommy, Tobe, Eby and my cousins; Nonso, Adimchi, Gozirim, Ibezim and Ginikanwa for their understanding and encouragement. To my fellow colleagues, I say together we made it at last.

My immensely thanks goes to my friends most especially, to my best friend, favourNwankwo whose advice, encouragement, understanding and always reading together made us to achieve our goal, and be outstanding among equals.

Above all, may God bless all the people I mentioned above.

ABSTRACT

The rising wave of incidence of commercial sex work has given serious concern to the government, parents, health workers and the society. The causes and effects of commercial sex work among Akwalbom girls in Uyo Local Government is the main concern of this study. The study seeks to find out the possible ways in which the problem of commercial sex work can be eradicated in the society. The study was empirically conducted where data was obtained through the primary and secondary sources. Instrument for data collection was questionnaire. Data was collected and analysed with simple percentage while the hypothesis stated were tested with percentage(%). The result in hypothesis one showed that, commercial sex work has implication on our general sexual health or wellbeing, that is the act of sex work has a negative effect on our sexual being. This hypothesis was accepted. In hypothesis two, which states that sex work is more likely to be caused by poverty. Based on the result, hypothesis two was therefore not accepted. Based on the result of this study a number of recommendations were made.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Of The Study

Commercial sex is basically sex for money. It is not restricted to any culture, its global and it transcends all age barriers as some cases girls as young as eight years are involved. Commercial sex has evolved over the last two decades, (National Behaviour Survey 2004). According to the National Behaviour Survey (2004), commercial sex work has indeed become complex in different ways as there are male sex workers in Nigeria who have sex with men for commercial reasons and there is an organization⁰ that support them which based in Ibadan, Oyo state.

Commercial sex has particularly taken a worrisome and indeed despicable turn on the continent through trafficking in person and violation of people's human right and these have become major issues in West Africa (Human Right Action, 1997). In recent time, commercial sex has become a lucrative business in Nigeria especially among the youths (Ikpe, 2008). Research has it that, 31% of sex workers are students particularly in Nigeria institutions (Onah, 2000). Onah (2000), is of the view that, there are different forms of sex workers, those that

stay in the brothels, those that stand on the road side, those that operate from home etc.

Furthermore, sex work has now become an occupation especially for the girls in countries like Netherland, Brazil, Norway etc, sex work serves as one of the sources of revenue for government, hence, taxes are paid to the government (Aday, 1990). Aday further says that, sex workers face systematic discrimination throughout the world and are therefore, at risk of variety of abuses, these include police extortion, arbitrary detention and other. Violations of their human and labour rights which in some cases even amount to slavery.

In Nigeria, sex work is an illegal business because, the law prohibits its, but no active action has really been taken against it by the government (Onah, 2000). In Akwalbom State particularly, Uyo local government, commercial sex workers can be found in hotels, bars, brothels and on the street, (Onah, 2000). Despite the efforts made by the government and other private organization to eradicate sex work in Uyo, it has rather grown to become one of the outstanding social problems that have really apprehended the people of Uyo (Onah, 2000). It is on this background that, this research work attempts to find a possible way of coping with this problem.

1.2 Statement Of The Problem

The people involved in commercial sex experience negative effect even though they still make out from it. Lex (1992), argued that, sex work has been identified as the core group for transmission of HIV/AIDS and STD; Thus, they face discrimination throughout the world.

Due to the diseases that befall these people on daily basis, sex work has been considered a menace in the society and also violence against humanity, (Lex, 1992). These negative effects includes untimely death, frustration, unwanted pregnancy etc. one of the major challenges is that, some of these sex workers are illiterates, they neither attend seminars nor listen to news on television where they could be enlightened on the risk of their work. These work has then, become their life style, therefore, making it difficult for the government to cope with.

In country like Nigeria, prostitution is termed as deviance and unhealthy in the society. It is also a big embarrassment to the government and the families who their youths are involved in such acts, such families will lack their respect from people in the society no matter their position in the society, (Onah, 2000). This research work then, seeks to investigate the effects and causes of commercial sex work among Akwalbom girls.

1.3 Research Question

The following research questions will guide the study.

1. What are the causes of sex work?
2. What are the implications of commercial sex work on our general health?
3. What are the age difference of sex workers?
4. What are the general attitude towards commercial sex workers?

1.4 Objectives Of The Study

1. To ascertain the likely causes of sex work
2. To find out the implications of commercial sex work on our general health.
3. To find out the age difference of sex workers
4. To identify the general attitude towards commercial sex workers.

1.5 Significant Of The Study

This significance of the study tends to treat both the theoretical and practical importance. Theoretically, this study will add to the already, existing

knowledge of the causes and effects of commercial sex work among Akwalbom girls in Uyo L.G.A. the study was written in order to know the causes and effects of commercial sex work and at the same time proffer solution to them. Moreso, the study will be a guide to future researchers in their research in knowing the causes and effects of commercial sex work and look for means of tackling those problems.

Practically, this research work will enable the commercial sex workers to know the dangers surrounding their work, so as to stop the rising wave of sex work. This can be done by the government to make sure of creating employed youths. This study will also help in exposing and tracking down the people behind sex work.

1.6 Scope Of The Study

This research covers the causes and effects of commercial sex work in Uyo local government area.

It will examine the challenges that are associated with sex work and how government can control the increasing number of sex workers in Uyo.

1.7 Definition Of Terms

For the purpose of clarification, the following terms are defined as used in this research work;

AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

Brothel: This is a house where men pay to have sex with sex workers or where sex workers live.

Commercial sex: This is defined basically as sex for money.

HIV: Human Immune Virus.

Sex: Is an erotic attraction between two people or sexual intercourse that can lead to orgasm in female and the secretion of semen from the penis in male.

Sex Work: This is defined as any sexual performance carried out by a person for payment of certain amount of money or in exchange of any material thing. Their aim id mainly on money making.

Sex Worker: This is a person who works in the sex industry. They are paid to engage in sexually explicit behaviour which involves varying degrees of physical contacts etc.

STD: Is a sexually transmitted diseases it is transmitted during sexual intercourse.

Transactional Sex: This is sex in exchange for gifts, small favours or money.

1.8 Limitation Of The Study

In this research work, the researcher was limited by the unwilling attitude of the general public to provide correct answers to the questions that were given to them.

In financial aspect, the researcher was unable to visit all brothels in Uyo Local Government due to the high demand of money by the commercial sex workers.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Conceptualizing Prostitution and Sex Work

The term sex work was coined by sex worker activist (Leigh, 1980). It's use became popularized after publication of the anthology; sex work writings by women in the sex industry in 1987, (Leigh, 1980). The work has since spread into much wider use, including academic publications by Labour Unions and by government and inter-governmental agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO). Sex workers usually referred to as prostitutes, have occupied an anomalous position in societies throughout history.

According to Weizer (2000), prostitutes are generally regarded as a social category as women who do not adhere to sexual and other behavioural norms; pitied or despised, they are excluded from mainstream society, their lowly and marginal position analogues to that of a low caste or minority ethnic group. Out cast status denies them whatever international, national or customary protection from abuse is available to others as citizens, women or workers. This social exclusion renders the prostitute vulnerable to exploitation.

The designation of prostitution as a special human right issue, a violent in itself emphasizes the distinction between prostitution and other forms of female or low status labour, such as clearing or food serving. By dismissing the entire sex industry as abusive, it also obscures the particular problems and violations of international norms within the industry which are of concern to sex workers.

Laura (2007), in her writing explained that, the term sex workers and sex works were coined by sex workers themselves to redefine commercial sex, not as the social or psychological characteristic of a class of women, but as an income-generating activity or form of employment for women and men. As such, it can be considered along with other forms of economic activity. An employment or labour perspective is necessary if not sufficient, condition for making sex work a part of the mainstream debate on human, women and workers, and worker's right at local, national and international level.

A lack of international and local protection renders sex workers vulnerable to exploitation in the work place, and they experience harassment or violence at the hands of employers, law enforcement officials, clients and the public (Modo, 2005). The need for worker's protection, including occupational health and safety provisions, is of particular relevance in the current context of HIV/AIDS. Sex

workers without right in their place of work are uniquely vulnerable to infection with HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, as they routinely lack the information, materials or authority to protect themselves and their clients. Many of the authors indicate a feminist perspective either outright or implied through the ideas that women should not be devalued as they believe women are in the sex industry. Others advocate for women's right by asserting their right to make their own decisions regarding their bodies, hence, advocacy for women is not uni-dimensional (Modo, 2005).

In the book entitled; *Not Sex Work*; Ferlay (1995) points out that, woman gain financially in some way from pornography and that, powerful women have a vested interest in creating pornography. She comments on the edition of feminism that only fight for issues that are of immediate concern to what she sees as their privileged lives. The view that, prostitution is a choice for all prostitutes seems to be a prevalent view, even among those that oppose prostitution on religious moral terms.

The abolitionist approach declares that, the institution of prostitution itself constitutes a violation of human rights, akin to the institution of slavery, in fact, the abolitionist was originally used to describe campaigners against the

transatlantic suhara trade (Onah 2000). As such, no person, even an adult is believed to be able to give genuine consent to engaging in prostitution. Prostitution only persists through the efforts of procurers or pimps, the third parties who induce a woman into prostitution, openly or by means of deceit and coercion, to extort her earning from her, (Modo, 2005).

The abolitionist approach requires governments to abolish prostitution through the penalization of this third party which profits from the transaction between prostitute and client. The prostitute cannot be punished, as she is the victim of a process she does not control. Without the third party, it is believed that, the institution of prostitution will wither away (Modo, 2005).

2.1.1 Sex Work as a form of Labour

Daezema (1995), claims that, the location of sex work in the realm of personal services combined with the legal sanctions association with it, means that, even under a tolerant regimes, such as in the Netherlands, it is likely to take place in the informal sectors. In the case of sex work, the division between social and commercial contacts between the public domain of labour and the purchase of services and the private domain of sexual behaviour is not always clear. It is easy enough to identify sex work in a formal work setting, such as a brothel or flat

but less easy to separate sexual services provided within informal networks from sexual relations with multiple social contacts where gifts are expected (Mencken, 2009).

For the purpose of applying labour standards, a distinction must be made between private or social and public or commercial behaviour.

It has been chosen therefore, to define sex work in the public domain by association with a public market place. The market place may be a publication or generally known to be available and transactions are based at least particularly on a competitive price structure.

2.1.2 Forms of Sex Work

Sex work is divided into different categories. These are; call girls, according to Weiter (2000), call girls are known to take good care of their health and visit doctors whenever necessary. Almost all of them want their client to use condoms, though they often comply when clients offer a much higher amount of money for condom free sex, (Weiter, 2000).

Street Prostitution;

Those involved in this group are young girls, some of them in their teens. They do their soliciting in limiting but well known areas of the city. These areas include popular places like well known hotels in the major cities and around girl's hostels in the universities.

These sex workers usually dress in skimpy provocative clothing, regardless of the weather, (Akpan, 2000). Street prostitutes are often called "street walkers" while their customers are referred to as "tricks" or "Johns". The sex is performed in the customer's car, in a nearby alley or in a rented room, (Akpan, 2000).

Child Prostitution;

In the world today, the problem of child prostitution is a frightening reality.

Child prostitutes whether occupational or full-time also become involved in crime and abuse (Mili, 1997).

However, because of the high incidence of sexually transmitted disease such as syphilis, customers are willing to pay for higher prices for children who are considered more likely to be virgins and thus, less likely to be infected, (Tolu, 1997).

Ewah (2010), observed that, child prostitution involves children between the age of eight years and twelve years of age. He further said that at this age, girls often receive their introduction to this activity through their parents and other family members. Child prostitutes generally continued their involvement because, they earned a lot of money. Also many seemed to fear rejection by their families if they stop, especially. Those whose parents were involved in pornography, (Margret, 2000).

Sex Tourism

This type is simply described as travelling for sexual intercourse with prostitutes or to engage in their sexual activity, (Mencken, 2009). A specialized agency of the United Nations defines sex tourism as “trip organized from within the tourism sector or from outside, this sector but using its structures and networks with the primary purpose of effecting a commercial sexual relationship by the tourism with residents at the destination, (The World Tourism Organization 2007).

2.1.3 Causes of Sex Work

There are good number of reasons why people go into sex work, such as;

Poverty:

Because of the disintegration of the family, misery.Hunger as a form of poverty have forced some parents to sell their children for prostitution. Some girls who engage in sex work do so because, they see prostitution as the only means of survival in order to get daily meals. Poverty also led some girls to sell their bodies for money and as a result become a professional sex work, (Onah, 2000).

Personal Life Style

These set of sex workers call it adventure (Ewah, 2010). Many sex workers engage themselves in this business just for the fun of human sexuality and not for economic benefit or frustration (Ewah, 2010).

Unemployment:

Unemployment has been identified as one of the reasons most girls and boys engage in sex work, (Onah, 2000). Due to lack of job opportunities for the increasing rate of graduates, students especially girls resort to sex work as a

means of livelihood and survival, unemployment has also pushed many young people into sex work and in most cases against their will, (Onah, 2000).

Illiteracy:

With the high rate of illiteracy in Nigeria, many parents can neither read nor write. The youths are not left out in this illiteracy problem. This has resulted in their being deceived into believing that in big cities, milk and honey flows, only to be forced into sex work when they get to the city, (Ewah, 2010).

Peer Group Pressures

Maria (2007), is of the view that, many young women and girls fall prey to pressure from their peers, who they perceive as having made it. The young girls and women want to make it too and be able to flaunt their influence like those people, not knowing or caring how they made it.

2.1.4 Effects of Sex Work on Youths

The effects of sex work are numerous such as;

Rape:

Many sex workers have been victims of rape and many being sexually assaulted.

The sexual assaults suffered by sex workers continue unchecked because of shame and ignorance, (Tiemoko, 2002).

Death

According to Ewah, (2010), some sex workers have been victims of ritual killings.

Some commercial sex workers have been gunned down in the streets by unknown gun men, while some who are lucky to be alive are left with some bodily harm especially those who have had acid poured on them and those knocked down by vehicles, (Mencken, 2009).

Lost of Esteem

Sex workers lack confidence. Akpan (2002), had said that, commercial sex workers consider themselves as nobody, since there is lack of confidence, they consider themselves as misfit in the society. He went further to say that, the situation has turned them into object or instrument for others to satisfy the urge of others.

Ekong (1991), said that, the low self esteem has led the sex workers into getting involved in some social vices that have destroyed many of them.

Health

The World Health Organization (W.H.O.) observed that, many prostitutes who have been sexually assaulted are believed to have suffered from psychological effect of rape and social abuse, those abuses include; rape traum syndrome, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). These have done damage to the sex workers because many of them are ashamed and afraid to seek counseling. The reason for this is fear and suspicious of outsider and authorities.

Akpan (2000), stated that, sex work leads to spread of sexually transmitted diseases (S.T.D.), HIV/AIDS, drug abuse, frequent abortion and suicide attempts. Research has shown that, sex workers in brothels live in extremely unhygienic conditions with little good. Most of them live in a 10 x 10 room apartment and medical care often rare. These girls are forces to work round the clock and can only be excused on ground that, they are very weak physically, (Akpan, 2000).

2.1.5 Socio-Political Context of Sex Work in Uyo:

Most of the sex workers in Uyo Local Government Area are from some states around Akwalbom state and within Akwalbom state, they are between the ages of twelve years (12) to thirty years (30) and are brought to Uyo by their Madam, who would have told them from home that, she is bringing them to Uyo to give them a better life, (Akwalbom State Child Rights Law, 2008).

According to Noah (1980), Uyo Local Government has been able to single out the vulnerability of the high risk by organizing programmes whereby the network of sex work projects in Uyo, come together to educate and inform sex workers on sexual and reproductive health, human immune virus and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) issues.

Various methods have been devised to fight the spread of this sex trade particularly in Uyo Local Government Area. According to Akwalbom State Child Right Law Section 32, Sub Section 1 and 2, (2008), no person who contravenes the above act commits an offence of rape and is liable on conviction to a term of not more than fourteen years imprisonment or five hundred thousand naira or to both such fine and imprisonment.

The above law tends to eradicate sex work from the grass root and it is also indicative of the fact that, the commonness form of commercial sex work in Uyo Local Government Area is the child prostitution, this is indicative of the fact that, those who engaged in commercial sex work were victims of sexual abuse in their youths.

2.2 Review of Related Theories

The following theories were reviewed in this study.

- 1 The Deviance perspective theory
- 2 The Theory of Differential Association

2.2.1 The Deviance Perspective Theory

This theory was propounded by Cesare Lombroso (1876). This theory propounds that, social deviance takes many forms, including suicide, prostitution, alcoholism and crime. The manifestation of this deviant behaviour constitute serious disruption and interruption on the social and moral values of society.

Deviance are those activities which do not conform to the norms and expectations of members of a particular society. Actions are deviant in relation to the standards of a particular society at a particular time in history.

Deviant behaviour is a social problem since it has a disruption effect on social life. There must be something wrong with deviants. They must have some kinds of pathology, some form of sickness which must be diagnosed physiologically and psychologically.

Hence deviants have some organic defects or pathology which they were born with and which influenced or caused their behaviours and also they were psychologically unbalanced due to some emotional disturbance in their past. This imbalance influenced or caused their deviant behaviour.

Therefore, this theory is of the view that, social problem such as prostitution ensues when people violate existing social norms which govern or regulate its use in the society, such act of non-conformism is evident when people involve in commercial sex work, perhaps by using their body in making money. This view strongly maintained that, commercial sex worker is a person who involves in sex work with another person in exchange of money or material things.

2.2.2 The Theory of Differential Association

The Theory of differential Association is developed by Sutherland, (1966). This theory postulates that crime delinquency is a learning process. It argues that people become delinquent due to an access or contact with delinquent patterns of behaviour and isolations from non-delinquent pattern (Sutherland, 1966).

Sutherland (1966), argues that, diligent skills and values develop primarily within intimate personal contact. The choice of a delinquentbehaviour depends much on the available patterns of social life as in a person's disposition.

Here the theory offers that, the sex work arises through differential association. According to this theory, people will tend to learn the sex work norms of the sub-culture into which they are socialized. The theory of differential Association reacted to the Chicago theory that, problem behaviour has positive correlation with deteriorated neighbourhood and was learned.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

Differential Association Theory was adopted as the theoretical framework for the study because, it provides the much needed theoretical anchorage for the study,

by offering that, deviant behaviour is exhibited as the result that, people mostly youths indulge in the act and in each passing day new members are added. Again most of those who engaged in commercial sex work are people who interact together, congregating and sharing the same social values.

Therefore, sex work involvement is mostly a learned culture.

2.4 Study Hypotheses

1. Commercial sex work is more likely to have negative effects on the youths general sexual health or well being.
2. Sex work is more likely to be caused by poverty.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study made use of survey research design. This method was used because, it is the one in which a group of people or teams are studied by collecting and analyzing data from only a few samples considered to be representative of the entire group.

3.2 Study Area

The study area covers some places in Uyo Local Government Area.

Geographical Location of Uyo

Uyo Local Government Area lies between latitude 5.05 north and longitude 80 east. This is within the equatorial rain forest belt, which is a tropical zone that, houses vegetation of green foliage of trees, shrubs and oil palm trees.

Brief History of Uyo

Uyo was first created as a province in 1959 by the colonial masters. The aim was to split the Ibibo tribe into smaller administrative units for effective governance.

Uyo Local Government Area is a creation of statute of the Federal government that make up Akwalbom State. It's creation was a condensed account of political struggle of people desperately yearning to assert their identity in the political map of Nigeria. Many people see the political existence of Uyo Local Government Area, the Akwalbom state capital as providing the nucleus for the development of the people once neglected. An area in the south-south part of Nigeria that is endowed with great economic potentials.

Economic Life of Uyo

The geographical vegetation and technological influence plays an important role in shaping an economy of any place. This is evidence in Uyo which has an average rainfall of 2816mm a year. The soil texture in Uyo could generally be described as humid and it belongs to the palm belt vegetation zone.

Uyo has grown in capacity as a state capital but generally, measuring different forms of occupation. So far, Uyo has seasonal Lakes (Ndioho), it

becomes conspicuous during rainy season. The activities associated here include, fishing and frog hunting.

In 1987 till date, Uyo has grown in capacity as a state capital, despite different forms of occupation so far enumerated and compared with Uyo population. Clearly despicts Laziness or unwillingness in learning trade. There are some trade practitioners that have reduced in number as at date, these include; motor cycle repairers, clock repairers, carpenters and bicycle repairers.

Moreover, others that have increased are tailors, photographers, electrical workers and mechanics.

Industrially, Uyo produces basically nothing at any tangible level except the champion beer.

Social Life of Uyo

It is said that, human beings must socialized interact in the society. Uyo people are nit left out of this.

Evidence of this shown in the vast rate of development in Uyo. As a capital city of Akwalbom State, Uyo Local Government has the largest population in Akwalbom State. People from all over the world come to Uyo to stay and as tourism place.

Religious

The people of Uyo by way of worship are predominantly Christians. They believe in the existence of the supreme being. Outside this, they still have the practice of traditional worshipping with their unique shrines for their various deities like, Idiong, ndem and ibok.

3.3 Population of the Study

The Federal Republic of Nigeria Official Gazette (2009), put the population of Uyo Local Government Area at 850, 595. Uyo Local Government Area is characterized by homogeneous population of Ibibo ethnic extraction.

3.4 Sample Size

The sample size of this study is two hundred and twenty (220) possible respondents. The researcher considered this sample size large enough for the study, taking into consideration the statistical analyses. The above sample size is considered appropriate for effective management by the researcher due to time and financial constraints.

3.5 Sampling Method/Technique

The sampling method used in this research is simple random sampling. This is used in order to have a scientific and true representation of the required sample of hotels to be used.

3.6 Instrument for Data Collection

The instrument used was a questionnaire which was developed by the researcher under the approval of the project supervisor and was distributed to the general public. The questionnaire was made up of two sections, A and B. section A deals with the personal data of the respondents while section B comprises the general view on commercial sex work.

The questionnaire were structured Yes, No, true, and False.

The researcher provided guidance to the respondents by reading to those who were unable to read.

3.7 Methods of Date Analysis

Frequency table and simple percentage (%) were used in the analysis of the data collected from the field via questionnaire.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Out of two hundred and twenty (220) questionnaires distributed, two hundred (200) were completed and returned. The analysis of data is based on the returned questionnaires.

Table 1, Distribution of Questionnaires

Questionnaire	Level of Responses
Number distributed	220
Number collected	200
Number lost	Twenty

Table 1 above, indicates that two hundred and twenty (220) questionnaire were distributed and two hundred were complied and returned.

Table 2: personal characteristic of Respondents.

Sex	Respondents	Percentage
Male	80	40

Female	120	60
Total	200	100

Table 2 shows that, out of 200 respondents, 80 were male representing 40% of the total number of respondents, while 120 respondents representing 60% were female.

Table 3: Age Distribution of Respondents

Age	Respondents	Percentage
16-20	80	40
21-25	70	35
25-30	35	17.5
35 and above	15	7.5
Total	200	100

From the table above, 80 respondents representing 40% were between the ages of 16-20 years, while 70 respondents representing 35% were within the ages of 21-25 years, 35% respondents representing 17.5% were ages of 26-30 years and 15 respondents representing 7.5% were 31 years and above.

Section B

4.1 Analysis of Research Questions

Q1: Are you aware of the practice of sex work?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	200	100%
No	Nil	-
Total	200	100

The table above, shows that, 200 respondents representing 100% said yes while “No” respondent was Nil. This indicates that, all the respondents affirmed the existence of sex work in Uyo Local Government Area.

Q2: What is the level of your relationship?

Table 5

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Personal experience	10	5
Relation	50	25
Community member	140	70

Others	Nil	-
Total	200	100

From the table above, 10 respondents representing 5% have personal experience, 50 respondents representing 25% have relations, community members consists of 140 respondents representing 70% while others have no respondents on the level of their relationship.

Q3: What do you think is the main reason of sex work?

Table 6

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Poverty	80	40
Unemployment	20	10
Personal life style	100	50
Others	Nil	-
Total	200	100

From the above table, personal lifestyle is said to be 100 respondents, representing 50% while poverty consisting of 80 respondents, representing 40%,

20 respondents representing 10% said, it is unemployment while others have no respondent.

Q4: Do you think sex workers should be allowed in our society?

Table 7

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	5	2.5
No	195	97.5
Total	200	100

From the table above, 5 respondents, said “Yes” representing 2.5% while 195 respondents said “No” representing 97.5%. this indicate that, majority of the respondents are of the opinion that, sex work should not be allowed in our society.

Q5: Is Uyo Local Government responding to the problem of sex work?

Table 8

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	35	17.5
No	165	82.5

Total	200	100
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From the table above, 35 respondents representing 17.5% said “Yes”, while 165 respondents representing 82.5% said “No”. this indicates that, Uyo Local Government is not taking any drastic measures toward solving the problem of sex work.

Q6: Have you ever visited a brothel?

Table 9

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	80	40
No	120	60
Total	200	100

From table 9 above, 80 respondents said “Yes” representing 40%, while 120 respondents representing 60%, said No. this shows that, many of the respondents have not visited a brothel.

Q7: What is the age difference of sex workers?

Table 10

Response	Frequency	Percentage
12-20	140	70
21-30	40	20
31-40	20	10
41 and above	Nil	Nil
Total	200	100

From table 10 above, 140 respondents representing 70% affirmed 12-20 years as the age bracket of sex workers, 40 respondents said that, 21-30 is the age bracket of sex workers representing 20% and 20 respondents representing 10% said it is 31-40 years while response on 41 years and above was Nil. This indicates that, most sex workers are between the ages of 21-30; here it is unlikely that, we have sex workers at 41 years and above.

Q8: Do you think commercial sex work has any implication on general sexual health or sexual well-being?

Table 11

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	200	100%
No	Nil	Nil
Total	200	100

In the above table, 200 respondents representing 100% said that, commercial sex work has implication on general sexual health, while “No” respondent was “Nil”. This shows that, the act of sex work has a negative effect on sexual health or sexual well-being.

Q9: Do you think sex tourism exist in Uyo?

Table 12

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	50	25
No	150	75

Total	200	100
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In table 12, respondents were asked, if sex tourism exist in Uyo and 50 respondents representing 25% said “Yes”, while 150 respondents representing 75% said “No”. this indicates that, the majority of the respondents do not want sex tourism in Uyo.

Q10: What is your attitude towards them?

Table 13

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Cordial	34	17
Accommodating	21	10.5
Harsh	135	67.5
Others	10	5
Total	200	100

In table 13 above 34 respondents representing 17% said they have cordial attitude towards sex workers, 21 respondents which represent 10.5% said, they

accommodates them, 135 respondents representing 67.5% are harsh to them while 10 respondents representing 5% declined giving answers.

This implies that, majority are harsh towards sex workers because of their nature of work.

Q11: Why do our communities discriminate against sex work?

Table 14

Response	Frequency	Percentage
It is a taboo in Ibibo culture	40	20
It is against the teaching of the church	60	30
It is against the moral of the society	90	45
It is a violence against women	10	5
Total	200	100

In table 14 above, 40 of the respondents representing 20% said that, sex work is a taboo in Ibibo culture. 60 respondents representing 30% said, sex work is against the teaching of the church, 90 of the respondents representing 45%, affirmed

that, sex work is against the moral of the society, while 10 respondents representing 5% said, it is a violence against women.

However, the above results show that, people discriminate against sex work, based on the fact that, it is against the moral of the society.

Q12: Is commercial sex work the major means of transmitting HIV/AIDS?

Table 15

Response	Frequency	Percentage
True	184	92
False	16	8
Total	200	100

From table 15 above, 184 respondents representing 92% of the total number of respondents are of the opinion that sex work is the major means of transmitting HIV/AIDS, while 16 respondents representing 8% disagreed with the fact that, sex work is a means of transmitting HIV/AIDS.

Q13: Do you think imposing taxes on sex workers by the Government would eradicate sex work?

Table 16

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	67	33.5
No	133	66.5
Total	200	100

In table 15, respondents were asked if they think imposing taxes on sex workers by Government will eradicate sex work and 67 respondents representing 33.5% said “Yes”, while 133 respondents representing 66.5% said “No”.

Q14: Is poverty the major cause of sex work?

Table 17

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	80	40
No	100	50
Others	20	10
Total	200	100

From the table above, 80 respondents representing 40% said “Yes”, that poverty is the major causes for sex work, 100 respondents representing 50% said “No” that poverty is not the major cause for sex work, while 20 respondents representing 10% declined giving answers. This indicates that, poverty is not the major cause of sex work. Financial problem is just seen as an excuse for the practice of sex work, whereas it is not enough to drive one into sex work.

Q15: Is the daily income gotten by the sex workers the root of their job?

Table 18

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	135	67.5
No	65	32.5
Total	200	100

In table 18, 135 respondents representing 67.5% are of the opinion that daily income earned by the sex workers is the root cause of their job, while 65 respondents representing 32.5% said “No” , that it is not.

Q16: How significant is the problem of sex work?

Table 19

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Significant	55	27.5
Not significant	30	15
Very significant	110	55
None of the above	5	2.5
Total	200	100

From the above table, 55 respondents, representing 27.5% said that, the problem of sex work is significant, 30 respondents representing 15% were of the view that, the problem of sex work is not significant, 110 of the respondents representing 55% said, the problem of sex work is very significant while 5 respondents representing 2.5% declined to give any answer.

Q17: What is your view on sex work?

Table 20

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Good	8	4
Very good	Nil	Nil
Not good	192	96
None of the above	Nil	Nil
Total	200	100

In table 20 above, 8 respondents representing 4% considered sex work to be a good human act, 192 respondents representing 96% considered sex work as not good, while very good and none of the above were “Nil”. This shows that, majority of the respondents considered sex work to be a bad human act.

4.3 Test of Hypotheses

The hypotheses in the study were tested through the use of tables and percentage (%).

4.3.1 Hypothesis One: Commercial sex work has implication on our general sexual health or wellbeing.

Table 11

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	200	100%
No	Nil	Nil
Total	200	100

Question (8) in the questionnaire was used to find whether commercial sex work has any implication on general sexual health or well being and the result of the respondents were shown in table 11. The table indicated that, 200 (100%) of the respondents believed that, commercial sex work has implication on general sexual health or sexual well being, Nil (0%) of the respondents gave no answer on the implication of the sex work on the general sexual health or sexual well being.

Based on the result, hypothesis one is therefore accepted. This shows that, the act of sex work has a negative effect on our sexual being. This is why sex work is considered a violation of human dignity.

4.3.2 Hypothesis Two: Sex work is more likely to be caused by poverty.

Table 17

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	80	40
No	100	50
Others	20	10
Total	200	100

Question (14) in the questionnaire was used to find out whether poverty is the major cause for out whether poverty is the major cause for sex work and the result of the respondents were shown in table 17. The table indicated that, 100 (50%) of the respondents believed that, poverty is not the major cause for sex work, 80 (40%) of the respondents are of the view that, poverty is the major cause.

Based on the results, hypothesis two is therefore not accepted. This is because, financial problem is just seen as an excuse for the practice of sex work, whereas it is not enough reason to drive one into sex work.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary of the findings

Sex work is a form of labour particularly to the girls. Commercial sex work can be seen as basically sex for money, here the end product is money making.

Thus, this has been a key to the different causes of sex work in Uyo Local Government Area. Commercial sex workers are been categorized into various types, but the most commonness type of sex work is the child prostitution. There are various effects of commercial sex work in our society, ranging from HIV/AIDS, unwanted pregnancy, untimely death and STD.

It is noted in the study that, sex work is beneficial to both the customers and sex workers.

Despite these benefits, sex workers face systematic discrimination throughout the world and are therefore, at risk of a variety of abuses.

Furthermore, since sex work has been considered a menace in the society, the Akwalbom State Government through their “Child Right Law” 2008 has tacked sex

work from the grass root, but more is still needed to be done in order to properly check the increasing rate of sex workers in Uyo Local Government Area.

5.2 Recommendations

From the findings of this research paper, the following recommendations are made;

- i. That more research should be carried out to identify the appropriate methods of sanitizing the public on sex work and the various effects on the health.
- ii. The government should provide employment since, unemployment and poverty are some of the causes of commercial sex work in our society today.
- iii. The government should promulgate laws to regulate sex work. These laws will consider sex work as a criminal activity and also give a strong disapproval of it, this will definitely reduce the total dependence on sex work as a profession.
- iv. All hands should be on desk to tackle this social problem by exposing and tracking down the people behind the shameful business of sex work.

5.3 Conclusion

Sex work is a morally wrong act. According to Ewah (2010), sex work is an expression of lust, spreading diseases that threaten the collective health of a society". This is as a result of its effect in the society. Hence, because of the high HIV infection rates and large number of sexual partners, sex workers have been considered a core group for the transmission of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Sex work is a universal phenomenon with morals, social, psychosocial and medial implications. Many of those who engaged in sex work were attempting to earn money to escape poverty. But this negativity is not enough reason for people to indulge in this act of sexual immorality.

Finally, sex work is a menace in the society and thus, should not be legalized. Sex work cannot be eliminated completely so far as the urge for sex by both customers and sex workers are concerned. The more restrictive a society is, the greater the pressure for sex work to provide outlets for those who are not married. Therefore, since sex work may not be eradicated completely in Akwalbom State, particularly in Uyo Local Government Area, the

recommendations of this research work will contribute in reducing the problem of sex work to a tolerable level, if fully implemented.

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Appendix 1

Letter to the Respondents

Department of Sociology,
Faculty of Mgt. & Social Sciences
Caritas University,
Amorji-Nike, Enugu
Enugu state.
May, 2013.

Dear Respondents,

I am a final year student of the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Mgt and Social Sciences, Caritas University, Amorji-Nike, Enugu, Enugu State. I am carrying out a research on the topic: causes and Effects of commercial Sex Work in Uyo Local Government.

Your sincere response to the following questions will help to achieve the purpose of this.

Yours sincerely,

Ogechi O. Adiele
Researcher

Appendix II

SECTION A: PERSONAL DATA

Instruction: Tick () where appropriate

- a. Sex: Male Female
- b. Religion: Christianity Islam African Religion
others
- c. Marital Status: Married single
- d. Occupation: Civil servant student Clergy
Business professional self-employment
- e. Age: 16-20 21-25 26-30 31 and above

Section B

Instruction: Tick the correct answer from the option given.

1. Are you aware of the practice of sex work?
a) Yes b) No
2. If Yes, What is the level of your relationship?
a) Personal experience b) Relation c) Community member
d) Others
3. What do you think is the main reason of sex work?
a) Poverty b) Unemployment

- c) Personal life style d) Others
4. Do you think sex workers should be allowed in our society?
a) Yes b) No
5. Is Uyo Local Government responding to the problem of sex work?
a) Yes b) No
6. Have you ever visited a brothel?
a) Yes b) No
7. If Yes, answer this question.
i) What is the age difference of sex workers?
a) 12-20 b) 21-30 c) 31-40 d) 41 and above
8. Do you think commercial sex work has any implication on general sexual health or sexual well-being?
a) Yes b) No
9. Do you think sex tourism exist in Uyo?
a) Yes b) No
10. What is your attitude towards them?
a) Cordial b) Accommodating c) Harsh

d) Others

11. Why do our communities discriminate against sex work?

a) It is a taboo in Ibibio culture a) Yes b) No

b) It is against the teaching of the church a) Yes b) No

c) It is against the moral of the society a) Yes b) No

d) It is a violence against women a) Yes b) No

12. Is commercial sex work the major means of transmitting HIV/AIDS?

a) True b) False

13. Do you think imposing taxes on sex workers by the Government would eradicate sex work?

a) Yes b) No

14. Is poverty the major cause of sex work?

a) Yes b) No

15. Is the daily income gotten by the sex workers the root of their job?

a) Yes b) No

16. How significant is the problem of sex work?

a) Significant b) Not significant c) Very significant

d) None of the above

17. What is your view on commercial sex work?

a) Good b) Very good c) Not good

d) None of the above

