

The Study of Sex Worker's Gender Inequality and their Rights

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Abstract

Women are being ill-treated in the male-dominated society. We know that the constitution of India says that no person should be discriminated against its religion, caste, class, sex or place of birth. Still, women are being treated as secondary in Indian society. The constitution guarantees about life, health, equality, education and so on. But the reality is different on the ground. In every house, a girl or a woman is getting harassed at some extend. The present research paper raises the issue of women in prostitution. We are talking about India to be the global economy of the world but what about the gender equality of the sex workers. The prostitutes are ill-treated, abused sexually, exploited, cheated, transported for sexuality, they are also being used in pornography. These facts are being neglected by society for a long period. The present paper raised these issues about prostitutes.

Keywords: Gender inequality, Sex worker, Dignity, Rights

Introduction

When we see the definition of the word prostitute in the Cambridge dictionary we get, 'a person who has sex with someone for money.' The prostitution is supposed to be a necessary evil in Indian society and the world. In India, there is a long tradition of prostitution. We can see that prostitutes are of different types. Women in prostitution sell their body part for the payment of money. It is like selling items and getting money. Like other businesses, it is also business. But whenever we think about the prostitution the dignity of the person, honour of a person or the self-esteem of that person destroys. There are various reasons by which the women get involved in prostitution. In ancient India, Devdasi tradition is the major cause of prostitution. A girl child is offered to the god as his wife. She was not allowed to marry thereafter. There are other causes also. These prostitutes have been living the devastating life from many years.

Objectives of the study

Every human being possesses some rights they are called as fundamental rights. Not any person or no institute or no government can take it from the person. Women in the profession of prostitution also are no exception to it. The government should provide every person in the country equal rights and equal treatment irrespective of their caste, religion, sex or place of birth. This is a very important thing for any person's dignity and mental, physical, spiritual and social health and development. Prostitution is not the problem of India only it is an internationally acclaimed challenge. Every country which is suffering from prostitution has to face this problem. The objective of this research paper is to study the different types of prostitutes. This paper also

studies whether the prostitutes get the guarantee of fundamental rights which the constitution provides. Their dignity being a human being is been destroyed for many years. Before the independence and after the independence the same thing is happening. The research paper is also going to focus on the current laws regarding the prostitution and gender inequality faced by sex workers.

Methodology

The literature has a simple example of prostitutes and the behaviour with them. The methodology which is used for preparing this research paper is primary and secondary data collection. The data is collected from magazines, journals, newspapers, articles and books. The researcher has collected most of the information or data from the library and internet. There are so many cases which we can read in the newspaper about prostitution in society. So many novels, dramas and poems are there which states the plight of women in the sex work.

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Whenever we think about prostitution, the thought which runs through our mind is street prostitution. There are many types of prostitutes in India. Nochi, Kanjari, kasbi, Nautch girl, Tawaif, Devdasi, Domni are some of the types of prostitutes.

No women participate in the business of prostitution by her own will. There are some causes behind participation. They are religious like Devdasi tradition, Neighbour in connivance with parents, Neighbours as pimps (guardians not knowing), Aged sex workers from same village or locality, Unknown person/accidental meeting with a pimp, Mother/sister/near relative in the profession, Lover giving false hope of marriage or job and selling to brothel, Husband, Young college student selling to a brothel and visiting free of cost, pornography, kidnapping and abduction, problematic drug use or alcohol abuse etc..

Part III of the constitution of India gives us more information about the fundamental rights of every citizen of India. The government must protect these fundamental rights. There is more information given in the article 14 and article 15. These two articles guarantee equality before law. India women have been ill-treated, therefore it is needed to give for the protection to the women. Article 19(1)(g) States about the freedom of the business or the profession or the trade. But the constitution of India gives us the right to choose the profession. Article 19(6) permits the state to make laws imposing reasonable restrictions on this right in the interest of the general public. In Article 21 we can see that no person shall be deprived of his life and personal liberty except procedure established by law. Its include right to live with human dignity, right of livelihood and shelter. State must ensure that every person has a life in which her basic needs are fulfilled and the person is not forced to live or work in degrading circumstances. Article 23 states about trafficking of the human being for various purposes. It is illegal to traffic a person for or making sexual work or for labour or for using in other kinds of work.

Article 39 (a) says that the state should provide proper means for the livelihood to the citizens. Article 39(e) says that the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the

tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength. Article 39 (f) says that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and conditions of freedom and dignity and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and moral and material abandonment. Article 42 directs the state to secure just and human conditions of work. Article 46 directs the state to promote with special care educational and economic interest of the weaker sections of the people and protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.

These provisions have been demolished in the so-called, 'necessary evil' of prostitution. Sex workers are living in unhygienic conditions. Here the law of life is broken. The clients elevate their lust in the form of physical torture and physical harassment. The dignity of a prostitute shatters into pieces every time she faces these kinds of harassment. She is been ill-treated by the madam or the pimp. Her following fundamental rights have been crushed.

Right to equality. Prostitute has been harassed based on sex. She is tortured physically and mentally because she is a woman. The right to equality is demolished in the profession of prostitution.

Right to physical and moral integrity. Girls have been ill-treated and the trafficking of girls is happening for various purposes. One of the purposes is for prostitution. The same thing happened with the child labourers, low cast people and other vulnerable groups.

Right to the prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Some of the sadistic clients treat the prostitutes in a very bad way. They misbehave with the prostitutes. physical harassment and physical torture are regular for the prostitutes. This right to the prohibition of torture and cruel inhuman or degrading treatment is been demolished by some of the clients.

Right to liberty and security of person. Whenever we talk about liberty, prostitutes are exceptions. Chakla is a place where group prostitution occurs. She is caged in that Chakla. Her security is in the hands of brothel owner or madam. She is been beaten by the pimp or Babu. On the other hand, whenever we talk about street prostitutes, she is on her own for her safety.

Right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The work of prostitution is highly risky in the sense of health. There are some things which are very usual they are; Incidence of violence, disease, unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, HIV-AIDS. She suffers from various health issues and mental issues also.

Right to life. The life of prostitutes is always in threat. She has various health issues and will have to fight with diseases like HIV AIDS. She has to work in unhygienic conditions. Her life is in been threatened and by some of the sadistic clients or madam or pimp.

Conclusion and suggestions

It is said that if we want to measure the progress of any country, see the progress of the women in that country. There is always a struggle between the two forms of society that is patriarchy and matriarchy. Women have been treating badly in the patriarchy.

Today we are talking about India as a global economy. But still, we have been facing the basic issues of women empowerment, education and employment. We have seen that there is no fundamental rights are guaranteed to the prostitutes. Talking about other rights is the next step. We should provide them at least the fundamental rights.

There are laws to protect them. But the laws are not been followed. In the place, the prostitutes are not treated as human beings. They are treated as an object of sexual pleasure. They have been exploited for many years. They are not aware of this thing. Some people, some instructions, some NGOs have been struggling and creating a good atmosphere for them to live in.

The issue of kidnapped or abducted girls or those prostitutes who were cheated or who wanted to leave the profession need to rehabilitate. The state should provide them with proper livelihood or an honourable life. The society should accept them. Various workshops should be arranged for vocational training and education so that the women get self-employed.

The prostitutes who have been suffering from diseases must be treated. The society should behave with them in a good manner.

The people, pimp, Babus, madam, relatives or people of human trafficking, who force the girls into prostitution must be punished severely.

References

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