



## **Health and Social Implications of Prostitution in the School Systems of Imo State, Nigeria**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Prostitution in Nigeria is illegal in all the states that practice Islam or Christianity. Prostitution in our society currently is on the increase and its health and social implications are destructive and ill. This study accessed the health and social implications of prostitution in tertiary institutions, secondary schools and others in Imo State. For the purpose of this study, the researcher formulated three (3) specific objectives and three (3) research questions with two (2) hypotheses that guided the study. The design of this study was descriptive survey design and questionnaire was employed as the instrument for data collection. The instrument was validated and reliability study carried out. The population of this study was 1,862,000 which consist of all Adolescents and Adults with 1,800 sample size drawn from the population of three groups (tertiary institutions, secondary schools and primary schools) in Imo State using purposive method of sampling and Taro Yamen Formular. The data obtained from the field was analyzed using mean deviation while t-test was used to test the hypotheses. the result points out that item numbers 1(prostitution and STI) and 7(Prostitution and unsafe abortion) recorded **3.08 and 3.13** respectively for tertiary institutions, item number 9(skin diseases) and 10(HIV/AIDS) recorded 3.56 and 3.50 respectively for secondary schools item number 1(STI) and 7(unsafe abortion) recorded 3.25 and 3.28 for others respectively as the highest mean values recorde, while item 3(genital damage) and 7(unsafe abortion) were below **2.50** for tertiary institutions, only 7(unsafe abortion) for secondary schools, and 3(genital damage) for others were not accepted as part of health implications of prostitution amongst people in Imo State..Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that there are health implications of prostitution amongst people in Imo. Also the social factors that affect prostitution are risk to human life, destruction of academic achievements. The researcher recommended that Government should improve on skill acquisition programmes, creation of government employment and ensure effective implementation of the law that proscribes prostitution homes.

**Keywords:** Pimps, Brothel, Purposive, Yamen, Genital, Abortion



## INTRODUCTION

Prostitution has been common since ancient days. It is often called the world's oldest profession (Ringdal, 2014). Prostitution has been one of the social problems resulting from hazardous lifestyle. The term prostitution was derived from the Latin word "prostitutes" meaning to stand in front of". Thus prostitution is the shameful act of using one's body for making money (Ringdal, 2014). Little (2016) explained that prostitution refers to commercialized sex in which the prostitute offers the use of his/her body for money or material gains. The author further highlighted the basic elements of prostitution to include temporary relationship and lack of true love. In lack of true love, the relationship does not go beyond the specified time. Besides, no responsibility is admitted by either party, for the possible consequences. Shykes (2019) defined prostitution as the practice of offering one's body for sale or an unworthy use of oneself. Both men and women are involved in the practice of prostitution. Some authors described prostitution as the practices through which women allow men to use their body for sexual intercourse for an economic reward. Female prostitutes are women who offer their body to promiscuous sexual intercourse especially for economic reward.

Prostitution is widely described as the oldest profession, the practice of selling sex for cash or other immediate compensations, has existed across culture and times from the ancient Greeks. Prostitution also crosses class lines, from the poor "Street Walker" with their stereotyped drug habits and abusive pimps to the high class brothel and escort service worker with designer's clothes and stylish apartments (Jones, 2018).

While the prostitutes technically sells a service, namely sexual intimacy, the ways in which prostitution is discussed suggest that at least to modern sensibilities she or he is selling for more than that. A common misconception of prostitution is that a significant majority of prostitutes are women. Women prostitution is easily talked about, than male prostitution at least, since the ancient times (Schilling 2019).

According to Edlin (2020), Prostitution is seen as the world's oldest profession, in the modern sense, couldn't have emerged before the emergence of money which can only have taken place after the

emergence of several trades. However, prostitution has been noted in Bonobo Chimpanzee behaviour based around access to food and gift and in penguin in regards to access for suitable stores for nest building. Until the age of industrialization, the world was basically agrarian, so goods and services were most often obtained by barter. Any item normally exchanged for other good was likely acceptable for a prostitute's sexual services (Edlin, 2020).

Berry (2015), observed that one of the first forms of prostitution is sacred prostitution supposedly practiced among Samaritans. In ancient sources there were many traces of sacred prostitutions, starting perhaps with Babylon where each woman had to reach once in their lives the sanctuary of militia and there, have sex with a foreigner as a sign of hospitality for a symbolic price. It was common in Israel too, but some prophets like Hosea and Ezekiel strongly fought it. It was assumed that it was part of the cult of Canaan where a significant portion of prostitutes were made. Berry (2015), further asserts that in the Bible, there is a story in which a woman named Tamar poses as a false prostitute to seemingly commit incest with her father-in-law Judah. In reality, she was performing a levirate marriage, but Judah taking her for a harlot promised to give her a kid from the flocks in order to sleep with her in Jericho, a prostitute named Rehab assisted Israelite spies and she eventually married a member of the Jewish people (Berry, 2015).

According to Sessou (2017), in ancient Rome; while there were some commonalities with the Greek system, as the empire grew prostitutes were often foreign slaves. Caught, bought, or raised for that purpose, sometimes by large-scale prostitute farmers. Enslavement into prostitution was sometimes used as a legal punishment against criminal free women.

Prostitution in Nigeria is illegal in all Northern states that practice Islamic penal code. In southern Nigeria, the activities of pimps or madams, underage prostitution and the operation or ownership of brothel are penalized under sections 223, 224 and 225 of the Nigerian criminal code (Criminal Code, 2016). Even though, Nigerian law does not legalize commercial sex work. It is vague, if such work is performed by an independent individual who operates on his or her own accordingly without the use of pimps or a brothel.

Sessou, (2017), further stated that the Nigerian criminal system prohibits national and trans-national trafficking of women for commercial sex or forced labour (Sessou, 2017). Starting in the early

1990s, the rising economic importance of Lagos as a seaport and capital city changed the political and economic landscape of the city and contributed to the arrival of Nigerian from the hinterland. The demographic and commercial changes also expanded to commoditization of sex and by 1910, commercial sex services had become prevalent in Lagos (Aderinto, 2021). In addition to this, Uzokwe (2018) posited that with unbridled liberty, and freedom, the students began to push the limits of acceptable behaviours, taking advantage of freedom bestowed on them as adults.

### **Types of Prostitution**

Christian (2015) pointed out that about twenty five(25) types of sex work were identified. These types are grouped under the headings of direct and indirect prostitution.

#### **Direct Forms of Prostitution**

- Street Clients solicited on the street park or other public places, services inside street, vehicles or short stay premises. This is widespread in Europe, United Kingdom etc.
- **Brothels:** premises are explicitly dedicated to providing sex, better security than that of street. Often licensed by authorities it is preferred where prostitution is decriminalized. example Australia, Newzealand etc.
- **Escort:** Client-contacts prostitutes by phone or via hotel staff. Most covert form of prostitution .It is relatively expensive because of how client turnover service provided at clients home hotel room.
- **Private:** Clients contacts prostitutes by phone similar to escort except services provided in sex worker's premises. A variant in London and other nearby cities "is flat" prostitution high cost services in rented serviced, inner city units.
- **Window or Doorway:** Brothels with prostitutes on public display. Windows preferred in cold climates doorways in warmer places window prostitutes almost unique to Amsterdam and Hamburg, and doorway found in less affluent areas of European cities and other developing countries.

#### **Indirect Forms of Prostitution**

**Bondage and discipline:** Sexual fantasy through role play. This may involve the inflicting of pain, but genital contact is not routine.



**Lap dancing:** this is a recent development involving erotic dancing at close quarters without sexual contact.

**Massage Parlour:** Premises ostensibly dedicated to providing massage, but a range of sexual services may be provided. In South East Asia similar arrangements may apply in barbershops.

**Travelling Entertainers:** Actors, dancers, and others involved in entertainment may also provide sexual services.

**Beer Girls:** young women hired by major companies to promote and sell products in bars and clubs, sexual services sold to supplement income.

**Street Vendors and Traders:** Ostensibly marketing rural produce on other goods but supplementing income with sexual services.

**Opportunistic:** A person approached in a social venue may occasionally choose to charge for sexual favours if the client appears wealthy enough.

**Femme Libre:** Women usually single or divorced who exchange sexual services for gifts. The gifts are then converted to cash.

**Individual Arrangement:** The single mother who may have sex with her landlord in place of rent. Older sex workers, who only deal with small number of regular clients, by appointment, kept women or men concubines.

**Swingers Clubs:** Some swingers or couple sex clubs employ (undisclosed) prostitutes if there is a shortage of female guests.

**Geisha:** Women engaged primarily to provide social company, but sex may ensue.

### **Health Implications of Prostitution**

Prostitution is a canker worm that has eaten deep into the fabrics of our society. It also breaths like a virus in the blood of many youths. Talk shows would not have anything to talk about without sex. Unrestricted sex is being fouled as a short cut to personal fulfillment and satisfaction. People have given up their virtue to sex, traded their families for it and they are getting sick and dying because of it. If such licentious theories be accepted, women will find love stripped of all mobility, all decency, all reserves and all fidelity (Uzokwe, 2018).



Looking at the situation, female students cannot be stopped from falling in love, the only area that called for concern is the aftermath of the love, when love results into sex, this may involve indiscriminate, sex and may eventually result into sexually transmitted infections, this is why, tertiary institution students, had to be persuasively oriented to exercise restraints in having sexual intercourse. When they fall in love, putting into consideration the resultant effects of sex..

### **Impacts of Prostitution on Health**

Prostitution is not only affecting the sexual or physical health, but affects psychological health also. Considering the physical health issues, both of communicable and non communicable diseases are caused by prostitution based sexually transmitted diseases which can always lead to systemic complications. Similarly, some traumatic or unpleasant previous experience leads to post traumatic complications which directly affect their sexual health. Proper knowledge on sexual health and the proper guidance to manage psychosexual and psychosocial issues is an utmost necessity to promote health and wellness among sexual workers.

### **Social Implications of Prostitution**

Prostitution contributes to the objectification of women. Just because someone pays does not erase the qualifications of what we consider sexual violence, domestic violence and rape. However, people who pay for sex tend to think that what they do is acceptable.

Prostitution is something that has been around for centuries and for the past few years there has been a debate as to whether it should be legalized or not no matter a person's legal earning's, it is difficult to refuse the fact that prostitution has negative effects on society (Jared, 2021). People that are removed from the situation tend to think that the legalization will lessen the harm of prostitution. This is simply not true. For example, a legal Amsterdam brothel could have three different panic buttons in a single room because clients "regularly attempt to rape and strangle women. Therefore the harmful side effects of prostitution impact the individual and the society in which they live. Medrano (2013) further explains that men who pay for sex tend to think that what they do is acceptable. Man said "he clarifies the nature of his relationship to the women he buys" I paid for this". You have no rights, you are with me now". Perhaps one of the most frightening aspects of this quote is mirror it provides to the mindset from which it came. This possessive attitude moves from streets and brothels to schools, homes and daily living.

Prostitution normalizes violence, sexual violence and physical assaults are the norm for female in prostitution. A Dutch study states that 60% of female in legal prostitution were physically assaulted, 70% were threatened with physical assaults, and 40% had, been coerced into legal prostitution. Legal or illegal, the longer someone is in prostitution, the more he or she is physically endangered and psychologically harmed (Roseburgh, 2016).

### **Public Health Implications of Prostitution**

Prostitution was associated with increased risk for blood borne viral infections, sexually transmitted diseases and mental health symptoms use of emergency care in women and use of inpatient mental health services for men. Prostitution meaning the exchange of sex for money or drugs has far reaching social, psychological and medical consequences. It is associated with a host of psychological vulnerabilities, including exposure to childhood physical abuse and childhood sexual abuse (CSA), (El-Dassel, 2017).

Interpersonal violence in adulthood; Jarley (2021); Roseburgh 2016) and substance use Medrano (2013). Prostitution is often linked with socio-demographic disadvantages (e.g minority ethnic status, low income, homelessness, low education level) (Medrano, 2013). Because of its complexity and multifaceted nature, Prostitution poses a significant challenge to clinicians. **Gastrointestinal Tract Related Disease.**

Psychological stress which has relationship with prostitution and social stigmatization cause gastro-esophageal reflex Disease (GORD). Chronic gastritis and peptic ulcers can be presented with *Helicobacter pylori* infections through curilingus because the potential reservoir of *H. Pylori* include faeces, cheeks, saliva and dental plagues which transmit to vagina while cunnilious. Risk for developing gastric cercinouces and extra-gastric infections are possible with this infection (Eslick, 2020).

Cardiovascular system related diseases like gonococcal endocarditis with *Neisseira* infection causes swelling over endocardium of heart leading to Gonococcal sepsis. Respiratory system related Diseases: Being infected with HIV, prostitutes are much vulnerable with lower respiratory tract infections like bacterial pneumonia due to *Streptococcus pneumonia*.

In addition, tuberculosis (TB) through *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection is prevalent among prostitutes as a common respiratory infection. Ganito urinary system related diseases: *Chlamydia*

*trachomatis* infections in both males and females are responsible for lower urinary tract complications evidently associated with male genitourinary system urethritis.

The aim of this study is to assess the health and social implications of prostitution tertiary institutions, secondary schools and others in Imo State.

In specific terms the objective of the study includes:

### Methodology

The design of this study was descriptive survey design. The study was carried out in Imo state. The population of this study 1,862,000 which consist of all Adolescents and Adults with 1,800 sample size drawn from the population of three groups (tertiary institutions, secondary schools and primary schools) in Imo State using purposive method of sampling technique and Taro Yamen Formular to determine the minimum sample size. Structured questionnaire was employed as the instruments for collection. The instrument was validated and reliability study carried out as a reliability coefficient of 0.78 was obtained. The data obtained from the field was analyzed using mean deviation to answer research questions while t-test was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significant using statistical package for social sciences SSPS.

### RESULTS

#### Research Question 1

What are the perceptions of people on health implications of prostitution in Imo State?

**Table 1. Health implications of prostitution**

S/NO:	QUESTIONNIRE STATEMENT	ITEM	n	Tertiary Institution			Secondary School			Others		
				n	X	DE	n	X	DE	N	X	DE
1.	Prostitution leads to sexually transmitted diseases.		600	3.08	A	600	3.00	A	600	3.25	A	
2.	Exposure to infection through prostitution.		600	2.43	A	600	2.79	A	600	3.09	A	
3.	Promiscuity can bring damage to parts of genital organs.		600	2.33	NA	600	2.57	A	600	2.04	NA	



4.	Sex workers are at risk of drug addiction.	600	2.75	A	600	3.24	A	600	2.76	A
5.	One is exposed to ill-health through sex work.	600	2.94	A	600	3.31	A	600	2.85	A
6.	It leads to death.	600	2.98	A	600	3.11	A	600	2.88	A
7.	One is at risk of unsafe abortion through this lifestyle.	600	3.13	NA	600	2.36	NA	600	3.28	A
8.	It leads to infertility.	600	2.83	A	600	2.99	A	600	2.81	A
9.	It can bring skin disease.	600	2.98	A	600	3.56	A	600	2.87	A
10.	One is also exposed to HIV and AIDs.	600	2.81	A	600	3.50	A	600	2.79	A
<b>Cluster/pooled mean</b>			<b>28.26</b>			<b>30.43</b>			<b>28.62</b>	
<b>Mean of item means</b>			<b>2.826</b>	<b>A</b>		<b>3.043</b>			<b>2.862</b>	<b>A</b>

Sample Size (n), Summation ( $\sum X$ ), Mean ( $\bar{X}$ ), Standard Deviation (S), Remarks, Accepted (A) and Not Accepted (NA)

Table 1: shows the mean scores and standard deviations used in answering research question one. Based on the criteria, decision mean, the result points out that item numbers 1 and 7 recorded **3.08** and **3.13** respectively for tertiary institutions, item numbers 9 and 10 recorded 3.56 and 3.50 respectively for secondary schools and item numbers 1 and 7 recorded 3.25 and 3.28 respectively for others, while items 3 and 7 were below **2.50** for tertiary institutions, only 7 for secondary schools, and 3 for others were not accepted as part of health implications of prostitution amongst people in Imo State. The remaining items were accepted with mean values above **2.50**

### Research Question 2

What are the social factors that affect prostitution among people in Imo State?

**Table 2. Social factors that affect prostitution as perceived by tertiary institution students**

S/NO:	QUESTIONNIRE STATEMENT	ITEM	Tertiary Institution			Secondary School			Others		
			N	X	DE	n	X	DE	N	X	DE
1.	Sexual promiscuity leads to objectification of women.		600	2.79	A	600	2.96	A	600	2.79	A

2.	It leads to physical injuries or bruises.	600	2.64	A	600	2.74	A	600	3.20	A
3.	Prostitutes are exposed to sexual and domestic violence.	600	3.02	A	600	3.27	A	600	2.97	A
4.	It leads to rape.	600	2.95	A	600	3.13	A	600	2.86	A
5.	It destroys family reputation.	600	2.97	A	600	3.14	A	600	3.03	A
6.	Stigmatization is one of the consequences.	600	3.16	A	600	3.29	A	600	2.96	A
7.	It leads to sex trafficking.	600	2.58	A	600	2.76	A	600	3.01	A
8.	Alcoholism is an effect of Prostitution.	600	2.95	A	600	2.96	A	600	2.86	A
9.	It leads to abandonment of babies.	600	2.82	A	600	2.95	A	600	2.79	A
10.	It can bring about loss of self esteem.	600	2.98	A	600	3.08	A	600	3.04	A
<b>Cluster/pooled mean</b>			<b>28.86</b>			<b>30.28</b>			<b>29.51</b>	
<b>Mean of item means</b>			<b>2.886</b>	<b>A</b>		<b>3.028</b>			<b>2.951</b>	<b>A</b>

Sample Size (n), Summation ( $\sum X$ ), Mean ( $\bar{X}$ ), Standard Deviation (S), Remarks, Accepted (A) and Not Accepted (NA)

Table 2: shows the mean scores and standard deviations used in answering research question two. Based on the issues considered, the result points out that item numbers 13 and 16 with **3.02** and **3.16** respectively for tertiary institutions, item numbers 4 and 5 with **3.13** and **3.14** respectively for secondary schools and item numbers 2 and 5 with **3.25** and **3.03** respectively for others recorded the highest mean values, while no item is below **2.50**. All the items with mean values above **2.50** were accepted as having impact on social factors.

### Research Question 3

What are the peoples' views on how the society can reduce or eliminate prostitution in Imo State?

### Table 3. Strategies for prostitution minimization

S/NO:	QUESTIONNIRE ITEM STATEMENT	n	$\sum X$	$\bar{X}$	S	REMARK
1.	Policy makers should set up intervention programmes for both Adolescents/Adults.	1800	5,196	2.88	1.697	Accepted
2.	Law makers should improve homicide investigations.	1800	4,758	2.64	1.618	Accepted
3.	Campus code of conduct should be enforced.	1800	5,595	3.10	1.760	Accepted
4.	Government mapping out strategies to help both Adolescents/Adults addicts.	1800	5,052	2.80	1.673	Accepted
5.	Regular orientation on sex education.	1800	5,652	3.14	1.772	Accepted
6.	Government sponsoring skill acquisition canters to create employment.	1800	5,973	3.31	1.819	Accepted
7.	Surveillance camera's placed in higher institution can help reduce prostitution.	1800	4,761	2.64	1.624	Accepted
8.	Lecturers should engage students more on online teaching.	1800	5,133	2.85	1.688	Accepted
9.	Public awareness and sex education campaign reduces prostitution.	1800	5,526	3.07	1.752	Accepted
10.	Gender equality can reduce prostitution.	1800	5,073	2.81	1.676	Accepted
	<b>Cluster/pooled mean</b>			<b>29.24</b>		
	<b>Mean of item means</b>			<b>2.924</b>		

Sample Size (n), Summation ( $\sum X$ ), Mean ( $\bar{X}$ ), Standard Deviation (S), and Remarks

Table 3: shows the mean scores and standard deviations used in answering research question three. Based on the issues considered, the result points out that item numbers 3, 5, 6 and 9 with **3.10**, **3.14**, **3.31** and **3.07** respectively had the highest mean values, while no item was below **2.50**. All the items with mean values above **2.50** were accepted as part of health implications of prostitution amongst people in Imo State. The values of standard deviations were small, indicating that the scores in the distribution are homogeneous.

### Hypothesis 1

There is no significant difference (at  $\alpha_{0.05}$ ) in the health implications of prostitution amongst students in Imo State.

**Table 4. t-test statistics on health implications of prostitution**

N	X	$\mu$	S	S.E	Df	t <sub>cal</sub>	t <sub>tab</sub>	Decision
1,800	<b>29.10</b>	50	5.316	0.318	598	<b>6.668</b>	<b>1.96</b>	Accepted

Sample Size (n), Mean ( $\bar{X}$ ), Standard Deviation (S), Standard Error (S.E), degree of freedom (df), one sample t-test statistics and Decision

Table 4: shows the result of the t-test for hypothesis one to establish the significant difference in the health implications of prostitution amongst Students in Imo State. The outcome indicates that the t-calculated value of **6.668** is more than the t-tabulated value of **1.96**. Hence, accepting the null hypothesis, revealing that, there is no significant difference (at  $\alpha_{0.05}$ ) in the health implications of prostitution amongst tertiary institutions, secondary schools and others in Imo State.

### Hypothesis 2

There is no significant difference (at  $\alpha_{0.05}$ ) between the impact of social factors and perception of prostitution in Imo State.

**Table 5 t-test statistics on the impact of social factors on health and social implications of prostitution**

N	X	$\mu$	S	S.E	df	t <sub>cal</sub>	t <sub>tab</sub>	Decision
1,800	<b>29.55</b>	50	5.372	.333	598	<b>5.094</b>	<b>1.96</b>	Accepted

Sample Size (n), Mean ( $\bar{X}$ ), Standard Deviation (S), Standard Error (S.E), degree of freedom (df), one sample t-test statistics and Decision

Table 5: shows the result of the t-test for hypothesis two to establish the significant difference in the impact of social factors on prostitution in Imo State. The outcome indicates that the t-calculated value of **5.094** is more than the t-tabulated value of **1.96**. Hence, accepting the null hypothesis, and revealing, there is no significant difference in the impact of social factors on prostitution among tertiary institutions, secondary schools and others in Imo State.



### **Discussion of Findings**

The findings revealed that there are health implications of prostitution amongst people in Imo State. This study is in accordance with the work of Oyeoku, (2017) which involved study on addressing prevalence of health implications of prostitution in Nigeria through non-formal education provision. The study was conducted amongst 850 tertiary institution students, respondents were interviewed. Based on the findings of the study the researcher concluded that Prostitution is not only affecting the sexual or physical health, but affects psychological health also. Considering the physical health issues, both of communicable and non communicable diseases can be a factor of prostitution, sexually transmitted diseases can always lead to systemic complications.

The impact of social factors on health and social implications of prostitution are risk to human life, destruction and social negative stigmatization in Imo State Also, there is no significant difference in the impact of social factors on health and social implications of prostitution in Imo State This study is in adherence with the study of Abdullahi (2015), which involved a study on the socio-economic factors and effects of prostitution in Nigeria. The findings revealed that the driving force behind prostitution is economic gain. Prostitutes are found to have pathological problems at their backgrounds and the social relations amongst them are based on primordial pattern. Prostitution has both effects. Based on the perennial failure of previous efforts to control prostitution in Imo state , this paper calls for urgent steps towards the reduction of prostitution in Imo State. Such steps include the provision of job opportunities, public enlightenment, recreational facilities, enhancement of formal and informal education and the introduction of sex education in the curriculum of secondary schools, and tertiary institutions.

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