

EFFECTS OF PROSTITUTION AND DRUG ABUSE ON URBAN AFRICA'S INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

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ABSTRACT: The paper studies the rising trend of prostitution in urban Africa and the upsurge in the use of hard drugs by the youths in neighborhoods. Effects of drug abuse, trafficking and prostitution on a city's local economy; with a consequential impact on its health, security, socio-cultural and economic sustainability is theme of paper. Prostitution and drug abuse is a key factor in organized crimes. Hence, the psychosocial consequence of drug addiction, crime and poverty on the urban workforce is a subject of discuss. Sexual exploitation of women and drug abuse in the US, UK and Australia is a comparative deduction to substantiate the dangers inherent. Paper recounts Colombia's organized crime experience and discourse that in order to help young people; a multiple strategy be utilized to check and withdraw youths from these vices. The paper affirms strongly that a veritable way of dealing with prostitution and drug related offences is to alleviate poverty. In conclusion, paper suggests that Urban Africa for industrial growth needs to evolve and sustain public education and programs, aimed at skills acquisitions, and create employment opportunities for youths that offer options for 'escape' thereby promoting healthy behavior and lifestyle.

KEYWORDS: Africa, Drug Abuse, Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime, Poverty, Prostitution.

1 INTRODUCTION

Africa is the world's second largest continent, with a total surface area of 30.3 million km², including several islands and territories. It accounts for about 14.72% of the world's human population, and currently, an estimated total population of over 1.0 billion people. However, it has huge promising energy resources. Africa remains the world's poorest and most underdeveloped continent. Today there are men and women who prostitute in cities. They sell their bodies for many reasons other than money. Many women and young girls get into prostitution because of poverty. However, the harsh fact is that without an alternative, many have no choice but to continue, for survival. Just like everybody else, those in prostitution desires - a home, an education, a job, health care, a partner, and a community (Hoigard and Finstad, 1992; El-Bassel et al., 1997). The primary motivation towards prostitution is logically, a need for money.

There is an upsurge in violent crime and the use of hard drugs in neighborhoods by youths; the youth have become more engaged in hard drugs partly due to circumstances and factors beyond their control. A *get-rich-quick Mentality*, which despises hard work, effort and challenge, set in. Many believe such attitudes are hard to combat. Good jobs are limited nevertheless; many youths are much apathetic to education. This vicious circle must be broken. In some nations, education are neglected for decades, due partly to war, internal conflicts, terrorism as the case of *Boko Haram* (Nigeria), *Al Shabab* in the East Africa (Kenya, Somalia and Sudan), and the results of thisS are sadly very visible today. Africa is, less protected from the impact of drugs trafficking trades. The next section study prostitution in Africa, for purpose of clarity, male prostitution is not a subject of discussion and the word 'sex worker' is substitute for 'prostitute'.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 PROSTITUTION IN AFRICA

Prostitution is a global phenomenal issue permeating societies and civilization for generations immemorial. A study in the UK affirms that 80,000 women work in 'on-street' prostitution with a female to male ratio of four to one (Home Office, 2004). Poverty more often, is a driving-force behind the increasing trend of prostitution in urban Africa's neighborhoods. One in two persons in Sub Saharan Africa survive on less than one dollar per day and about 184 million people – 33% of the African population – suffer from malnutrition and extreme poverty. For a certain part of the female population who are unemployed, prostitution seems the only means to provide for themselves and their families. Most scholars and researchers affirms the exceptional condition in Africa with dismay where [some] husbands, fathers and brothers drive their wives, daughters, and sisters into illegal means of livelihood, including prostitution, because they do not have a job and means to live on. Many cities harbor prostitutes who ply their trade- day and night, some in the brothel, and others on the street and few as tourist escorts. All these issues have adversely affected the psychosocial and economic indices of healthy living. These are issues examined in the next section and subsections.

2.2 CAUSES OF PROSTITUTION IN AFRICA

Poverty and unemployment in Africa is an activating factor in the rapid spread of prostitution. It provides those involved in this profession a considerable amount of income to support their families. Family expectations and problems are common factors why many are tempted into the prostitution business. Women and young girls are compelled to pay for their sibling's education or support an ailing family member. Aspects such as constant abuse from parents have led adolescents to leave their homes and attracted by the easy earnings from prostitution. From information gathered during interviews with local prostitutes, in Lagos, Kampala, and Accra the following reasons seem the most prominent.

2.2.1 POVERTY

Most women and young girls involved in prostitution cited poverty, the need to pay household expenses and support their children, as a primary motivator for entering sex work. Nearly all the women interviewed mentioned poverty, lack of financial support from their family and the need to eat and clothe themselves as reasons for getting involved in prostitution. Even though there are also males who prostitute themselves, prostitution in Africa still appears to be a largely female domain.

2.2.2 UNEQUAL GENDER RELATIONS

The subordination of women in a society dominated and controlled by men, and the unequal gender relations embodied in customary practices are determining factors. Many interviewees explained, that their relations with men, is mostly for material gains. This gives an image of the woman, as a 'sex object'. This image devalues, degrades, and establishes mechanisms of sexual and economic subordination of young girls and woman in relation to the men.

2.2.3 FAMILY DISINTEGRATION

Prostitution in urban Africa is also, influenced by socio-cultural changes from customary values to those of a modern society. In the course of many interviews, the event in the personal history of some prostitutes that caused them to take up prostitution amongst other was the death of a breadwinner like a father or mother, or the separation of the parents.

2.2.4 LACK OF EDUCATION AND UNCERTAIN FUTURE

In the last two decades, most schools in Africa are, destroyed by war, civil conflicts, terrorism or natural disasters, and this has posed huge challenges in rehabilitation. Fewer young females enroll at school, and are more likely to drop out. For those who have the opportunity to go to school, conditions are basic and learning materials are in short supply. Because of limited employment opportunities, many realize that their chances of obtaining good jobs are poor; these contribute to a lack of optimism to the future thus creating a strong attraction for prostitution as a way of survival.

2.2.5 SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, VIOLENCE AND RAPE

Research from many developed nations shows that most women and young girls, who later engage in prostitution, were sexually exploited or raped by an employer, father, stepfather, uncle or boys from the neighborhood. More than half of women in prostitution are either been raped and or seriously assaulted. In the UK, for example as many as 85% of women in prostitution report physical abuse in the family, with 45% reporting familial sexual abuse (Home Office, 2004). The types of violence experienced included being slapped, punched, or kicked; robbery; attempted robbery; beaten; threatened with weapon; held against will; attempted rape; strangulation; kidnapped; attempted kidnap; forced to give client oral sex; vaginal rape and anal rape (Church, S., et al, 2001). About 80% of women in prostitution have been the victim of a rape. This is hard to talk about because the experience of prostitution is just like rape. Prostitutes are, raped on the average, eight to ten times per year. They are the most raped class of women in the history of our planet (Susan K Hunter and K.C. Reed, 1990)

2.2.6 MIGRATION, MOBILITY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Migration and prostitution often is, linked as poor migrants who newly arrives a neighborhood sometimes turn to prostitution if they cannot find other means to survive. Migrants may also become the clients of sex workers, sometimes as a means of escaping the loneliness that often accompanies migration. In recent times, sex tourism is stimulating the demand for sex workers in many modern cities of Africa. In addition human trafficking – situation whereby people, usually women, and children are, moved against their will between neighborhoods and nations- Large numbers of trafficked women and children are, forced into prostitution every year in Africa's cities. The next section examines the behavioral act of prostitutes.

2.3 BEHAVIORAL ACT OF PROSTITUTES IN AFRICA

2.3.1 MULTIPLE PARTNERS

In Africa, sex workers have comparatively high numbers of sexual partners. This in itself does not necessarily increase their chances of infection with diseases – if they use condoms consistently and correctly then they probably, will be protected. The reality, however, is that in most urban Africa cities, sex workers and their clients do not always use condoms. Though efforts are made by Government and concerned groups in promoting safe sex. In other case, sex workers are powerless to bargain safer sex, even if they try to do so; Clients at times use threats or violence to enforce unprotected sex (this is usually the case of a street sex worker). Prostitutes in brothel and sex tourist girls are, found to use condom more regularly, nearly 95%. Clients, may also offer more money for unprotected sex – a proposal that can be hard to refuse by an impoverished sex worker in desperate need of an income.

2.3.2 DRUG USE

Most prostitutes are addict drug users and often time become involved in prostitution as a means of financing their drug use, while others are involved in prostitution first, and then turn to drug use – perhaps to escape from the intense emotional and physical burden of their work, or because other sex workers have introduced them to it. About 80-95% of women who are involved on the streets are problematic drug users (May, T. and Hunter, G., 2006).

2.3.3 IGNORANCE

Ignorance is a factor associated with prostitution in Africa. However, several Government, NGO and interest groups have adopted programs aimed at information and education in addressing this trend with significant results. The danger and consequence of infections in several case; is many time neglected by many sex workers with an almost indifferent attitude towards their own safety and future prospects. This is due to their desperate situation.

2.4 RISKS OF PROSTITUTION

Those engaged in prostitution come from various backgrounds and cultures, and can differ greatly in the lives that they live. In the same way, the levels of risk that they face in terms of STD's and HIV infections differs, depending on the nation they live in, whether they work from a brothel or 'on the street', and whether they have access to condoms, amongst other factors. Pedersen (1994) affirms that an interest in controlling the spread of HIV has motivated a trend toward legitimizing prostitution as just another job. Though prostitution is partly, legal in some nations in Africa, the law rarely protects them. In Africa, there is inappropriate legislation and policies protecting prostitutes from the actions of clients that can put them at

risk. For example, a sex worker raped will have little hope of bringing charges against her attacker. The lack of protection in such cases leaves sex workers open to abuse, violence, and rape, and in such an environment, it is easier for HIV and STD's transmission to occur. Women in prostitution are 18 times more likely to be, murdered than the general population (New Philanthropy Capital, 2007).

People are much less likely to be, convicted of murdering a prostitute than of any other murder. The conviction rate of 75% for murder drops to 26% when it comes to killings of women in prostitution. [Raymond, K., 2006]. The next section looks at the law and prostitution.

2.5 SOCIETAL ATTITUDES TOWARD PROSTITUTES

Many sex workers testify to facing problems from their parents, their peers, or members of the community because of the work they are doing. Most communities respond to prostitution in a generally negative way, often rejecting them, which lead to their further isolation. The community is condemning this behavior but the cost of living necessitates them to stay involved in this activity. It is necessary to promote awareness at neighborhood level for the families about the dangers of this activity. In addition, the stigma that sex workers face can make it hard for them to access health, legal, and social services. Either, they may be afraid to seek out these services for fear of discrimination, or physically prevented from accessing them. The rehabilitation and reintegration of sex workers into the community is often difficult to achieve. The next section considers organized crimes in Africa with its inherent dangers in the political, economic and socio-cultural sustainability of urban livelihood.

2.6 PROSTITUTION AND THE LAW

The position of prostitution and the law varies extensively worldwide, reflecting differing views on victimization and exploitation, inequality, gender roles, gender equality, ethics and morality, freedom of choice, historical social norms, and social costs and benefits. The legal status of prostitution varies from nation to nation, from being a legal activity considered a profession to being punishable by death. In some jurisdictions, prostitution is illegal. In other places prostitution itself (exchanging sex for money) is legal, but surrounding activities (such as soliciting in a public place, operating a brothel, and pimping) are illegal. While in other jurisdictions, prostitution is legal and regulated. Prostitution is illegal in most Africa nations with a few exceptions. Prostitution tends to be contentious in the communities in which it exists. The religious, may be morally, irritated by its presence, viewing it as a threat to the moral values in their scriptures. Many feminists and women' organizations are opposed to prostitution, as they see it as a form of exploitation of women. United Nations in its Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, favors abolitionism, which criminalizes the activities of those seen as exploiting or coercing prostitutes. While leaving prostitutes themselves free from regulation. The Convention affirms, "Prostitution and the accompanying evil of the traffic in persons for the purpose of prostitution are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person.

3 DRUG ABUSE IN AFRICA

Ben-Arie (1985) defines drug abuse as the consumption, without medical supervision, of medically useful drugs, which alter mood and behavior for a purpose other than that for which it is, prescribed or the consumption of any mind changing drugs that have no legitimate medical or socially acceptable use. The consequence of the two has devastating effect on the youths leading to further vulnerability. A study among people entering treatment for substance abuse in the US showed just over half (51%) of women and 11% of men had a history of prostitution (Bernette, M., et al, 2008). There is a proliferation in the use of hard drugs in most African urban neighborhoods in recent time; the youth have become more involved in hard drugs partly because of the circumstances they are in and due to factors beyond their control; including poverty and unemployment. Drugs commonly abused by youths include alcohols, tobacco products, marijuana, inhalants, depressants, cold medications, stimulants, narcotics, hallucinogens, PCP, Ecstasy, and anabolic steroids. A drug is, used in a variety of ways including injecting, drinking, smoking, snorting and rubbing. Some of the symptoms and warning signs of drug abuse include reddened eyes, paranoia, sleepiness, excessive happiness, seizures, memory loss, increased appetite, discolored fingertips, lips or teeth, and irritability. Treatment of drug addiction may involve a combination of medication, individual, and familial interventions. Available data from the Police, NGOs and Health centers in urban Africa, indicate an increase in use of drugs. There is a higher use of hard drugs and substances in urban areas compared to rural areas.

3.1 PROSTITUTION AND DRUG ABUSE

A study of UK cities found 63% of people who sold sex did so mainly to pay for drugs. A strong correlation is observed between drug abuse, and prostitution on the streets in Lagos, Johannesburg, Cairo, Mombasa, Accra, Addis Ababa, Harare and Casablanca. It is, yet to be determined if the onset of drug abuse, precedes prostitution, or follows soon after. It can be suggested though that the development of drug addiction would undoubtedly create the need for a convenient means, such as prostitution, to pay for the habit; equally true is the premise that drugs e.g. marijuana is needed by the prostitute to alleviate the degradation and humiliation felt in the act of prostitution. Several studies have documented the use of drugs to cope with prostitution. According to research, women and young girls, who use drugs, before engaging in prostitution, have often been, found to become heavier users after becoming prostitutes. It is very likely that prostitution and drug use is a self-perpetuating cycle in which the engagement in one leads to an increase in the other. An Australian study of women involved in street-based prostitution found very high rates of drug use (83% heroin, but also cocaine, methamphetamine, cannabis and alcohol) and injecting, as well as risky use behaviors. Also found is high levels of mental health problems (e.g. 54% severe depressive symptoms), including suicidal thoughts (74%) and attempts (42%) (Roxburgh, A, et al, 2008).

3.2 THE EFFECTS OF PROSTITUTION AND DRUG ABUSE ON SOCIETY

Prostitution affects our society in many ways. It is more than just a sexual related offense and can actually lead to more crimes and violence on the streets. Over the years, it has become a threat to our society. Unfortunately, when soliciting a prostitute, many buyers do not think about the serious consequences that come with it. Sexually transmitted disease, infidelity, violence, thefts, and many crimes take place daily with the average prostitute exchange. The negative consequences of prostitution and drug abuse affect not only individuals who are involved but also their families and friends, businesses, and government. The economic impact of drug abuse on businesses whose employees abuse drugs can be very significant. While many drug abusers are unable to attain or hold full-time employment, those who do work put others at risk, particularly when employed in positions where even a minor degree of impairment could be catastrophic; airline pilots, air traffic controllers, train operators, medical practitioners, and bus drivers are just a few examples. Economically, businesses, are affected because employees who abuse drugs sometimes steal cash or supplies, equipment, and products that can be sold to get money to buy drugs. The economic consequences of drug abuse severely burden government resources and, ultimately, the taxpayer.

3.2.1 SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT

The transiting of drugs through any given country means that some of it unavoidably stays, either as payment or as a profit for the drug traffickers. Drugs thus will be, consumed locally, with the dire effects on consumers. In a poor Neighborhood, the disruptive effect on family and society is, multiplied and magnified. Addiction sets in and the afflicted persons become a huge burden. They will steal to feed their habit, often from other family members. They may use violence if necessary to obtain cash, or simply because they become frustrated and angry. A cycle of dependency, distress, poverty and crime sets in. It becomes a major internal Security and Public Health issue in the neighborhoods.

3.2.2 HEALTH AND EDUCATION

These manifest in the individual's health -ill health, sickness, physical weakness, emotional and psychosocial defects and, ultimately death. Particularly devastating to an abuser's health is the contraction of needle borne illnesses including hepatitis and HIV/AIDS through injection drug use and some case 'mental disorder'. The implication of STD's and HIV/AIDS transmission through unprotected sex with prostitutes puts not just them at risk, but the society from which their 'clientele' is, sourced. School attendance rates go down, while dropout rates rise. The idea of get rich quick syndrome; an illusion shared by many; only to live to regret. As a result, they end up as unskilled, unemployed and unproductive citizens, a burden to society. The illiteracy rates for young persons in Africa remain high, and the drug culture amplifies it even more. In the end, they repeat the cycle through their own children. This cycle needs to be broken.

4 ORGANIZED CRIMES IN AFRICA

Worldwide, organized crime is, considered a major threat to human security. It hinders social, economic, cultural, and democratic developments. The threat and challenges of organized crime in Africa is enormous because of the high presence of 'weak nations' serving as potential 'breeding grounds' for such activities (Commission of the European Communities, 2007). In Africa, as in the rest of the world, organized criminal activities take the form of drug trafficking, advanced fee and

Internet fraud, human trafficking, diamond smuggling, forgery, illegal manufacture and trafficking of firearms, armed robbery and the theft and smuggling of oil (Aning, 2007). An infamous case of organized crime in Colombia of the South America; Pablo Escobar, controlled the Colombian Medellin and Cali cartel from the 1980s until his premature death from escape from the authority in 1993. It is, acclaimed that the judges assigned to his case, decline to hear the case for fear of possible assault and death. When he was indicted in November 1986 for racketeering and smuggling of over 60 tons of cocaine into Miami, Colombian judges, after receiving a series of threats from his associates, 'refused' to extradite him; the charges against him were subsequently dismissed and he went free. Escobar for his security and self-preservation bought his election into the Colombian Congress; this gave him the opportunity to protect his criminal network as well as providing him with immunity. Apparently, Escobar became popular because of the largesse he gave to his people. He is, acclaimed to have rendered many community services, such as the construction of hospitals, low-cost houses and many other community services in Colombia. Here, organized crime simply exploited the vacuum created by government's inability to provide certain services and protection for the citizenry. The 2008 World Drug Report, released in Nairobi, indicates that an upsurge in supply and the development of new trafficking routes, mostly through Africa, could eventually strengthen drug demand in developed countries. This, it adds, will see the creation of new markets for some of the world's deadliest substances. Organized Crime controls the markets and the distribution, including transportation of the drugs to markets. It also handles the revenue derived from the illegal trade.

4.1 DRUG TRAFFICKING

Some of the effects that drug trafficking can have on the continent is far from minor, and the results have been devastating to the extent that in many cases, development has been stunted, stalled or has even regressed in some places. The apparent short-term gains are illusory, because the lasting damage far outweighs them all. Drug trafficking is all about moneymaking and instant wealth; tracking and seizing that money is by far the best defense against the drug trafficking phenomenon.

5 THE EFFECT OF POVERTY IN AFRICA

African nations have low income per capita, despite a wealth of natural resources. About 30% poor live in urban area while about 70 per cent of the continent's poor people live in rural areas and depend on subsistent agriculture for food and livelihood. The prevalence of poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa is rising faster than the population. Urban Poverty according to the Copenhagen, resolution (2000) is strongly associated with high levels of environmental risk. This is largely due to poor quality and overcrowded housing conditions and the inadequacies in provision of water, sanitation, drainage, health care, garbage/waste collection, poor percolation resulting into flood, building on waterways and pollution of land, air, and water. The pace of poverty alleviation in most of Africa Nations has slowed since the 1970s. The percentage of people living below the national poverty line varies dramatically, from more than 6 per cent in Tunisia to nearly over 90 per cent and 87 per cent in Somalia and Sudan respectively. Beginning in the late 1970s, Nations such as Egypt, Nigeria, Kenya, and some other African Nations undertook structural adjustments programs with the aim of reducing poverty. One in five African, live in a nation affected by civil conflicts. Poverty has become the mainstay of many African nations such that her people have become victims of lacks in basic needs of life. The cause for this situation is, attributed to bad governance, greed, lack of integrity and vision of political leadership on the continent. Adiukwu, F.O (2014) affirms that movement of people to cities affects the capacity to cope, as each additional person increases the demand on the infrastructure and the natural system and as result creating ecological imbalance with adverse environmental penalty in hazards and disaster. The urban poor need better conditions for their work, better infrastructure and services, and good urban governance.

6 RECOMMENDATION

Africa's youth is hope for future economic prosperity, thus current policies and programs need to enhance their opportunities. Accelerating poverty alleviation and sustaining human development improvement are important challenges for Africa that need solutions. The Assembly of the African Union, at the Third Extraordinary Session on "Employment and Poverty Alleviation" held 8 – 9 September 2004, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, against the backdrop of deepening poverty, widespread unemployment, and underemployment afflicting the majority of Africa; adopted action plans for effective implementations and followed up on poverty alleviation by the Heads of States and Governments of Africa. However, ten years has gone by, still evidence shows that the fight against poverty in Africa has not been successful. The followings are suggested alleviative mechanisms:

- Enhance youth entrepreneurial skills acquisitions, and employment opportunities.
- Psychological treatment is necessary for prostitutes and drug abusers, for purpose of reformation.
- The fight against corruption must, be sustained.
- Government must encourage youths' participation in programs that are, directed at them.
- Improve the quantity and quality of schools; expand school enrollments, especially for girls.
- Good governance and accountability at all level of administration.
- Drug and alcohol addiction treatment and health care must be integral to programs offered to people escaping prostitution and drug abuse.

7 CONCLUSION

Prostitution is a way of survival for women involved; several of urban Africa's youths, gets into drugs to escape, the harsh reality of living in poverty, and as a means of survival engage in prostitution, drug addictions and related offences. The view of Many scholars and researchers and shared by authors is that the key policy actions needed throughout Africa are those that expand youth opportunities. This gives them the skills to participate in the economy and public life, and thus survive the difficulties of everyday life. Urban Africa needs to evolve and sustain public education and programs, aimed at skills acquisitions, and create employment opportunities that offer options for escape and thus promote healthy behaviors and lifestyle. An appropriate educational system and strong economic management will make it possible to absorb the large generation of African youths into the workforce.

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