

## “Barriers to condom use in commercial sex workers”

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### Abstract:

**Background:** Commercial sex work or prostitution is the oldest profession. Aims: to find out social & economical background of commercial sex workers, to assess the knowledge commercial sex workers about AIDS, to assess the knowledge of commercial sex worker regarding correct use of condom and to find out the reason behind the non use of condom among commercial sex workers.

**Material and Methods:** The study was carried out in metropolitan city like Pune because there is cosmopolitan population, and the city is combination of industrialization and urbanization. The study Was carried out in Budhwar Peth Area which includes Bata Lane, Dhamdhare Bol, Takar Galli, Mirgi Galli, City Post, Shrinath Cinema and part of Shukrawar Peth and Dane Ali. Here the separate buildings of CSWs residence having different names are located. The sampling frame comprised of individuals aged 18-50 years and simple random sampling method was used to collect the data. The data was analyzed using SPSS16. The association between socio-economic status and some of the demographic variable using chi-square test.

**Results:** Devadasi and attraction of the city were two main cause of selecting sex profession. Illiterate were more into sex profession than literate. There was definite correlation between education and knowledge of AIDS. Those who were illiterate had less knowledge regarding Aids and proposer use of condom.

**Conclusion:** Study revealed that sex education can improve the knowledge of CSWs in enhancing their knowledge regarding AIDS and Proper use condom.

### I. Introduction

A evaluative & descriptive study design was used for the study. In this study base measure was structured knowledge questionnaire to assess the knowledge of commercial sex workers regarding correct use of condom and AIDS. The data for study was collected at CSWs residents. The study population was commercial sex workers. 1000 commercial sex workers were selected using simple random sampling techniques. Pilot study was conducted before start of study to know the feasibility of the questionnaire.

### II. Operational Definitions

**Knowledge:** It refers to the significant worth or quality knowledge sex workers regarding correct use of condom and AIDS.

**CSWs:** It refers to the commercial sex workers who participate in the study.

**AIDS:** Acquired immune defiance syndrome.

### III. Results

**Table No1: Socio-Economic condition and cause of selection of this profession in CSWs**

Main cause of selection to this profession.		Social-economic – condition.				Chi-square value
		Class –III	Class-IV	Class-IV	Total	
Forced	Devadasi	14(28%)	66(26%)	245(34%)	325	11.2 (<0.05)
	Social cause	03(6.0%)	52.0(20.0%)	51(7.0%)	106	
Self selection	Attraction of city	18(36.0%)	71(28.0%)	281(42.0%)	370	
	Economical	15(30.0%)	67(26.0%)	117(17.0%)	199	
Total		50(100.0%)	256(100.0%)	694(100.0%)	1000	

**Table no 2: Socio-economic status and educational status of CSWs.**

Educational Status	Scio-economic – condition.				Chi-square value
	Class –III	Class-IV	Class-IV	Total	
Illiterate	28(56.0%)	157(61.0%)	465(67.0%)	650	10.2 (<0.05)
Primary	06(12.0%)	50(20.0%)	94(14.0%)	150	
Secondary & above	16(32.0%)	49(19.0%)	135(19.0%)	200	
Total	50(100.0%)	256(100.0%)	694(100.0%)	1000	

**Table no3: relation between socio-economic status & religion of CSWs.**

Religion	Scio-economic – condition.				Chi-square value
	Class –III	Class-IV	Class-IV	Total	
Hindu	37(74.0%)	184(72.0%)	484(70.0%)	704	5.9(NS)
Muslim	11(22.0%)	54(21.0%)	133(19.0%)	198	
Christian	2(4.0%)	18(7.0%)	78(11.0%)	98	
Total	50(100.0%)	256(100.0%)	694(100.0%)	1000	

**Table no 4: Educational status and AIDS knowledge amongst CSWs.**

Educational Status	No. of CSWs given correct answers					Source of knowledge	
	Whats is AIDS	AIDS cause death	AIDS Spread sexually	AIDS does not have medicine	Difficult to know partner with disease	T.V	Radio.
Illiterate (650)	183(28)	34(19)	18(10)	16(9)	167(91)	135(74)	48(26)
Primary (150)	80(53)	31(39)	27(34)	26(33)	52(65)	62(78)	18(23)
Secondary (200)	140(70)	86(61)	65(46)	48(34)	121(86)	125(89)	15(11)
Total (1000)	403(40)	151(31)	110(27)	90(22)	340(84)	322(80)	81(20)
Chi-square value	123	62	55.6	35.8	29.8	11.1	
p-value	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.05	

**Table no 5: Educational status and knowledge about the use condom**

Educational Status	No. of CSWs given correct answers	
	AIDS is prevented by using condom	Know how to use condom
Illiterate (650)	241(37)	171(26)
Primary (150)	67(45)	78(52)
Secondary (200)	95(48)	56(28)
Total (1000)	403(130)	305(106)
Chi-square value	7.5	38.70
p-value	< 0.01	<0.001

#### IV. Discussion

When CSWs were classified according to the choice of the profession as to whether they were forced into profession or entered by self selection, it was observed that majority 569(57.0%) selected this profession. The reason for this selection was purely economical in 199(19.9%) on their own, where as attraction of city life was responsible in 370 women who wanted to earn easy money without any hard work, wanted relaxation in life, had attraction of fashionable clothes and ornaments, were lazy for getting educated or doing labour work and/or were proud of their own beauty. Custom of devadasi was responsible for 325 CSWs. Other social cause responsible for 106(10.6%) women for compelling them to accept this profession was like false promise of

marriage, sexual abuse of powerful males. No dowry for marriage, deceived and ditched by lover, non-acceptance by family members due to rape etc. ( Ref table 1).

The socio- economic status and educational status of CSWs was studied and it was found that there was significant association ( $p < 0.05$ ) between educational status and socio-economical status of CSWs i.e illiterates were lower in socioeconomic status (Ref table2).

After studying socio economic status and religion of CSWs (table 3), it was observed that maximum number of CSWs belonged to Hindu religion, and they were from low socio-economic class (classV). It appears to be reflection of general population hence no significant could be attributed to the higher profession of CSWs from Hindu religion. Also the tradition of Devadasi and giving girls in the name of God is more in Hindu community. Since the old tradition and customs deep rooted in the minds of people especially lower socioeconomic group, these people were more prone to false beliefs and therefore to get blessings of the God they give their girls in the name of God.

Correlation between AIDS knowledge and education status was studied (Ref table 4). It was observed that as education increased, knowledge also increased. There was definite correlation between education and knowledge of AIDS. Source of knowledge was also significantly associated with education. Educated CSWs watched TV more.

Educational status and knowledge about the use of condom was studied (Ref table5) and it was observed that there was a significant correlation between knowledge of AIDS and prevention by use of condom and education.

However, the correct use of condom was known by women with primary education than these with secondary and above. Martin D.J et al – University of California at 105 angeles (UCLA) school of medicine in their study have similar results about how to use condom. Although AIDS risk reduction programmes have provided information on condoms, none has assessed baseline or follow up skills in their use because most condom failures have been attributed to errors in use, promoters of condom use should determine whether they are used correctly among those persons targeted for education.

### **References**

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