ABSTRACT

Fulfilling the sexual need is a basic requirement of all living beings, which is a controlled behaviour in human society, as the institutions of family and marriage act as controlling agents. The practice of prostitution, which had the support of religion and society by accepting it as a necessary evil, the influence of social institution reduced the act of sexual satisfaction took a form of exploitation. With the influence of LPG, sexual exploitation turned into a trade and received a commercial touch. Gradually, it became the third biggest crime in the world after arms and drugs and demanded the intervention of government and NGOs, as well.

The present study focuses on the NGO’s intervention in relation to mainstreaming commercially sexually exploited women in South India. There were 32 NGOs identified for the study in South India who do not advocate legalisation but work for mainstreaming sexually exploited victims. In the present study, the mainstreaming programmes of NGOs have been divided into seven categories such as rescue, rehabilitation, reintegration, prevention, development, advocacy and research. And to achieve the objectives, descriptive and diagnostic research designs have been adopted along with the tools such as Interview schedule, Interview guide and quality of life scale.

From the present study it is understood that rehabilitation is an important activity adopted by all the organisations considered for the study constituting 100%, takes the first place and prevention activity stands at second. As many as 24 organisations work on it (74.4%); reintegration/repatriation and rescue activities takes up the third place as 17 NGOs (52.7%) each adopts the programme; the next place is for developmental activities as 13 organisations (40.3%) work on it. Last but one place goes to Advocacy/lobbying as 9 organisations (29.9%) puts their efforts in the field. Andhra Pradesh is said to be the state to achieve better results in the field of advocacy by having two government orders related to the issue. The last place goes to research activities for which only 6 organisations have concentrated (18.6%).
ITPA and IPC are the most recognized supportive legislative measures, as there are no tailored policies and legislation available for the issue of mainstreaming commercially sexually exploited women. Instead, the problem of commercial sexual exploitation has been included along with the other distresses of women in general. But the needs and requirements of the field of mainstreaming commercially sexually exploited women are entirely different from the women in any other distressed situation. Other than these limitations, financial crisis, limited knowledge of the practitioners about the legislative provisions, limited understanding of the practitioners about the concept of mainstreaming, lack of trained manpower to work in the field and mental health status of the victims are the highlighting factors contributing to the non-effective intervention programmes. In the same manner, when the government role is considered, the suggestions such as periodical meetings with law implementers and NGOs, amendments in legislation and more funding for NGOs have come forth. With regard to the enhancement of quality intervention from NGO side, a strong need of South Indian networking system has emerged.

The quality of life scale prepared by Douglas A. Bigelow and team from Western Mental Health Research Centre, Portland, Oregon has been adopted in the study which looks into the areas such as pleasant and unpleasant feelings of the survivors and their capacity to handle the same, the decisions making and conflict resolving capacity of the survivors, their living condition, income, transportation, social interaction and medical facilities, alcohol addiction etc., and reveals that the quality of life adopted by the mainstreamed survivors have drastically improved. The change is not perceptible stateswise, but overall it is found that the life style of commercially sexually exploited women have improved a lot. This success represents the quality intervention of the NGOs inspite of hurdles they are facing.

Finally, Trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation is the most dehumanizing trade. A victim of flesh trade is subjected to innumerable physical, sexual and psychological tortures which leave irreversible scars in the mind and the body as well. All efforts therefore, need to be taken into consideration to prevent such a situation as prevention is
always better than cure. But when the intensity of the problem in the society is observed, the number of NGOs involved in mainstreaming commercially sexually exploited women is very less. This situation demands more NGOs to work for the issue for which a lot of government support through framing inclusive policies and programmes and community support by involving themselves in the process of the mainstreaming are required.