

## THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS AND EFFECTS OF PROSTITUTION IN NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

This paper deals with the problem of prostitution in Ojoo community Ibadan Nigeria. The main objective of the study is to identify the socio economic factors and condition that are associated with the profession. It is an attempt to study socio economic background, pattern of establishment, social organization and modes of operation of the prostitutes with a view to suggesting effective ways of reducing prostitution. A cross-sectional survey design was adopted for the study. A total of 150 prostitutes form the sample of the study. Multi-stage sampling technique involving cluster and simple random sampling methods were used to select the respondents. The major instrument for data collection was the interview. Descriptive statistics such as frequency tables and percentages were used in analyzing the data collected. 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 the positive and negative effects. Considering the fact that all attempts at legislation throughout history have not succeeded in eradicating prostitution, this paper calls for urgent steps toward the reduction of prostitution in the country. Such steps include the provision of job opportunities, public enlightenment, reformation and rehabilitation programmes, provision of facilities for recreation, sports and cultural activities, formal education of the illiterate and unskilled prostitutes and the introduction of sex education in the curriculum of secondary schools and tertiary institutions.

### INTRODUCTION

Clinard (1968; 371-387) argues that prostitution is a deviant behavior - a manifestation of a state of anomie in which society fails to provide certain opportunities for individuals to achieve the goals set by the institutions of the society. He argues further that prostitutes have a separate subculture with norms and values that are directly opposed to that of the larger society to the extent that they often run foul of the laws of the society. The prostitute's subculture is usually characterized by secrecy, stigma, and intense occupational involvement and difficulties in leaving the profession. Its ties with criminal underworld leave the prostitute open to harassment not only from police but from other prostitutes and other members of the criminal population.

In line with these views, Thomas (1980) posited that women enter prostitution because of pathological problems at their backgrounds – a broken home, parental death or neglect, separation of parents, maladjustment or emotional disturbance that are conducive to prostitution and other deviant behaviors. Samir (1965) argues that ecological factors such as urbanization and migration (movements or change of residence) may easily engender the necessary conditions often associated with prostitution. He argues that prostitution must be explained and interpreted within the context of the decline in kinship, conflict between institutions, secularism, disorganization, mobility and anomie which to a great extent determine the main features of any society undergoing change.

Prostitution may also be influenced by economic need or poverty. Davis (1937) argues that prostitution is based on economic exchange of relationships between the prostitute and the customer, one participating for pleasure and the other for money. Since prostitution is a contractual relation in which services are traded (usually in terms of an exchange for money) sex is placed in an economic context. He argues further that the sexual response of the prostitute does not hinge upon the personality of the other party, but upon the reward. The response of the customer likewise does not depend upon the particular identity of the prostitute, but upon the bodily gratification. He maintains that prostitution has economic causes but rejects any attempt to abolish prostitution by eliminating only the economic factor. It has been observed that some girls enter into prostitution because they have no other means of support but the mere inability of women to secure a living wage is far from being the most fundamental cause of prostitution. Clinard (1968:379) noted that other than the fact that prostitutes primarily came from the lower socio-economic groups and often slum areas, there is no evidence to show that they enter this profession, because of poverty, even though they may desire to better their economic needs. Thus poverty or economic need is a necessary factor but not a sufficient one, hence its removal cannot solve the problem.

The feminists and other writers like Frances Heidenson (1968) and Karen & Rosenblum (1975) explained prostitution in terms of sex roles and power relationships between males and females sexuality. They argued that the significant questions to ask are; who controls what and who has power over whom? They believed that the real nature of prostitution is that the man buys power over a short period of time. The prostitute only gets something for nothing – she has been paid for temporary use of her body. They argued further that women become prostitutes because they are primarily defined by men as sexual objects; they are not adequately socialized in sexual and non-sexual interaction, and above all they have lower access than men to educational, economic and political resources.

The feminist also argued that the previous works have studied prostitution as a distinct sphere of existence apart from family and other institutions of the society. Variables such as class, status power, and gender roles and so on were not considered important for understanding prostitution. They maintained that prostitution cannot be studied in isolation from the social structure of the society; economics, family, law, religion, politics and so on. Prostitution must be related to some basic conditions in society along with the whole role of sexuality in human existence; it is grounded in the most powerful human sexual urge or basic instincts. This natural instincts/urge cannot be abolished by legislation against prostitution.

The phenomenon of prostitution is a social problem that exists throughout mans recorded history. Prostitution has often been described as the world's oldest profession (Samir, 1965). There is no known society be it traditional or modern that exist without some form of prostitution. Prostitution is universal but it is generally disapproved of in most societies. While prostitution is illegal in many societies, the act of soliciting is generally punished by the law (Clinard 1968-375). In Nigeria, section 249(a) of the criminal code 1944 provides penalties for prostitution. It states that "every common prostitute behaving in a disorderly or indecent manner in any public place loitering and persistently importuning or soliciting persons for the purpose of prostitution shall be deemed idle and disorderly persons, and shall be liable to imprisonment for one month (criminal code 1944 cited in Abdullahi, 1991). However, we are not unaware of the fact that prostitution is practiced in variety of ways by either males or females. A prostitute is usually a woman who accepts money for her sexual services to other men but there are also male prostitutes who provide commercial sex to other men rather than women. This paper will focus on female prostitution and is divided into five

(5) sections. The first section presents the statement of research problem, research questions, and aim and objectives of the study. The second section provides the definition, developmental process, types and characteristics of prostitution. The third section will discuss the socio-economic factors and effects of prostitution in Nigeria. The fourth section presents the Methodology, Data analysis and results. The last section is the Discussion of findings, Conclusion and Recommendations.

### **Statement of Research Problem**

Although there is abundant data to suggest that prostitution in Nigeria has reached alarming proportions; there has been increase in all types of prostitution including lower class prostitution which is more commonly practiced by illiterate and unskilled prostitutes, there is the growing band of upper class prostitutes, often well educated and sophisticated who care mostly for the powerful elites in the country. Nevertheless, prostitution has not been given the desired attention by the researchers. Yet prostitution has been subjected to many inaccuracies and popular misconception. It appears in fact that prostitution thrives more in the cities than in the rural areas especially in slum and highly densely populated areas where business and commercial houses like hotels, brothels super guest houses, joints, night clubs and etc, are located in which cash transaction is common. It is ironical that our knowledge of prostitution is either based on hearsay or still reflects our moral and value judgments. Though little is known of the prostitutes' background and conditions that predispose her towards prostitution; Moralists and other groups have consistently judged and condemned both the prostitute and her profession although for different reasons. It is against this backdrop that this study is conceived. This study however rejects any such moral charges and dogmatic generalizations. In an attempt to study prostitution in a changing community like Ojoo Ibadan, Nigeria there appear to be certain basic questions that we want to know their answer; what kind of prostitutes that gather here? What is their socio-economic background? How do they enter the profession? What are the socio-economic factors or conditions that are associated with prostitution? What type of relationship do they have with their clients and other prostitutes? What is their mode of operation? What are the effects of prostitution and how can we reduce prostitution in Nigeria. Questions such as these and many more yet unanswered in the mind of an average sociologist or a criminologist have created the central problem that prompted this research.

### **Aim and Objectives of the Study**

The general aim of the study is to explore the nature of prostitution in Nigeria. The specific objectives are to:

1. Study the socio-economic background of the prostitutes
2. Identify the socio-economic factors or conditions associated with the profession
3. Study the pattern of establishment, social organization and modes of operation of the prostitutes.

### **Definition, Developmental Process, Types and Characteristics of Prostitution**

The difficult question that must be faced at the outset is: what is prostitution? As far as sociologists or criminologists are concerned, the answer to this question involves two strands of thought: first prostitution may be thought as a profession or a business that parallels the goal of any other occupation. Second, prostitution maybe conceived as it is treated in this paper as a social problem which has implications for the moral welfare of the society. For the

purpose of this study, however, the terms prostitution and profession have been used interchangeably. According to Clinard (1968:371) prostitution is a sexual intercourse on a promiscuous and mercenary or on monetary basis with accompanying emotional indifference. Thus prostitute is a person who engages in sexual relations that are promiscuous, fairly indiscriminate, largely without affection, often anonymous not made legitimate by marriage. However even with this rather broad definition, there are still ambiguous cases since acceptance of money or gift in exchange of sexual favors maybe found among mistresses, girl friends and wives.

In our effort to explain what prostitution is all about our attention is directed to the developmental process, types and characteristics of prostitution; however no detail explanation would be made as this may be unnecessary. The developmental career of a prostitute include three (3) stages; the entrance into the career, the apprenticeship and the development of contact. After having contact with someone old in the trade like a pimp or other prostitutes and the new girl decides to be a prostitute, the apprenticeship begins. The apprenticeship period exists to enable the new girl learn the 'rules of the game' (Clinard 1968:380).

According to Clinard (1968: 377) prostitutes are generally classified into four (4) types. The first type of prostitutes and the lowest in status are the 'street-walkers' who solicit for customers in the streets and public places. Often they are arrested by law enforcement agents; however the most usual penalty is fine. The second categories are those who reside in brothels which could be low – class hotels or houses located in slum area. The manager of brothel collects fees which amount to a substantial part of the prostitute's earnings as rent and money for protection from the law enforcement agents. The third type is the 'call girl' who resides in rented apartment but generally known in many of the high class hotels in town especially by the waiters and receptionists. These hotel workers put visitors and lodgers in touch with such girls. The sexual act takes place either in the hotel room of the visitor or lodger or in the girl's apartment.

The fourth category is the upper class independent professional prostitute. Usually she resides in a well furnished apartment in one of the most respectable residential areas in town. Most often customers are referred to her through former customers who are often highly placed members of the society. High class visitors to cities like Lagos, Abuja, Kano, Ibadan and Enugu just to mention a few attending conferences or other meetings are likely to go to such prostitutes since their mode of operation tends to give the customers some level of anonymity.

In addition to these types of prostitutes, Abdullahi (1996:5) identified another feature of prostitution in Nigeria involving female students in tertiary institutions. Campus prostitution takes various dimensions ranging from amorous relationship between the female students and their boyfriends to outright extra-campus prostitution which is a common sight in our big cities and towns. There are some female students who actually compete with the regular prostitutes. They dress to the hilt and go out in the night to line up along the streets looking for customers. Sometimes girls are hired to attend parties and functions where they are paid for services rendered including sex. There are other female students who do not operate in the vicinity of their campuses. They travel out either single or in groups to engage in commercial sex activities and return to their campuses with huge sums of money and with flashy clothes and jewelries. Lastly, some female students trade sex for marks just like some male students pay for marks. But what will you call this act? Prostitution, corruption or settlement?

Actually those who trade sex for marks won't do same for money because they may be sound financially but academically poor.

In the same way Clinard (1968:379) identified what can be regarded as common characteristics of prostitutes. Youth is a very essential factor and many prostitutes not only in Nigeria but in other countries are generally aged between 17 and 25 although some can be older, single girls constitutes the largest proportion of prostitutes. However, some are widows, divorced or separated from their husbands. Prostitutes are highly mobile moving from one town to the other. Through associations, they develop attitudes and behavior patterns which become part of their roles in the society. It should be noted however, that western types and characteristics of prostitution are essentially different from prostitution in Nigeria. Prostitution in the cities of Africa and many less developed countries does not carry with it as much of the stigma associated with this profession in the more developed countries. The African prostitute has not become susceptible to organization along European lines and although she has been known to work for a procurer, this custom is not common. Prostitution generally is open and not less organized in Africa than it is in more developed countries. Moreover, the pimp or intermediary is probably less necessary (Clinard & Abbot, 1973)

### **Socio-Economic Factors of Prostitution**

Needless to say that this is not a theoretical discussion of the causes of prostitution, such a discussion will take us beyond the scope of this paper. Rather our main task here is to explain some of the socio-economic factors or conditions which are instrumental in directing girls to prostitution. Among these factors are; previous sexual experience, feeble mindedness, social and economic conditions, prostitute sub-cultures, family disorganization, ecological considerations, and greediness and competition.

#### **1. Previous Sexual Experience**

A good part of the problem of prostitution lies in the biological nature of man and sexual desirability. Women have been primarily defined as sexual object either of lust or one of chastity. There are those who argue that prostitutes usually become demoralized through initiation in early sexual experience before entering into commercial vice that they feel they have little to suffer from further promiscuous relations. Sexual desirability as a factor generating prostitution is not tenable since few women enter into the business to satisfy an indiscriminate or enormous sexual appetite.

#### **2. Feeble Mindedness**

Many psychologists explain that there are certain prostitutes who are feeble minded or have very low intelligence. While such a personal factor may be true in some cases, there is no reason to believe that prostitutes differ from other women in terms of intelligence level.

#### **3. Social and Economic Conditions**

The difficulties of living in poverty, slums or areas of bad housing, chronic illness, malnutrition and unemployment, the desire for ease, luxury and ostentatious living and freedom from certain traditional practices force some girls into prostitution.

#### **4. Prostitute Subculture**

This factor stresses that girls become prostitutes through interaction and association with other prostitutes, peer groups, clients, steerers and procurers, in some cases pimps, in others lesbian lovers, police and other security agencies.

#### **5. Family disorganization**

Divorce or home broken up by death of one or both of parents or by prolong illness or insanity, desertion or rejection may make it difficult for the children to have any parental affection, guidance and discipline. Girls raised under such families usually felt unhappy with home environment thus leading them into prostitution.

#### **6. Ecological Considerations**

Ecological factors such as migration and urbanization are often given as reasons contributing to prostitution. Faced by the break down in her life pattern and the failure of the traditional ties to her rural community to sustain her, the urban dweller may easily yield to her urge for sexual promiscuity and a life which promises comfort and ease.

#### **7. Greediness and Competition**

The most touted factor or reason for prostitution including campus prostitution is the greed and the urge to compete with other girls in dressing. To be regarded as a 'senior girl' one must keep up to certain standard of living and dressing. One must be up to date in a fashion world and must live up for fellow girls to see that one has arrived. This 'senior girl' syndrome has led many girls from otherwise decent homes to engage in prostitution. Given these factors, it can be concluded that prostitution cannot be explained in terms of one or a few sufficient conditions. Due to the different types of prostitution in the society, all the above explanations are necessary failures. To find a meaningful explanation, we must locate prostitution within context of its social existence.

### **EFFECTS OF PROSTITUTION**

According to Clinard (1968:385) prostitution performs both positive and negative functions or effects.

#### **Positive Effects**

1. Prostitution serves as a sexual outlet for some men and therefore protects the society from more rapes, perversions and broken marriages
2. Prostitution has achieved certain dominant values in the society such as success and supports others who are dependent on them.
3. The prostitute who enters the life of a call-girl from the lower socio-economic status has experience an upward mobility
4. Prostitution satisfies the need of some men who are temporarily separated from their normal regular sexual partners and lovers
5. Prostitutes help provide sexual variety and the opportunity to experience new methods of sexual intercourse

## Negative Effects

1. Prostitution is a necessary evil that constitutes a threat to the moral standards of the society
2. Prostitution is illegal and is punishable by law. A greater percentage of women serving in jails are prostitutes
3. Because of the stigma attached to prostitution, prostitutes have very few non-deviant friends in whom to confide
4. Prostitution results into severe outbreak of venereal diseases as well as in other female criminalities such as theft/stealing, armed robbery, drug trafficking, murder, child abandonment, abortion etc
5. Prostitutes exploit customers especially if they know that the customer will not report the crime for fear of public exposure.

## METHODOLOGY

### Study Location

Ojoo is a community located in the northern part of Ibadan metropolis in Akinyele local government of Oyo state, Nigeria. It is bounded by NISER property and Orogun village in the South and in the Eastern and Western part by Abatokan and Oguntula villages and NISER resettlement scheme. Ojoo was founded as a farm settlement for indigenes of Ibadan in about the year 1930. The creation of Terminus of Lagos-Ibadan express way in 1976 and the construction of Ojoo modern market and Motor Park in 1978 prompted the indigenes of Ibadan to develop their lands into commercial houses and service industries including super guest houses, hotels, brothels and night clubs. The Ojoo community is a meeting point of travelers coming from the western and northern parts of the country. It is a relaxation centre for lodging and accommodation for the long distant travelers especially the oil and grain transporters after a hard day's job at the wheel. Some of the transport drivers sometimes come along with their prostitutes and/or concubines and accommodates them there as mistresses in Ojoo commercial houses. Other drivers when they get there, they start looking for companions mostly prostitutes. Due to the influx of many people into Ojoo community, prostitution has spread out from the exclusive confines of hotels and brothels to the streets.

### Study design and study population

The study adopted a cross sectional survey design. This type of research design tried to get an overview of all the subjects, a total perception of the situation of things at a given point in time using direct interviews. Information was collected only from a fraction or cross section of population at a given point in time. According to the 2006 census, the total population of Ojoo community was about 211,811. The Ojoo community was selected as the population under study because it is a close community housing different categories of prostitutes.

### Sample size and sampling procedure

A total of 150 respondents were selected to constitute the sample size for the study. The researcher adopted probability sampling method for the study in order to give each respondent an equal chance of being selected. Cluster sampling and simple random sampling methods were used for the study and with the use of Multi-stage sampling technique; the population was divided into five (5) sections namely Strabag, Old bank, Ile-eja, Ile-emu and Ayegbiri.

With the use of simple random sampling methods 30 households were selected from each of the 5 selected areas.

### **Methods of Data collection**

The major instrument used in collecting data for the study was the interview held with the prostitutes. The interviews ranged from two to four hours each, most were recorded in writing. Open ended questions were employed during the interviews which allowed for testing reliability of responses. The interview schedule has two sections; section one was designed to illicit information about the respondent's socio-economic background and the conditions that predispose her to prostitution. Section two was designed to gather data on the social organization and modes of operation of the prostitutes.

### **Data types and sources**

For our purpose in this research direct interviews and personal observations were used to collect the primary data. The secondary sources of data included reference books, journals, periodicals, magazines and newspapers.

### **Data Analysis**

The data collected from the interviews were analyzed using descriptive statistics like frequency tables and percentages to interpret data from the field.

## **RESULTS**

### **Socio-economic background of Respondents**

An analysis of the socio-economic background data showed that the respondents range in age from 16 to 60 years. More than 63 percent were between 16 and 30 years and more than 50 percent fall between 21 and 35 years. Majority of the respondents were between 21 and 25 years. The average age for the entire sample was 29.1. The respondents' ethnic origin showed that less than two third majorities were Hausa's. The Yoruba's constitute 10.6 percent of the sample and Igbo's only 6 percent. Other tribes and non-indigenes constitute 34.7 percent of the sample. Thus the majority of the Ojoo prostitutes were the Hausa's. This is not surprising because the majority of the prostitutes under study were migrants from Northern Nigeria and neighboring countries.

In terms of educational qualifications, 80 percent of prostitutes interviewed reported that they had no formal education at all. The years of schooling of the remaining 20 percent ranges from one to thirteen years. On the issue of certificates only five (5) had West African school certificates, eleven had either primary or an equivalent of first school leaving certificate. The vast majority of the respondents were from the lower socio-economic strata of the society. Almost half of those interviewed were daughters of peasants and unskilled laborers. The skill level and occupational background of the respondents were limited. With few exceptions almost half of the respondents were recruited through such jobs as domestic servants and food vendors where no special skills are required. On the marital status of the respondents, almost 35 percent reported that they were never married before entering the profession. The majority (65 percent) was married once, and the remaining 12.7 percents had married several times. With regards to the recruitment of the girls into prostitution, the respondents appear to have become prostitutes at a relatively early age of 17.4. Surprisingly, more than 73 percents of the



respondents become prostitutes before their twentieth birthday. In effect then, entry into the profession at early age means early marriage. Indeed early marriage appears to be an important predisposing factor in Nigeria, particularly among the Hausa prostitutes.

Table 1: Responses of Respondents on the socio-economic status of their clients

Variables	frequency	percentage
Peasant/farmer	18	12.0
Unskilled/factory worker	76	50.7
Student	12	8.0
Government Employee	19	12.7
Business men	24	16.0
Don't know	4	2.0
Total	150	100

Source: Field survey, 2015

As shown in table 1, more than 50 percent of the clients are unskilled laborers or factory workers. The remainder is drawn from business men, government workers, students and peasants or farmers.

Table 2: Responses of Respondents on their relationship with clients

Variables/clients	frequency	percentage
Frequently	46	30.6
Occasionally	30	20.0
Rarely	43	28.7
Never	31	20.7
Total	150	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015

As shown in table 2, almost 49.4 percent of the respondents were unable to develop friendly relationship with their clients. However, more than 50 percent of the respondents developed such relationship with their clients. This is not surprising because a high proportion of the prostitutes under study are Hausa's that engaged in 'Daduro'-which entails long period of courtship between prostitutes and clients.

Table 3: Responses of Respondents on their working hour

Variables/Hour	frequency	percent
3-4	3	2.0
5-6	12	8.0
7-8	42	28.0
9-10	54	36.0
11-14	10	6.7
15-16	6	4.0
17-18	5	2.6
Total	150	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015

An insight into the mode of operation of a prostitute is provided by an estimate of the number of hours she works in a day. On the average a prostitute invests 10 hours in her work. As shown in table 3 the working time may range from a low of 3 to a high of 18 hours in some cases. However, the majority work between 9-10 hours a day.

Table 4: Number of Clients received by Respondents

Variables/clients	frequency	percentage
1-2	2	1.3
3-4	20	13.3
5-6	24	16.0
7-8	20	13.3
9-10	39	26.0
11-12	21	14.0
13-14	7	4.8
15-16	11	7.3
20 or more	6	4.0
Total	150	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2015

A more meaningful insight into the work schedule of a prostitute is provided by an estimate of the number of customers she receives in a day. Except if a customer is coming to spend the whole day with her, an average prostitute receives one client per hour. As shown in table 4, more than 50 percent of the respondents reported that they received between 7 and 12 customers.

Table 5: Responses of Respondents on their income per day

Variables N/day	frequency	percentage
500-1500	3	2.0
1600-2500	5	3.3
2600-3500	8	5.3
3600-4500	9	6.0
4600-5500	11	7.3
5600-6500	14	9.3
6600-7500	19	12.8
7600-8500	20	13.3
8600-9500	22	14.7
9600-10,500	28	18.7
14000-15,000	6	4.0
20,000 or more	5	3.3
Total	150	100.0

Sources: Field survey 2015

On the average the prostitute makes N7, 800 per day if the business is good. As shown in table 5 above majority makes up to N10, 000, often they make more than that. Considering

the girls' socio-economic background and their low skill level, their income is considerably higher when compared to what they will earn in other professions.

Table 6: Trends in respondent earnings

Variable / trend	Frequency	Percentage
Business increasing	13	8.7
Business same as usual	16	10.6
Business declining	121	80.7
Total	150	100.0

Source: Field survey 2015

As shown in the table 6 above more that 80 percent of the respondents reported that their business has been declining. Truly, the bad shape of the Nigerian economy has not spared prostitution. The boom days are gone. While more women are going into the profession, fewer men have the wherewithal to pay for their services.

Table: 7 Responses of Respondents on factors or causes of prostitution.

Variables/ factors	Frequency	Percentage
Poverty and other economic Needs	39	26.0
Broken home/ parental death, separated or neglect	45	30.0
Early sexual experience	30	20.0
Ecological factors e.g. movement or change place of residence	36	24.0
TOTAL	150	100.0

Source: field survey, 2015

As shown in table 7 majority of the respondents (30 percent) reported that broken homes, parental death and neglect is their major cause of prostitution. 26 percent reported poverty or economic need, 24 percent reported ecological factors as the cause of their prostitution while the remaining 20 percent reported that they are being initiated into early sexual experience.

Table 8: Responses of Respondents on Consequences or Effects Prostitution.

Variables/effects	Frequency	Percentage
Increase in crimes and other deviant behaviours	49	32.7
Health hazards and severe increase in venereal diseases e.g. HIV/AIDS	45	30.0
Help to provide sexual outlets for some men	30	20.0
Protects society from more rapes, sexual pervasions and broken marriages	26	17.3
TOTAL	150	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2015

As shown in the table 8 more than half of the respondents 62.7 percent indicated the negative effects of prostitution while the remaining 37.3 percent indicated the positive effects of prostitution.

Table 9: Responses of Respondents on panacea to the problem of prostitution

Variables/Panacea	Frequency	Percentage
Severe sanctions or punishment against prostitution	24	16.0
Expulsion/outlawing or closing prostitute's houses	30	20.0
Sexual Education of illiterate and unskilled prostitutes	46	30.7
Establishment of Institution for the Rehabilitation & Reformation of prostitutes	50	33.3
Total	150	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015

As shown in table 9 above, majority of the respondents (33.3 percent) maintained that the establishment of an institution for rehabilitation and reformation of prostitutes is a way of controlling prostitution, 30.7 percent suggested that sexual education should be given to the illiterate and unskilled prostitutes, 30 percent of the respondents were of the opinion that government should outlaw or expel the prostitutes and close their houses and 16 percent suggested that severe sanctions is the panacea to prostitution.

## DISCUSSION

The study revealed that the major cause of prostitution is broken home, parental death or neglect. This is in line with the findings of Sullivan Thomas (1980) who reported that women enter prostitution because of negative elements in their backgrounds- a broken home, parental promiscuity or child hood traumas that are conducive to such deviant activities. The study further revealed that prostitution is a manifestation of a pathological background which is in line with the work of Khalaf Samir (1965) which has been used to explain prostitution in terms of ecological factors-that certain girls become prostitutes because of discontent and unhappy home environment.

The study also revealed that economic need or poverty leads to prostitution. This is in line with Marshall Clinard (1968) who argues that other than the fact that prostitutes come from lower socio-economic groups and often slum areas, there is no evidence that they enter this profession because of poverty even though they may desire to better their economic needs. This is also in line with the work of Kingsley Davis (1937) which is based on economic exchange of relationship between customer and the prostitute, one participating for pleasure and the other for money. Davis argues that the sexual response of the prostitute does not hinge upon the personality of the other party, but upon the reward. The response of the customer likewise it does not depend upon the particular identity of the prostitute, but upon the bodily gratification.

The results of the study indicated that the major consequences of prostitution are increase in crimes and other deviant behaviours. This is in line with Marshall Clinard (1968) who saw

prostitution as a deviant behavior- as a manifestation of state of anomie or normlessness which refers to a situation in which society has failed to provide certain opportunities to achieve the goals that has been set and honored by most of the population and by the social institutions of the society.

The results of the study further indicated that the relationship between the prostitutes and clients is impersonal and commercialized except where 'Daduro' is practiced which has never been a pure commercial affair. Close relationship with other people in the profession is very rare except among those who came from the same locality or ethnic group. This is in line with our proposition that social relations amongst prostitutes are based on primordial pattern. The findings from the study also indicated that the panacea to the problem of prostitution is sexual education of the illiterate and unskilled prostitutes. This corroborates with the works of the feminist writers such as Frances Heiderson (1968) and Karen & Rosenblum (1975) who pointed out that women become prostitutes because; they are primarily defined as sexual objects; they are not adequately socialized in sexual and non-sexual interaction, and they have lower access than men to educational, economic and political resources. They argued that in order to understand or explain prostitution as a female deviance, it must be related to the whole role of sexuality in human existence. This natural instinct cannot be abolished by legislation but through sexual freedom and education of women.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the foregoing, it is clear that prostitution is a complex social problem that is further complicated by the host of preconceived ideas, prejudices and attitudes that are deeply ingrained in the public mind. This study was undertaken in Ojoo Community, Ibadan in order to throw more light on the nature of prostitution in Nigeria. The study focused on the socio-economic background of prostitutes and the underlying factors or conditions that are usually associated with prostitution. An attempt was also made to study the pattern of establishment, social organization and modes of operation of the prostitutes. In our efforts to explain the causes of prostitution in Nigeria, we invariably came across some socio-economic factors or conditions that led women to prostitution-early sexual experience, feeble mindedness, social and economic conditions, greediness and competition, prostitute subcultures, family disorganization and ecological considerations. Needless to say that none of these factors have fully accounted for the existence of prostitution in the society.

From the language of a functionalist sociologist, prostitution has both positive and negative functions. Prostitution performs positive functions because of the varied and extensive sexual needs of men and the necessity to protect marriage and family institutions in the society. However, the negative effects of prostitution have far reaching implications than the positive ones. Prostitution is not only a necessary vice but constitutes moral, social and medical threats to the well being of the society. But while attempts have been made towards eliminating prostitution, the problem remained unresolved. All attempts by the western countries like England, France, Italy, Japan, US and even Russia to legislate prostitution out of existence were largely futile. Thus the issue of prostitution is not lack of severe legislations or sanctions, or lack of regulation in which licenses are issued to prostitutes who want to register with brothels or hotels. Outlawing or closing of prostitutes houses cannot solve the problem. Neither would the expulsion order, demolishing or relocating the prostitutes can change the situation, for whatever policy government adopts the problem will continue to exist. Considering the fact that all efforts and methods to abolish prostitution have failed, this study recommends the possible remedies that can only reduce the problem.

Since it has been found that prostitutes reflect pathological backgrounds, government should provide a means of rehabilitating and reforming the prostitutes. To this end all appropriate means shall be used including religious care, vocational education, guidance and counseling, training, employment and strengthening of moral character. Along with institutional housing, the government with the assistance of welfare agencies should provide facilities for recreation, sports and cultural activities particularly to those prostitutes advanced in age and young girls who are found to be emotionally disturbed or socially maladjusted. Similarly, since it has been found that family breakdown and divorce leads to prostitution of young girls; couples or parents should be educated to ensure stable marriages and homes.

Formal education of illiterate and unskilled prostitutes should be encouraged. Government should encourage the introduction of sex education in the curriculum of secondary schools and tertiary institutions. There should be public enlightenment programmes on HIV/AIDS and other venereal diseases and the dangers inherent in having indiscriminate sex and engaging the services of a prostitute. Through sexual education and public enlightenment we can develop a healthy society and improve the quality of relationships between men and women. Lastly, there is need for the government to create jobs for the citizens so that prostitution in the country can be reduced. If such women are provided with job opportunities, prostitution would be curtailed since some of these girls indulge in deviant acts as a result of frustration.

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