

Commercial Sex

Chapter 19

Truth or Fiction?

- 1.) Prostitution is illegal throughout the United States?
- 2.) The massage and escort services advertised in the Yellow pages are fronts for prostitution?
- 3.) Most female prostitutes were sexually abused as children?
- 4.) Typical customers of prostitutes have difficulty forming sexual relationships with other women?
- 5.) Only males are sexually aroused by pornography?
- 6.) Pornography causes violence against women?

- Prostitution has been redefined as “sex work”
- There are hundreds of thousands of sex workers in the United States
- Sex workers are found in the streets, in brothels, in adult films, on the Internet, in the phone book and in classified ads
- According to research conducted by Kinsey in 1948, 2/3's of the European American males reported visiting a prostitute at least once

- Kinsey found that as a male's education level increased, he frequented sex workers less often
- The amount of males who turn to prostitutes has had a sharp decrease because more and more young males are engaging in sexual activity at a young age with their girlfriends
- Increased concern over STI's and HIV / AIDS have also contributed to the decrease

- Female prostitutes are commonly known as hookers, whores, working girls, masseuses or escorts
- Many prostitutes today advertise online at www.backpage.com or The Village Voice, in newspaper ads under the title, “massage parlor” or through the Yellow pages under escort services

Streetwalkers

- Prostitutes who solicit customers on the streets
- At the bottom of the prostitute hierarchy
- Earn the lowest income and are seen as the least attractive
- They also endure the greatest amount of abuse from their customers and pimps
- Pimps: men who serve as agents for prostitutes and live off their earnings

- Streetwalkers tend to come from poverty and have had unhappy childhoods
- Many are survivors of rape, sexual abuse or incest
- Many are teenage runaways who have turned to drugs and sex work to survive
- Streetwalkers operate in the open, therefore drawing attention to themselves and risking arrest

- To avoid arrest, streetwalkers may be indirect about their services
- They may ask potential customers if they are interested in a “good time” or some “fun”
- Many streetwalkers wear revealing clothing to draw attention
- Many cities throughout the world have “red light districts”...tolerance zones

- Prostitution is considered a minor crime
- Those who are arrested face fines and / or short jail sentences
- Prostitutes find the criminal system as a revolving door because of the relaxed laws

- Bar prostitute is a variation of a streetwalker who solicits men in a bar
- She may pay off the bar owners and managers to secure their cooperation
- Other streetwalkers work in adult movie houses and may service their patrons in their seats with oral sex

- It is important to note that 40% of streetwalkers support a pimp
- A pimp acts as a lover-father-companion-master
- Provides protection, bail and sometimes room and board
- Pimps use threats and beatings to enforce their control

- Pimp-controlled prostitutes are more likely to come from dysfunctional families, to be poorly educated, never to have held legitimate jobs and to come from racial minority groups
- For many streetwalkers, “the life” is a round of sex, violence, disease and drugs
- Engage in oral and vaginal sex w/o protection

- Streetwalkers do not stay in “the life” very long because of the risks involved
- Some transition to a “normal” life and get married
- Others die from drug abuse, disease, suicide or physical abuse
- Those who survive become less marketable with age

- Streetwalkers who work in hotels and conventions generally have a higher status
- Clients are typically traveling conventioners or businessmen
- Hotel prostitutes are skilled in conveying subtle messages to potential clients
- Sexual services are performed in clients room
- Some hotel managers will tolerate due to pay offs

Brothel Prostitution

- Occupy a middle status on the hierarchy
- Not as lucrative as a call girl but not as degrading as a streetwalker
- They do not consider themselves “real prostitutes” because they work for businesses with “legitimate” fronts

- Brothels are known as cathouse, bordello, cat wagon, parlor house, whorehouse, joy house, sport house, house of ill repute
- Brothels are rare today but can be found legally in certain parts of Nevada
- Brothel prostitutes split their fee's with management in exchange for room and board

- They typically work three weeks a month and during that time are on call 24 hours a day
- When a customer arrives, they step into the living room for a “lineup”
- According to brothel prostitutes in Nevada, “employees report that they feel safe, are free to come and go and are bound only by their contract”

Massage Parlors

- Many massage parlors are legitimate businesses that do not engage in sexual exploitation or activity
- In fact, in some localities, a masseuse is required to cover certain body parts and cannot touch certain areas on clients
- Massage parlors that offer prostitutes are often found in malls in middle class suburbs
- Clients pay less fee's for the massage and more for the sexual extras

- Massage parlor prostitutes generally offer manual stimulation of the penis “a local”, oral sex or less frequently, sexual intercourse “full service”
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- Massage parlor prostitutes are more educated than brothel prost. and streetwalkers
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- Many massage parlor workers are Asians who are spirited from one parlor to another, from city to city and then back to Asia

Strip Clubs

- Many sex workers in strip clubs limit their activity to dancing and removing clothing
- Others engage in lap dances or table dances in which they make contact with customers
- Customers buy the dance from the club and may tip the dancer
- Some strip clubs have private shows, VIP rooms where the stripper is alone with the customer
- What happens in the room may be influenced by the tip

Escort Services

- Found in every major city
- Present themselves as legitimate businesses providing escorts for men
- Offers female companionship for corporate functions and for unattached men traveling away from home

- Many escort services provide only prostitution, clients may negotiate sexual services with their escort
- Prostitutes who work for escort services are typically from middle class backgrounds and are well educated (helps them prepare for corporate social conversations)
- Some companies may establish arrangements to provide escorts

Call Girls

- Occupy the highest status on the prostitution hierarchy
- Tend to be the most attractive, well educated and charge the most
- Come from middle class backgrounds
- They usually work on their own

- Typically live a luxurious lifestyle when business is good, living in expensive neighborhoods and wear stylish clothing
- They can afford to be more selective about their customers
- Often escort clients to social functions and dinners...are expected to not only provide sex but also, charming and gracious company and conversation

- Calls girls give their clients the feelings that they are important and attractive
- They may effectively stimulate pleasure and orgasm in order to create the illusion that the client has “satisfied” their sexual needs

Customers of Female Prostitutes

- Female prostitutes refer to their customers as "johns" or "tricks"...patron, meatball, sucker and beefbuyer
- Men who use prostitutes come from all walks of life and represent all ethnic and socioeconomic groups
- Many are married men from middle class backgrounds

- Most patrons are occasional "johns"---traveling salesmen or military personnel---crave variety in sexual activities / partners
- Habitual johns---use prostitutes as their major or exclusive sexual outlet---lack intimate relationships
- Compulsive johns---driven to prostitutes to fulfill sexual or psychological needs---have trouble stopping...fulfill fetishes...
- Have a whore-Madonna complex: view prostitutes as saints or sinners...enjoy sex with only prostitutes or only receive oral sex...

Motives for Using Prostitutes

- 1.) Sex without negotiation: sex without the servitude...no effort or relationship needed
- 2.) Sex without commitment: Men are more willing to enter into sexual activity in the absence of commitment
- 3.) Sex for eroticism and variety: "something extra"---costumes, oral sex, kinky sex...scared to ask regular sex partners

- 4.) Prostitution as sociability: A place to bond and converse...
- 5.) Sex away from home: road warriors...traveling businessmen and out of town sports fans
- 6.) Problematical sex: people with physical disabilities or disfiguring conditions may turn to prostitutes because they will not face "rejection"

Male Prostitutes

- Gigolos: Male prostitutes that service female clients...their clients are typically older, wealthy and unattached women
- Gigolos may serve as escorts or as surrogate sons for the women, may or may not offer sexual services
- Many gigolos are struggling actors and models

- Most male prostitutes have male clients
- Hustlers are male sex workers who service gay men, their patrons are known as scores
- The average hustler is between 17-18 yrs old and became a prostitute at the age of 14, less than an 11th grade education and from working class / lower income backgrounds
- Many come from troubled backgrounds...alcoholism, physical or sexual abuse and conflict
- Hustlers can be gay, bisexual or heterosexual

Male Prostitutes

- Strippers dance and strip, may fondle clients and engage in sexual activities for money
- "Kept boys" have relationships with older, economically secure men who keep them in an affluent lifestyle..."sugar daddy"
- Call boys work on their own or through an agency or escort service
- Punks are prison inmates who service inmates for protection or goods
- Drag prostitutes are transvestites who impersonate females...only engage at times in oral or anal sex
- Bar / Street hustlers...aka streetwalkers

Threat of STI's

- The risk of contracting STI's and / or HIV / AIDS is greater for streetwalkers (male and female) than brothel prostitutes (male brothel hustlers are rare)
- Also, the threat remains high for women working illegally vs legal environments
- On average 11% of prostitutes have HIV, the number skyrocket in countries with higher overall infection rates to about 30.7%

Should Prostitution Be Legalized?

- Yes.....
- No....
- Please explain...

Pornography & Obscenity

- Pornography: "writing, pictures, etc intended to arouse sexual desire"...is this a solid definition???
- How about when something tends to excite lust?
Lewd in nature?
- Another definition states that material is pornographic when it is judged to be offensive by others...
- Art vs Pornography?!

- Obscenity: that which offends people's feelings or goes beyond prevailing standards of decency or modesty
- Pornography is typically characterized as hard core (x rated) and soft core (r-rated)
- X rated porn includes graphic and sexually explicit depictions of sex organs and sexual acts
- Soft core porn features more stylized nude photos and simulated or suggest acts...not explicit acts

- What does obscene really mean?? Nude beaches??
- Community standards?
- So...if a majority of the "community" does not find something obscene, is it not obscene?
- Protected by the 1st Amendment

Feminists & Anti-Porn Campaigns

- Portrays women as sex objects intended to be subservient to men
- More crusade...teaming up with Christian group...
- Does porn limit the liberation of women??

- A study of college students found that 87% of males and 31% of females openly admitted to watching porn
- Researches have found that both men and women are physiologically sexually aroused by sexually explicit pictures, movies or audiotapes passages
- Women tend to rate romantic scenes are more sexually arousing than sexually explicit scenes
- Males and females become less aroused when accessing the same pornographic materials (they become too familiar)

- Erotic visual materials are typically produced by men, for men
- Women may read erotic romantic novels..show less interest in pictures, films, or websites...50 Shades of Grey?!

Porn & Sexual Coercion

- Can pornography be destructive to intimate relationships?
- Can it cause sexual violence or antisocial acts?
- In the 1960's, the government created the Commission on Obscenity and Pornography to study the effects of Porn...
- The commission concludes that there was no evidence to suggest that watching porn leads to violence or sexual offenses..instead, it leads to an increase in sexual activity..masturbation or sex w/ regular partners

- Meese Commission Report under Ronald Reagan..
- Claimed to find a causal link between sexual violence and exposure to violent pornography
- The report concluded that exposure to porn that portrayed women in degrading or subservient roles increase acceptability of rape in the minds of viewers
- Failed to find the link between non-degrading porn and violence

- More sexually aggressive individuals are more likely to use pornography
- 1 in 3 rapists and child molesters use pornography to become sexually aroused before they commit their crimes

Effects of Violent Porn

- laboratory based studies have shown that men exposed to violent pornography are more likely to become aggressive against females and to show less sensitivity toward women who have been sexually assaulted
- Shock test...two separate rooms...initiate shock to women...more violent porn administered the highest shock levels
- How about non violent porn? What kind of effects can it have?