

Challenges Faced by Female Commercial Sex Workers in Puducherry, India: A Qualitative Inquiry

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Abstract

Sex work is considered one of the oldest professions in the world. In India, selling sex in private is legal, while all other activities related to sex work, such as pimping, brothel-keeping, are considered to be illegal. Despite their vulnerability to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, the research has been less focused on the other challenges faced by sex workers. This article aims to understand the major challenges faced by female commercial sex workers (CSWs) through a qualitative study conducted among 15 CSWs who work in Puducherry Union Territory in South India. The data were collected using in-depth interviews, and the case study method with thematic analysis was employed to analyse the data. The article discusses in detail the challenges CSWs face in the economical, psychological and social spheres of their lives.

Keywords

Commercial sex work, female sex worker, challenges, Puducherry

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