

Thesis Title A Study of Factors Affecting
 Involvement of Women as Commercial
 Sex Workers and General Workers

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of this study was to explore the reasons and factors of women becoming commercial sex workers and general workers. The qualitative research was designed to collect data in the commercial sex industries and general industries.

Female workers from three different occupations were selected among both CSWs and general workers; and the data was collected through six focus group discussion.

The major findings obtained through this research were as follows:

1. General workers entered into their current occupation through their families and relatives.
2. Commercial Sex Workers (CSWs) entered into their occupation through middlemen or their distant friends.
3. Both CSWs and general workers had economic problems. However, CSWs had severe economic problems and faced larger debts.
4. Most CSWs are separated or divorced and have children.
5. Some CSWs had past occupation and live alone in Bangkok.
6. Most CSWs came from the Northern provinces and general workers came from the Northeastern province.
7. Low-income CSWs and general workers had a low education. Middle and high income CSWs had a high education.
8. Low-income CSWs and come from similar family backgrounds; that is, small-scale farmers. Middle and high-income CSWs come from middle-class families.
9. Most CSWs were not virgins when they got involved in their occupation.
10. The value of double standards leads to increased objections towards CSWs. With no sex education, it is difficult for good girls to be responsible for their own sexual behavior and to learn about motives and factors of those working as CSWs.

This study found that some factors contributing to involvement in the current occupation of CSWs and general workers were different. However, there is a very strong possibility that

general workers will become CSWs in the future, as long as some of the problems CSWs face in Thailand are not solved.

Six recommendations were presented based on the results of this study.

1. The government should promote industries to give work opportunities to females in the northern and the northeastern provinces.
2. Girls who have low education should be provided with basic skills through vocational training, academic lessons, and language classes. These activities should be promoted and increased in each district through the grass-roots level. The government should collaborate with (Non-Government Organizations and support man-power, materials, and finances.
3. The government should have some measures to check that factories abide by the laws of human rights to ensure fair payment, particularly short-term factories.
4. The blood test for HIV antibodies should be provided free of charge. General health check-ups and personal health forms should be provided in order to protect CSWs from serious health problems.
5. Sex education, including the concept of gender discrimination, should be established in primary education as soon as possible.
6. In order to gain a better understanding of the problems female workers face, qualitative methods should be more widely applied and encouraged.