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CHILD PROSTITUTION IN SHAMVA IN ZIMBABWE (2000-2016). Submitted in partial

Fulfilment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Honors Degree in History.

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(200 (2000-2016)

DEGREE TITLE Bachelor of Arts Honors Degree in History

YEAR THIS DEGREE GRANTED 2016

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I, Ireen Chirozva declare that this study is my own work and has not been submitted before any degree or examination in the university. I also declare that all sources I have used and I have quoted have been indicated and acknowledged as complete references. I authorize that the dissertation will be used for scholarly research and for academic purposes only.

Chirozva Ireen

Signature.....

Dedication

I dedicate this research work to my late mother and beloved father, my siblings Nyasha, Rumbi, Tendai and Mukudzei who continued encouraging and supporting me.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the Almighty God presenting me with this opportunity to embark on this research project. I extend my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Mr I Mazambani for his assistance and encouragement in this difficult research journey. I am also grateful to the Chirozva family for the guidance and support in this project and the prayers which kept me going.

Acronyms

AIDS-	Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome
BEAM-	Basic Education Assistance Model
HIV-	Human Immune Virus
ILO-	International Labor Organization
NAC-	National Aids Council
NGO-	Non Governmental Organization
PHD-	Prophetic Healing and Deliverance
STI-	Sexually Transmitted Infection
TB-	Tuberculosis
UFIC-	United Family International Church
ZINATHA-	Zimbabwe Traditional Healers Association

ABSTRACT

This research looks at the trends of Child Prostitution globally, in Africa, in Zimbabwe and in Shamva. It also focuses on the causes of child prostitution as the rate of child prostitution is increasing in Shamva day by day due to poverty, unemployment and violence and abuse. The effects of Child Prostitution and the intervention strategies used by the government as well as the Non-Governmental Organizations to curb child prostitution. Through the use of the information obtained from oral interviews with different people in Shamva including minor prostitutes, newspapers, reports, books as well as internet sources the research shows how deadly child prostitution is in Shamva.

INTRODUCTION

The study wishes to analyze the causes of child prostitution, the historical background of child prostitution, look at the effects of child prostitution as well as determining the different strategies used by the authorities and other organizations in reducing the causing of child prostitution. The study is focusing mainly on the issue of child prostitution in Shamva in Zimbabwe from 2000-2016. The researcher chose the period from 2000 to 2016 as this is the period when the Fast Track Land Reform program was conducted hence most people lost their jobs in nearby farms and the rate of child prostitution increased in Shamva. Child prostitution is practiced globally. Child prostitution is amongst other oldest professions in the world. Prostitution refers to the exercise of sexual relations in return for money or other benefits. Prostitution of minors or child prostitution is prostitution which involve a minor. It is a form of commercial sexual exploitation of children.¹ minor refers to a person under the legal age of maturity and in most jurisdictions, child prostitution is illegal as part of a general prohibition on prostitution.²

The term prostitute originated from a Latin word prostituta. Different sources cite the verb as alignment of "pro" meaning "up front" or "forward" and "situere", demarcated as "to offer up for sale".³ furthermore another clarification is that prostituta is a composition of pro then statuere (to station or to cause to stand). A literal translation therefore is, "to give up front for sale" or "to place forward". According to the Online Etymology Dictionary, 'sex for hire' is a phrase not inherent in etymology, which however put forward that one would be 'under the influence of lust' or sex 'indiscriminately offered.'

Various names are used to identify those who are involved in prostitution, the names usually differ due to the different types of prostitution or imply these names clearly shows or bring about

the feelings of the people around and how they think of prostitutes. The common names used to call prostitutes include bitch, whore and escort; however, one has to note that some of the professional escorts are not prostitutes. These names usually bring about the true feelings of the society on the issue about prostitution.

J.P. Rodrigues, P. Junius, is of the view that the language applied to the practice of child prostitution is an issue of dispute as the word itself clearly shows the idea of choice, but actually that would not be the case.⁴ Ronald Flowers, implies that the terms, child prostitution as well as child prostitute convey problematic connotations as these children are not expected to be in a state of making informed decisions about prostitution.⁵ As a substitute, there is the use of the terms prostituted children or commercial sexual exploitation of minors. According to O.P. Narayan, the word child sex worker is used to clearly show that these children are not at all times passive victims.⁶ However, in the case of Child Prostitution in Shamva the children are victims. To my findings very few children in Shamva willingly engage in prostitution and the majority is only forced by the harsh circumstances. .

A. Sachs is of the view that, child prostitution is not something new, but however has only recently grown to become one of the most profitable industries with the selling and buying of children as well as trading them just like any other mass-produced goods.⁷ He adds on saying that the majority of the sex workers are usually under the age of 16 and most are female, however in some parts of the world there is the existence of young male prostitutes.⁸ Sachs emphasizes that in Sri Lanka's 20,000-30,000 minor prostitutes are boys.⁹ Most of children who are engaged in prostitution is as a result of economic hardships as well as poverty. Most children are left with no choice other than to leave their homes on their own to look for something which

would give them something to put in the mouth, some are unfortunately stolen or sold into slavery, while others are thrown out of their own homes. To the International Labor Organization study, it was discovered that a woman engaged in the sex industry in Thailand is able to make approximately 25 times more than she could in any other occupation open to her. Such financial reward is often hard to resist. Demand for child prostitutes comes from a range of sources. In Asia, child prostitution, and prostitution in general, are deeply embedded in many local and national cultures.¹⁰ For example, in 2008 a Harvard University researcher has determined that 75% of all men in Thailand have had sex with a prostitute. While nationals frequent and effectively support the prostitution industry, many foreign travelers also visit countries in search of sex. Young prostitutes are in particular myth that youngsters are somehow relatively virgin and bereft of infection with sexually transmitted diseases. The United Nations has declared child prostitution to be illegal under international law. In Zimbabwe organizations have therefore been created to fight its existence. These include Social Welfare, Hope Tariro, Gender and Women Affairs.

Prostitution and keeping a brothel in Zimbabwe, is illegal but thriving. The country's dire economic situation has forced many women into sex work. Factors leading people to resort to prostitution are multi-fold but the most outstanding factor is poverty. Most people in Africa, particularly in Zimbabwe's high density suburbs live below the poverty datum line and this has led to school dropouts and ultimately unemployment.¹¹ It is also of use to note that, the introduction of the multi-currency system in 2009 had adverse effects on the poor high density suburb dwellers.

This research seeks to unveil that child prostitution is a huge problem in Zimbabwe particularly in Shamva. The problematic nature of the involvement of minors in prostitution is best explained by this research. In this dissertation I seek to show the causes, effects of child prostitution and how it has affected the youth and society of Shamva. In this research I seek to show that child prostitution is also a form of violation of the children's rights.

Research Questions

- a) What is the major cause of child prostitution in Zimbabwe and Shamva District?
- b) What are the effects of child prostitution in Shamva?
- c) How effective are strategies implemented to reduce child prostitution in Shamva?

The objectives of the study are to:

- a) Identify the roots of child prostitution in Shamva.
- b) Examine the effects of child prostitution in Shamva in Zimbabwe.
- c) Explore the different strategies used by the authorities and other organization to reduce and stop child prostitution in Shamva.

Literature Review

While there has been growing interest and documentation in issues concerning the girl child, however, there is little academic research in the resolution initiatives and historical literature of child prostitution work. Child prostitution is not a new thing, according to Maureen Jaffe and Sonia Rosen, it started ages ago, in ancient Rome prostitution was legal, and therefore Child prostitution was practiced at a large scale.¹² Prostitutes in Rome were children, mostly abandoned children were almost always raised as prostitutes. Enslavement into prostitution was sometimes used as a legal punishment against criminal free women.¹³ The focus continues to be

on the ways international actors can intervene in contemporary gender issues and beyond. As such, there is need to look at the literature on the issue of child prostitution. Prostitution is the business or practice of engaging in sexual relations in exchange for payment,¹⁴ or some other benefit. Prostitution is sometimes described as commercial sex. Prostitution is the profession of performing sexual acts for money.

A. Sachs targeted the child prostitutes worldwide, he argues that child prostitution is still evolving with boys strongly participating. Sachs says child prostitution, however, is not only about little girls as young boys are also increasingly being targeted.¹⁵ The International Organisation for Migration has identified this as a growing problem in Chiredzi where boys are leaving for South Africa where they get work as comforters, mainly for widows. However this research differ from A. Sachs as he focuses on child prostitution on boys in Chiredzi while I will be focusing mainly on girls in Shamva.

Isabella Matambanadzo believes that, the need of children to have expensive clothes and expensive meals. The introduction of Chicken Inn in Masvingo has caused many children to venture into prostitution mainly to acquire money to buy Chicken Inn better yet to be taken to Chicken Inn. Matambanadzo stresses that the children's vulnerability is mainly derived by the need to have expensive clothes and meals which most families regard as wastage of money. Matambanadzo also argues that child prostitution is championed by the unavailability of jobs which as a result force boys to do odd jobs such as guarding parked cars, while the girls beg.¹⁶ The unavailability of jobs, rather the unemployment problem is mainly the reason child prostitution has become rife. Destitution transforms many children of both sexes into easy prey

for people who sexually exploit them in exchange for a little money, warm clothes, a pair of old shoes or simply a hot meal.

J. Richard's main focus is the involvement of the law and court's ruling on prostitution. Richard says prostitution is still evolving, it has not yet reach its climax.¹⁷ However Richard is rather reluctant on the child prostitutes who are not in the urban areas. Richard describes a child prostitute as a person below the age of 18 years. J. Richard says prostitution of children or child prostitution is prostitution involving a child.¹⁸ It is a form of commercial sexual exploitation of children. The term normally refers to prostitution of a minor, or person under the legal age of maturity. In most jurisdictions, prostitution of or by a person under 18 is illegal, even if the child is older than the statutory age of consent of the jurisdictions. In some jurisdictions child prostitution is illegal as part of a general prohibition on prostitution. However, the illegality of child prostitution is rather only in words than in practise as evidenced by the number of child prostitutes in Shamva. Prostitutes who practice prostitution at Wadzanai Township and Tipperary Bar are mainly minors hence no arrests have been made in terms of child prostitution.

Research Methodology

This study is a qualitative study. A qualitative research investigates the why and how part of a research and not just the what, when and where. According to Creswell, qualitative research is described as 'an unfolding model that occurs in a natural setting that enables the researcher to develop a level of detail from high involvement in the actual experiences.'¹⁹ What constitutes qualitative research involves purposeful use for describing, explaining, and interpreting collected data. Lambourne and Herro state that qualitative research is less structured in description because it formulates and builds new theories.²⁰ Qualitative research can also be described as an effective

model that occurs in a natural setting that enables the researcher to develop a level of detail from being highly involved in the actual experiences. This study is a qualitative study because the researcher identified the most ignored problem of child prostitution in Zimbabwe and the need for new measure effective to curb this problem, everyone has to have the same mindset to fight child prostitution. The growth of child prostitution has been overlooked by other scholars.

Oral interviews were used so as to gather information from the local pastors, Min of Youth, teachers from Wadzanai High School, DAC Officer, some young girls in the area and Bar tenders at Tipperary as most of them interact with child prostitutes, what challenges they face and the structures they use as these are offices that interact with youths regularly basis and they are well updated on the existence of child prostitution and its expansions.

Questionnaires were also used to conduct the research in order to examine the causes and effects of child prostitution as well as to understand general feelings of the people on child prostitution. Simple and short questions were constructed in a way that on may be able to understand and answer questions easily.

Secondary sources were consulted both published and unpublished materials however they are crucial in giving exact dates however one may find first-hand information documented within which some primary sources may not provide. Secondary sources also contain analysis of the subject. Published sources are books and journals while unpublished includes seminar papers as well as thesis dissertation.

Tertiary sources were accessed to get recent analysis of the subject. The use of internet makes it easy to obtain analysis from all historical angles.

CHAPTER BREAKDOWN

The dissertation has got four chapters excluding the introductory chapter. The introductory chapter mainly focusing on the background of the study, the problem statement and the various research methods that have been used by the researcher in the research. The chapter also includes literature review, methodology and theoretical framework. Chapter 1 looks on the global trends of child prostitution at community, national and regional level. The chapter also gives an overview of the advent of child prostitution in Zimbabwe. Chapter 2 mainly looks at the various causes of child prostitution in Shamva particularly in the 21st century in Zimbabwe. The research explores the different causes of child prostitution in the study area. The chapter 3 explores the effects of child prostitution in different angles in Shamva. Chapter 4 looks on how the authorities are doing to control and stop child prostitution in Shamva in Zimbabwe.

END NOTES

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CHAPTER ONE: TRENDS OF CHILD PROSTITUTION GLOBALLY, IN AFRICA, IN ZIMBABWE AND IN SHAMVA

1.1 Global trends of child prostitution

The issue of child prostitution is a serious global problem to which no solution has yet been found. Hence, prostituted children become nothing else but burdens in their societies, nations as well as the globe as a whole. A. Sachs postulates that, the female child usually finds her way into prostitution by being bought, kidnapped, tricked, sold by her parents or traded.¹he goes on to say that figures estimate that the child prostitution business employs approximately 1 million children in Asia, 1,5 to 2 million children in India ,100 thousand children in the united states and 500 thousand in Latin America.² A. Sachs is also of the view that statistics also estimate that annually a child prostitute will service over 2 thousand men.³ this clearly shows that this business does not benefit these prostituted children at all, hence as a result they continue wanting more clients so as to be able to bring food on the table.

Child prostitution is seriously violating children's rights as well as reducing their dignity. This can be illustrated by the fact that, globally it is estimated that about 10 million children under the age of 18 years participate in prostitution related activities of which that is an estimated 1 million children forced into prostitution every year.⁴ Sachs is of the view that ,worldwide, an estimated

one million children are forced into prostitution every year and the number of prostituted children could be as high as 10 million.⁵ In addition, such Sachs says that child prostitutes are faced with high risks of getting infectious diseases, unwanted pregnancies, mental illnesses, substance abuse as well as violence. This makes one to clearly say that child prostitution is a serious global problem existing and also increasing day by day.

In Thailand, the estimation of the non-governmental organization is that up to a third of the prostitutes are children under the age of 18. Hence showing clearly that child prostitution is at the peak there. According to the research which the international labor organization conducted on child prostitution in Vietnam, it was reported that child prostitution is steadily increasing and children under the age of 18 make up between 5% and 20% of prostitution which are mostly depending on the geo graphical area.⁶

Child prostitution is affecting each and every corner of the world therefore has raised a lot of questions but not much is being done hence, making the rate to go up and down. The world vision Middle East / Eastern Europe's report of 2006 which the Canadian government funded which was supported by six United Nations agencies and the international organization for migration reported the view that in Africa and South Asia, many countries are faced with a rising child prostitution rate and the linkage with tourism is evident.⁸ Child prostitution as well as child trafficking for sexual exploitation is also increasing in Australia, Japan, Europe as well as in North America.

Brazil's extreme poverty and employment rate have made many parents to support to support and encourage child prostitution. According to Crimes against Children Research Centre (CCRC), the numbers of juvenile prostitutes within the United States range from 1, 400 to 2, 4

million although most fall between 300,000 and 600,000.¹⁰In February 2014, a total of 16 children as young as 13 were rescued from the sex trade in a law enforcement operation that targeted suspected pimps who brought the victims to New Jersey for super bowl weekend. Prostituted children's cases are usually ignored or harassed, arrested when they do come to contact with the law enforcement or incarcerated while the adults who exploit them the, pimp and customers, largely escape punishment and this humiliation therefore makes the children not want to report them hence, making child prostitution remain in existence.

In Tanzania, harsh economic conditions are forcing children to drop out of school. Girls in this area have no other means of survival hence, at the end of the day they turn to prostitution. Tourism is one of the factors making or encouraging the rate of child prostitution to go higher as most people visit Tanzania to purchase cars and clothes. Therefore child prostitution in Tanzania is widely practiced in ghettos, bars, guest houses and other tourist attraction areas where they can easily be hired. The International Labor Organization have also observed that male children are also involved in prostitution in the same places in Dares Salaam as well as Mwanza.

Poverty has provoked most parents in Tanzania that they are left with no choice other than selling their children into sexual exploitation or giving away their young daughters into marriage in exchange for a dowry. Reports of children being trafficked from the rural areas to urban areas because of the belief that they are free from are increasing, as well as those of sexual abuse of child domestic workers. According to ILO/ IPEC in Dares Salaam city they were about 4500 street children in 2000. This issue of child prostitution is however kept behind doors in Tanzania and less is done to stop it.

1.2 Child prostitution in Africa

Child prostitution in most African countries is illegal although there are other countries which legalize prostitution hence have a blind eye for child rights. In Africa child prostitution is mainly driven by the widespread of poverty especially in many Sub Saharan African countries. Child prostitution is also considered as one of the drivers for the prevalence of AIDS in Africa. In some parts of Africa prostitution may be legal, but brothels are not usually allowed to operate. However, in most African countries where prostitution is illegal, it is on illegal by the word of mouth as no action is put in practice hence making the rate of child prostitution to increase day by day at the end violating children's rights.

Despite the adoption of Women Rights and Equal Rights, women are still being oppressed in most African countries. Gone are the days we young girls used to respect older men but now they prostitute with older men old enough to be their fathers. Along the coast, child prostitution is considered as a major problem and is illegal. Child prostitution in these areas is as a result of corruption and poverty hence the victims are left with no choice other than prostitution. Some parents put a hand in making their small girls bring food on the table by prostituting.

Child prostitution in Guinea-Bissau is a major problem with many of pimps also being drug dealers.¹¹ Due to the poor economic situation many women are tempted by such offers of vice and become addicted to cocaine.¹² This clearly shows how bad child prostitution is in some African counties as it brings nothing but trouble. Prostitution in Liberia is illegal just as it is in Sierra Leone, child prostitution has seen an increase in the aftermath of civil war.¹³

In Somalia, due to economic hardships, minors are left with no other option than venture into prostitution business though prostitution is illegal. Girl usually drop out of school in search for survival but end up being prostitutes. Less attention is being paid to child prostitution in Somalia

and also there is the existence of early marriages. Though illegal in Cameroon, there is the existence of child prostitution as they attract sex tourism from the west especially. The Cameroonian government has attempted to stop this trade by agreeing to multilateral agreement such as charters against sex tourism, like signing up with the Universal Federation of Travels Agents Associations.

In Rwanda child prostitution is not allowed by law, but due to immense poverty in the country, many women have been forced into prostitution to earn a living. This clearly shows that if the rate of women in the industry is very high, the probability of them to recruit their own daughters as well as siblings is also very high. While in Madagascar prostitution is illegal and child prostitution is a serious offence. People caught paying for sex in Madagascar face a sentence of up to 10 years.¹⁵

The mistaken belief that sleeping with a virgin girl will cure AIDS have put young girls on the target as in Zambia people are benefiting from kidnapping children and turning them into prostitution , though prostitution is illegal. The rise of prostitution in Zambia has also led to recruitment of more prostitutes. In Zambia, some cultures force young girls to venture into prostitution as they are taught how to please men in bed and all men became very keen to feel exactly what they are taught. This makes more minor want to put in practice what they are taught.

Child prostitution is not exclusively a form of child abuse but is increasingly a form of labor performed for income and often survival as many young women turn to prostitution as a means of supporting themselves and their families financially. Since girls already have low paying jobs but work as a prostitute because of higher income it provides. hence the growth of child

prostitution in Southern Africa is due to largely poverty, unequal gender relationships, breakdown of family structures, limited access to education by young girls as well as sexual abuse.¹⁶ This has led to the increase rate of spread of HIV and AIDS in Africa.

Child prostitution in South Africa is serious as most children are forced into prostitution as many young girls are kidnapped even during the day at schools, taxis ranks, even at shopping malls. As prostitution is benefiting young girls, girls between the ages of 12 to 17 are mostly targeted by brothel owners, gangs and even their own mothers are forcing them to sell sex so that they would earn a living.

Some researchers studied media then conducted extensive interviews with among others; 20 girls who had been abducted and the girls told them that when held captive they are bitten if caught trying to escape and sometimes killed. Also when they are used in the business of prostitution these girls are used to bring in their sisters as well as friends. They are forced to abuse drugs, frequently gang raped the most painful thing is that these girls do not benefit at large as the clients pay to the owners. They do not have a say and some clients take advantage of that and would force them to have unprotected sex hence increasing the rate of the spread of HIV and some sexually transmitted infections. South Africa has no laws against child prostitution and child trafficking, although it is illegal to have with children.

According to Viktoria Perschler Desai, several countries in Southern Africa, even representatives from women's and children's organizations often believe that the children, usually girls, are to blame for immoral behavior. However, a different approach yields another interpretation that is more appreciative of the situation of these girls as most of them are forced to earn money without ever having the benefit of the kind of education that would allow them to get a job

guaranteeing cash income.¹⁷ In most parts of the world, raising a girl in Southern Africa still means to prepare her for being a good wife and mother, thus girls are taught to manage a household, to help raising their smaller siblings but above all, to please men. Hence for girls without any professional training, prostitution is a means to earn cash income.¹⁸

Since prostitution is not recognized as work according to Mozambican legislation, child prostitutes are technically not considered to be workers. Furthermore, prostitution is illegal in Mozambique as most other countries. Despite these considerations, those researching child labor in Mozambique decided to include child prostitution as one of the key occupations to be investigated, hence making one to clearly see that child prostitution exists in almost every country in Africa and have affected most children, destroying their future.

1.3 Child prostitution in Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe prostitution is regarded as a crime which involves sexual conduct in exchange of a fee as addressed In the criminal law codification and reform Act 2004 part 3.¹⁹ In Section 61 of the Zimbabwean constitution, prostitute is defined as a male or female who for money or reward allows another person to extra marital sexual intercourse or engage in other sexual conduct with him or her. Rather a prostitute is a person who solicits other persons to have sexual conduct with him or her.²¹ There are different kinds of prostitution including street prostitution; these kinds of prostitutes wait and look for customers whilst standing at street corners. These kinds of prostitutes usually perform sexual activities in the nearby alley, customer's cars or rent a room depending with the customer's money.

There is a law in Zimbabwe which protects minors from prostitution. Section 87states that allowing a minor to become a prostitute will be liable to 10 years imprisonment. One can clearly

say that this law section however has been largely ignored since child prostitution is increasing rapidly in most parts of Zimbabwe. Section 87 states that any parent or guardian who causes or allows his or her child under the age of 18 to associate with prostitutes or to be employed by any prostitute as a prostitute or to reside in a brothel shall be guilty of allowing a child to become a prostitute and liable to a fine of \$20 or ten years imprisonment or both. Due to the new law which forbids the arrest of women walking in streets after 7 o'clock in the evening, the rate of child prostitution in Zimbabwe is therefore increasing day by day.

Minors are usually targeted to become prostitutes as they can be easily exploited. Lower prices are charged by young girls. In Zimbabwe child prostitution has reached a peak point as evidenced by child prostitution of Ngundu business center as it is reported that school gang children are participating in prostitution. This was due to information which indicated the existence of possible cartel that recruits young girls into prostitution activities. Chief Nhema, noted that the challenges are beyond inability of the parents to discipline their child but also linked to the economic situation in the country.

Child prostitution is a major problem along the Hwange-Victoria Falls highway. Usually truckers that ferry coal are the major attraction for girls. Participants noted that some children go as far as Lupinyu, close to Victoria Falls, where prostitutes charge as little as US \$1. Some adults were implicated in recruiting young girls from Hwange during the World Tourism Conference to supply the tourist market. One of the leaders was at the time resident in Hwange but managed to escape. Parents noted that children are easily attracted to such prostitution since there are no training institutes in the area. Hwange's response to child protection issues has been exceptional compared to other areas. For example, there is a volunteer worker using her vehicle and financial

resources to follow up on cases of child abuse in the area. The challenge however, she has been threatened several times by perpetrators.

1.4 Child prostitution in Shamva

Shamva is a township which is located in the province of Mashonaland Central, Zimbabwe. It is located in the Mazowe valley about 90 km north-east of Harare the capital city of Zimbabwe. It is an area with fertile soils hence there is high farming activity. According to the 1982 Population Census, the village had a population of 4,617. People have been living in this area before European settlers came in. The village was established in 1895 when gold was discovered in the area. It was originally known as Abercorn but was later changed so as to avoid confusion with Abercorn (now Mbala) found in Zambia. The name Shamva is resultant from *Tsamvi* a tree common in that region. *Tsamvi* was changed because the early settlers were not able to pronounce the name but could pronounce Shamva. During the first Chimurenga several settlers were killed on an attack in Shamva. The railway arrived in the town in 1913. It is also where many African people died in fight for the struggle of independence. The largest number of people in Shamva survives through gold panning. The area is rich in alluvial gold and most of it is found along the Mazowe basin. Gold panning is the greatest threat to the environment and also society in the area. The water which the people in Shamva drink is supplied from the Mazowe River.

The main schools in the area are Wadzanai Primary School and Wadzanai Secondary School and some other satellite schools which are run by the Shamva district council. Most of the schools

are located near Wadzanai Township. It has a country club which used to offer a variety of sports including cricket, golf, squash, swimming, putt and tennis but after 2000 when most whites were chased away it is now nothing but a ground. In the 1980s and 90s Polo was very popular with the farmers. The polo field was located adjacent to the country club but has since been converted to residential stands.

As the area have fertile soils, cotton, maize, tobacco, soya beans, tropical fruits were grown in the area before 2000. The village has a brewery, a grain depot and a cotton ginnery. Gold is mined at Shamva Mine (2 km away) and the Madziwa Mine produces gold and nickel.

After the 2000 Land Reform Programme chaos began prevailing in the area as most people lost their jobs in farms as well as in the mine. Most people are suffering and this has caused to the rise a child prostitution. Many young girls drop school so as to make quick money and support their families. Due to the fact that Shamva includes of different people who came from nearby countries to work in the farms and mines, there are different values as well as mixed cultures.

The majority of the girls who have turned into prostitutes are children of farm workers, who now go for months without receiving wages ever since production in the farms sharply plummeted following the country's chaotic land reform Programme and some are children of those who lost their jobs from Shamva mine as well as the local brewery.

Among the minor are school dropouts whose parent or guardians could not further pay for their education soon after completing primary level because of poverty. What makes matters worse for some of the school dropouts is that several of them head families left behind by their deceased parents.

With vending and small-scale farming offering very little income, many of the girls opt to either give themselves up for the sex trade or simply wind up in child labor or child marriages. While this sad scenario is common in areas where artisanal mining is predominant, Shamva has become the hotbed. This could help explain why Mashonaland Central is topping national HIV and Aids, as well as child marriages statistics.

The Zimbabwe National Statistical Agency figures for 2014, provided in the 2014 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey report, show rampant child marriages in the province. According to the survey, Mashonaland Central province has the highest rate of child marriages in the country followed by Mashonaland East and West provinces, while Bulawayo metropolitan province has the lowest rate.

This dovetails with a recent report based on data collected by the United Nations Population Fund, between 2000-2011, showing that the country's prevalence of child marriage was at 31 percent and Zimbabwe was adjudged as one of the 41 countries in the world with an unacceptable high rate of child marriages.

According to the report, Mashonaland Central tops at 50 percent followed by Mashonaland West (42 percent), Masvingo (39 percent), Mashonaland East (36 percent), Midlands (31 percent), Manicaland (30 percent), Matabeleland North (27 percent), Harare (19 percent), Matabeleland South (18 percent) and Bulawayo (10 percent).

In a nutshell, according to National Aids Council statistics Mashonaland Central contributes at least 16 percent to the increasing HIV and Aids prevalence rate. At the recently held International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA), it was said Aids prevalence rate

among youths globally has tripled in the last five years. And no doubt, Shamva's artisanal gold mining fields have a significant contribution to this rise.

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CHAPTER 2: CAUSES OF CHILD PROSTITUTION IN SHAMVA

Introduction

This chapter is going to give a summary on the numerous causes of child prostitution in Shamva, particularly from 2000 to 2016. It has been noted that there is need for the responsible authorities to take action in as far as child prostitution is concerned. However, there have been efforts implemented by the authorities so as to curb the problem of child prostitution. The evidence gathered during the interviews revealed that the child prostitution problem requires urgent and appropriate attention so as to promote the rights of the child, especially the girl child.

2.1 Unemployment

Shamva is well known of gold mining and is also an area where farming made most families earned their living. Child prostitution increased in Shamva during the tumultuous 2000 land reform program. This period most whites were chased away from farms leaving with their farming equipment and some were destroyed in the process. This led to child prostitution as many who worked on farms lost their jobs. One can easily say that unemployment is one of the factors which caused child prostitution to a greater extent. Unemployment has led to child prostitution, robberies as well as violence in Shamva.

After completing secondary education, most girls in Shamva are left with nothing to do. This has led into girls giving up themselves into prostitution. Some canteens have taken advantage of this situation and employed young girls so that they would attract men and get more customers. These girls working in these canteens as well as beer-halls are paid peanuts as the owners would want to maximize their profits. These girls are left with no choice but to entertain men and get money for survival.

At night, most minor girls are seen in beer-halls and also Tipperary bar which has recently opened and getting attention from most men as the services are still good. The number of minor girls in these areas increase daily. Mr. Moyo, the owner of Tipperary bar, admitted that he does not charge entrance fee and is more polite to those who are still young, as he had this say,

“Having these young girls in the bar has contributed a lot to the maximum profits we make. This is because most men in our bar prefer to sleep with minors which would be half their age or even lesser. So being able to understand and satisfy my customers makes me the best businessman. At the end of the day everyone would be happy as these young prostitutes are paid for their sexual services by their customers and I make a lot of money too from my customers”¹

With the Tipperary bar owner's response, one may hold the club and bar owners in Shamva responsible for the rise of child prostitution in the area. In this case, one can clearly say that club owners as well as bar owners are rather agents of child prostitution.

Due to the seizure of farms from whites as well as the closure of some parts of Shamva mine department which has led to the rise of unemployment, child prostitution has increased. The mine which used to accommodate most youths in Shamva, no longer does, since 2008. Young girls are left with nothing but to get themselves into prostitution.

When the population increase it clearly means that the demand of food will also increase. As most Shamva youths are unemployed, the demand of food is also high. In this case, one would be able to clearly see that unemployment has played a pivotal role in child prostitution as most young girls are forced by the situation to become adults and engage into prostitution only to have a means of putting food at the table. One can clearly note that the shortage of food in Shamva is worsened by the county's economic meltdown which is yet to recover. One of the young prostitutes who said that unemployment and starvation had made her a prostitute at the age of thirteen had this to say,

*"I started to sleep with men not for pleasure but for money just after completing my grade seven. I had to look after my sister as both our parents passed away and our guardian, my aunt is also a prostitute. She encouraged me to sleep with men as she said that it was also her job."*²

2.2 Poverty

Poverty has also played a pivotal role in causing child prostitution. In Shamva most women are nothing but housewives who only spend the whole day gossiping and child bearing. The man's

income or one person's income in most cases will not be able to meet the demands of the family as they would be getting low wages. Poverty therefore becomes a burden to most girls as most families choose to withdraw the girl child as they still believe that the boy child would help the family as compared to the girl child. They still have that ancient belief which is primitive that the girl child would not benefit her original family as she would get married after completing school and start to help the new family financially, abandoning her original family. One child prostitute had this to say,

*"I come from a poor family and this has driven me into prostitution. I was raised by a single parent, my mother who is not employed and my uncles stopped paying my school fees when I was in form 1. Due to financial hardships I was forced to dropout from school. I am the first child and prostitution has become my savior as I can now afford to buy food for my siblings and mother with the money I get from prostitution."*³

In addition to the fact that poverty is the main cause of child prostitution Christine Pemba who is a minor prostitute shared this,

*"I am blessed to have this big body and a beautiful face. I did very bad in school and failed my grade seven. Realizing that I was wasting my father's money, who is a gardener, I saw that prostitution is a suitable profession for me. Now I can help pay fees for my siblings as well as buying food through the earning I make as a prostitute."*⁴

In this case one can clearly see that most girls are poverty victims as they have no choice but use their bodies to get what they need. Poverty have left most Shamva parents with no option but to make a girl child stay at home abandoning education. A girl, being a creature with a soft heart, is left with no other options than becoming a prostitute. The instability of the Zimbabwean economy has led to the increase of child prostitution as some other countries

provide free education. One of the minor prostitutes which the researcher interviewed had this to say,

*"We are five in our family, I have a twin brother and we are first born. I had to drop-out of school when I was in form 1 because our parents would no longer afford to pay both our school fees. My brother continued schooling. We are poor that before I became a prostitute we used to sleep on empty stomach, but now I can afford to put food on the table at home and also help my parents pay fees for my siblings."*⁵

The geographical location of Wadzanai Township in Shamva is rather problematic to the increase of child prostitution. Shamva is located around gold mines. Young girls from neighboring farms and villages try to escape poverty by engaging in prostitution. The market of prostitution is available and also the demand is high as offered by a mass of small scale miners. Child prostitution rose especially during the period of dollarization. The gold diggers do not hesitate to spend their money on these young girls. They make quick money as they sell their gold quickly by offering the minerals to illegal gold merchants. Some commercial sex workers travel from as far as Harare as they seek to capitalize on the easily exploitable gold diggers and return with rich pickings.

2.3 Media

One can also say that media is much to blame for the rise of child prostitution in Shamva. In Shamva most young boys and girls are huge fans of the Zimbabwe dancehall, they now copy dressing of the singers and abuse drugs which makes them easily abused by older people. The classic fashion which the television personnel associate themselves with makes the teenagers

to copy the same dressing, especially young girls. The kind of dressing attracts people of different sex. Also, young girls who come from the families who cannot afford to buy them the glamorous fashion have seen it best to sale their bodies for money. The respondent, who is a pastor in Shamva and also in the SDC committee at Wadzanai High School had this to say,

“Almost every household in Shamva has got a DSTV from which these young people copy fashion from foreign channels. The channels which are categorized as entertaining are associated with nudity. Thus most young girls copy this type of dressing. Young girls in Shamva believe that half or almost naked is fashion. The fashion they copy from media do not meet the capacity of their parents or guardian’s pockets. As a result young girls engage in prostitution with older men who can afford to buy them expensive fashion as well as latest version of cellphones.”⁶

Most girls in Shamva have got cellphones but due to competition amongst themselves, young girls engage into sexual activities as they would want to have latest versions of cellphones. Dirty videos they download from the internet also causes child prostitution as these young girls watch porn from the internet or videos which circulate on social media like whatsapp. One can clearly say that in Shamva, the use of social network has destroyed the future of many young girls.

Most of the child prostitutes in Shamva are politically involved. Politicians take advantage of these young girls’ situations to lure their support. In most rallies or meetings such as those conducted in Shamva, the stadium will be filled with both minor prostitutes and adult prostitutes. Politician, instead of coming up with solutions to stop child prostitution they are encouraging the growth of child prostitution in Shamva.

2.4 Family breakdown

Family breakdown is one of the causes of child prostitution in Shamva. Most of the young girls who had turn out to be prostitutes are orphans and some are raised by single parents. HIV and AIDS have demanded hundreds of both children's and adults' lives since 2000 up to date.⁷ the children left behind have no one to look after them but themselves. Girls usually take responsibility by venturing into prostitution so as to have funds to look after their siblings. In addition, the infidelity of many couples in Shamva have resulted to divorce hence the children are left to be raised by a single parent, mostly the mother who usually is a housewife and to earn a living they encourage their young girls to venture into prostitution as long as they bring food on the table. A mother of six and divorcee had this to say

*'My husband left me for a lady who teaches at the local Primary school. We had been married for eighteen years and we had a better life as he is an electrician at Shamva Gold mine and I am a full time house wife, I never saw the importance of supplementing so that I could get my own job. The money he earned made would cater for the whole family but after we had the divorce life have changed that he no Longer pay fees for his own kids as well as buying them food and clothes to wear. My Oldest daughter is fifteen and beautiful I have no choice than encourage her to date. Men who can take both us and her.'*⁸

2.5 Sexual abuse and violence

Sexual abuse, violence and rape has caused young girls to become prostitutes in Shamva. During this research, the researcher found out that most minors who become prostitutes have experienced sexual abuse or rape from stepfathers, uncles and even neighbors.⁹ In such cases when adults get to know they do nothing but just cover up the issue and does not give any support to the victim hence most girls leave their homes devastated to live in the streets, then become prostitutes for survival.

*'I am aged fifteen and supposed to be doing my form three now. I ran away from home last year after getting raped by my stepfather. I told my mother but she said that we had to keep it as a secret. My stepfather continued raping me and I felt divested and ran away. From home to live with a woman who is a prostitute. She taught me how to become a better prostitute and now I can have six clients on a slow day but on a busy day I make more money. My future was ruined by my mother as she chose my stepfather over me. I hate men but have to sleep with them for survival.'*¹⁰

Furthermore, sexual abuse has made many young girls to become sex addicts. Some young girls are abused to the extent that they lose control over their sexual desires. Some girls also engage into sexual activities willingly when still young and become sex addicts in the end. They start having sex with multiple partners and usually become drug addicts hence at the end of the day they benefit nothing but infectious diseases. A nurse at Shamva hospital had this to say;

*'Many young girls in Shamva usually come to get medication mainly for sexually transmitted diseases and others come here pretending to have had miscarriage. But they would have aborted using the traditional methods. It's a pity as most of these young girls are supposed to be at school but they are stuck home and due to lack of activity they end up getting into prostitution.'*¹¹

In addition, child prostitution has increased in Shamva as the majority of people are not educated thus still stick on false beliefs such as that if an HIV positive man gets to sleep with a virgin girl his virus would go away. It's a shame as many innocent young girls are victims but they do nothing as these issues are usually said to be family secrets. The minors obviously left hopeless and they would believe that there is nothing more life could offer as the lack of proper counseling. Their hatred for men grows to the extent that they sleep around spread HIV for revenge mostly.

To get rich, most men in Shamva use minor girls when doing their rituals 'kuromba'. These girls are usually sexually abused and left divested then venture into prostitution with hearts filled with anger and also broken as they do not get to tell anyone who can help them to escape the

nightmare. One can clearly see that most minor girls are victims of rape as well as abuse and usually their guidance know about these incidents but choose to keep it as a secret as the one who had committed the crime would be mostly their source of income.¹²

2.6 Culture degradation

Culture degradation has led to the practice of child prostitution in Shamva. This is due to the fact that Shamva is surrounded by many villages occupied by people with mixed cultures as some came from surrounding African countries during the colonial era and never returned home. Gone are the days when young girls were taught to safely keep their virginity only for the man who would pay the bride price. Now due to lack of proper guidance and the adoption of Western culture, many young girls no longer see the importance of keeping their virginity as they say that their bodies bring food on the table.

Conclusion

All in all one may conclude at this juncture that child prostitution is caused by different difficult situations which most young girls are experiencing which they cannot handle. The failing economy of Zimbabwe is much to blame for the rife of child prostitution in Shamva, the economic failure has forced everyone to be a vender, to youths they are body vender thus they sell sex for money or other favors.

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CHAPTER 3: EFFECTS OF CHILD PROSTITUTION IN SHAMVA

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the summary of the various effects of child prostitution in Shamva particularly from the period 2000 up to date in Zimbabwe. With the information gathered through interviews carried out in March by the researcher, it purely shows that nothing much is done to stop child prostitution as it is increasing rapidly. The issue of child prostitution in Shamva needs serious, appropriate as well as urgent attention from the authorities and the society itself. The prostitution of minor girls in this research from the information presented clearly shows that it has got both serious psychological and physical effects.

Prostituted children usually work in hazardous environments where there is lack of proper hygiene. They also face threats of violence, sometimes customers deny to pay for their services

and these minors are beaten or raped at times. As most of them prostitute only to bring something on the table these girls do not get balanced diet food and enough rest as done by normal children hence are prone to diseases. The effects of child prostitution in Shamva as sited by the people interviewed shows how deadly they are and need to be attended urgently. These effects include spread of infectious diseases, death rate increase of both children and adults, violation of children's rights as well as dignity, unwanted pregnancies, mental disorder and some become both drug and sex addicts.

The case of Tulsa a Nepali girl is more pathetic. Since the age of 13 she was sold and brought by many people and shifted from brothel to brothel and was forced by five to seven men every day. In this process she ended up with many diseases.¹ She was taken to J. J. Hospital at Bombay.² She was said to be suffering from meningitis, tuberculosis of brain, bone and chest and had an STD in advanced stage.³ The police took over sixteen months to file a charge sheet. Finally she was repatriated to Nepal. The culprits were tried and imprisoned for 20 years. Child prostitutes become ready recruits for flesh trade for they are rendered unfit for any other trade or calling not being educated or having any knowledge of any other trade.⁴

50 million of the world's 200 million prostitutes who suffer from STD are in India and they are mostly found to be affected by tuberculosis, meningitis scabies, chronic pelvic infections anemia, syphilis, chaneroid.⁵ This was the scars that the child prostitution leaves on the child prostitutes cannot be erased but to a certain extent can be minimized by the medical help.⁶

3.1 The spread of HIV and other infectious diseases

Child prostitutes are at high risk of getting infected by different infectious diseases. Unlike adult prostitutes, child prostitutes have got less power to persuade their clients to use protective methods such as condoms. These minor prostitutes also have less access to health care compared to the adult prostitutes. Child prostitutes in Shamva are at high risk of getting HIV. Without the use of condoms the risk of these young girls to get STIs is also very high. Hence a serious long

term of untreated STI in a female young prostitute results in infertility, miscarriages, pelvic inflammatory disease as well as chronic pelvic pain.

Usually these prostituted children when they discover that they have a certain STI they usually self medicate themselves with drugs they know could help or they can get the use of herbs which sometimes have serious after effects. These child prostitutes are at jeopardy of becoming drug resistance as they usually continue taking these un prescribed medication. One can clearly see that abolishing child prostitution is not only for the good of these minors but also for the whole community. This is due to the fact that these child prostitutes will infect their clients and the clients will go on infecting their innocent wives home and the cycle become endless.

Cervical cancer is one of the major effects of child prostitution as they would have engaged into sexual activities at a tender age and also with various partners. The young girls are usually diagnosed of cervical cancer at the late stage that the treatment usually would not be successful. These minors are prone to have both Hepatitis B and C. considering the poor working conditions as well as the living conditions of these young prostitutes in Shamva, some of them suffer from malnutrition. This is because they do not have access to clean water and healthy diet. Those living in the streets and some who live in large numbers are at high risk of getting affected by malnutrition.

The spread of HIV and AIDS is a serious effect of child prostitution in Shamva. According to the National AIDS Council in Zimbabwe statistics, Mashonaland Central contributes at least 16 percent to the increasing HIV and AIDS rate. Mr Sherpard Zanamwe, the National AIDS Council Shamva district Coordinator blamed poverty for the spread of HIV in Shamva, child prostitution as well as child marriages. He goes on to say that some of the cases they handle are unbelievable as girls as young as eleven are falling prey to artisanal miners in Shamva, and something has to be done because at this kind of rate the war against AIDS would surely be lost.⁷

Due to the poor living conditions lived by these minor prostitutes they are also at risk of getting infected by tuberculosis as well as some skin infections. A young prostitute getting treatment for TB had this to say,

'I started coughing and thought it was just a normal cough since it had been raining. The

Cough continued for days then weeks and I started noticing that I was losing weight I also started losing my appetite. Fortunately I rent next door to a nurse who encouraged me to go to the hospital and I was found with TB and given treatment. I was supposed to finish my course after six months but when I started feeling well I left the course unfinished, so that I would be able to go back to work without the smell of the pills. After a month the cough re appeared again but this time it was serious when I Went back to the hospital they told me that I now had what is called TB 2. I hardly can walk now and am receiving injections every day, for two months. I do not think I will survive this time because the pain is too much and since am not Working I hardly get money for food'.⁸

3.2 Unwanted pregnancy and abortion

Abortion and unwanted pregnancies are some of the major problems which have affected most youths in Shamva both minor prostitutes and ordinary young girls. These young prostitutes do not use contraceptives as they think getting pregnant is a hard job and also base of the fact that most of their clients would use condoms. Since they are minors and desperately need the money for survival, they would have unprotected sex in the case of coming across with a hard hearted client. These prostitutes have ninety percent chance of becoming pregnant and they are also at risk of having serious pregnancy complications as they would not be visiting the clinic and may result in the death of the baby or the mother.

Many child prostitutes who get pregnant usually seek abortion. Since it is illegal to abort in Zimbabwe and this can only happen in critical situations that the doctor would have approved, hence these young girls use traditional methods of aborting which are very unsafe and usually result in different serious effects such as getting cervical cancer and womb damage. After getting these unsafe abortions, young prostitutes do not have the knowledge that the womb is supposed to be cleaned by professionals to avoid future complications and stop bacteria. Also because of these unsafe abortions one may not be able to have any kids when the time comes as serious damages would have been made in the womb. A Wadzanai clinic nurse had this to say

'I witnessed the death of a prostitute last year. The prostitute aborted a six month old Pregnant. Her friends said that this was the fifty abortion and she used these traditional

*Unsafe methods. This time the situation was different as she had the unsafe abortion late .And also she did not know she was carrying twins. So when she saw a baby coming out after. Aborting she thought it was done. Three weeks after aborting she said she started having Stomach pains and later started noticing smelly green fluids. She came to the hospital one morning after she visited the toilet and had something looked like a baby's hand. She had a Scan and it was discovered that she had a baby which was rotting in her womb and had turned Green. She died after five days as the doctor said that she came late the damage had been done already. The young girls do not know how dangerous abortion is.*¹⁰

Most children born by child prostitutes mostly do not survive. Some may die during birth and others are still born babies. This clearly shows that less child prostitutes give birth to healthy children. This is sad as the burden is carried by an innocent child who would live regret for the rest of the life. A young prostitute interviewed said,

*'I got pregnant last year at the age of 15. I had so many doubts about who the real father of the baby I carried was since I had been having unprotected sex with two men. I do not deny that I am a prostitute and this was my third pregnancy. I had aborted the last two unfortunately this time the abortion was unsuccessful and was forced to keep the child. I gave birth to a handsome but blind boy and I actually do not know his real father.'*¹¹

With this, one can clearly see that child prostitution do not only affect the minor prostitute but have also effects on the children born by them.

3.3 Substance abuse

Child prostitution has affected children in different and serious ways as this activity is and also serves as one of the catalyst for more and further criminal association in other fields. The helpless children are turned into mere pawns in the criminal syndicates which lead to a steady deterioration of the morals.¹² the abuse of substance is one of the major effects of child prostitution .nearly most child prostitutes in Shamva are victims of substance abuse. They abuse various substance from tobacco as well as alcohol so as to inhalants and opiates. There is easy access of these substances in Shamva as many people due to the economic hardships have ventured into the business of selling broncleur, diasapum,; a pill which is used as a sleeping tablet, mbanje and some are getting to the extent of abusing TB tablets. These children have high risk of suffering from brain damage, liver, kidney and other blood borne infections such as cancer. A drug seller interviewed said

'I am making a lot of money by selling drugs. All I am after is cash and what I earn in two Days is a civil servants' monthly salary. I do not care or select the age or sex of

People who come to buy. My business is growing as sometimes I give prostitutes these Substances and would come to pay the following morning. I also supply drugs to gold paners as they say that their job do not need sober mind. '12

A minor prostitute also added up saying that she is now a drug addict as the job of being a prostitute is so difficult. Chiedza goes on saying that she hated the job but could do nothing about it since she failed her Ordinary Level. She started using drugs last year after one of her clients raped her and to forget about the incident, drug abuse seemed to be the solution to her. She added on saying that she does prostitution so as to earn a living and is willing to do this kind of job for the rest of her life. One would clearly see that these young prostitutes in Shamva abuse drugs as they prostitute for money and not for pleasure.

3.4 Violence and Abuse

Violence and abuse is one of the effects of child prostitution. Minor prostitutes are at high risk of injuries as a result of violence from the society, clients, police, pimps as well as their partners. Most of the young prostitutes who unwillingly got into prostitution are usually emotionally and physically abused so that they would give in and do what they have to do. Some of these prostitutes are beaten to death and some get to the extent of getting miscarriages. A Shamva hospital doctor had this to say;

'Most child prostitutes I have met here at my surgery had STI and some had vaginal Tearing. Vaginal tearing usually occurs mostly when a man force himself on a Young girl. The man would enjoy but this would be at the expense of the minor'¹³

3.5 Mental illness

Another serious and long term effect of child prostitution is mental illness. Most child prostitutes have got abnormal behavior that they are mostly violent as well as moody. They also suffer from depression and anxiety. This is due to the fact that most of them are rape victims hence they feel betrayed, damaged, degraded as well as ashamed. Some reported to have nightmares, poor appetite and are not able to sleep well. They are at high risk of committing suicide. Most of them who suffer from all these do not have access to medication hence the sad result would be death.

3.6 Early child marriages and divorce

Child marriages and divorce are at pick in Shamva as a result of child prostitution. Most young girls, due to poverty give themselves to men for survival. Some get married and they are usually

married to older men who would abuse them as the men know that the girl is with him for survival and have nowhere else to go. The rate of divorce has also risen in Shamva as a result of child prostitution. This is due to the fact that most men prefer minor prostitutes hence when getting involved with these girls their minds also become young and relaxed that they end up abandoning their own families. Mrs Gutu shared this;

*'My friend's husband used to cheat her but would support his family and they usually talked things out as people who have three kids together. This time the situation was different as he no longer come home or support his family as he had moved in with a young prostitute that we encouraged her to claim maintenance from the husband so that she would be able to support her family. She is now getting the money but not every month as the husband would sometimes not comply.'*¹⁴

This clearly shows how sad the situation of Child prostitution is in Shamva.

3.7 Violation of children's rights

Child prostitution in Shamva has resulted in the violation of children's rights as evidenced by the fact that all children have the right to education, the right to proper health care and also the right to choose who they want to date as well as make their own decisions freely. These rights are being violated in the sense that some young girls are forced indirectly by their guidians to venture into prostitution as poverty has stricken the area. They are also forced to drop out of school as they would have failed to pay school fees and are left with no other option but selling their bodies to men. Most men have taken advantage of the Zimbabwean economy that they are using it as a chance to exploit the minor girls.

3.8 Stigmatization

As a small town, almost everyone in Shamva know each other so it is not hard for child prostitutes to be noticed hence easily rejected by the society. Many child prostitutes are victims of stigmatization as they do not get any respect from the society and are badly labelled.

In a nutshell, child prostitution have destroyed the future of most young girls in Shamva as they are being infected by viral diseases such as HIV hence spreading it. The economic situation in Zimbabwe should take the major blame as everyone in the area has turned to be a vendor hence these young girls have become vendors of their own bodies as they survive by selling their bodies to men.

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Chapter 4: INTERVENTION STRATEGIES BY NGOS AND THE GOVERNMENT IN REDUCING CHILD PROSTITUTION

Introduction

This chapter focuses mainly on the results found of the efforts as well as the measures that have been taken to put to a halt and reduce the rate of child prostitution. The government and the NGO's have since resorted to minimize the magnitude of child prostitution but this has raised a lot of questions than answers from the people who have been benefiting from the immoral activities. A number of measures have been put into implementation and these include providing scholarship to youths, awareness campaigns on the repercussions of being sexually active at a

very tender age. Stringent measures have been enforced against child prostitution and their respective clients.

This chapter tries to suck the marrow in the bone of child prostitution and see if the measures are effective as far as witnessing the reduction of the ever ballooning number of child prostitutes in Shamva. However, the measures implemented are not viable as there are visible loopholes because instead of seeing a reduction in the number of the young ladies of the night, it seems as if the thigh vending business is attracting more young people due. This has been blamed to the chaotic economic situation, the ineffectiveness of the law enforcers and as well as the arrogant young prostitutes who are seeking a living at the expense of defying the awareness.

4.2 Government intervention strategies

To reduce child prostitution in Shamva, the government has introduced different and helpful awareness programs of which the ministry of social welfare, Ministry of Youth, the police in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and Women Affairs and other government organizations have so far embarked on enumerable tours discouraging child prostitution.

However, with the increase of child prostitutes, it clearly shows that the efforts are just like seeds that fell on hard rocks as child prostitution has reached its climax because the numbers are ever increasing.

The officer in charge at Shamva police station had this to say

“It is our duty to maintain peace and justice but with prostitution in the Area this would be difficult hence we conducting awareness campaigns encouraging the youths to work hard in their studies .We are also encouraging the our Officers to show these young children that they are there to help and wipe away the fears that people put in these kids about the police officers. This is done so that the children would be able to feel free to approach police officers in the event of rape or any form of abuse. We also give them heads up on the consequences of imprisonment.”¹

Campaigns

One can clearly agree that despite the most convincing campaigns which are being carried especially by the police against child prostitution, the campaigns are of no use as these officers are corrupt and they are also on the lead of drug abuse and major clients of these young prostitutes in exchange of free sex mainly hence these young prostitutes do their jobs freely without any form of hindrances hence no worries and fear because they have back up from the police.

Mrs. Ruvanda of Tipperary suburbs had to say this:

“These campaigns which are being conducted are really falling in the wrong hands but the problem is just that the minor prostitutes do good business with the police officers as they offer them free sex and they also accept bribes from these young ladies of the night. It is a very pathetic situation since they are supposed to put an end to prostitution but they are adding more salt to the sores, I have witnessed all these things because I live close to Tipperary.”²

Introduction of curfews

Due to the increase of child prostitutes in Shamva, the police used to monitor the unnecessary movement of both youths and adults during the night. Loitering was abolished as this would reduce the movement of these young prostitutes during the night. Curfews were introduced but the Government abolished the arrest of people walking at night.

A police officer had to say:

“We used to arrest people loitering at night as we walked around in all these areas in the township especially beer halls and the shopping area. Now it difficult to arrest these youths as arresting loitering people was abolished recently hence stopping child prostitution is an arduous task.”³

One has to wonder why the rate of child prostitution is still increasing in Shamva if the police officers does routines arresting young prostitutes. The law which abolished the arrest of people at night was recently introduced and one can clearly mention that this is the reason why prostitution is increasing. This shows how reluctant these Shamva police officers are to fight against child prostitution as they also benefit.

A minor prostitute interviewed had to share this:

“We make police officers our friends so that we do not get any disturbances when working. Usually they got tips from our clients and on a low day we usually offer them free sex so that we do not get arrested.”⁴

To clearly show that the young prostitutes are team mates with the police officers in breaking the law, the bartender had to say:

“I guess most male police officers volunteer to be on night duty managing the loitering in the area. They do not go anywhere as they would be glued in the bars enjoying the free beer which the young prostitutes buys them as well as the free sex as one would disappear with a young girl and comes back later pretending nothing had happened and some can even get to the extent of showing their intimacy with these girls in public.”⁵

It is surprising that the rate of theft in Shamva is also increasing during the night and this happening at the same time the police officers claim to be moving around arresting those who are loitering. This statement has been submitted to substantiate the claims made by the public that the police officers are sleeping on duty as they will be busy enjoying their free services. It is not possible for the police officers to expose these young prostitutes due to the bribes and free sex offered by the young prostitutes.

Donation of funds for youth

The government is playing a pivotal role in trying to curb child prostitution in Shamva. In 2015, the government donated money to the Chaminuka Rural District Council in Shamva for youth

projects. The councilors in different wards came up with a list youths who submitted proposals to venture into poultry business. They selected mostly the less privileged so that they would be able to have something to hold on. Youths were given the materials the resources to start the projects. They were urged to sell their chickens so that they will re-invest the profits and give back the capital to the next group till almost every youth have a business so as to help themselves. This project was a good idea though corruption is at its peak so nothing came out of the project. This is because most of the money went into the wrong hands.

The Area Manager of Chaminuka Rural District Council has this to say:

“This project was to help the young people who had nothing to do. Our councilors were the ones who chose these people as they are the ones who know these youths, they were 30 girls as well 30 boys. Our plan was that if these people sell their chickens, they would bring back the money they used to start the project such that all of the disadvantaged boys and girls would benefit. The plan was a dismal failure because when we were making follow ups after 8weeks it was a disappointment because nothing came out. Only ten youths out of sixty managed to do what was expected. Some were giving excuses like the chickens died and some were saying they were attacked by snakes. Nothing came out of the project but the efforts had been made by the government.”⁶

This shows the efforts which the government had been put to help young people to earn a living using their hands and not their bodies, but their efforts were not appreciated as some residents said that some of these young ladies bought clothes in order to be more attractive on their respective markets and some of them used the money to buy luxury stuff.

Scholarships

To reduce child prostitution in Shamva the government introduced BEAM. This is a board which pays school fees for most of the unprivileged children, so that they would be able to finish their secondary level compared to hanging in the streets after being chased out of school as a result of not paying fees. Not only the government had provided scholarships for young children but also

many branches have chipped in so as to fight poverty. A number of students at Wadzanai High School are getting their school fees being paid by Barclays Bank. A young boy had this to say

*'I thought my career was over after my stepfather had told me that he no longer afford paying my school fees. I was one of most outstanding student in my form 2 class. Fortunately we were told about the Barclays scholarships at the assembly and I applied together with some of my colleagues. I was fortunate to be selected and they promised to pay for our fees to tertiary education.'*⁷

This clearly shows that efforts are being made to curb child prostitution by the government and other organizations however corruption has stricken each and every department in Zimbabwe.

This is due to the fact that the BEAM scholarships in most schools in Shamva is not benefiting those it is supposed to be helping but teachers children or relatives and friends are benefiting.

Hence most children drop out of school due to shortage of school fees and they would probably venture into prostitution.

The campaigns conducted by DAC and the Ministry of Health shows their concerns on reducing child prostitution in Shamva. The awareness programs they carry out would be teaching the youths the evils of child prostitution and offer help to children who are victims of sexual abuse. Male circumcision is being encouraged at Shamva hospital and it is done for free of charge so as to prevent the spread of STIs and reduce the spread of HIV. Sexually active girls are also encouraged to get Pap smear for cervical cancer and they are also encouraged to use condoms. However these awareness programs are not effective as they are going through the deaf ears of the youths in Shamva.

Efforts which are being made by the government of Zimbabwe to address the issue of child prostitution in Shamva are failing mainly because of the economic hardships of the country. The economic situation has caused the majority to become vendors but due to lack of capital young girls end up becoming vendors of their own bodies. One can easily say that as long as the

economy of Zimbabwe remain in this bad shape, child prostitution is also going to continue growing not only in Shamva but nationwide.

As an organization which works together with the youths in Shamva, the Ministry of Youth empowerment, indigenization and development had encouraged many youths to sell tomatoes, venture into carpentry industry. As an organization they believe that child prostitution is a product of poverty. However last year vendors were chased away in streets as they were said they had to use area only designed for vendors by the council which the vendors claimed to be little and could only accommodate a few individuals. This made a number of girls affected by this program left with no option other than selling their own bodies at night as a source of income.

Donation of clothing and groceries

With the use of the Social Welfare, the government has played a pivotal role to eliminate the existence of child prostitution. This is due to the campaigns, groceries and the clothes they give to the less privileged in the area. Last year most farmers got their input from this organization however most crops were affected. As drought had stricken people in Shamva last year, the organization went to the extent of providing grain to the District. This organization also work hand in hand with an organization called SOS which look after abandoned children and those

who had been abused as well as orphaned. A district Social Welfare officer Miss R Chirozva had this to say;

*'Our organizations goal is to eradicate poverty, child abuse as well as child prostitution. We distribute food and clothes to the families who are disadvantaged especially orphans and the old so that the children under these hard circumstances are not forced to sell their bodies only to put food on the table. We also handle cases of child abuse and victims of rape especially minors. We encourage and educate the youth ways to follow so that they would make clean money without being involved in stealing or prostitution.'*⁸

SOS representative had this to share;

*'Our organization deals with the abuse of children. It is sort of a rehabilitation Centre where we help minor victims of rape and abuse. These children are raised here and we are usually given them by the state. Recently we took a young girl from her mother who was a victim of rape and drug abuse. The mother had known that she had been raped but did not report the issue to the police as the uncle who had raped her was the bread winner of the family. The child got affected emotionally that she started abusing drugs. Its so sad as this young lady is intelligent and so young. We look after these kind of children here providing everything a child needs until they are eighteen were they would be able to choose to go back to their families or stay or adopted.'*⁹

Religion

Churches in Shamva are playing a pivotal role in eradicating Child prostitution. For example, the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe have placed a program on their calendar called The Youth Week. This is done after every 3 months, during this week youths would be meeting discussing problems they are facing and getting advice from their advisors these issues would be private that they feel secure to share even the worse. During this week, the young children would go and work in peoples fields, shops and anywhere were the can do a piece job and get paid as a certain target of money is set. The money would therefore use to help to pay fees or buy food for the less privileged youth.

UFIC and PHD ministries have put a helpful hand to curb child prostitution. This is evidenced by the crusades they conduct at the shopping Centre in Shamva where there would be preaching and

teaching everyone and the teachings includes discouraging child prostitution and encouraging those already in the business of child prostitution or any dirty business to repent. They also do door to door services. A UFIC representative had this to share;

'We usually conduct our crusades at the shopping Centre at night as this is the time most prostitutes would be available waiting to get customers. We encourage them to repent and the benefits of repenting spiritually and physically and how they will be saved by they will be saved by the grace of God. We encourage them to come to our church and abandon their dirty work and be born again'.¹⁰

The Roman Catholic Church is one of the churches helping fight the battle against child prostitution in Shamva as it has become viral. To keep most youth occupied they introduced different projects which would benefit the youth at the end of the day. Also they encourage youth to meet at their church every Wednesday where they would meet with different speakers from different organizations such as doctors, teachers and other representatives to teach them about life and child prostitution as well as the consequence of child prostitution. However, this is not helping much as most youths these days think its old fashioned to be seen at church. Some of the young children or minor prostitutes do not like going to church as they have been judged by some church members. A young prostitute had this to say;

'I was prepared to repent as I had learnt a lot from the crusade which the United Methodist church had conduct recently at the shopping center but what I came across the Sunday I went to their church is not what I expected and made me change my mind. I felt uncomfortable and unwelcomed as most women stared and gossiped about me throughout the service. One got to the extent of asking me why I had come to tarnish the image of their church that I stormed from the church and will never put my leg into the church again'.¹¹

One can clearly say that churches are failing to curb child prostitution in Shamva due to the judgmental approach by some church members. They view prostitutes as evil and unholy and condemns their children to associate in church with those who had a prostitution past who would have come to repent. Tariro, a minor prostitute had this to share

'I once went to Salvation Army church and young girls of my age looked at me with judgmental and disapproval eyes. I was wearing a mini skirt as I had no other clothes decent. They viewed me as unholy and possessed therefore I decided never to go again in such places where I am not approved but to go and live my life around people who understands my situation and will never judge me which are my fellow young prostitutes'.¹²

A Zaoga church member showed her disapproval of prostitutes in her church as she said;

'The market of prostitutes has flooded. The young prostitutes now run away from the bars to the church as they can no longer stand the stiff competition. What they do not know is that they will never succeed in snatching away our husbands as we will drive them away from the church and will return to where they belong'.¹³

Zinatha

The churches are not the only ones with the desire to stop child prostitution in Shamva as traditional leaders have joined the army to fight against child prostitution. The traditional leaders are working tirelessly to put an end to child prostitution as they have opened canceling groups in the community and they usually visit schools where they would be teaching the youths about the African tradition. One of the ZINATHA members indicated that the loss of African tradition have resulted to child prostitution as many young girls are no longer afraid of older men and hungry for sex in return for money than before.

The Zimbabwean law is playing a pivotal role in reducing child prostitution. This is evidenced by the fact that they treat any child under the age of 18 involved in prostitution as a victim of child abuse or sexual abuse. According to Archbold those who use child prostitutes are to be prosecuted under section 47-51 of sexual Offences Act 2003, Sections 47-50 of the sexual offences Act 2003 deals with the paying for sexual services of a child, leading to child prostitution or controlling a child prostitute and arranging or facilitating.¹⁴ These offences are directed to those who use children to be prostitutes at their advantage hence they are viewed as abusing children.

4.2 Non-governmental intervention strategies

The intervention strategies used by non-governmental organizations to help put an end to child prostitution in Shamva has played a very important role as the organizations usually do school visits educating the youth about HIV as well as the consequences of child prostitution. They also conduct awareness campaigns and give educational books to anyone in Shamva which teaches the people however their efforts are not appreciated as one would see these educational books in bins and also people attend these campaigns with different agendas such as getting t shirts and food not listening to the important messages. Amongst other non-governmental organizations which help to curb child prostitution in Shamva there is Child line Zimbabwe in Bindura and ROOTS.

The Child line network has played a pivotal role not only in Shamva but also in Zimbabwe as a whole. This is evidenced by the fact that the call to the network is for free and it is meant for young children who are being abused physically or psychologically. Even an adult is allowed to call reporting abuse of young children or any act of child prostitution. These issues are at times solved over the phone and when the situation is serious, social workers are sent to go and counsel or refer the victims to other NGOs or the Social Services.¹⁵ However in Shamva, very few use this network as most young children are not familiar with it and some adults are just ignorant hence the efforts by the Child Line are thrown in the drain.

ROOTS is also another NGO which focuses mainly on the girl child.¹⁶ The organization has done much to curb child prostitution as they conduct awareness campaigns, have programs which empower the girl child mainly and also help the minor victims of child prostitution as well

as abuse in different ways, however child prostitution continue to be a major problem in Shamva as less young girls attend to these seminars or even take part in the campaigns.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it is evident that little is being done in Shamva to reduce child prostitution by the government as well as the NGOs. This is as a result of corrupt leaders of organizations which are supposed to be on the fore front in the battle of fighting against child prostitution and also the law enforcers are accepting bribes from the young prostitutes hence becoming inevitable to put an end to child prostitution.

END NOTES

1. Interview with Shamva Police officer, Shamva, 16/03/16.
2. Interview with Mrs. Ruvanda, Tipperary Resident, Tipperary Shamva, 16/03/16.
3. Interview with Shamva Police Representative, Wadzanai Shamva, 17/03/2016.
4. Interview with Danai, Child prostitute, Shamva, 16/03/2016.
5. Interview with Bartender, Shamva 17/03/2016.
6. Interview with Ms. Matongo, CRDC Area Manager, Shamva, 17/03/2016.
7. Interview with Isaac Chivhanga, Wadzanai High School, Scholar, Shamva, 15/03/2016.

8. Interview with Ms. Chirozva, Social Welfare Officer, Shamva, 15/03/2016.
9. Interview with SOS Representative, SOS Bindura, 17/03/2016.
10. Interview with UFIC Representative, Shamva 17/03/2016.
11. Interview with Ms. Matongo, CRDC Area Manager, 17/03/2016.
12. Interview with Tariro, Child Prostitute, Shamva, 15/03/2016.
13. Interview with Zaoga church member, Shamva, 15/03/2016.
14. J.F. Archbold., Summary of the Law Relative to Pleading and Evidence in Criminal Cases, London, Plymouth Press, 2010, p.56.

Conclusion

To sum up one can note that the practice of child prostitution in Shamva is a hydra-headed traitor that has many aspects hence should be dealt with at different levels as well as different angles. This would involve a comprehensive review of the whole problem of social customs and mores regarding sex education as well as socioeconomic conditions, and also evolving a suitable and comprehensive programs to raise the economic level and the socio-moral and emotional level of the people. It is important to realize that “economic hardship is a form of

psychological stress. And all mental stress of whatever kind is one of the commonest precipitation factors in abnormal conduct” Hence, efforts should be made not only to alleviate every variety of psychological stress, but to provide compensatory children the love, affection, proper knowledge of facts of life and sense of security and belongingness that is necessary for their normal life, we cannot expect them to lead normal life. This calls for reorganization of the entire problem of child care and child upbringing.

Child prostitution is thriving in Shamva in Zimbabwe that have been said it’s only fair to say that child prostitution is surrounded by a handful of effects. No doubt, prostitution cause personal, family and social disorganization. The prostitutes suffer from deterioration .The prostitute and the person who approaches her lead a sort of ‘double life’. They suffer from moral collapse and lose their status and position which other respectable men and women enjoy in society. Respectable people hate them, avoid their company and want to isolate them in society. As a result, the pimp and the prostitute become ‘hated and isolated islands’. They lead a life with their own definition of promiscuous sex conduct and a life with their own definitions of promiscuous sex conduct and immoral principle. This will be quite different from the society’s conception of morality. The man who approaches a prostitute may be contaminated with venereal diseases. If married he may communicate the disease to his wife and children. The children born to the parents having venereal diseases are likely to be maintained for life and many times are born blind. The illegitimate and adulterous sexual union, if known to the wives, brings tension in the family and ultimately to desertion to divorce.

Measures has been put forward in effort to curb child prostitution, churches, traditional leader, non-state organizations and the government have hold hands in trying to implement strategies which are effective in curbing child prostitution, these strategies includes educational

scholarship, youth funds, empowerment yet still all these efforts are in vain since prostitution in Shamva has become viral. One should understand that all these strategies are good and convincing on paper but on the ground evidenced by the growth of child prostitution in Shamva one may argue that little has been done by the government and other non-state actors to curb child prostitution. Law enforcers are not effective enough in trying to curb child prostitution rather they are beneficiaries of child prostitution thus they are given bribes in form of money and sex.

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List of Appendices

APPENDIX A: Child Prostitutes Face to Face Interviews

- How old are you?
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- Do you live with guardians and are your parents still alive?
- Why are you into prostitution?
- What does your family and relatives say about your involvement in prostitution?
- How are you being handled by the Law?
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- How many clients do you sleep with per day and how much?
- What challenges and dangers you are associated with?

APPENDIX B: Focus Group Discussion Guide

APPENDIX B: Focus Group Discussion Guide

- What is the cause of child prostitution?
- Who is to blame for the surfacing of child prostitution in your community?
- Recommendations on curbing child prostitution.
- Challenges encountered in trying to curb child prostitution.
- Are children victims of prostitution?
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