

**SEX WORK AS A SURVIVAL STRATEGY AMONG  
FEMALE UNDERGRADUATES.**

**(EKITI STATE UNIVERSITY AS A CASE STUDY)**

**BY**

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**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OYE-EKITI**

**EKITI STATE, NIGERIA.**

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**MATRIC NO; SOC/11/0233**

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY,  
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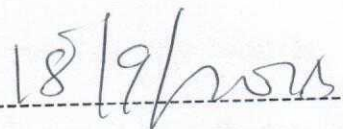
## CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the research work entitled. "Sex work as a survival strategy among undergraduates using Ekiti State university as the case study, Submitted by **OLAOYENIKAN OLANIYI EMMANUEL** with matriculation number **SOC/11/0233** incorporate the result of independent investigations carried out by him under my supervision.

  
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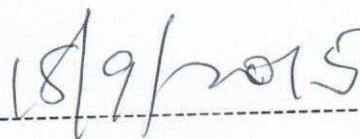
  
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(Head of Department)

  
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Date

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External Examiner

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Date

## DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the Almighty God light of the heavens and the earth, the creator of the universe and everything in it, the sovereign, my crag and refuge, the sustainer of my life, my strength, the knower of the unseen and the seen, the most Beneficent, the most merciful, the king, the one free from all defeats, the giver of security and watcher over his creatures, the Almighty, the compeller, the supreme, the creator and inventor of all things, the bestowal of forms. To him belongs the best names, all that is in heaven and earth glorifies his name. To my wonderful parents; chief and Mrs. Olaoyenikan, my brother Olajide Olaoyenikan, my lovely sisters Temitope Olaoyenikan, Rotimi Abimbola etc. they are the spirit that keeps me moving at times of difficulties.

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Omole (school mother indeed). You all played priceless roles in my making may God better our lots in this world and grant us victory and success over all that you lay your hands on. I love you all.

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Of course I will need to produce a special compendium to really capture all the people I owe indebtedness in respect of this project pardon me if your name is missing on the few pages. I sincerely treasure your contribution to my success.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Content	Pages
Title Page	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgement	iv-v
Table of Contents	vi-viii
Abstract	ix
<b>CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.0 Introduction /Background to the Study	1
1.1 Brief History of Sex Work	5
1.2 Statement of the Problem	6
1.3 Research Questions	8
1.4 Objective of the study	8
1.5 Significant of the Study	9
1.6 Scope of the Study	10
1.7 Definition of terms	10
1.8 Limitation of the study	12

## **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW**

2.0	The concept of Sex Work	13
2.1	Characteristics of Sex Workers	15
2.2	Forms of Sex Work	16
2.3	Sex Work as a Form of Labour	20
2.4	Health Consequences of Sex Work	21
2.5	Causes of Sex Work	23
2.6	Effects of Sex Work on Youths	26
2.7	Theoretical Frame Work	27
2.8	Statement of Research Hypotheses	30

## **CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

3.0	Introduction	31
3.1	Research Design	31
3.2	Sampling and Sampling Procedure	32
3.3	Research Instruments	32
3.4	Sampling Procedure	34
3.5	Methods of Data Analysis	35
3.6	Ethical Consideration	35



## **CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

4.0	Introduction	36
4.1	Research Analysis	36
4.2	Test of Hypotheses	46

## **CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION**

5.0	Introduction	56
5.1	Summary of the Findings	56
5.2	Conclusion	60
5.3	Recommendations	62
	<b>REFERENCES</b>	63

	<b>APPENDIX</b>	66
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## ABSTRACT

*The negative implications of sex work in Ekiti-State particularly among undergraduates has become a societal issues that need urgent attention- undergraduates sex work as a survival strategic behaviour had been identified to be common in hotels, bars, brothels, in their hostels, around the campus and on the street as avenue for action, (Onah, 2000)*

*This study adopts the descriptive research design by making use of questionnaires in eliciting response on all the variables under investigations and described as they occur in the study. With the purpose of examine the prevalence of sex work behaviour among female undergraduates in EKSU, to investigate the impact of socioeconomic status on sex work behaviour among female undergraduates, this study make use of 150 respondents randomly selected to among undergraduate students in Ekiti State University and five (5) in-depth interview among female students who practiced sex work. This study found out that sex work is common among EKSU undergraduates; it has also identified financial constraint and societal/peers influence on the practice of sex work among female students. The test of relationships between parental/sponsor's financial standing and sex work revealed that there is no significant relationship between them as chi-square ( $X^2=3.023$ ,  $P=0.55$ ) but influence of peer group and financial constraint was identified to be significant to sex work. The university management is therefore advised to ensure disciplines among their staff and remove bad eggs among academia which are encouraging the menace of sex work.*

**Word Count: 239**

## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.0 Background of the Study

The sex work behaviour of the adolescent has been of interest to researchers from various disciplines over the decades. As a result of civilization and western education, the orientation of the undergraduates especially female is experiencing dramatic changes. Undergraduates are engaging in various forms of unhealthy sexual behaviour which include risky sexual practice and premarital sex. Sex is no longer perceived as rightful activities between husband and wife but as activities for recreational and means of surviving. Engagement in this various forms of sexual activities increases their vulnerability to various health related diseases. According to NACA (2013), majority of the HIV/AIDS victims in Nigeria contacted these diseases as a result of immoral sexual behaviour. The need to research this topic is necessary in order to gain insight to the pattern of sexual behaviour among this adolescent.

Sex work is basically sex for money. It is not restricted to any culture, it's global and it transcends all age barriers as some cases girls as young as eight years are involved. Prostitution has evolved over the last two decades, (National Behaviour Survey 2004). According to the National Behaviour Survey (2004), prostitution has indeed become complex in different ways as there are male sex workers in Nigeria who have sex with men for commercial reasons and there is an organization that support them which is based in Ibadan, Oyo state.

Sex work or Prostitution has particularly taken a worrisome and indeed despicable turn on the continent through trafficking in person and violation of people's human right and these have become major issues among Nigerian undergraduates and West Africa as a whole (Human Right Action, 1997). In recent time, sex work has become a lucrative business in Nigeria especially among the undergraduates and the youths generally as many of them depend solely on it as another means of generating income (Ikpe, 2008). Research has it that, 31% of prostitutes are students particularly in Nigeria institutions (Onah, 2000). Onah (2000) is of the view that, there are different forms of prostitutes, those that Stay in the brothels, those that stand on the road side, those that go on sex tour and those that operate from home etc.

Because of the nature of the concept of sex work and difficulty in collecting data from study participants, much work has not really been devoted to the concept in literature. Sex work as "the exchange of several services AND performance in exchange for financial reward." Sex work is a form of job where a particular party offers sexual services to another; in return the other party pays a certain amount of financial reward or other forms of compensation (Weitzer, 2000). The high prevalence of sex work behaviour among female undergraduates is an intricate issue of special concern which require immediate attention form researchers and various stakeholders. While majority of the female undergraduates are engage activities to make a living and finance their

education, some of them are engaging in this activity not just because of financial difficulties but because of fun or recreational purpose.

In Ekiti-State particularly, Ekiti State University, sex work-behaviour can be found in hotels, bars, brothels, in their hostels, around the campus and on the street, (Onah, 2000). Despite the efforts made by the government, the school management and other private organization to eradicate prostitution in the university, it has rather grown to become one of the outstanding social problems that have really apprehended the people of Ekiti State especially Ado-Ekiti(the state capital).

High level of sex work behaviour have predisposes many youth to various health related problems such as the epidemic of HIV/AIDS. Meanwhile WHO(2014) noted that HIV continues to be a major global public health issue, having claimed more than 39 million lives so far. They further report that millions people died from HIV-related causes globally. There were approximately 35.0 million people living with HIV at the end of 2013 with 2.1 million people becoming newly infected with HIV in 2013 globally (WHO, 2014). In Nigeria which is the main focus of this study, NACA (2013) report that the prevalence of HIV is high among youth and about 3 million people as at 2013 are living with HIV/AIDS. They also report that female is the major victims of HIV in Nigeria. Unprotected and casual sexual behaviour has been reported to be the main causes of high prevalence of HIV/Aids.

In literature, people from low-socioeconomic background have been reported to be vulnerable to sex work behaviour as a means of surviving in academic environment. Majority of female undergraduate's from poor background tend to find it difficult to finance their education, to solve this problem many of them will engage in prostitution. Aloba/Ndifon (2014) noted that poverty is one factor that commodifies and dehumanizes women's body for the use and profit of men. Education this day is very expensive, and to live in today world of technology and communication development, the need to be educated cannot be over-estimated.

Furthermore, prostitution has now become an occupation especially for the girls in countries like Netherland, Brazil, Norway etc., prostitution serves as one of the sources of revenue for government in a country that sex work is not prohibited; hence, taxes are paid to the government (Aday, 1990). Aday further says that, sex workers face systematic discrimination throughout the world and are therefore, at risk of variety of abuses, these include police extortion, arbitrary detention and others, Violations of their human and labour rights which in some cases even amount to slavery. In Nigeria, prostitution is an illegal business because, the law prohibits it, but no active action has really been taken against it by the government (Onah, 2000). In Ekiti State particularly, Ekiti State University, sex workers can be found in hotels, bars, brothels, in their hostels, around the campus and on the street, (Onah, 2000). Despite the efforts

made by the government, the school management and other private organization to eradicate prostitution in the university, it has rather grown to become one of the outstanding social problems that have really apprehended the people of Ekiti State especially Ado-Ekiti(the state capital).

Peer-group is also one of the factors that predispose people to engagement in risky sexual related behaviour. Peer pressure is influenced by a peer group, observers or individual exerts that encourages others to change their attitudes, values, or behaviours to conform to the group norms. A female undergraduates that belong to female group in which majority practice sex work as means of surviving may also engage in this activities when compare to those that do not belong to any peer group.

It is on this background that, this research work attempts to find a possible way of coping with this problem.

### **1.1 Brief History of Sex Work**

The sex work has been in existence for over a century, sex work has been widespread in Egypt and ancient Greek where it was highly practiced at various socioeconomic levels. Melissa (2006) noted that sex work practice was tolerated during the middle age but was not in high prevalence. However, in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, negative attitude toward prostitution practice began on a large scale and heavy rules and regulations were put on the use of the body. In the United State

of America, sex work has a long history. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, sex work behaviour was in high prevalence in Louisiana to San Francisco. However, there was also negative attitude toward sex work behaviour among the United States citizens. At that time in the United States, law against prostitution was based on lewdness and sodomy law.

In Nigeria today, there is high prevalence of sex work among people especially the females in which the female undergraduates are not exempted. Alobu/Ndifon (2014) posits that sex work prevalence in Nigeria is associated with some social problems such as marital instability, Divorce, Unwanted pregnancy and Sexually transmitted diseases. Alobu/Ndifon (2014) further explained that sex work practice begins when girls leave their villages for cities in search of greener pastures. However, it is very hard these days to secure better jobs; the girls will eventually resort to prostitution to make a living.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The people involved in sex work experience negative effect even though they still make a considerable profit from it. Lex (1992), argued that, sex work has been identified as the core group for transmission of HIV/AIDS and STDs among students of tertiary institutions; thus, they face discrimination throughout the world.



Due to the diseases that befall these people on daily basis, sex work has been considered a menace in the society and also violence against humanity, (Lex, 1992). These negative effects may include untimely death, frustration, discrimination, unwanted Pregnancy etc. one of the major challenges is that, some of these undergraduate prostitutes are sexually illiterates, they neither attend seminars nor listen to news on television, neither do they care to seek advice from people nor make research from reliable sources where they could be enlightened on the risk of their work. Sex work has then, become their life style. Therefore making it difficult for the government and the institution to cope with.

In country like Nigeria, prostitution is termed as deviance, abnormal and unhealthy in the society. It is also a big embarrassment to the government and the families who their youths (which may be students or not) are involved in such acts, such families will lack their respect from people in the society no matter their position in the society, (Onah, 2000).

This research work then, seeks to investigate sex work as a coping strategy among students of Ekiti State University in Ekiti-State.

### **1.3 Research Question**

The following research questions will guide the study.

- i- What is the prevalence of sex work practices among female undergraduates?
- ii- What are the patterns of sex work practices among female undergraduates?
- iii- Does socioeconomic status have significant influence on sex work among undergraduates?
- iv- Will peer-group have significant influence on sex work among undergraduates?

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

- i- To analyse the prevalence of sex work behaviour among female undergraduates
- ii- To examine the pattern of sex work behaviour among female undergraduates
- iii- To investigate the impact of socioeconomic status on sex work behaviour among female undergraduates
- iv- To investigate the impact of peer groups and its influence on sex work behaviour among female undergraduates

## 1.5 Significance of the Study

This significance of the study tends to treat both the theoretical and practical importance. Theoretically, this study will add to the already, existing edge of sex work and survival strategies among undergraduate students using Ekiti State University as the case study, the study will be done in order to know the causes and effects of sex work among university students (undergraduates) and at the same time proffer solution to them.

Moreso, the study will be a guide to future researchers in their research in knowing the causes and effects of prostitution as well as survival strategies of undergraduates and look for means of tackling those problems.

Practically, this research work will enable the prostitutes (especially undergraduate students) to know the dangers surrounding their self-proclaimed means of livelihood other wisely called "runs", so as to stop the rising wave of prostitution. This can be done by the government to make sure of creating employments for our undergraduates to enhance work and learn so as to give room for students to work why purchasing their degree at the same time, organise programmes that will orientate our youths (undergraduates) on consequences of prostitution which should be brought down to their doorstep in every institutions for easy accessibility as well as giving a huge penalty on any students that is caught engaging in such deadly act. Our parents also have a big responsibility to play on this issue as the saying goes "charity begins from

home” by inculcating good manners and morals into the lives of their youths at all levels of acculturation. This study will also help in sensitizing the undergraduates and youths that engage in the act by providing the necessary information on the consequences of this act on their general health and academic performance for their local consumption.

### **1.6 Scope of the Study**

This research covers sex work as a survival strategy among undergraduate students using Ekiti-State University as the case study. It will examine the challenges that are associated with prostitution, students’ survival strategy and how government can control the increasing number of students who are prostitutes.

### **1.7 Definition of Terms**

For the purpose of clarification, the following terms are defined as used in this research work;

**AIDS:** Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

**Brothel:** This is a house where men pay to have sex with prostitutes (sex workers) or where sex workers live.

**Commercial sex:** This is defined basically as sex for money.

**HIV:** Human Immune Virus.

**Pimps:** The third parties who induce a woman into prostitution, openly or by means of deceit and coercion, to extort her earning from her

**Prostitute:** the act or practice of engaging in promiscuous sexual relations especially for money

**Runs:** the sex work attitude of high priced prostitutes

**Sex:** Is an erotic attraction between two people or sexual intercourse that can lead to orgasm in female and the secretion of semen from the penis in male.

**Sex Work:** This is defined as any sexual performance carried out by a person for payment of certain amount of money or in exchange of any material thing. Their aim is mainly on money making.

**Sex Worker:** This is a person who works in the sex industry. They are paid to engage in sexually explicit behaviour which involves varying degrees of physical contacts etc.

**STD:** This may refer to sexually transmitted diseases, it is transmitted during sexual intercourse.

**Survival strategies:** survival strategy as a logical and/or rational pattern that is implanted and implemented to continuously overcome life's challenges so as to gain sustainability in one's chosen environment, in turn, gain financial peace.

**Transactional Sex:** This is sex in exchange for gifts, small favours or money.

## **1.8 Limitation of the Study**

In this research work, the researcher was limited by the unwilling attitude of the respondents to provide correct answers to the questions that were given to them even in the questionnaire because of the fear of being labelled a sex worker despite being assured of information confidentiality.

Financially, the researcher was unable to meet up with the demands of the direct participants who were to be interviewed; this actually led to rigorous negotiation between the researcher and the interviewee before reaching a meaningful consensus.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.0 The Concept of Sex-work

The term sex work was coined by sex worker activist (Leigh, 1980). Its use became popularized after publication of the anthology; sex work writings by women in the sex industry in 1987, (Leigh, 1980). The work has since spread into much wider use, including academic publications by Labour Unions and by government and inter-governmental agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO). Sex workers usually referred to as prostitutes, have occupied an anomalous position in societies throughout history.

Weitzer (2000) conceptualised Sex work as the exchange of several services, performance in exchange for financial reward.” Sex work is a form of job where a particular party offers sexual services to another; in return the other party pays a certain amount of financial reward or other forms of compensation. Weitzer (2000) further asserts that sex work is characterized by direct physical contact between sex buyers and sellers as well as indirect sexual stimulation. In literature, sex work is a concept that has been used interchangeably with prostitution, aristoism (especially among students), sexual promiscuity etc.

Sex work (Prostitution) is widely described as the oldest profession; the practice of selling sex for cash or other immediate compensation has existed across

cultures and times from the ancient Greeks. Prostitution also crosses class lines, from the poor 'streetwalker' with their stereotyped drug habits and abusive pimps to the high class brothel and escort service worker with designers' cloths and stylish apartments. While the prostitutes technically sells a service, namely sexual intimacy, the ways in which prostitution is discussed suggest that at least to modern sensibilities, she or he is selling far more than that. A common misconception of prostitution is that a significant majority of prostitutes are women. Women prostitution is easily talked about, than male prostitution at least since the ancient times. The practice of prostitution is at an alarming rate in Nigeria, it is seen as a deviant sub-culture in Nigeria and it is practiced by prostitutes in private homes, in brothels, and in hotels as an adaptation to poverty, unemployment and as a feasibility way for them to make money. The prostitutes sell sexual favours and their bodies to their customers who pay them huge sum of money in exchange. This dirty and highly immoral profession is associated with social problems as marital instability, sexual harassment, divorce, overcrowding, environmental pollution, alcoholism, fighting, drug addiction, violence crime and delinquency, unwanted pregnancy. Unsafe abortion and transmission of sexually transmitted diseases like HIV/AIDS, gonorrhoea, syphilis etc. Most analyses of prostitution suggest that both men and women enter prostitution either professionally or temporarily as relative amateurs, for economic and monetary reasons. Some girls go into prostitution in



other to challenge repressive gender role which restrict women sexuality to a romantic ideology and oppressive marriages.

Misi (2008) noted that sexual promiscuity, sex work and prostitution are similar concepts that address the use of one's body for the purpose of remuneration. Both male and female engage in sex work for survival. It is a common myth that it is only females that are involved in sex work. Generally, women prostitution is more talked about than male prostitution. In Nigeria today, sex work business is a very common means of survival especially among female undergraduates in our various higher institutions of learning. Sex work business serves as a means of survival and escape route from poverty, unemployment, and it is usually regarded as a means of getting financial support to finance academic expenses especially among female undergraduates.

## **2.1 Characteristics of Sex Workers**

Alobo/Ndifon (2014) asserts that in defining sex work, the following qualities must be included;

- i- The reward for performing the sexual act is either money or other material goods.
- ii- The relationship between the provider and the recipient of sexual services neither involve love nor affection.
- iii- Sex work can either be performed by male or female.

## 2.2 Forms of Sex Work

Sex work is divided into different categories. These are;

Call girls according to Weiter (2000), are known to take good care of their health and visit doctors whenever necessary. Almost all of them want their client to use condoms, though they often comply when clients offer a much higher amount of money for condom free sex, (Weiter, 2000).

Street Prostitution may on its own refer to those that involved young girls, some of them in their teens. They do their soliciting in limiting but well known areas of the city. These areas include popular places like well-known hotels in the major cities and around girl's hostels in the universities. These sex workers usually dress in skimpy provocative clothing, regardless of the weather, (Akpan, 2000). Street prostitutes are often called "street walkers" while their customers are referred to as "tricks" or "Johns". The sex is performed in the customer's car, in a nearby alley or in a rented room, (Akpan, 2000). From Aloba/Ndifon (2014) point of view, street prostitution is a form of sex work in which the sex workers solicit customers while waiting at street corners in some form of skimpy dresses and other forms of indecent clothes that expose private body parts. Their aim is to attract the best customers that can offer large amount of money to splash on them. These sets of sex workers are also called street-hookers, street workers, i.e. the names distinguish them from other sex workers.

Child Prostitution is in the world today, a problem of frightening reality. Child prostitutes whether occupational or full-time also become involved in crime and abuse (Mili, 1997). However, because of the high incidence of sexually transmitted disease such as syphilis, customers are willing to pay for higher prices for children who are considered more likely to be virgins and thus, less likely to be infected, (Tolu, 1997).

Ewah (2010) observed that, child prostitution involves children between the age of eight years and twelve years of age which are definitely not undergraduates anyway. He further said that at this age, girls often receive their introduction to this activity through their parents, sisters in the street who are already into it and other family members. Child prostitutes generally continued their involvement because; they earned a lot of money. Also many seemed to fear rejection by their families if they stop, especially. Those whose' parents were involved in pornography, (Margret, 2000).

Sex Tourism is a type that involves the travelling of the prostitute for sexual intercourse with their client or to engage in their sexual activity, (Mencken, 2009). A specialized agency of the United Nations defines sex tourism as "trip organized from within the tourism sector or from outside this sector but using its structures and networks with the primary purpose of effecting a commercial sexual relationship by the tourism with residents at the destination, (The World Tourism Organization 2007).

Escort Agency is a type of sex work in which a third party which serves as the middle man is involved in sex worker/ recipient relationship. In this form of sex work, that agent has the personal profile of the sex workers, the clients call the agent to supply any available prostitutes, and such agents in return will be rewarded financially. Alobu/Ndifuon (2014), there are various kinds of Escort agencies. There are male-for-male .female-for-male and female-for-female escort.

Window or Doorway Prostitution is a form of sex work which has to do with brothels with sex works on public display. Alobu/Ndifuon (2014) noted that window prostitution is preferred in cold climate while doorway prostitution is preferred in warm places.

Aristoism is also a form of sex work that is common in our various higher institutions of learning. This is usually common among female undergraduates who use sexual services as a means of survival and funding their education. In Nigeria today, sex work is in high prevalence among female undergraduates, it is no longer perceived as immoral behaviour as more and more female undergraduates are engaging in this activity by the day. While high level of poverty has been reported in literature to be the main cause of sex work among female undergraduates, some female undergraduates whose parents are financially buoyant also participate in these activities for fun.

Beer-Girl Prostitution may also refer to a kind of sex work that is combined with legal business to boost sales. It usually occurs in beer restaurants where prostitutes are employed to beers in bars and clubs. Sexual services are also offered to boost income. Beer girl prostitution is very common in some bars on the streets of Lagos state, Nigeria.

The following are other forms of sex work;

- i- Indoor prostitution
- ii- Phone sex operator
- iii- Exotic dancing
- iv- Webcam nude modelling
- v- Adult film performing

Meanwhile, in Nigerian higher institutions of learning, the high prevalence of undergraduate sex workers is an intricate issue of special concern. Okafor/Duru (2008) noted that some people prefer having sex with undergraduates to street hookers which leads to high level of sex work among female undergraduates in higher institutions. Olugbile Abu and Adelekun (2008) reported that sex work is very common and rampant in our Universities. The mechanism of action in these activities involves students standing outside the hostels and halls to solicit for sexual related business while other people may prefer staying where people that can identify them will not be able to observe them. Meanwhile, University rules and regulations have failed to

control this immoral behaviour especially among female undergraduates. Since majority of undergraduates are adults, there is a limit to which University rules concerning sexual behaviour can be applied.

### **2.3 Sex Work as a form of Labour**

Daezema (1995) claims that the location of sex work in the realm of personal services combined with the legal sanctions association with it, means that, even under a tolerant regimes, such as in the Netherlands, it is likely to take place in the informal sectors. In the case of sex work, the division between social and commercial contacts between the public domain of labour and the purchase of services and the private domain of sexual behaviour is not always clear. It is easy enough to identify sex work in a formal work setting, such as a brothel or flat but less easy to separate sexual services provided within informal networks from sexual relations with multiple social contacts where gifts are expected (Mencken, 2009). For the purpose of applying labour standards, a distinction must be made between private or social and public or commercial behaviour. It has been chosen therefore, to define sex work in the public domain by association with a public market place. The market place may be a publication or generally known to be available and transactions are based at least particularly on a competitive price structure.

## **2.4 Health Consequences of Sex Work among Undergraduates.**

Prostitutes are at risk and are also sometime the target of serial killers who may consider them easy targets, or use the religious and social stigma associated with prostitutes as justification for their murder. Being criminals in most jurisdictions, prostitutes are less likely than the law-abiding to be looked for by police if they disappear, making them favoured targets of predators.

Prostitution is associated with the spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) such as HIV. One of the main reasons for the rapid spread of HIV in Nigeria is the massive transmission among sex workers and clients. HIV is tied to prostitution in Africa with one study finding that encounters with prostitutes produced 84% of new HIV infection in adults, and other sexually transmitted diseases like gonorrhoea, pelvic inflammatory diseases and syphilis. The risk for HIV infection is increase because of multiple sex partners and limited safe sex practice. Some customers are willing to pay more for a sexual encounter if they do not have to use a condom. Based on research conducted by the centres for Diseases Control and Prevention, the rate of HIV infection for prostitutes is three times higher if they smoke crack cocaine. Other health issues associated with prostitution are early pregnancy for juveniles, rape, tuberculosis, posttraumatic stress disorder, assault and other act of violence. Considering the economic health issue of prostitution, it is argued that street prostitution is not victimless as it may damage the reputation and quality of life in the

neighbourhood and diminish the value of property. Maxwell (2000) and other researcher have found substantial evidence that there is strong co-occurrence between prostitution, drug use, drug selling, and involvement in non-drug crime, particularly property crime. Because prostitution is considered criminal in many jurisdictions, its substantial revenue are not contributing to the tax revenues of the state, and it workers are not routinely screened for sexually transmitted diseases which is dangerous in cultures favouring unprotected sex and lead to significant expenditure in health services. Prostitution also lowers the value of property as well as degrades the status of women.

Various Health-related problems are associated with sex work. It is common knowledge that sex work is a form of risky sexual behavior which predisposes the victims to the risk of contracting sexually related diseases such as Gonorrhoea, Syphilis, and HIV/AIDS. Janice (2008) noted that sexually transmitted diseases like Gonorrhoea, Syphilis, Candida, Herpes vaginals and HIV/AIDS are at alarming rates in our higher institutions of learning. The high rate of HIV/AIDS is a big problem in Nigeria.

Apart from sexually transmitted diseases, sex workers are also vulnerable to abuse of psychoactive substances. Okafor/Duru (2008) noted that psychoactive drugs such as Cocaine, Alcohol, Marijuana and Cigarettes are highly consumed by sex workers. This predisposes them to various forms of health-related problems such as lung cancer (for cigarette addiction) and some form of liver



cirrhosis which is associated with the abuse of alcohol. In addition, sex workers are also prone to unwanted pregnancies and abortion which may be detrimental to their health. Some female undergraduate sex workers take some drugs that can prevent pregnancy; these drugs in the long run can cause infertility to the users and reduce their chances of bearing children in the future.

## **2.5 Causes of sex work (prostitution)**

This section of the project addresses various works that have been conducted on the concept of sex work and how it is related to some factors. This section will review good number of reasons why people go into sex work, such as poverty, peer pressure, unemployment and other factors predispose people to sex work.

Poverty as a cause for sex work: because of the disintegration of the family misery. Hunger as a form of poverty has forced some parents to sell their children for prostitution. Some girls who engage in sex work do so because; they see prostitution as the only means of survival in order to get daily meals. Poverty also led some girls to sell their bodies for money and as a result become a professional sex worker; Poverty among female undergraduates is one of the critical factors that predispose them to sex work behaviour. Undergraduates whose parents are not financially buoyant in order to survive may engage in sex work to fund their education. Aloba/Ndifon . (2014) noted that poverty is one factor that communizes and dehumanizes women's body for the use and profit of men. Okafor/Duru (2010) suggest that female undergraduates that lack

buoyant financial capacity tend to engage in aristoism which is a form of sex work practice.

Peer influence in relationship with sex work: The role of peer pressure on influencing student behaviour has been well documented in literature. A female undergraduate that moves along with a sex worker in a group has high probability of ending up being a prostitute. Several studies have shown that peer groups are powerful agents of risk behaviours such as unsafe sex practice in adolescence. Adolescents typically replace family with peers regarding social and leisure activities, and many problematic behaviours occur in the context of these groups.

Maria (2007) is of the view that, many young women and girls fall prey to pressure from their peers, who they perceive as having made it. The young girls and women want to make it too and be able to flaunt their influence like those people, not knowing or caring how they made it,

Women trafficking in relationship to sex work, The trafficking of Nigerian girls and women into Italy for prostitution started around the second half of the 1980s following the increasing economic difficulties cause by the structural adjustment Programmes imposed by the then Nigerian Government on the order of the International Monetary Fund. They started leaving the country on promises off fantastic well-paying jobs in Europe, in factories, offices and

farms. People that have been exposed to human trafficking are vulnerable to sex work.

**Unemployment and sex work:** Unemployment has been identified as one of the reasons most girls and boys engage in sex work, (Onah, 2000). Due to lack of job opportunities for the increasing rate of graduates, students especially girls resort to sex work as a means of livelihood and survival, unemployment has also pushed many young people into sex work and in most cases against their will, (Onah, 2000).

**Sex work as related to personal life:** These set of sex workers call it adventure (Ewah, 2010). Many sex workers engage themselves in this business just for the fun of human sexuality and not for economic benefit or frustration (Ewah, 2010).

**Illiteracy as the cause of sex work:** With the high rate of illiteracy in Nigeria, many parents can neither read nor write. The youths are not left out in this illiteracy problem. This has resulted in their being deceived into believing that in big cities, milk and honey flows, only to be forced into sex work when they get to the city, (Ewah, 2010).