

**THE INVISIBLE CHILDREN: A PSYCHOSOCIAL MAPPING OF
LIVES OF CHILDREN OF COMMERCIAL SEX WORKERS**

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- xx. Greater stress should be laid on the wellbeing of children of Manuja community that in turn addresses overall mental and physical developments.
- xxi. Key stakeholders including government officials should be suitably sensitised and trained to deal with the community with empathy.
- xxii. There should be a reasonable restriction on the media groups and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) as many a times they breach the privacy of such communities. By publishing personal details/photographs of the members of these communities on social media platforms make them more vulnerable to stereotyping by the society.

6.4. Conclusion

The present study has unveiled the impact of prostitution on the children and women of the Manuja community. The detailed ethnographic and case study method deployed in the present study provided several insights into the lives of this marginal group. The case of the sex workers from Manuja community is socially unique as on one hand their social system presents a scenario in which these women are the source of all the material needs of their families; even then these women don't have any decision making power. Added to the implicit patriarchal attitudes, the women and girls are expected to do the household chores along with the work outside. There is no escape for these girls and women. In public eye, generally the engagement in this occupation renders the status of Manuja as 'low'. The so called mainstream ostracises them whether it is schools, markets, or other forums of social interactions.

It can be argued that the draconian Criminal Tribes Act of 1871 restricted the Manujas and other such DNTs from opting alternatives of livelihood. Further, the justification of the lifestyle in cultural terms had limited their options for survival. With time, these

deprived children should be performing better and will no longer be **‘the invisible children’**.

6.5. Scope for Further Research

There are many areas which need to be explored and probed in- depth which may require further study through scientific research. There is a lot of scope for the intervention of social workers, policy makers, legislators, judiciary, and civil society to ensure that their basic necessities are fulfilled, their human rights are protected, and their children are not deprived of child rights. The areas which need to be studied are indicated as below.

1. The socio-legal status of the DNT communities.
2. Familial prostitution and its impact on the mental health of the women of DNTs.
3. HIV Prevalence among sex workers from these communities.
4. Local authorities’ attitude towards the sex workers and their children belonging to DNT communities.
5. Psychological health assessment of the women and children of the sex workers.
6. Critical review of government’s various policies for welfare of the DNTs.