

## **CHAPTER – V**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

The study seeks to examine the demographic characteristics of women sex workers, the influenced factors which put them in this profession and the problems faced by these people, and the role of NGOs in prevention of HIV/AIDS spread through the people especially women sex workers who are professionally participating sexual intercourse with the clients at different levels. It has found that both NGOs and the Government take advantage of each other's weaknesses and strengths. The Government does not emphasise implementation due to that NGOs constitute a strong group of actors in this field. Still, in formulating HIV/AIDS sensitive policies the Government is active and the Indian political commitment in relation to HIV/AIDS is unique in a Third World perspective. Therefore, NGOs tend to neglect the National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS and work after their own agendas. Further NGOs need to improve coordination among themselves and in relation to the Government. There are differences between international NGOs and local NGOs in the sense that international NGOs have better human resources and more funding but local NGOs have better contextual understanding.

As a well established democracy, the Indian Government has taken number of policies and action of plans to control HIV/AIDS. Still lack of proper implementation to handle the HIV/AIDS epidemic on its own, hundreds of NGOs are working in different areas stretching from humanitarian relief to

governmental capacity building. At present many NGOs are working in the health sector and almost all of these are active in HIV/AIDS problematic in some sense. In a context as the East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh, it becomes important to concentrate on both selected measures and attacking structural conditions that affect and worsen the HIV/AIDS situation. Argues from the previous studies and the history of the district noticed that in some areas and villages connected with National Highways still the prostitution activities are continuing by the women sex workers. It seems like the HIV/AIDS situation in this area (East Godavari) is a certain issue concerning a certain group of people at a certain time.

This is a study about what extent the women sex workers performing their activities in East Godavari district and facing a dangerous threat as the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Further, it is a study about to what extent the active and strong participation of NGOs in prevention of HIV/AIDS among the women sex workers and what are the necessary steps taken for create awareness among these people and took action for their rehabilitation.

Therefore, there is need of prevention of HIV/AIDS among women sex workers in the study area to increase their knowledge and motivate them change present unsafe behavioural practices and reduce their vulnerability care facilities for STI infections to build an enabling environment and advocacy among the important influencers in their lives. The study is also carried out in Andhra Pradesh specifically in East Godavari district due to long spread of National Highway from one corner to the other, functions celebrate

in remote villages, and particularly some towns and villages. Still the women sex workers are performing their activities.

The present study is an attempt to draw better understanding of the implications and experience of literature of the experience from intervention Therapy and the new experiential psychotherapies clearly indicates that exposure to another person's deep emotional material tends to shatter psychological defenses and to activate corresponding areas in the unconscious of the persons assisting and witnessing the process, unless they have confronted and worked through these levels in themselves. Since traditional psychotherapies are limited to work on biographical material, even a professional with full training in analysis is inadequately prepared to deal with powerful experiences of a prenatal and transpersonal nature. The prevailing tendency to put all such experiences into the category of schizophrenia and suppress them in every way reflects not only a lack of understanding, but also a convenient self-defense against the helpers' own unconscious material. Since the study is a part of expanding learning process, the area covered in the study is adequate enough to understand the current conditions of the sample respondents and based on limited sample size too, which forms a major limitation of the study taken from 300 women sex workers.

The results of these studies reveal the range of the physical, psychological and health problems of women sex workers. To ensure that women sex workers get the health care they need, research that specifically focuses on their general health problems and social problems, and how they

need helping hand from other sources like government and non-government organization (NGOs) are required.

### **5.1 Need and Significance of the Study**

Peddapuram town in East Godavari district was once a haven of prostitution. The whole town was forced into prostitution by the land lords in the pre-independence days. While such is the pathetic story of the women trapped by the heinous society, the government and social reformers have successfully tried to unshackle the present younger generations from the profession by offering education and alternative employment, still many young women diverting to sex work as their profession. Therefore, there is a need of study on women sex workers in East Godavari district, and how far the role of NGOs shows their impact in prevention and control of HIV/AIDS among those people.

The women sex workers are classified into four categories based on their location and operation activity such as Home based, Brothel based, Highway based and Call girls. Hence, the present study has been focused on Socio- Economic conditions and cultural aspects of women sex workers in East Godavari district, and the role of NGOs in prevention of spread HIV/AIDS through women sex workers. Therefore, the study was titled “The role of NGOs in prevention of HIV/AIDS – A study on women sex workers in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh”.

## **5.2 The Objectives of the Study**

1. To study the demographic profile of women sex workers in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh.
2. To examine the reasons for taking of sex work as profession by women sex workers in the study area.
3. To analyze the professional performance and hazards observed by the women sex workers.
4. To examine the pull and push factors determine the women sex workers to continue in the present profession.
5. To scrutinize the role of NGOs in prevention of HIV/AIDS among women sex workers and initiatives taken by them for rehabilitation of these effected people.

## **5.3 Hypotheses of the Study**

1. There is no significant difference among different types of respondents regarding the influence of family factor to become a sex worker.
2. There is no significant difference among different types of respondents regarding the influence of relative factor to become a sex worker.
3. There is no significant difference among different types of respondents regarding the influence of caste/ community factor to become a sex worker.
4. There is no significant difference among different types of respondents regarding the influence of social factors to become sex workers.
5. There is no significant difference among different types of respondents regarding the influence of behavioural factor to become sex worker.

6. There is no significant difference among different types of women sex workers in getting help from other people.
7. There is no significant difference among different types of respondents referred to go for testing of HIV.

#### **5.4 Methodology**

The present study was undertaken with brothel based and non-brothel-based women sex workers in the East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. The district is estimated to have one of the highest HIV-prevalence in the state. In this district, 18 villages/towns from 10 mandals were selected as the study locations where the NGOs are working for the benefit of these sex work groups and they are implementing HIV and STI prevention programs with women sex workers.

The questionnaire is the main tool which is self-report format designed to elicit information that can be obtained through the responses of the subject (women sex workers). In the present study the questionnaires designed in the way to gather data from individuals about their demographic profile, professional knowledge, attitudes, influenced factors for the present profession, problems and remedies, etc., and also the questionnaire is a document containing questions and other types of items designed to solicit information appropriate for analysis and they are used primarily in survey research. Thus the questionnaire is the most appropriate data collection instrument for the current study, which is aimed at exploring the demographic profile, causative factors for selecting the present profession, attitudes, problems, knowledge on HIV/AIDS and the role of NGOs in prevention of

HIV/AIDS and rehabilitation of women sex workers in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh.

In this study random sampling method has been adopted. The sample size for the current quantitative study consisted of 347 respondents from the target groups, where 78 samples from home based, 85 samples from brothel based, 175 samples from highway based and only nine call girls. The research met these people according to their convenient time, explained about the study and the questionnaire, and then fills the questionnaires according to the information provided by them. The interviews are conducted either at the house of female sex workers or a particular place sited by them where they can sit and space time for the interview. The secondary source of data is collected from published reports, books, journals and articles available at libraries, reading rooms, websites, etc.,

The data has been analyzed applying different statistical methods to calculate frequencies, percentages, chi-square tests by using of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS-15.0). the required tables were drawn and the statistical tests have been conducted for the data analysis and testing of hypotheses of the study. The following test has been conducted for testing of hypotheses.

## **5.5 Major Findings**

1. The data revealed that major group of women sex workers in the study are highway based followed by brothel based and home based, and very few are call girls. Their literacy levels are very poor and limited to

secondary and below. The women sex workers are from OB, BC, SC and ST communities, where BCs participation is more and STs participation is less. According to the data the sample was covered unmarried, married, widows, divorced and deserted women, and their income levels are found very less. Most of them are living in nuclear families and a significant number of respondents are living in joint and broken families.

2. According to the data it shows that most of the women sex workers have 3-4 dependents. So the main unforeseen reason for their profession is the dependent ratio in the families. A significant number of women selected sex work as profession because of peer groups and failure of marriage life. The easy money also played an important role among some of the women sex workers in selecting the present profession. For all these the main reason that made these women respondents as sex workers is poverty.
3. The data reveals that more than fifty percent of women sex workers are participating with 5-6 clients per day and a significant number are participating with 3-4 clients. The timings of these sex workers stands between 6 pm to 10 pm and 10 am to 2 pm. The number of coitus per a day participated by majority of home based and highway bases sex workers are 3-4 but in the case of brothel based sex workers are 5-6 coitus per day.
4. Regarding safety measure most of the women sex workers are using condoms and all almost all are prefer for normal sex.

5. The data revealed that the major group of the women sex workers of their parents and relatives aware and accepted due to economic reasons. Some of the women sex workers' husbands are aware of the profession but accepted due to poverty and family problems. The children and neighbors of the sex workers are aware about the profession.
6. Majority group of respondents from home based, brothel based, highway based sex workers and gall girls have selected the current profession due to insufficient income, family disputes, dependent children, poverty, lack of settlement, lack of care by the elders are the main factors, and a significant number of married respondents said the harassment by the husband and dissatisfaction of marital life also the reasons for their current profession.
7. The women sex workers from home based, brothel based and highway based women said that dependent parents/in-laws, take care of sibling & their children, and ill treated by parents/step mother made them as sex workers. Whereas majority of call girls said in addition to dependent parents/in-laws and ill-treated by parents/ stepmother, relatives instigation also the reason for their present position.
8. According to the response sample sex workers their occupation is a traditional one and even though the inter-caste marriage disputes made them sex workers and waiting for clients to earn money for their livelihood.
9. Majority group of home based and brothel based sex workers influenced by working environment and migration and neighborhood

factors influence them, whereas most of the call girls and highway based respondents said that human trafficking, peer group and rape or persuasion by others influenced them to be the sex workers.

10. A dominated group of respondents of home based and call girls influenced by illicit relations and luxury life made them sex workers, whereas, the brothel based and highway based sex workers influenced by hobbies and habits.
11. A significant number of women sex workers from all categories don't know about the main transmit source of HIV/AIDS from one person to other.
12. A significant number of brothel based and highway based women sex workers don't know about proper usage and dispose of condoms.
13. The data revealed that more than fifty percent of the women sex workers who are having alcohol/drug habit since two years.
14. Most of the sample women sex workers have been suggested by co-sex workers, counselors, NGOs and their friends that the present profession possessed by these people is not a good one, where the role of NGOs in giving suggestions to women sex workers is found higher than other groups.
15. The women sex workers from home based, brothel based, highway based and call girls are facing problems with the police because of ridings on their activities and harassments.
16. Majority group of women sex workers from home based, brothel based, highway based and call girls are facing problems with the public

because their profession is not a legal and many families disturb due to these people.

17. According to the data it shows that majority group of women sex workers from home based, brothel based, highway based and call girls are facing problems with the clients because sometimes the clients don't pay and reduce the amount after their work is over and some other time the clients may create nuisance.
18. The women sex workers from home based, brothel based, highway based and call girls are facing problems with the co-sex workers because their professional rivalry, and they are facing problems with the political leaders because their influence and background.
19. A dominant group of women sex workers said that whenever any problems occurred by police, public, clients, co-sex workers and political leaders, first NGOs come forward to protect these people and extend their hand to help them. The role of friends and social workers also indicate significant in helping the sex workers.
20. Majority group of women sex workers from all categories are doubted about HIV infection due to suggestions given by the NGOs, and they went to government hospitals for testing of HIV for the first time. And a significant number of women sex workers from all categories went to ICTC and private hospitals for testing of HIV infection.
21. The women sex workers from all categories went for testing of HIV on the reference of private doctors, government doctors, NGOs, friends and co-sex workers, where the NGOs participation is more in give reference to women sex workers for testing of HIV infection.

22. The women sex workers who have infected HIV virus go for meditation and consult with NGOs to overcome their crisis situation, still some of them drink alcohol and take drugs to forget their problem.
23. The sex workers felt their friends, relative, co-sex workers and NGOs will come forward to support at the time of crisis situation raised in their lives, where the role of friends and NGOs part in giving suggestions to women sex workers found higher than others.
24. The data infers that the women sex workers said friends, co-sex workers and NGOs will come forward to help them at the time legal raised, where the role of NGOs in providing legal suggestions to women sex workers found higher than others.

## **5.6 Conclusion**

The life style of women sex workers has been addressed by NGOs as risk prevention by narrowly focusing on precautions taken while sexual participation with clients. This study highlights various factors that influencing the women to became the sex workers and need to prevent HIV transmission by promoting condom use in intimate relations with others as well as to address sexual health with the perspective of sexual pleasure and fulfillment. Also, the focus on prevention of sexually transmitted infections has warranted ignoring other sexual health problems that sex workers may suffer from. The data indicates that women sex workers report multiple reasons for their present condition and need to be provided more protection for their better life.

While the respondents recruited for the study were in their late 20s and early 30s, it is evident that women marry young and have multiple family

problems. It is imperative that NGOs working with sex workers need to make concerted efforts to enroll younger sex workers in their programs and provide them or refer them to services for better future life and rehabilitation. Also, as one-third of the sex workers reported that they have their professional problems inside and outside of their lives. The NGOs should ensure that communicate and create awareness among these effected people for their better life, so that the next generation of their families will not be depend on this profession. For the majority of these sex workers who had undergone treatment of HIV infection, condom use should also be promoted as a dual method to protect against infections.

Because of their ability to more easily provide services to high-risk groups like sex workers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will play a critical role in any successful HIV/AIDS prevention program. Since HIV is often transmitted through behavior deemed intimate or taboo, government health officials have a difficult time reaching the affected group. But NGOs, which have a long record of involvement in the field of health and social welfare, possess several advantages over government agencies. The NGOs have rich experience working at the community level because their autonomous nature allows them to respond more quickly, they have access to marginalized groups, they generally work with the target groups to raise their self-esteem, they can act as a bridge between the community and the national level, they often employ innovative methods and their method of operation allows for cost- effectiveness. Furthermore, NGOs can choose their own areas of involvement according to their feasibility, past experience, and priorities. NGOs can be instrumental in providing information on HIV infection

and AIDS to the public particularly to special target group populations like the young, women of reproductive age, prostitutes or sex workers, and intravenous drug users. Additionally, NGOs can work in policy advocacy, in providing training for different groups, in providing awareness to different groups, in providing counselling and other assistance to those affected by HIV/AIDS, in screening donated blood, and in caring for AIDS patients. Though offering a great vehicle for combating the epidemic, NGOs will have to overcome several obstacles, including lack of government support, and lack of funds and resources.

### **5.7 Suggestions**

As a majority of sex workers report accessing HIV voluntary counseling and testing services, these should serve as an entry point to link the HIV-positive sex workers to care and treatment services. Linkages between PPTCT and ART centres and NGOs working with sex workers receiving these services can be followed-up to ensure there is no drop-out due to inaccurate information or problems in accessing services. Also, other risk factors such as sexual violence and alcohol use need to be recognized as having an impact on safe sex and condom use and should be addressed through HIV prevention efforts.

There is a tendency that INGOs are sometimes too sensible to what is 'in fashion' in order to attract funding. Hence the ways in which strategies are implemented are not consistently related to the National Policy. In order to improve the situation, the implementation of law must be improved and human resources in the government and in NGOs must be strengthened.

Self-criticism among NGOs in relation to HIV/AIDS work must increase and INGOs must not misuse the structural conditions with the possibility to disregard the government.

Increased funding is not in itself the solution of HIV/AIDS problematic. Much of HIV/AIDS work is about human resources. Although, money is still an issue for implementation of prevention activities and their funding needs to be increased as well guaranteed in the long run. The organizations need to develop capacity in order to become an opposite pole to the weak state structure. Then NGOs can play a key role in HIV/AIDS work in fields such as discrimination, stigmatisation and equal access to information and care on the grass root level.

When developing theory on the role of action played by the government, the importance of context specific characteristics cannot be emphasised enough. Governments work with different issues in different fields in different stages of the policy process in the First and Third World respectively. As a consequence of this, a proper scrutinising of the roles of government is needed. The study on HIV/AIDS and womensex workers in East Godavari shows that these work under different conditions, having different strengths and weaknesses, different advantages and disadvantages.

## **5.8 Further Research**

The empirical findings show that the women sex workers constitute a group of actors with a very special character in East Godavari. It has become clear that coordination of government policies and NGOs is insufficient not

only in the case of HIV/AIDS but also in the case of women sex workers. An important as well as interesting idea for further research is to study the women sex workers relating to HIV/AIDS alliances as well as other coordinating bodies that control these groups. Scrutinising of cooperation the study groups can hopefully lead to knowledge about how coordination can be improved.

This study has dealt with HIV/AIDS and women sex workers but it should be remembered that women sex workers is only one group of actors. It would be interesting to see what role other non-governmental actors such as International Donors play in control of HIV/AIDS and women sex workers. Such a study would hopefully complement this one and contribute to a broader understanding of how HIV/AIDS can be prevented.

As indicated already in the study, a comparing East Godavari district with other district in the state of Andhra Pradesh hard hit by the impact of women sex workers in transmission of HIV/AIDS and/or with a large community would be interesting. In such a study deeper understanding of the meaning of the East Godavari district structure could be reached.