

**PERCEIVED FACTORS INFLUENCING STUDENTS INVOLMENT IN  
PROSTITUTION IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS AND THE HEALTH  
IMPLICATIONS**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This study investigated the causes and effects of prostitution among students in colleges of education. It identifies key factors contributing to the phenomenon, including economic hardship, lack of financial support, and social pressures. The researchers adopted descriptive survey research design. The population of the study comprised of all the female students in Federal College of Education (Technical), Asaba, Delta State. A sample of one hundred (100) female students were randomly drawn from the population of the study using simple random sampling techniques. The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire. The instrument reliability was established through test-retest. The data generated from field survey were analyzed using weighted mean on a likert-type rating scale of 1-4 strongly agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree while the computation was done by multiplying the frequency of each response made with the appropriate nominal value obtained under each item with the number of respondents to an item. It was found that many students resort to prostitution as a means of funding their education and meeting personal expenses. The effects of this engagement are multifaceted, impacting mental and physical health, academic performance, and social relationships. Additionally, the stigma associated with prostitution can lead to isolation and diminished self-esteem. It is therefore recommended among others that there is need for comprehensive support systems and awareness programs to address the underlying issues driving students towards prostitution, ultimately promoting healthier academic and social environments.*

**Keywords:** *Prostitution, Brothel, Prostitute, Promiscuous, Contraceptive, Abortion, Venereal Disease, AIDS, HIV, Ostracize, Money*

## INTRODUCTION

The word prostitution is the business or practice of providing sexual services to another person in return for payment. The person who receives this payment for sexual services is called a prostitute or sex worker and the person who receives such services is known by a multitude of terms (John, 2015). Prostitution is the act of engaging relatively, in general with someone who is not a spouse or a friend, in exchange for immediate payment with money or other valuables. Prostitutes may be male, female or transgender and prostitution may entail heterosexual or homosexual activity, but historically, most prostitutes have been women and most clients are men (John, 2015). Prostitution is one of the branches of sex industry.

Prostitution leads to the spread of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Human Papiloma Virus (HPV), Herpes amongst others. Some women suffer trauma and pelvic pains, in most cases these women are subjected to drinking and smoking to ease off the pain and this habit could cause cancer which puts their lives in more jeopardy and increases mortality rate of the country. (Uwenu, 2017).

The issue of prostitution has been a thing of great concern to many authors and writers who have tried at one time or the other to stress the causes and effect of prostitution in our society, particularly in Tertiary Institutions. Amalia, (2018) noted that several factors lead people into prostitution. According to the scholar, one of such factors is economic hardship. Some families find it difficult to fend for the dynamic needs of their home. Another factor is abject poverty. This is one of the factors that determine the extent of stability in many homes. In a poor family, the children are not properly taken care of. They are not given the best they need in life and in an attempt to cater for themselves and satisfy their need, female children in the family

result to prostitution, which is a lucrative at times, in a bid to make both ends meet, young mothers also join their children in the search for greener pasture.

Furthermore, unemployment opens windows for prostitution: most graduates do not go for job immediately these days, coupled with some parents that were either dismissed, retired or retrenched and all these results in economic difficulty to the family where grown ups may decide to engage in prostitution to help finance family needs.

Also young girls who are entrusted to their guardians (as house maids) are often abused. These young girls whose age range from 8 to 15 years are often sent hawking in the street, along the roads and market places, are exposed to wolves in sheep's clothing (men) early in life and introduce them to sexual life the girls engage in sexual sales later in life (Ijeoma, 2012).

Additionally, women are very conscious about themselves. Most women also like to be seen, recognized, appreciated and possibly complimented and so engage in sexual sale. In this case, they would do anything possible to make sure that they keep up with the standard with respect to wears, make-up, hair-do and so on. Impressionable young lady resolve to take to prostitution, to get whatever they want to be in life.

**Effects of Prostitution include the following:**

Mordi, (2015) reported that prostitution leads to dissemination of HIV / AIDS and high rate of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Mordi (2015), reported also that the commonest way AIDs is being contracted in Nigeria today is from prostitutes and businessmen who patronize them; and that if not checked, the future of the society remains bleak.

Gil, *et.al.*, (2023) also noted that the high rate of STD is one of the effects of prostitution Magee, *et.al.*, (2021) reported that prostitution leads to the spread of Sexually Transmitted Diseases

(STDs), Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Human Papiloma Virus (HPV), Herpes among others. A student can contract infection during sexual activity with a man especially when barrier method (condom) is not used

Adejobi, (2013) noted that prostitution may affect academic performance of the student and also make the student not to achieve her academic goals. Ernst,*et.al.*, (2021) also noted that prostitution can bring low self-esteem to the student. More so, Ariely and Loewenstein (2006), noted that any female student that engages in sexual activity with men will lack a sound mind of judgment, in the sense that the person will have a poor moral development.

Ijeoma, (2012) noted that prostitution leads to unwanted pregnancy, abortion, and discarding of babies. She also noted that most of the prostitute that always involves in aborting babies, terminate their wombs unintentionally. This could affect them in future, especially, in their marital home when they will be expecting pregnancy. Haladu, (2013) stated that prostitution leads to drug abuse, drinking and smoking. The reason why prostitutes subject themselves to drug abuse, smoking and drinking is that they suffer pelvic pains and trauma after engaging in sexual activity with different men in order to ease off the pains which they undergo. Haladu, (2013) also stated that this habit could cause cancer which put their lives in jeopardy and increase mortality rate in the country.

Adetola, (2015) reported that some of the prostitutes have been killed by kidnappers, assassins and ritualists. These occur as a result of jumping from one man to another in order to receive huge amount of money. Also some female students that engage into prostitution will leave the school in the night unnoticed by their friends, roommates and their parents. Not knowing that they will not return. Some of them will be used for ritual or sold into slavery while

some may be killed and dumped at the school gate, bush or on the roadside. Many students that prostitute have lost their life in one way or the other (Farley, 2004).

Ukah, (2021) has reported people who go about committing sexual immorality could bring the wrath of God into the country, and that the highest sin is that of sexual infidelity because it is a sin against the temple of God which is our body. Among other effects of prostitution includes infidelity, bareness, divorce, marital mortalit and increased frustration

The researchers concluded that guidance and counselling services should be provided in tertiary institutions in order to educate the students on the consequences of prostitution and also parents should provide adequate support for the children especially their female ones.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Prostitution has become rampant in our society today among growing teens and youths. In the past, those engaged in prostitution use to be women selling their bodies. However, today, students have joined the trades of selling their bodies for different reasons including getting jobs or contracts as well as getting good grades in exams. Young female undergraduates in Tertiary Institutions, mainly between the ages of 18 and 25 years take advantage of the proximity of their school to the major cities. The girls leave their campus (dormitories) on Fridays, pretending to be going home for the weekend, when their actual destinations are highbrow brothels, night clubs and the streets in different cities. Their sole aim is to go for pleasure or money. Men often call “aristo” a term of endearment for wealthy and powerful men, hangout there with them and in most cases, they return to school, after the weekend, with large sums of money. To some of these girls, it’s just having fun on the weekend but for the fact that in most times, they sleep around and collect money from men they hardly know is a great risk.

## **Purpose of the Study**

The aim of this study was to establish the perceived factors influencing students' involvement in prostitution in tertiary institutions and the health implications. Specifically, the study seeks to:

1. Determine factors responsible for students' involvement in practicing prostitution in tertiary institutions.
2. Ascertain if the female students who are involved in practicing prostitution suffer ill-health challenges resulting from sexually transmitted disease.
3. Identify the strategies that could be employed to checkmate prostitution practices among female students in tertiary institutions

## **Research Questions**

The following research questions guided the study.

1. What are the factors responsible for students' involvement in practicing prostitution in tertiary institutions?
2. Do female students who are involved in practicing prostitution suffer ill-health challenges resulting from sexually transmitted diseases?
3. What are the management strategies that could be employed to checkmate female students' prostitution practices tertiary institutions?

## **METHODOLOGY**

The researchers adopted descriptive survey research design. The population of the study comprised all female students in Federal College of Education (Technical), Asaba, Delta State. A sample of one hundred (100) female students were randomly drawn from the population of the study using simple random sampling techniques. The sample students were selected from

students living in female hostels officially allocated by the school authority. The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire containing twenty-five (25) items. Likert-type, four-points rating scale in Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD). The validity of the instrument was carried out by two lecturers from the department of Measurement and Evaluation in Federal College of Education (Technical) Asaba. All corrections made were duly effected before using the instrument on the field. The instrument reliability was established through test-retest, as two entry copies of the instrument were given to some female students who were part of the study population but not part of sampled in two different occasions within two weeks interval. Data generated in the two different tests was computed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation and a score of 0.89 was obtained at 0.05 alpha level of significance. This indicated a high reliability. The researchers visited the three female hostels and administered the questionnaire to occupants who were briefed on the appropriate completion of the questionnaire items. The respondents were guided to appropriate completion of questionnaires and were collected back on the spot, after each completion. The data generated from field survey were analyzed using weighted mean on a likert-type rating scale of 1-4 strongly agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree. The decision rule was that any item with a mean score of 2.50 and above was regarded disagree or available whereas any mean score below 2.50 was regarded as agreed or not available. This was established by adding all the values of the options together and dividing by the number of options. Thus,  $4+3+2+1 = 10/4 = 2.50$ . Fixing the cut-off point of 2.50, it was decided that any item scoring below 2.50 showed disagreement while the computation was done by multiplying the frequency of each response made with the appropriate nominal value obtained under each item with the number of respondents to an item.

## **PRESENTATION DATA, ANALYSIS AND RESULTS**

**Table 1: Mean ratings of the respondents on the factors that are responsible for students' involvement in practicing prostitution in tertiary institutions.**

S/N	Statement	SA	A	D	SD	$\bar{X}$	Remarks
1.	Financial needs for comfortable living push female students into prostitution practices	47	25	15	13	3.06	Agree
2.	Quest to bribe lecturers for better marks could be responsible for prostitution	19	31	23	27	2.42	Disagree
3.	Desire to present herself rich and influential (big girl) makes female students to engage in prostitution.	39	42	11	8	3.12	Agree
4.	Peer pressure of wanting to belong to the happening group causes female students to engage in prostitution.	30	49	10	11	2.98	Agree
5.	Poor parental up bringing leads some female students into prostitution practices	44	42	14	0	3.3	Agree
6.	Poverty is a plausible reason female students engage in prostitution	16	27	33	24	2.35	Disagree
7.	Poor family value causes some female students to engage in prostitution	21	28	39	12	2.58	Agree
8.	Increasing academic financial demands pushes some female students into prostitution	19	15	28	38	2.15	Disagree
9.	Inordinate desire for sexual satisfaction leads most female students into prostitution	41	23	27	9	2.96	Agree
10.	Improper social exposures is a factor responsible for most female students' involvement in prostitution	32	37	20	11	2.9	Agree
	<b>Grand mean</b>					<b>2.81</b>	<b>Agree</b>

NOTE: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD) and Mean ( $\bar{X}$ )

Table 1 shows the responses of students and numbers 1,3,5,7,9 and 10 depicted homogeneity in responses among respondents in respect to factors that are responsible for students' involvement in practicing prostitution in tertiary institutions, but numbers 2, 6 and 8 depicted heterogeneity in

response to the factors that are responsible for students' involvement in practicing prostitution in tertiary institutions. This is further confirmed by an overall mean of 2.8.

**Table 2: Mean Rating of Respondents on Female Students who are involved in Practicing in Tertiary Institutions Suffer Ill-health Challenges Resulting from Sexually Transmitted Disease.**

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	$\bar{X}$	Remarks
11.	Most prostitutes suffer ill-health like sexually transmitted diseases (STD) or sexually transmitted infection (STI)	32	41	15	12	2.93	Agree
12.	Causes of ill-health recorded in the college over the years have been STDs	59	33	8	0	3.51	Agree
13.	Prostitution is one of the sources of contracting HIV/AIDS	25	40	23	13	2.78	Agree
14.	There is a tendency that prostitution leads to occurrence of vaginal cancer	13	25	21	41	2.1	Disagree
15.	Prostitution leads to high level of STD	32	37	20	11	2.9	Agree
16.	Prostitution leads to drug abuse, alcoholism and smoking among female students	28	39	21	12	2.83	Agree
17.	Frequent abortion which may lead to termination of the womb is a consequence of prostitution	39	42	11	8	3.12	Agree
18.	Prostitutes die young as a result of ill-health	25	48	14	13	2.85	Agree
	<b>Grand mean</b>					<b>2.9</b>	<b>Agree</b>

NOTE: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD) and Mean ( $\bar{X}$ )

The information documented on table 2 numbers 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17 and 18 depicted homogeneity in responses to the female students who are involved in practicing prostitution, suffer ill-health challenges resulting from sexually transmitted disease, but number 14 depicted heterogeneity in response to female students who are involved in practicing prostitution, suffer

ill-health challenges resulting from sexually transmitted disease. This was further confirmed by an overall mean of 2.9.

**Table 3: Mean Rating of Respondents on Management Strategies School Authority can use to Check-mate Prostitution among their Students.**

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	$\bar{X}$	Remarks
19.	School authority should impose time limit for students movement in and out of the campus	33	42	10	15	2.93	Agree
20.	Frequent organization of seminars and workshops to enlighten students on the negative effects of prostitution	41	43	16	0	3.25	Agree
21.	Students should be counseled by the counseling unit on the negative consequences of prostitution	39	28	21	12	2.94	Agree
22.	Students having financial challenges should be assisted with work-study programmes	48	25	13	14	3.07	Agree
23.	Contact the parent/guidance of such student through the students affair unit to dialogue with them.	33	50	9	8	3.08	Agree
24.	Any female students that will continue in the act should be properly disciplined	43	39	14	4	3.21	Agree
25.	Expulsion of proven female student prostitutes.	19	15	28	38	2.15	Disagree
	<b>Grand mean</b>					<b>2.95</b>	<b>Agree</b>

NOTE: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD) and Mean ( $\bar{X}$ )

The information documented on table 3, numbers 19,20,21,22, 23 and 24 depicted homogeneity in responses among respondents in respect to management strategies school authority can use to check-mate prostitution among their students but number 25 depicted heterogeneity in response to the management strategies school authority can use check-mate prostitution among their students. This was further confirmed by an overall mean of 2.95.

### Discussion of Findings

The research work was specifically designed to investigate the perceived factors influencing students' involvement in prostitution in tertiary institutions and the health implications. In order to achieve this purpose, three specific objectives and three research questions were raised. Mean was used in analyzing the responses in the research questions.

The first objective was to identify what factors are responsible for students' involvement in practicing prostitution in tertiary institutions. Data collected were analyzed and rated. It was observed that there are different factors that are responsible for students' involvement in practicing prostitution in tertiary institutions. Some of such factors include; financial needs for comfortable living and poor parental upbringing this is in line with Amalia, (2018) who noted that grown-ups may decide to engage in prostitution to finance family needs

The second objective of the study was to find out whether female students who are involved in practicing prostitution suffer ill-health challenges resulting from sexually transmitted disease. It was observed based on the analysis of the data collected from the respondents that most female students who are involved in practicing prostitution suffer ill-health challenges resulting from sexually transmitted diseases. This is in agreement with Uwenu, (2017), who reported that leads to spread of STDs

The third objective was to examine management strategies the school authority can use to check-mate prostitution practice among the students. Data collected in respect to the objective indicated that frequent organization of seminars and workshops will help to enlighten students on the negative effects of prostitution and students should also be counseled on the negative consequences of prostitution.

## **Conclusion**

The conclusion were relevant to the findings of the survey into the perceived factors influencing students' involvement in prostitution in tertiary institutions and the health implications. From the data obtained and finding, financial challenges and poor parental care/guidance are regarded as one of the major students' involvement in prostitution in tertiary institutions and the health implications, which have great effects on their academic performance and health. It is expected that the school management should look into the cause of prostitution among the female students. Based on the finding, the researchers were able to understand that some of the female students in tertiary institutions suffer ill-health challenges resulting from sexually transmitted disease in prostitution practices.

### **Recommendation**

From the foregoing discussion on a survey on the perceived factors influencing students' involvement in prostitution in tertiary institutions and the health implications, it was recommended that:

1. Parents should give their female children all that is needed to pursue education to great height.
2. Parents should provide adequate support and care for their children especially their female ones.
3. School authorities should impose time limit for students' movement in and out of the school.
4. The school authorities should organization frequent seminars and workshops in order to enlighten the female students on the consequences of prostitution.
5. Government should amend and promulgate laws to enable law enforcement agencies prosecute the prostitutes.

6. Federal Government should provide employment opportunities to reduce the rate of prostitution in our society.

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