ABSTRACT
Prostitution is currently a contentious issue in India. In India, prostitution itself is legal but related activities such as soliciting sex in a public place, kerb crawling, keeping a brothel, pimping and pandering are illegal. The number of prostitutes has doubled in the last decade. India has seen a growing mandate to legalize prostitution, to avoid exploitation of sex workers and their children by middlemen and in the wake of growing HIV/AIDS menace. As the result, we can see today so many agencies working with commercial Sex workers which encourage the use of condoms among them. A report says that 35.47 percent of them entre the trade before the age of 18 years and most of the research indicates that the majority of sex workers enter this field due to lacking resources to support themselves or their children and this shows that many choose this profession out of necessity. Though being isolated from their relatives and carry a bad name in the society, they still feel satisfied as they can serve their family and children. The aim of this research is to study socio demographic details and life satisfaction, Self esteem among Female Sex workers at Chennai. Data’s are collected from Female Sex workers who are registered member in ICWO(Indian Community Welfare Organization) one of the agency at Chennai which works for Commercial sex workers.

INTRODUCTION
In ancient India, sex and sexuality were not the taboo subjects they are today. The references to sex workers held in high esteem in the epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata show the status and dignity they had in those days. Their role as entertainers and relaxation artists was well recognized and accepted. Nowadays, sex workers are exploited, harassed, physically beaten and otherwise abused by the police, gangsters and moralists in society simply because of their status as sex workers. Known sex workers are marginalized in the health system and frequently receive inadequate medical care. They are fined for carrying out their work, but the only way they can access money to pay off fines is through more sex work. They have no legal and political rights, making it impossible to make a legal case for physical or sexual violence experienced while at work.

Statement of the problem
Street and off-street prostitution have very different effects on the surrounding community. Indoor prostitution has little, if any, negative impact on the environment and, if discreet, there is normally little public awareness of it. Street prostitution, by contrast, is associated with a host of problems, including disorderly conduct, sex in public places, discarding of condoms and syringes in public areas (public health hazards), customer harassment of women on the streets, increased noise and traffic. This result in Low self esteem of the commercial Sex Workers. But at the same time being the bread winner of the family these sex workers have Satisfaction in their Life. Though they choose a profession which is marginalized in our society, they feel satisfied as they were able to face the basic needs of their day to day life along with their family members.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROBLEM
Majority of the sex workers are uneducated. (B. Chaudhary & Dasi(2001)) Majority of the sex workers were poor, had low socio-economic background, often deserted by their husbands, with children and in to the profession to sustain their families. These sex workers have Children and they are much concerned about their future. This made them to fall in this profession, though society may look them down upon, they feel that this is the only profession for them to earn quicky and take care of their family.

Scope of the study
The present study was conducted among the Sex workers who registered their name in ICWO(Indian Community Welfare Organization) an NGO which works for Female Sex workers at Chennai. The present study focuses on to explore the socio demographic details of the Sex Workers, the study also focus on the perceived Self esteem level and also their Life satisfaction. All the respondents in this study are Street sex Workers. Wherever sex worker or respondents is mentioned it is referred to Commercial Female Sex Worker.

Review of Literature
The study, which was conducted among 250 sex workers for a period of nine months, by the Puducherry-based Society for Development Research and Training (SfDRT) Most of the commercial sex workers have children and were concerned about their future. Homes, which could take care of educational and nutritional needs for their children is an urgent need.

Woodward et al.,(2004) in his study found that half of call girls and brothel workers felt that their work was a “major source of satisfaction” in their lives, while 7 out of 10 said they would “definitely choose” this work if they had it to do over again.

Scott and Weitzer (2000) in their study says that Street prostitution, by contrast, is associated with a host of problems, including disorderly conduct, sex in public places, discarding of condoms and syringes in public areas (public health hazards), customer harassment of women on the streets, increased noise and traffic, and loss of business to merchants.

Objectives
◆ To describe the socio-demographic details of Female Sex Workers.
◆ To study the problems faced by them during encounter.
◆ To analyse the self esteem based on their profession.
◆ To study the Life satisfaction of Female Sex Workers.
Research Hypothesis

- There is a significant difference among respondents based on number of clients they attend a day and Self Esteem
- There is a significant difference among respondents based on number of clients they attend a day and Life Satisfaction

Methodology

As the population is finite, the researcher has used probability sampling method for selecting study subjects. The researcher has used simple random sampling method for collecting the sample size. The research sample size is 65.

Tools for data collection

- The researcher used self-administered questionnaire to collect data regarding the socio-demographic factors of the respondents
- Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (Rosenberg, 1965) to study the Self esteem of the Sex Workers
- Life Satisfaction Questionnaire (LiSAT-9) The scale is a ten item Likert scale with items answered on a four point scale - from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

Independent variable

The independent variables used by the researcher for the study are

Information about the respondents

Age (20-29yrs, 30-39yrs, 40-49yrs), type of family (joint, nuclear), Education (Primary, Secondary, Higher secondary) Marital status (Married, unmarried, Divorce, Widow), no of Children (0,1-2,3-5, more than 5)

Details about Profession

Period in Profession (2yrs , 5yrs, 10yrs, more than 10yrs), age enter into this profession (15-20yrs, 21-25yrs, 26yrs and above), clients attend a day (2, 3, 5, more than 5), Usage of condoms (Yes, No), Reason for Choosing this profession (Economical problem, Pleasure seeking)

Family details

Family members aware of profession (Yes, No), Children residing at (At home, Hostel, relatives house) husband’s occupation (no husband, Don’t Know, Driver, Cook, Husband’s income (1000-4000, 4001-8000, above 8000), Husband alcoholic (Yes, No)

Problems faced during Encounter

Able to socialize freely (Yes, No), Discriminated anywhere (Yes, No), suicidal tendency (Yes, No), physical any physical harassment during the encounter (Yes, No), Drug Addiction (Yes, No), How become addicted to substance abuse (Self, compulsion of customers)

Dependent Variable

1. The Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (1965), a widely used self-report instrument for evaluating individual self-esteem, was investigated using item response theory.

Scoring: Analysis Items 2, 5, 6, 8, 9 are reverse scored. Give “Strongly Disagree” 1 point, “Disagree” 2 points, “Agree” 3 points, and “Strongly Agree” 4 points. Sum scores for all ten items. Keep scores on a continuous scale. Higher scores indicate higher self-esteem.

2. Life Satisfaction Questionnaire 9 (LiSAT-9)

Scoring: Items are rated on an ordinal scale ranging from 1 (very dissatisfying) to 6 (very satisfying). Summing of the scores is not recommended; Rather, it is more appropriate to take the mean score.
From the above table it was clearly understood that 32.3% of the respondents have attempted suicide.

Table 5: Distribution of Respondents based on their experience of Physical and Psychological Harassments during Encounter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Physical and Psychological Harassment during encounter</th>
<th>No Of Respondents</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>61.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>38.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>65</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the above table it is understood that majority of the respondents (61.5%) has reported Physical and Psychological harassment during encounter.

Table 6: Distribution of Respondents based on their Addiction to Substance Abuse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Addicted to substance abuse</th>
<th>No Of Respondents</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>52.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>47.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>65</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above table shows that more than half of the respondents (52.3%) are addicted to substance abuse.

Table 7: One way Analysis of variance among the respondents based on number of Clients they attend a Day and their perceived level of Self Esteem and Life Satisfaction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Self Esteem</th>
<th>SS</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Mean Square</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Sig Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Between Groups G1(n=25) G2(n=24) G3(n=16)</td>
<td>29.098</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14.549</td>
<td>2.025</td>
<td>p=.141 Not Significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Within Groups</td>
<td>445.456</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>7.185</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.No</td>
<td>Life Satisfaction</td>
<td>SS</td>
<td>df</td>
<td>Mean Square</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Sig Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
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<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Between Groups G1(n=25) G2(n=24) G3(n=16)</td>
<td>800.728</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>400.364</td>
<td>5.278</td>
<td>p=.008 Significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Within groups</td>
<td>4703.21</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>75.858</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(G1=Two Clients, G2=five Clients, G3=more than five clients)

There is no significant difference in mean Self Esteem scores among respondents based on Number of Clients they attend a Day and also there is a significant difference in mean Life Satisfaction scores among respondents based on Number of Clients they attend a Day.

Discussion

Majority (63%) of the respondents were married, but only 49.2% were residing with their husbands. Among widows and divorcees 3.1% and 6.1% are staying with persons who doesn’t belong to their family. Among married 44.6% and 16.9% of respondents husbands are coolies and drivers respectively probably this contributes due to low social support, poverty and family burden. Low levels of education are also common and have not completed secondary education The study also says that the female sex workers were in the age group of 15 to 55 and the majority of them were between the ages of 31-35. Majority of the sex workers were poor, had low socioeconomic background, often deserted by their husbands, with children and in to the profession to sustain their families.152.3% of the respondents have alcohol use and drug use . Reasons for drinking included stress from family responsibilities, the economic burden of paying for schooling, as well as the depression associated with sex work (Kumar MS 2003). 61.5% of the respondents report that they undergo Physical and Psychological Harrassment during encounter. (Ronald Weitzer, George (2005) in their study says that Victimization and exploitation are highest among street prostitutes and among those who have been trafficked into prostitution, but other workers are much less vulnerable to violence, exercise more control over their work, and derive at least some psychological or physical rewards from what they do. Among 24.6% of unmarried 18.46% of the respondents children.30.7% of the respondents entered this profession when they were between age group 15-20 yrs and half of them were married at that time.

Conclusion

Sex workers are legally marginalized by a system which has in essence criminalized prostitution. Those who engage in sex work often find themselves entangled in a debt trap. Although we need more research on street sex workers, the studies reviewed here provide strong evidence that they face physical and Psychological harassment. Livelihood programmes and savings would break their need to seek sex work as the only alternate means of sustenance. This may break the low self esteem among sex Workers. It is also identified that most of the commercial sex workers have children and were concerned about their future. There was an urgent need to have more homes, which could take care of educational and nutritional needs for their children. The study also recommended de-addiction centres as majority of them either depend on alcohol or drugs to overcome stress and relieve pain. There is little attention for their specific health needs, especially regarding their sexual health, and physical and mental traumas due to violence.

REFERENCE