

FEMALE SEX WORKERS OF SILCHAR TOWN: CONSCIOUSNESS

FROM BELOW

This chapter deals with case studies following on female sex workers and behavioural problems of their day to day life. Case studies of female sex workers of different categories on HIV/AIDS consciousness are highlighted in this chapter. Each female sex worker is observed as a unit. It is an index analysis for studying behavioural patterns of female sex worker. This chapter highlights the inner voices of female sex workers of Silchar town.

Case Study-01

Sultana (altered name) is a female sex worker living in brothel at Silchar town. At present she is 32 years old. She was kidnapped from Kokrajhar district of Assam and sold in the brothel of Silchar. Her age was 13 years and she used to read in class v when she was sold. She was thin and tall having fair complexion. She had mother and three brothers in her family. Family was living on cultivation and animal rearing. One day when she was engaged in playing hide and seeks with her friends some kidnapers attacked her and made her senseless, tied her with rope and fastened handkerchief on her mouth. She even could not shout loudly for her safety. She was dragged inside their car. When she awake up found her at dark room. She loudly cried to rescue her and requested them to let her leave. The kidnapers were laughing at her and told her that she was brought to Dimapur of Assam. In midst of that night she was being raped by one middle aged men. She was kept to this man for two months who used to rape her every night. One day this man sold her to brothel in Silchar. She was quite unknown of dealing with the

customers and *madams* of brothels used to take money from clients in exchange of her service. She used to satisfy sexual needs of 10-15 clients every week. Life in brothel she felt as same as hell but gradually she felt that it was impossible on her to come out. She used to think of her family members but there was no way to meet them. Every night after satisfying customers when she went to bed she used to cry for her mother and brothers. *Madams*¹ of the brothel used to treat her inhumanly when she refused to meet customers. Her *madam* used to offer her food and medicine for the injury made by the clients. Gradually she had to adjust with the daily routine of the sex workers of the brothel. Many time, she reported, suffered from vaginal ulcer, swelling, itching and pain during sexual intercourse. She surrendered herself with the situation she used to face every day in the brothel. All money earned through her service was looted by the *madam* till she became an independent sex worker in the brothel. Now she earns approx Rs.10,000/- per month. She opens a saving account at bank with the help of Deshabandhu Club, TI staff. She has gathered details knowledge on HIV/AIDS from NGO activists and conscious. She has also owned land of 3 lacks at her native place.

Case Study-02

Mitu (altered name) is of 24 years old, hotel based sex worker. She studied up to class IX. Her home is far away from silchar town. Her father divorced her mother when she was ten years old. Mother was illiterate who made handmade cotton cloths for survival after her divorce. They were suffering lots of problem when her

¹ *N B.* : “*Madams*” means a lady who acts as a go between agents between clients and female sex workers.

mother met an accident and her hands got fractured. At the age of sixteen years Mitu had to join in a ladies petrol pump and continued job up to three months with salary of Rs.1500/-per month. But suddenly this petrol pump was closed and every girl became jobless. Then she along with her friend went to Guwahati and joined in Coil Company with salary of Rs 3000/- per month but this much salary was not sufficient to run expenditure of self and her mother. She left the job and came back to silchar.

One old person of Silchar town became sympathized hearing her situation and helped her regularly who also managed a job for her at hotel. In her workplace she met a Nepali girl who proposed her to choose an easy way of earning money. One day that girl came with one of her friends who became rich by sex work. On that day itself Mitu came in contact with network of hotel based sex workers. After a week Mitu got a call from her first client. She was hesitating to accept his offer. The client took her in a hotel and at the end of the day the client paid her Rs. 1000/-. Day by day Mitu became more eager for money. She is conscious sex worker who knows about HIV, AIDs and STIs. She uses condom for safety and regularly visits STI clinic. She got married in the year 2012 and has one girl child. Unfortunately she found her husband already a married person for which she became upset and divorced her husband. Again join a private company and continue her previous profession. Her child is of one year old.

Case Study-03

Nutan (altered name) is 34 years old, illiterate, brothel based sex worker who came from Dhubri of Assam at the age 18 years, that time she was beautiful and healthy. She has parents and two brothers. Once she fell in love with a boy who

betrayed her after long term relationship. Nutan got frustrated for this break up. One day she met one lady who went to visit their place who offered her to visit Silchar. Nutan agreed with the proposal and came out of her house without taking permission of her parents. She did not know that lady was an agent of brothel who uses to search for new girls for brothel. Nutan was directly taken into brothel by the lady and she was not given scope to come out. Initially she was not told to meet clients. But she understood that she has got fastened in the trap of that lady. After several trials she could not communicate her parents. Gradually she was forced to satisfy the rich clients of the agent who brought her. She was also taken in houses of rich clients of the city and finally she became sex worker in brothel of Silchar. She faced several times STI problems and got the treatment from private clinic. She was not much aware of HIV and STD but several times people from NGOs came in their brothel who advised her to use condom and to visit STI clinics. She followed their advice and learnt about STI and HIV/AIDS. Now she knows government and private clinics as well clinics of NGOs for diagnosis and treatment of STI and HIV.

Case Study -04

Monika (altered name) is a street based female sex workers used to operate the clients in telephonic call within her network. She is 32 years old non-Bengali (Hindustani) having 2 child. She narrated that her husband left her when her children were too small. Before coming into sex work she worked in building construction and due to economic hardship day by day she engaged herself in sex work. She used to get offer from the person she met in construction work. Since last six years she has been continuing her sex work and previous profession. Now

her children are grown up and getting education from Sarva Siksha Aviyan. She negotiates with the clients and accepts their proposal if she is paid rupees 200/- to 300/- per act. She had vaginal discharge and itching problem and do not use regular condom and has lack of knowledge about HIV and do not practice safer sex.

Case Study-05

Sonia (altered name) is street based female sex workers, 22 years old and divorced. She got education up to class IV. She was married to a person when she was only 14 years old who is auto driver and not sexually active. Because of her husband problems, she was not sexually satisfied. Both of them often quarrel for several reasons and finally her husband divorced her. She narrated her involvement in sex work is due to economic need and sexual urge. She also said peer motivation also influences her to choose this path. Since last 4 years, she is involved in this profession. She does not have regular partner and go with multiple partners. She is very beautiful for which she claims high rate. She maintains her health and visit regular STI clinic at NGO drop in centre for the better treatment and go for HIV testing also. She usually negotiates with the client of Rs. 1000/- to 2500/-. She is happy and buys ornaments and also save money for her future. She has also plan to marry in future and live the town.

Case Study-06

Rani (altered name) is 36 years old, home based female sex worker she is Hindu and belongs to Bengali scheduled caste community. She is married but separated. Her husband was regular drunker which she disliked. She wanted peaceful and luxurious life early from her marriage but her husband always made domestic

violence against her. Within a short period of time, she got two male babies. Her husband did not bear their expenditure for the family. She is also very beautiful and charming. A boy started to love her and started fulfilling all desires and care of the baby also. When she heard that the man is married she got shock but she couldn't live without him because she became financially dependent on him. She was harassed by local people when they noticed their intimacy. Since after incidence she came to silchar town and started staying in a rented house with two boys. It was very difficult on her part to run her family from domestic work. Day by day she started sex work and takes client to her home. She takes Rs.400/-500/ per deal. She regularly uses condom and practice safe sex. She has no STI problem and had full knowledge about HIV virus.

Case Study-07

Pronita Singh (altered name) is a home based female sex worker of 24 years. She continued schooling up to class X and got married when she was 20 years old. Her husband is driver who earns around Rs 4000/- per month. She has one boy of 4 years old. She narrates that she engaged in sex work by her own, not by force of other peers. She used to solicit with clients over phone and brings clients in her home when her husband remains absent. She has chosen this occupation only for economic reason. Her husband's earning is not sufficient enough to meet the daily needs of their family. She is involved in this occupation for last one year. She is having some physical problems but one of the major problems from which she is regularly suffering is itching problem in her whole body. She has not consulted any physician for her problem due to financial problem. She doesn't know about

STI caused by unsafe sex and do not have knowledge about HIV/AIDS. She is also not aware and conscious of condom use for safe sex.

Case Study-08

Niti Das (altered name), is a Street based sex worker of around 28 years old. She is illiterate and married. Her husband is a rickshaw puller. They have two girl child and one boy. She is a housemaid and also engages herself in daily wage earning. Her family income is too insufficient to run their family. But she has involved herself in sex work due to peer influence that motivated her to earn high income for running family smoothly. She has recently joined in this profession for a period of around one and half years. She meets multiple partners and weekly performs with 2 to 3 partners and earns Rs 400/- on an average. She had no knowledge of HIV and STI and do not practice safer sex with partners. She also drinks alcohol with her husband and peers. She had problem of stomach pain and lower abdomen pain and never attained for HIV test. She has opened a bank account and started saving money for her future.

Case Study-09

Dipti Nath, (altered name) a home based female sex worker. At present she is 30 years old. She has attained schooling up to class VIII. She got married but her husband used to drink regularly and tortured her number of times. In order to get rid of domestic violence, Dipti got separated and started living with her 3 girl children. She earns her living by doing domestic work and also goes for construction work. One day while one construction worker proposed her for doing sexual activity in exchange of money Dipti accepted the proposal and started to

earn money from additional occupation of sex work. She engaged in sex work willingly to support her family and to educate her children and never feels guilty to be a sex worker. She had one permanent partner who used to support her financially. She does not suffer from serious health problem. She has problem of physical weakness. She has no idea about STI and HIV and never used condom with her partner. While she was asked about the risk of sexual activity without condom Dipti replied that she loves her partner and she has confidence on him that he has no disease. To avoid pregnancy related risk Dipti uses oral contraceptive pills. She has got a ration from *Mukhya Montri Anno Yojona*.

Case Study-10

Reni Das (altered name) is a Street Based sex worker who used to live in a village adjacent to silchar town with her husband. She lost her husband at the age of 26 years who died of an accident. She was educated up to class XI for which she did not get any noble job in town. She started work as a housemaid in her village itself. Her earning was too little to run her family. Her son was too small to search for work. One day along with her friend she came to town in search of a better household work. She got an opportunity to work as a housemaid in Silchar town. But her landlord did not pay her full payment at the end of month. For a period of consecutive three months she was half paid by the land lord. She was bound to leave her job of housemaid. She suddenly became jobless and became too much distressed for maintaining her family expenditure. One day, she got introduced with a woman who hear her condition of tremendous financial hardship and suggested her to work as a

blacker for selling cinema tickets in front of *Devdoot*² cinema hall. She loathed the offer proposed by the women and started to sell cinema tickets from the next day itself. Coming to this occupation she got introduced with lot of young males who used to see movie in that cinema hall. One day a youth praised her beauty and fair complexion and proposed her to keep friendship with him. She accepted the proposal and got involved in sexual relationship with that youth. Gradually she started to get several offers from many of her familiar persons of Silchar town and outside. Reni became a full flagged street based sex worker. She now earns sufficient money to run her family. She stays in a rented house in town and her young boy is now going to school regularly. She also attends customers call to go for sex work outside the town. She has no STI problem and has little knowledge about HIV/AIDS. But still she always uses condom due to fear of bad disease. She has no interest to leave her occupation.

Case Study-11

Devika Paul, (altered name) Street Based female sex worker was only 3 years old when her father and mother died. Soon after death of her parent, she came to stay with her uncle's house. But when she became 12 years old one of her cousin brothers took her in his rented house that got separated from his family to establish his own business. Her cousin started to exploit her which was initially not understood by herself as sexual exploitation. While she started to grow she was directly forced by her cousin to involve in sexual relationship

² *N.B.: 'Devdoot' refers to the name of a Cinema hall.*

with him. In many nights she was raped by her cousin. This way she suffered sexual exploitation till she became 18 years old. She gave marriage proposal to her cousin but he refused her proposal. She became lonely where her cousin got married with another girl. That time she became helpless and took a rented house to another area where she got introduced with a Muslim fellow who gradually gave her proposal for marriage. Devika was in such a circumstance that she had no other options to reject the proposal. Finally she converted herself into Islam and got married with her Muslim friend who was 25 years older than her. After birth of a girl child her husband died. She married another person six months after death of her husband to get support from him. But the person was only sexually exploiting her instead of providing financial support to her. After some days she met with one lady who was working in *oriental* cinema hall. The lady proposed her to work with her. She agreed because that time she was too needy to run her family. New lady introduced Devika with some persons who proposed her to make sexual relationship with them. But Devika could not understand that the lady was a sex worker who used to search women for bringing them into sex work. A bulk amount of Devika's earning through sex work was taken by the lady directly from clients. That was the beginning of Devika's life as a sex worker who day by day became a full time street based female sex worker. Devika is illiterate. She has little idea about STI and HIV/AIDS but she tries to use condom regularly to avoid disease.

Case Study-12

Sumi das, (altered name) was too beautiful in her childhood. Her father was a small businessman. Their family was not self sufficient with the business run by

her father. She was oldest of her three sisters and one brother. Her father was habituated with intake of alcohol and used to drink regularly. He became offended towards his wife and children after drinking alcohol. Domestic violence was a serious problem of their family which destroyed childhood and puberty of Sumi's life. Even her mother and all her sisters and brother were not allowed to take food throughout the day. Hunger and starvation became part of their life. At night her father used to bit her and did not allow her to stay in house. She used to stay at night in neighbor's house. At her teen age she started to search for a job of housemaid in neighboring houses. At the age of 15 years she took a job of housemaid. She was too beautiful and was able to attract attention of young boys. In free time she went for dating with boys who offered her dress, food and money in exchange of giving them time for dating. In course of time one Punjabi boy give her marriage proposal. She became happy thinking that he will be her life partner and would support her to all her steps and soon after she got married. But when she entered with him to his house she found he was already married and also having child. She got depressed initially but finally she compromised and decided to stay with him. After few years when she became mother of two babies her husband stopped supporting them. Since she was beautiful she got offers from many male friends which she accepted to support herself and her kids. She became a fulltime street based sex worker. She has knowledge of STI and HIV and always used condom and tell all other friends to use condom for safety and security.

Case Study-13

Gita Roy (altered name) spent her childhood in a happy family but when her mother expired at her age of 12 years old her father married again. After a year her

step mother gave birth of a male child. Gita's importance in the family started to decrease and she was stopped to continue her schooling after class X. Her marriage was forcefully given to an unemployed youth who used to torture her in day and night. Her husband unnecessarily used to suspect and blame her. When she gave birth of two babies her situation in her in-laws house became severe. She was deprived of minimum necessities of life and her kids were also not allowed to get food. She was regularly tortured by her husband and always threatened to leave his house. Her husband was involved in adultery who also used to drink in front of Gita and her children. Finally she had to leave her husband's house with her two kids. But after coming to her father's she could not live peacefully because her father passed away few days after Gita's arrival. That time Gita was 24 years old having a beautiful complexion. Once a man gave her marriage proposal she accepted it thinking future of herself and kids. Gita was living peacefully with her new husband but after spending few months with him she observed that her husband's friends were coming and spending most of the time in their house. Simple minded Gita was not able to understand the new husband's intention. His friends were customers who came to their house for getting sexual enjoyment from Gita. Gita initially objected but could not resist her husband in selling her to his friends every night. She had to compromise with the situation thinking future of her kids. Gita became a fulltime home based sex worker. She uses condom regularly to make safe sex with her customers and to avoid pregnancy. She knows bit about HIV and STI and had also gone for HIV test in nearby clinic.

Case Study-14

Ayesha (altered name) is a 32 years old brothel based female sex worker. She is Muslim by faith and belongs to an educated family but her educational attainment is marginal. Her home town is Guwahati. Her father and mother died during her childhood soon after she was living with her elder brother and who gave marriage of Ayesha after a year. She was very happy with her husband and after few years she became mother of two babies. She was very frank with her husband who learned Ayesha about use of condom to avoid pregnancy. Ayesha's happy marital life got an end due to sudden death of her husband. Her husband was not so solvent to give a safe future to his wife and kids. He could not have sufficient money for future of his wife and kids. Ayesha became completely helpless to support her family after death of her husband. She returned to her brother's house where she got only a place of shelter but no sufficient money was there with her to support family. Her brother was not so solvent to bear the expenditure of his widow sister and her kids. After staying few months in brother's house she decided to go outside for earning. A young fellow motivated her number of times for having private sex. At last she agreed and accepted the offer. She started to spend her days in hotel with clients for earning money. One day she was recognized by her brother in hotel for such activities and brother became so disappointed that he started to torture her in the hotel itself. She become arrogant and stop eating food and started maintaining gap with her brother. After few months one fellow told her if she wants to work outside her home she would have more scope to earn lot of money within few days. After thinking about her life she decided to come outside Guwahati and finally she comes to brothel of Silchar

town which is situated at panpatty area. Now she earns handsome amount of money in the brothel because she is an experienced sex worker. She is depressed for being a sex worker for which she has started drinking alcohols to console her. She is regularly sending money to her brother's house for her children's education and other expenditure but her brother is unknown about her job. Owner of brothel always suggests her to use condom with customer and say anybody may carry HIV virus and spread to her. So she is careful and conscious about HIV.

Case Study-15

Sonia, (altered name) is a Street based sex worker of around 23 years old. She is literate her father and mother are not alive. Her father was a grade IV employee in railway department. She had two more sisters they continued their study up to middle school because of family burden. Sonia's mother and father both were regular drunker who used to sit together and drink and had party with peers. It was as regular routine of her parents. But all her sisters were deprived of parents love and affections, food and shelter and had to spend many days with empty stomach. All her father earnings were spent in bringing alcohol. Her younger sister when grew up after few years there was a proposal for her marriage. Her father and mother without judging the boy and gave marriage of her sister. After a few years her mother died due to too much consumption of alcohol. She suffered from liver cancer and finally died. After that they become helpless with their father because he started more drinking and use to beat them regularly. One day she become angry upon her father and decides to leave home for ever and to elope with any boy. But she had controlled her emotion because of her father who would be alone without her since her younger sister used to come to meet father's house

once or twice in a year. The boy whom she got married belongs to Muslim community and not allowed her to come to father house frequently. Sonia also got married but after 2 years of marriage she came back to her father's house. Her father was seriously ill. Then she told her father to transfer his job to her any way. Her father could manage it and did the same. She gets salary of Rs. 20,000/- but because of bad environment of the railway station, boys run after her. She was young she also fell in love with several boys. She did not get real love in life except sexual exploitation. Several boys made sex with her and that becomes a regular habit of Sonia. Now she cannot live without 4-5 sex partners. She also takes money from them and uses to drink alcohol regularly with his sex partners. Sonia says now she is fully involved in sex work. She can't live without partners and drinking alcohol, these two things are now part of her life. She meets one NGO peer educator who takes her to NGO Drop Centre and linked up with all facilities for her welfare and reducing risk. But she refused it because she does not like to perform sexual activity using condom which does not give her any pleasure. She understands the routes of STI and HIV transmission but she thinks that her all young partners may not have such kind of disease.

Case Study-16

Rita, (altered name) is a street based female sex worker of around 40 years old. She has mother and 3 brothers all who are staying separately. Her mother usually stays with her because brothers do not look after her. One day a fellow nearby rail quarter sought help from Rita. Rita wanted to know how she could help the man. The man said he usually took his meal at hotel and if she could manage his meal from her house it would be really helpful for him. The man also assured of the

monthly payment for the arrangement of meals. Likewise the man started to take meal every day. Sometimes he stayed their house at night. Gradually friendship developed between the man and Rita. That friendship turned into physical relationship within few days. The man agreed while Rita proposed him for marriage. Rita could not know the man was married and father of two children. While Rita asked about his family background he suppressed the reality to her and said he was a single man and no other person was there at his house located at Hojai of Assam. After few years one day his previous wife, his mother and children suddenly step in to Rita's house and start rebuking beating Rita and blamed her as a sex worker. Finally the previous wife managed his transfer and all of a sudden they left the town. Rita could not go for legal action because her marriage was based on verbal commitment. She became helpless and started to sell black ticket in railway station and used to spend most of the time there. At railway station she found so many day labourers during working hours. Those day labourers became her friends who were helping her during her need and requested Rita to give them sexual pleasure. Rita gradually became a sex worker with the company of her day labourer friends. One day one of her friends told her for going to Fatak Bazar, for sex work, she agreed thinking that she might be getting scope for more income from there. Her friend was a regular drunker who made Rita accustomed with the work culture of a sex worker. Rita also became addicted to alcohol. In Fatak Bazar, Rita got so many partners and started getting good amount of payment for sex work. Both her friend and Rita started to give company to their partners in drinking and entertainment. They thought they were spending a very comfortable life. But after few months her friend fell ill very seriously who

was admitted to Medical College but after few days she got cured of illness. After coming back to home again her friend suffered from Diarrhea and fever. These two diseases became parts of her health and living. She met one volunteer of NGO one day who used to supply her condom. She discussed everything with NGO, Peer Educator who suggested her to take friend Rita with her in the Drop in centre. Soon after the staff referred her to ICTC for HIV test and unluckily she was detected as HIV positive. Seeing her friend detect as HIV positive Rita becomes more fearful and anxious and started drinking alcohol more and more thinking that she might be infected which might cause her death. She thought her friend might be arrested by the Police thinking of that being HIV positive is a crime. But ICTC Counselor broke her all superstition and made all the fact clear to her that her friend can live normal life as earlier. She only needs care and support, proper diet, visits ART and if she goes for encounter she must use condom. Soon after she recognizes all the myths and fact about STI and HIV and started living a healthy life with her friend.

Case Study-17

Rekha Bhor (altered name), is a home based sex worker She lost her father at her age of 16 years. She has mother and one sister. She is illiterate. Her mother gave her marriage at early age. In the beginning her family was running very smoothly but after few days she recognizes that her husband has intimate relationship with his sister in law. Whenever she tried to protest against the matter she was scolded by his husband's family members. Rather the family members started to blame her. Often she was beaten up by her husband and gradually she became a victim of serious domestic violence. Likewise she suffered a lot in her in laws house and

within few years she gave birth of two children. After getting child also her husband did not change his nature. She did not get any support from any relatives so at last she decided to take a rented house for with her to live with her children. Rekha took job of maid servant to run her family at that time her age was around 26 years and she was beautiful. One fellow where she was serving gave a proposal to her for earning more money. The man told Rekha to serve him accordingly when his wife remains outside. One day he offered her drink and convinced to have sex with him for which he gave her an amount of Rs.1000/-. Day by day she became habituated and her urge for money increased and started she to drink regularly. After few months she started contacting clients over mobile phone and sometimes she visited customer's house. Rekha became a fulltime home based sex worker who now feels so lucky to getting scope of earning money. She narrated one day she met one kind customer who listened all her life story and became very emotional and empathized for her. This man once gave her marriage proposal which she accepted come forever to stay with him. After coming to silchar she felt weak day by day and started to lose her body weight and her health condition became very serious. Initially she took medicine from pharmacy also visited an *Ayurvedic* doctor but she did not get good response. One day one of her known persons told her for HIV test. She visited ICTC and got tested. She was detected as HIV positive. Initially she was so tensed about her illness but now she leads a happy life and continuing ART medicine and Visits all centre and facilities available nearby her.

Case Study-18

Archana, (altered name) is an illiterate street based sex worker. Her present age is around 23 years. She has family and two girl friends. She and her friend were searching job for earning money but they were not educated enough to get a job. One day one boy with whom Archana had affairs told her that if she needs money she has to go with him at hotel from where she can earn money. She thought her boyfriend might have arranged any job for her but after going at hotel the boy proposed her for having intimacy. she refused so many times to do so but the boy forced her to do so. He assured her to marry. Archana agreed to make sexual relationship with him that day and it became a matter of regular habit. Whenever she talked for marriage he neglected and one day he replied that he had given her enough money so the question of marriage does not arise. From that time she became arrogant she could not change her behavior, after the incident also she never leave him she listen everything what he said, the boy started to gives her other boys to contact and go with them. One day her family member recognize with boy coming back from hotel. They make me understand but she cannot change her behaviors rather she wants money nothing else. She narrates she become bad eye of society but never bother her for what people will think about her, she said not a single people not a society will gives her money she can earn money only the way she choose.

Case Study-19

Rubi (altered name) is a street based female sex worker. At present her age is around 35 years. Her home town is at Hojai (Lanka) and her father was reputed person in their locality. After her matriculation she took admission at college that

time her age is 17 years. She was in love with her home security guard. one day she eloped with him without giving any information to the family members. While coming with the boy she brought some jewellery and money with her thinking that these things might help her after her marriage. Simple minded Rubi could not understand the intension of the boy who was bringing her to sell in the brothel. The boy directly brought her into the Silchar brothel, at panpatty and introduced her with one lady of the brothel as his Aunt. The boy told her to stay here without any hesitation. Next day he left the place without informing her. Rubi was waiting for him but she failed to contact him from the brothel because she was strongly watched by the lady. After staying 7 days in the brothel with the lady one night she ran away from brothel and reached to a place in silchar town which was unknown to her. She was so tired and tensed that she lost all her energy and suddenly became senseless. When her sense came back to normal local people asked her several questions but she failed to answer. The local people called police and handed over her to nearest police station. The police contacted several times to her residence but no response came from there. After keeing the in jail for more than fifteen days police failed to hand over the girl to her father. A fellow who used to supply water in police station proposed the girl for marriage. The marriage took place when the girl agreed to marry the man. But after marriage she found that her husband is very poor and a regular drunker who used to torture her inhumanly. After one year she gave birth of a male child. When she found no way open to her to meet all her needs she started to visit cinema halls and accepted the proposals given by males for doing sex work. She has become a complete sex worker now. She has giver her boy to a boarding school for study and she

maintains herself and son from occupation of sex work. She has serious vaginal discharge. She has also knowledge about HIV. She drinks sometimes to avoid stress and strain and cried for her parents but never return back to home.

Case Study-20

Shilla, (altered name) is a street based female sex worker her age is around 32 years she is illiterate. She was married in a village after few years return back to town with family with two boys. She does not look back to her son and elope with one fellow who is a carpenter. The fellow only act that he loves her and reached along with her Border of Mizoram and started to live there after one year she had one girl child but after having few months he leave forever her during that time her girl also took death and her boy friend never return back she waited up to six months and return back to Silchar again. In the starting she searches work than she engage as a day labor there she contact with so many other likewise she come into contact with first one fellow who offer her Rs.100/- than other day another person offer her 200/- she started to increase her rate and became crazy and simple way of earning. She moves within and outsides of the town and stand in front of the cinema hall for extra clients. She has itching and abnormal discharge from vagina and she knows about HIV and never goes for act without condom. She wants to leave her profession after some years because she does not like her profession. She drinks alcohol weekly 4to 5 days.

SUMMARY

The above case studies describe the life stories of female sex workers in silchar town, this chapter illustrates illiteracy, early marriage, discrimination, trafficking, violence and poverty and migration shape women's options and lead into selling sex as a survival livelihood. Caste and religion are not linked to female sex workers. Moreover in different case studies it is found that there is a lack of knowledge about sexually transmitted infection and HIV/AIDS among female sex workers.

The chapter also depicts how the present social and legal context of the sex trade, in many cases, is exploitative and that denies sex workers many of their fundamental rights. In silchar the situation is different because of the economic insecurity, lack of occupational rights, lack of social support, vulnerability to violence, dependence upon *madam*, owners etc of the female sex workers. The study also describe social context profoundly affects sex workers' ability to look after their health.

Female sex workers in silchar town are not apparently visible. Like invisible workers they continue to work. Not a single sex worker is enjoying the work most of them repent for their activity. Various narratives shows that majority of them are not aware of STI and HIV/AIDS. Due to unplanned urbanization and others factors the number of sex workers is increasing in silchar town.