Existential crises faced by sex workers: Navigating through Covid 19 times

Marginalization
Stigma
Access
Health
Finance
SEX WORK

- Women in sex work
- Men in sex work
- LGBTQ and sex work
Sex work- From HIV to Covid 19

- Role of sex workers in HIV AIDS Prevention and Control
- Stigma and Discrimination
- Prevention models in HIV and Covid 19
- Role of sex workers in Covid prevention
Covid 19 and sex workers

"Double protection" is new rule in city’s red light district

With the lockdown being eased, some sex workers in India’s red light zones are going back to business by wearing full protection and following the standard operating procedures to stay protected against COVID-19. The livelihood of many petty sex workers in such areas has been hit as the lockdown had forced them to remain indoors for months. Now, with the lockdown being relaxed, some of them are gearing up to resume work and are more ready to explore options of survival like "double wear" — plastic masks and latex gloves, as they have been asked to wear two masks and two pairs of gloves.

"They are starving": women in India’s sex industry struggle for survival

Rebuffed from government Covid-19 relief, many women are crying for survival. As the lockdown prevented them from working, they have been forced to rely on their money savings, which have run out. Many of them have taken up odd jobs to make ends meet. But the situation is still grim as they are unable to return to their former profession due to the lockdown restrictions. The lockdown has also affected the demand for their services as they have had to rely on their savings to survive.

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"It has been a difficult time for us," a sex worker said. "We have had to work harder to make ends meet." She added that she has been struggling to make the ends meet as her savings have run out. She has been forced to take up odd jobs to make ends meet. She said, "I have been able to survive and make ends meet with the help of odd jobs."
Sex work and Lock down

- RLA as Containment zones
- Stigma and Discrimination
- Zero Income
- Lack of health care
- Indebtness
- No possibility of alternate income generation option
- No packages
- No long-term support available
Covid 19-Lock down in Pune context

- Containment zone
- Going back to Native place
- Children
- Indebtness and zero income-zero savings
- Relief work and approach
- Advocacy with PMC and State Govt.
Relief work by Saheli-NNSW
What next??

- Prolong Support
- Advocacy at National Level
- Care of Covid cases among sex workers
- Alliances and Networks
- Dealing with Rehabilitation agenda
Moving on.....

- Impact assessment survey
- SC Judgement- Govt of Maharashtra
- GFATM
- Collectivization
THANK YOU SO MUCH

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS??