



Problems of Researching Public Order Crime: A Review of Studies on Commercial Sex

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Abstract

Although commercial sex as a specific form of public order crime has been accorded considerable scholarly attention, discourses on the subject have focused more on the forms, motivation and hazard of the occupation, with scant attention to the problems encountered by researchers in the field. This article reviewed the socio-legal conditions that have shaped the problems, carefully selected research works, inclusive of a PhD field work report on how oil exploration and related activities impact on commercial sex in Port Harcourt city, Nigeria. It highlights reflexively problems encountered, particularly, ethical concerns, accessibility, sampling design and other socio-legal problems and how they were resolved. The useful insights from the general problems and coping strategies are intended to assist in sharpening tools of research for more robust, ethically compliant and accurate outcomes, leading to a more nuanced understanding of this complex area of criminology and inform better social intervention policies.

Key Terms: Researching, Public Order Crime, Commercial Sex, Regulatory Framework

Introduction

Public order crime sometimes referred to as consensual, victimless, vice or nuisance crimes are variety of acts considered illegal because they disrupt the orderly functioning of a community. These offences which may include drug and alcohol offences, abortion, homosexuality, vagrancy, commercial sex, pornography are in disagreement with social policy, approved moral ethics, public opinion; they are socially disruptive and hence categorized as crime (Quinones, 2023; Wulf and Meier, 2005). Behaviors that constitute public order crimes varies according jurisdiction, hence the Nigeria Public Order Act of 1979 list riots, violent disorders, affray and disorderly behaviour as offences. Because the acts are generally not followed with

complaints at police desk, they are detected through law enforcement targeted proactive operations.

However, researching public order crimes presents several challenges. These include the difficulty in defining and categorizing offenses, the inherent subjectivity of what constitutes a public order violation, and the potential for over-criminalization and social control. Furthermore, understanding the motivations and contexts behind such crimes, especially when they involve "victimless" behaviors, can be complex (Bunge et al., 2021; Enoch, 2020). One form of public order crime that present multiple challenges to researchers is commercial sex.

The terms prostitution, commercial sex, and sex work may be interpreted and understood differently by individuals, institutions and policy makers depending on their orientations, theoretical dispositions and circumstances. Nonetheless, a common denominator cutting across the trio is the provision of erotic services including sex in exchange for money and or any other material item valuable to the service provider (Rahman, 2024; Jackson and Sulaiman, 2022), hence for a systematic review, the paper applied the three terms interchangeably.

Commercial sex is not a contemporary phenomenon, as its earliest existence were traced to some remote parts of Euphrates where sex was commercialized with the intent of promoting community fertility (Dolinsek and Hearne, 2022; Ibrahim and Muktar, 2016). It is gender, class and age neutral, and cuts across varied cultures and socio-economic setting (Jackson and Sulaiman, 2021; Dauda, et al., 2017). Multiple studies across regions globally showed that many of those currently in sex work were either voluntarily or forcefully enlisted into commercial sex (Footer et al., 2020; Raphael and Shapiro, 2002). While the study was not intended to explore juvenile prostitution, nonetheless, recognizing that many partake in sensual commerce at the early stage of children development, the client-patronage network and appreciation in number of those involved (Footer, et al., 2020; Ukaegbu, et al., 2017) constitute justifications for extensive empirical research that would inform prevention policies, including programs to help reform adult sex workers.

Commercial sex encapsulates erotic activities requiring no bodily contact with clients, like porn video production, strip entertainment, web-based sex, escorts, unsafe sexual relationship with customer, open prostitution, and other sexual services (Haviv and Roe-Sepowitz, 2025; Enoch, 2020). In Nigeria, certain aspects of commercial sex such as pimping, running brothels, child prostitution and soliciting in public places are criminalised in the Nigeria Criminal Code, but the law is dormant in cases of independent individuals who on their own accord opts to engage in sex work boycotting pimps and use of brothels.

Despite the proliferation of research on diverse aspects of commercial sex over decades, scant attention has been accorded to problems often encountered by researchers of the subject matter.

Research outcomes and projections on sexual commerce are generally problematic with implications on social policy and intervention programs, owing to sampling and methodological problems, contextual influences, invisibility of participants, negative labelling, ethical concerns, poor statistics and seemingly unclear picture of conducts that could be considered sexual commerce (Bunge et al., 2021; Huysamen and Sanders, 2021; Enoch, 2020; Benoit, et al., 2018). The paper critically reviewed the popular debates in the ‘commercial sex challenge’ and discuss how these perspectives impact on many other studies, highlighting problems encountered; inclusive of my PhD field work in Port Harcourt. This is significant because insights into the general problems and coping strategies could help in refining and sharpening tools of research for more robust, ethically compliant and accurate outcomes, leading to a more nuanced understanding of this complex area of criminology and inform more effective social intervention programs

The Major Debates on Commercial Sex Globally

The complexity and dynamics of commercial sex coupled with interpretations driven by varied philosophical orientations, beliefs and practices have made the design and development of policies and strategic intervention for prevention and management difficult (Rahman, 2024; Nkala, 2014). Added to the quagmire is the amplified disagreements on commercial sex policies manifested in the plethora of policy reactions from many countries of the world. The reactions are basically twofold; legalization of sexual commerce and criminalization. (Kalson, 2022; Kangiwa, 2015).

The first policy response to the conceptual anarchy on commercial sex is the adoption of legalization/decriminalization by many countries, particularly European societies that are enmeshed with the ethos of gender equity and liberal democracy. Although legalization policy differs across countries, commercial sex must be organised in conformity with approved conditions (Mesce, 2020; Menon, 2012). Holland and Germany introduced a regulatory framework that encapsulates lifting ban on brothels and allowing commercial sex in licenced brothels. Swedish laws formally recognized commercial sex as violation and oppression of women in a patriarchal society. The Swedish legal framework calls for no arrests of women, no use of the criminal justice system to remote women, but appropriate utilization of state system against the male folk seen as the principal offenders (Ekberg, 2018). In fact, Northern Ireland law makers passed a bill making payment for sexual service criminal (Ellison, 2017). In Nigeria, certain aspects of commercial sex such as pimping, running brothels, child prostitution and soliciting in public places are criminalised, but the law is dormant in cases of independent individuals who on their own accord opts to engage in sex work boycotting pimps and use of brothels. This has prompted clamour by social groups, human right movement and

the legislature calling for sex workers right. The umbrella body of sex workers in Nigeria protested in Lagos against poor treatment of sex workers. Leader of the group, Patoo Abraham, declared:

Our suffering in silence is enough, so our desire is to be allowed to work as professionals with dignity like other people. We want a stop to labelling and stigmatization. We are workers in the erotic industry and not ashawo (Sahara Reporters, 2011)

Responding to a motion on commercial sex and human smuggling, the erstwhile deputy head of the senate, Ekweremadu, submitted that since it has become difficult to halt commercial sex in Nigeria, it should consider regulating it. According to him, there was need to manage the work in the country so that those who want to practice it will be registered and licensed... insisting that we must end it, may not work. Many other countries have followed this path of regulation so it is not new (Sahara Reporters, 2011). In support of pro-decriminalization scholars Nwankanma (2015), declared that erotic mercantilism is a choice; a non-destructive conduct and legislations against it merely aggravate the hazards associated with the profession.

Advocates of decriminalization aim to remove laws that criminalize sex work, ensuring the trade is treated like any other occupation. This includes abrogating laws specifically targeting erotic commerce, while allowing generic criminal and other laws to address the industry. It further aims to empower sex workers to make decisions about their own health, potentially leading to better access to health services and resources (Cole, 2025; Anderson, 2021). Result of studies on approved cathouses reveals that they offer work spaces that are secured and devoid of criminality for transactional sex industry operators. Other scholars also reported requirements for operating approved cathouses to include installation of security alert system, communication equipment, combined help to minimize the possibility of oppression by clients, and guarantee adequate criminal justice system intervention (QLRC, 2023; Ojilere, 2020; Bucknail, 2017; Sulvian, 2008).

However, decriminalization policy has not been totally effective in the prevention and management of commercial sex because individuals vary in their assessment of legal brothels especially, lived experiences and perception about norms controlling practice. In addition, there are differences in the ability of countries to fulfil the conditions for floating approved houses of prostitution. For instance, less developed countries bedevilled by poverty, technology deficit and illiteracy rarely have the power to make available the social architecture and security tools needed for regulating licenced brothels (Weitzer, 2012).

The weaknesses of decriminalization are perhaps the driving forces behind the critical stand taken by proponents of criminalization. The critics contend that legalization/decriminalization policy tends to compound the problems of sex workers. Raymond (2003), submitted that rather than tackling male folk who pay for sex, legalization policy merely help government to

profiteer from the vile business. She noted that the policy accords legislative protection to a vulgar sector by portraying sensual commerce as normal, reinforcing the thinking that women are sex toys and that transactional sex is a harmless source of pleasure. Furthermore, scholars have noted other concerns associated with legalization such as abuse of female hookers in controlled zones and the influx of sex workers to liberalised jurisdictions (Weitzer, 2021; Mesce, 2020; Palak, 2019; Sullivan, 2010; Farley, 2007; Raymond, 2003). Others include increased human trafficking, sexually transmitted diseases and police harassment of sex workers.

However, these arguments seem to be laced with feminist prejudices that reduces commercial sex to an exclusively female affair; consciously undermining existence of “Casanova”, “Gigolo”, and straight men who equally offer erotic services to women for cash. Nevertheless, criminalization does not also seem to be a perfect policy as shown from the experience of Nigeria. State and non-State reactions to commercial sex aim to prevent and manage it through the criminal justice system. Reactions to workers who elect to exit the profession have also focussed on law enforcement and protection with scant attention for livelihoods and survival needs of those in the trade (Enoch, 2020; Menezes, 2019). This has resulted to steady clampdown, arrest, detention, public humiliation, extortion and violation of sex workers without attenuating the number of individuals involved. As argument rages on, it is important to note that no genuine academician has insisted decriminalization is an excellent framework, but multiple research endeavours have shown its prospect of attenuating harm, so state policies on erotic commerce should be predicated on diverse perspectives occasioned by practical findings. These debates and consequential policies have impacted on procedures and outcomes of research on the subject of review.

Review of Selected Studies and Challenges

This part of the review involves x-raying some evidence-based works that are related to the subject matter, highlighting problems encountered in the aspect of design, sample determination and administration, accessing subjects and other challenges that may impact research outcomes. The works reviewed were selected on the basis on their high rating and citation in Research Gate, Google Scholar, and indexed in Scopus. It includes studies related to forms of commercial sex; studies related to causes of commercial sex, studies exploring effects of commercial sex; studies related to prevention and management of commercial sex.

Studies related to forms of commercial sex

A qualitative study aimed at compiling a general typology of commercial sex was conducted by Harcourt and Donovan (2005). The design entailed a Medline search and review of 681 “commercial sex work” papers. Also, the investigators assembled 20 years of collected papers

and their observations in many countries. Arbitrary categories were developed to compile a realistic typology of sex work.

The study identified 25 forms of commercial sex that were broadly grouped into “direct” and “indirect”, with the latter group less likely to be perceived or to perceive themselves as sex workers.

Direct sex work and their spatial distribution includes street prostitution prevalent in United States, Europe, United Kingdom, Australasia, Eastern Europe, parts of Africa, South East Asia, and Latin America; brothels prevalent in New Zealand, South East Asia, India, Europe, Latin America where sex work is decriminalized or tolerated; escort which is widespread in all continents; private prostitution or flat prostitution common in UK and European inner cities, United States of America, and Australia; doorway sex work prostitution which is common in Amsterdam and Hamburg and relatively poor neighbourhood of Europe and third world societies; nude dancing that cuts across many countries; door knock prostitution available in many countries; transport prostitution in ship, truck, train common in many countries and CB radio prostitution common in United States.

Indirect sex work identified by the study includes bondage and discipline peculiar to wealthy countries; lap dancing common in wealthier countries; travelling entertainers common in south East Asia; beer girls common in Cambodian and Ugandan cities, as well as other poor nations like Nigeria; open hawkers – manifestly selling home consumables and offering sexual services to make additional income, popular in Africa. Others are opportunity prostitution – which is sexual services provided wealthy people during social ceremonies; femme libre – women either unmarried or separated exchanging sex gift items that may be later transformed to money and common in Central African towns.

A critical review of Harcourt and Donovan (2005), typology seem to reinforces the questions raised by Enoch (2020) about the seemingly unclear picture of conducts that could be considered sexual commerce and the consequential impact on obtaining figures of commercial sex globally or in regions. Furthermore, it is difficult figuring out where Call girls and Courtesans fits into the above typology.

Studies on causes of commercial sex

Macleod (2006) conducted a qualitative study on prevalence of commercial sex in UK using open ended questionnaires administered to 200 participants that were predominantly females. Percentage was applied in processing the data. The findings among other things revealed economic deprivation, substance addiction, destitution, low self-esteem and peer influence as some of the reasons for prevalence commercial sex. The study had no sample, raising questions on representativeness, bias and likely poor coverage which may have impacted on the results.

Similar to the above study, Ndibuagu, Okafor and Omotowo (2017), conducted a cross-sectional study on the relationship between economic downturn and rate of level of female commercial sex in Nigerian tertiary institutions. A sample of 400 students was purposively taken from selected federal and state universities in Niger Delta. The study adopted a probability random sampling technique but using the proportional stratified sampling method, wherein all units had a probability of being chosen. The study found economic recession as the most significant influence on female student's entry into commercial sex. Purposive sampling is generally defective in making statistical inferences. Moreover, apart from gender there were clear criterion or rational for inclusion in the sample which may pose bias issues and affect outcomes.

Shah, et al. (2023), carried out a qualitative study to determine socio-structural variables that influence prevalence of commercial sex and early lives experiences of women between age 18 and 45 in the Kenyan capital. Respondents were drawn randomly from sex workers intervention hospitals and interviewed within nine months. Result showed that out of 1003 commercial sex workers reached out to in the area of study only 48 agreed to participate in the study. Findings revealed bodily and sexual abuse during early life, material deprivation and dropping out from schools as the reasons for entry in sexual commerce.

It lay credence to problems of invisibility and sampling challenges faced by academic investigators of commercial sex as reported by (Bunge et al., 2021; Huysamen and Sanders, 2021). Apart from failing to include juvenile prostitutes, the sample was drawn from a group of sex workers coming for health -related treatment in clinics, while studies have shown that many sex workers have migrated from out-door to indoors work spaces because it offers anonymity and due to fear of police harassment, arrest and detection. The study also considered commercial sex as a monolithic group while there are different categories such as baby pro, call girls, courtesans etc.

Studies exploring effects of commercial sex

In Germany, Langenbach, et al (2023), carried out national web-bases cross- sectional study in which 469 questionnaire was analysed to evaluate attitude and knowledge of medical services outfits towards commercial sex workers and associated occupational hazards. The study found out frequency of contact with medical experts did not alter commercial sex workers stigmatized status or view about moral standing. Furthermore, medical services experts exaggerated frequency of different psycho-medical disorders which was influence by respondents' feelings about commercial sex.

Fadahunsin et al (2025), conducted a mixed design descriptive study using multi-stage sample of 400 participants to determine the impact of sexual commerce on divorce in the Jukun central

town of Wukari. The study uncovered poverty as the most important driver of commercial sex leading to many broken marriages.

Okafor and Duru (2010) conducted a study on sexual promiscuity among college students and the medical implication. The descriptive survey used sample of 415 final year students taken purposively from four tertiary institutions in Imo state; twelve items questionnaire was structured and validated for the study and percentages were used to answer the research questions

Findings reveal unwanted pregnancy, intake of drugs, infection and spread of STDs and social stigma as the main effects of sexual promiscuity. The average number of respondents 321 accounting for 78% responded positively, and only 22% did not consider the items as effects of sexual promiscuity.

Also, Ogunkan et al., (2010) investigated the environmental and socio-economic effects prostitution on licensed houses of prostitution in Ogbomosho, Oyo state. The design was mixed method and research instruments were detailed interview, case study structured survey and direct observation. Purposively selected 14 operational and non-operational brothels .

The result revealed increased aggression, ethical decay and criminogenic tendencies of youths, and frequent abortions as effects of prostitution. Environmental problems faced by brothel neighbourhood residents include noise pollution, waste management, air pollution and land scape distortion. This was because many brothels were sited in residential neighbourhood. The study established brothels have physical, social and psychological effects which affects neighbourhoods or urban population contributes negatively to the development of the neighbourhood or urban population.

A different study was carried out by Chukwuedozie et al., (2019) to determine the socio-economic effect of commercial sex in FCT marginal settlements. Population consisted of 181 respondents from 5 randomly selected cathouses, from which 100 participants made the sample. Interviews and questionnaires were used to elicit information from participants. It was also found out that sex work improved income of participant and discouraged involvement in criminal acts.

Studies related to the prevention and management of commercial sex

Gomez -Belvis et al (2025), investigated social reactions towards varied forms of commercial sex and its management in Spain via questionnaire administered to 1168 respondents half drawn from age 35 to 54. Result showed greatest detest for open street walking and brothel organised commercial sex and a vague preference for any regulatory framework presented to them. However, participants recognised the need for liberty, equality and respect for the occupation.

Nkala (2014) conducted research to determine factors responsible for increasing prostitution and how it can be controlled in Bulawayo Business district of Zimbabwe. A mixed method design was adopted. A sample of 25 female sex workers selected through snow-ball sampling technique participated in the study.

Results indicated deplorable material conditions impelled many young female Zimbabweans to become prostitutes, 50% are professionals who have attained tertiary level of education, however because of absence of jobs they choose to indulge in the trade. Furthermore, majority of respondents (80%) indicated that the profession should be legalized, as this will help in regulating the trade, give sex workers liberty to market themselves and choose their clients, improve public health, reduce crime and police brutality and improve state revenue.

The study discovered that government effort initiated in preventing and managing prostitution through criminalization by arresting and detaining women soliciting in public places have failed because law enforcement agents abuse women and accept money or sex for the women to gain freedom. The increased involvement of women in prostitution activities in a country that criminalises the phenomenon indicates the country is not addressing the problem but the symptom. Prevention and management strategies should focus on equal education opportunities and women financial empowerment.

A qualitative study was carried out by Salihu and Fawole (2020) on police crackdowns as strategy for prevention and management of commercial sex in Ilorin city. 106 sex workers drawn from different sampling techniques combined with detailed interview was employed in the study. It was discovered that sex workers are exposed to police brutality and other rights violations, and thus impacting negatively on their living conditions. Police violence simply dislodge sex workers at the heat of restrictions but does not minimize the trade. However, much arguments favouring legalizing commercial sex hinge on the point that it is a choice by consenting individuals and that the negative consequences of the trade will reduce under the regime of legalization. Paradoxically, there seem to be little theoretical and empirical evidence that legalization somehow decreases the harm of the trade. In fact, research showed that legalization increases juvenile sex work, sex buyers, and demands for cheaper and unrestricted sex acts (Farley, 2010). Commercial sex, legal or not, does not obliterate the psychological consequences of the act of selling sex. Besides, argument that commercial sex is a choice raises the question of why just some women opt to sell sex. Very few in reality agree that they are into sex work for the love of it (Nwakanma, 2015).

Problems and Coping Strategy from Field Work in Port Harcourt

The researcher PhD thesis centred on the influence of oil related activities on prevalence of commercial sex work in Port Harcourt city. It adopted mixed survey design and obtained data using primarily questionnaires, complimented with interview and observation from 531

participants. Charts and tables were used in presentation of data and result applied in trial of the research hypothesis. SPSS was used to run the regression test of the relationship between variables in the stated hypothesis. Recorded interview was transcribed and summarised while field notes of behaviour observed to support quantitative result. Among the major findings was the positive correlation between increase in oil exploration activities and rate commercial sex. Prior to the main investigation, the researcher conducted a pilot study at Alesa Eleme, the administrative headquarters of Eleme local government area of Rivers State. The instruments employed were newly constructed, therefore, it was necessary to test run their reliability and validity before administering the questionnaires to a broader group of subjects.

Eleme is located at the fringes of Port Harcourt and it is a junction town leading to major Shell oil company locations in Ogoni land, Mobil oil locations in Eket and the Ken Sarowiwa Polytechnic Bori. The town is a host to two oil refineries and Petro-chemical companies. In Eleme, thousands of heavy-duty trailers and tankers were packed waiting to load petroleum products such as DPK (kerosene), PMS (petrol), AGO (diesel) and cooking gas. Equally visible to any visitor where the heavy presence of military personnel stationed to protect oil installations and to avert the eruption of conflict. The town is 15 kilometres away from Onne free Port zone with its booming oil and shipping related activities. Of great interest here was the high number of commercial sex workers servicing oil business men, oil workers, long distance truck drivers and military personnel. The researcher found this area suitable to conduct the pilot study because it had features similar to that of Port Harcourt urban.

In the main study, the researcher encountered problems associated with researching sensitive and somewhat personal topics. Researching sex workers from their perception became obvious only when the researcher started gathering data; he was attacked for venturing to research on sex workers and was tagged morally deficient. Observers believe it was an attempt to rationalise a vile institution like the commercial sex industry.

Part of logistics problems faced was reaction of participants to the research assistants. The investigator initially engaged four male and one female assistants. Respondents being females were receptive to female research assistant and while hostile to the male research assistant which may likely affect the outcome, so the female research assistants were increased to four while three males were dropped.

A greater limitation was getting access to the commercial sex workers under investigation.

Even though the association of sex workers were relatively organised and posed little challenges in entering their territory, leader of the association controlled the selection of respondents given little or no opportunity for balancing and verification with unaffiliated sex workers. Although lack of representativeness has often cited as the pitfall of snowball

sampling, Mahler (2000) queried the overemphasis on representative sample, since it generally conceals what the anomalous and marginal may reveal about the core.

Furthermore, Port Harcourt city is located in the Niger Delta region with a herculean terrain, especially as regards sharing information. From our engagements with researchers and groups that had earlier carried out studies in this area, we became aware of the reasons for the difficulty in getting access to information: first, there was the issue of trust as people hardly trust each other due to the security challenges in the area. Secondly, the area was akin to a military barrack and violence prone, hence, the inhabitants were very reluctant to fill questionnaires or grant interviews as they fear future victimization. Thirdly, commercial sex workers have strict codes of behaviour regarding given out information to third parties especially for research or media reporting. This is because some aspects of sex work in Nigeria were criminalised and often policed and thus making it difficult to conduct studies in the area (Enoch, 2020).

Nevertheless, considering these limitations, the investigator strategized before and during the field trip to ensure access to the right respondents. Before embarking on the field trip, the investigator tried to contact some friends in the hospitality and tourism sector of Port Harcourt who were daily in contact with sex workers. For example, on arrival in Port Harcourt, instead of staying in family residence, the researcher squatted with a pal who manages a five -star hotel and who had close ties with many female sex workers and this made it easier to get access to the leader of the association of sex workers and other sex workers around. After the background contacts had come to stay, the researcher employed snowball technique by demanding each participant to refer to other people that could be issued the questionnaire. First set of key informants were leaders of the commercial sex worker's association, usually the most powerful persons among the sex workers. This was because the leader's commanded authority among their mates, were relatively experienced sex workers and were in possession of a register containing names (nick), residential and phone numbers of their members. We explained the research topic, the expected outcomes, and how findings would be disseminated and confidentiality assured. They were informed of their right of withdrawal from the survey at any time without consequence throughout the process of research. This worked very effectively since it enabled me to get other referrals.

Also, before administration of questionnaire, the investigator applied for approval with Port Harcourt Central Police Station to carry out the study in the chosen area. This was done to permit the researcher to associate undisturbed and free of police intimidation in case of arrest.

During the interview, some managers of hotels contacted refused or were reluctant to grant audience, while some explained that they had been involved in similar interviews before now, so were not captivated. Also, some scheduled interviews could not hold because prospective

respondents simply did not show up at the agreed time of the interview. The reluctance to grant interviews may be connected two main reasons:

First, some hotels had managers that combined official duties with pimping, under such a context, respondents simply felt uncomfortable to respond to questions related to commercial sex due to feeling of guilt and fear that it might bring the dark side of their operations to limelight. Moreover, many of the hotels are the venues that are often booked for conferences and seminars by rights movements intervening in the commercial sex sector.

Second, workers in hotels are generally looked down on as working in a vulgar industry, thereby leading to high staff turnover and management restructuring of work schedule into two shifts instead of three that is the international best practice. Two shifts work schedule made it difficult for some interviews to be conducted. Nevertheless, this was addressed because the investigator already fixed alternative interviews. The researcher simply requested to be directed to other individuals that could be interviewed and the strategy was very successful. For instance, if General Manager of the hotel was not available, then the operations manager was interviewed or any other member of the management team.

In addition, some interviews were cancelled because the respondents asked for money before granting interview. The researcher objected to any form of payment because offering money in return for information could compromise relationship with respondents, and respondents also may opt to give misleading information in order to please the researcher and this could affect the credibility of responses collected.

Deciding the location of interview and ensuring respondents peace with the location was also no easy. However, after careful deliberations with research assistant and respondents, interviews for FCSWs were carried out in the offices of sex worker's association, MCSWs interview were carried out in choice places of the interviewee and interview for MHB were carried out in the offices of the selected managers. The researchers were equipped with highly powered hand phones interacting with respondent's apartment, offices and open venue.

A serious problem also encountered was on the method of observing sex workers and clients in night club. A non-participant strategy might be risky since I would be recording and taking notes. The researcher opted for participant observation but had to observe together with the female research assistants all dressed in club fashion, procured drinks and other consumables sold in the night club, and displayed briefly at the dance floor in order to be viewed as part of the night club family.

Key Lessons from Field Work and Conclusion

Some major take aways from the researcher experience are:

First, adequate time is required to arrange for meeting and interview sessions. The investigator had at the proposal defence scheduled to complete the field work in 6 months, but was only

able to do so in 14 months. Notwithstanding the initial reluctance from hotel managers, the interview was successful and provided useful insights on the subject matter.

In the world of sex workers, social interaction with clients at soliciting and negotiation scenes, in the room and conflict situations take place using unique slangs and phrases such as ‘ashawo’, “hook up’ ‘oga do fast na’ bros abeg do, make I go hustle’, ‘oga people dey wait outside, hurry up abeg’ ‘na day break or short time, go pay for room’ ‘I no dey for grammar, abeg spill’ etc. Potential researchers in this area should understand and be ready to respond appropriately as the jargons are used frequently irrespective of educational attainment, age, and form of commercial sex.

Many research on commercial tend to focus on information obtained from sex workers alone. However, it is important to note that in order to obtain comprehensive information on the subject matter, other stakeholders in the commercial sex industry such clients of sex workers, operators of outfits that latently promote sex work such bars, night clubs and hotels inclusive of the ministry of tourism development are considered as respondent by researchers. Researchers are also encouraged to methodologically triangulate by using mixed methods design so as to gain from the strengths of both quantitative and qualitative methods.

Policy decisions and social intervention framework by government and non-state actors in the commercial sex sector should be predicated on diverse perspectives occasioned by practical based research. Specific cultural practices, eco-political situations, and social infrastructures should be given adequate consideration in the design of prevention and management policies on commercial sex.

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