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## **SEXUAL ANXIETY AMONG SEX WORKERS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The present study aimed to know the sexual anxiety among sex workers. It also aimed to check Sexual anxiety with relation to marital status and type of area. A Comprehensive for the “Sexual Anxiety Scale (SAS)” prepared by Pramod Kumar (2017) was used. The sample constituted total 100 sex workers out of which 50 were from married sex workers (25 urban area and 25 rural area) and 50 were from unmarried sex workers (25 urban area and 25 rural area). The data was collected from Modasa District. The data was scored, analyzed as per the manual. ‘F’ test was being calculated. The result showed that, 1. The married sex workers group is a higher level of sexual anxiety than the unmarried sex workers group, 2. There is no significant difference in the mean score of sexual anxiety among the sex workers of urban area and rural area and 3. There is no significant difference in the interactive effect of the mean scores of sexual anxiety with regards to the marital status and gender.

**Keywords:** *Sexual anxiety, married and unmarried sex workers, urban area and rural area.*

### **Introduction :**

Sex work is a profession typically defined by its controversial nature and quasi-legal status in society. Sex work is defined as work undertaken by any person who exchanges sexual services for economic compensation such as money, drugs or alcohol. (Bernstein E. Intimacy, 2007). According to Rossler and colleagues sex workers are a heterogeneous population group with some sex workers working indoors, protected from violence and coercion and earning an adequate income, and others who are street-based often supporting an addiction and vulnerable to exploitation by pimps and clients. In South Africa the majority of sex workers fall into the latter category. Sex workers are a marginalised group in society due to the illegal nature of their



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work and the stigma attached to their occupation. They are also a vulnerable population group as they are often exposed to high rates of violence from police, brothel owners and clients and they are exposed to health risks such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and sexual harassment. Violence amongst sex workers is a common occurrence. Several studies have documented the high prevalence of violence amongst sex workers and its association with mental illness.

Sex workers may be any gender and exchange sexual services or favors for money or other gifts. The motives of sex workers vary widely and can include debt, coercion, survival, or simply as a way to earn a living. Sexual empowerment is another possible reason why people engage in sex work. One Canadian study found that a quarter of the sex workers interviewed started sex work because they found it "appealing". The flexibility to choose hours of work and ability to select their own client base may also contribute to the appeal of sex work when compared to other service industry jobs. Sex work may also be a way to fund addiction. This line of work can be fueled by an individual's addiction to illegal substances before entering the industry or being introduced to these substances after entering the industry. These motives also align with varying climates surrounding sex work in different communities and cultures. In some cases, sex work is linked to tourism. Sex work can take the form of prostitution, stripping or lap dancing, performance in pornography, phone or internet sex, or any other exchange of sexual services for financial or material gain.

**The Legality of Sex Work in India:** Scintillating glass bangles and curvy traces, red pouts and hair adorned with jasmine; lascivious manoeuvres of hemlines too short: illegal by night, ostracised by day. This is a plausible melange of the imagery that term sex worker arouses. Gratifying the hushed desire of millions, a 'vice' that is most pronounced in the night and silenced out of existence in the day. An outcast community, with needs and desires as mainstream as us, these sex workers, live outside of the law. Sex work in India is governed by the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. Although sex work is not illegal according to the Act, supporting activities such as maintenance of brothels or soliciting customers are punishable offences.



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**Legal dimensions of sex work** :Depending on local law, sex workers' activities may be regulated, controlled, tolerated, or prohibited. In most countries, even those where sex work is legal, sex workers may be stigmatized and marginalized, which may prevent them from seeking legal redress for discrimination (e.g., racial discrimination by a strip club owner), non-payment by a client, assault or rape. Sex worker advocates have identified this as whorephobia. The legality of different types of sex work varies within and between regions of the world. For example, while pornography is legal in the United States, prostitution is illegal in most parts of the US. However, in other regions of the world, both pornography and prostitution are illegal; in others, both are legal. One example of a country in which pornography, prostitution, and all professions encompassed under the umbrella of sex work are all legal is New Zealand. Under the Prostitution Reform Act of New Zealand, laws and regulations have been put into place in order to ensure the safety and protection of its sex workers.

## **Objectives**

The objectives :

1. To Study of the sexual anxiety among the married and unmarried sex workers.
2. To Study of the sexual anxiety among the sex workers of urban area and rural area.
3. To Study of the interactive effect of sexual anxiety with regards to marital status and gender.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### ***Hypothesis***

1. There will be no significant difference in the mean score of sexual anxiety among the married and unmarried sex workers.
2. There will be no significant difference in the mean score of sexual anxiety among the sex workers of urban area and rural area.
3. There will be no significant difference in the interactive effect of the mean scores of sexual anxiety with regards to the marital status and gender.



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### **Variable**

#### **Independent Variable**

- 1. Type of women :** Married and Unmarried sex workers.
- 2. Type of family :** Sex workers of urban area and rural area.

**Dependent Variable :** Sexual anxiety Score.

### **Research Design**

A total sample of 100 sex workers equally distributed between married and unmarried of urban and rural area from Modasa District selected for the research study.

#### **Showing the table of Sample Distribution**

Type of Area (B)	Marital Status (A)		Total
	Married (A <sub>1</sub> )	Unmarried (A <sub>2</sub> )	
Urban Area (B <sub>1</sub> )	25	25	50
Rural Area (B <sub>2</sub> )	25	25	50
<b>Total</b>	50	50	100

### **Sample**

The sample constituted total 100 sex workers out of which 50 were from married sex workers (25 urban area and 25 rural area) and 50 were from unmarried sex workers (25 urban area and 25 rural area).

### **Tools**

“Sexual Anxiety Scale (SAS)” prepared by Pramod Kumar (2017) was used. In this inventory consists of 16 highly sensitive items presented in a 4-point format. The scale has four alternative response points, and the scoring of each statement is as per manual. The split-half Reliability found is  $N = 600, P = 0.88$ . Significant at .01 level of significance. Test-Retest Reliability-The Rest-Retest Reliability has been calculated with a fresh sample of 100 subjects, both male & female who were again administered the scale after an interval of 15 days. The coefficient of correlations got are 0.73. Face Validity-The scale seems to be having high Face Validity since the items were prepared following intensive interviews of 25 married subjects.



**Procedure**

The permission was granted from urban area and rural area of sex workers from Modasa District in Gujarat state after the establishment of rapport, personal information and the ‘Sexual Anxiety Scale (SAS)’ was administrated the data was collected, scored as per the manual and analyzed. The statistical method ‘F’ test was calculated and results were interpreted.

**Result and DISCUSSION**

**Table : 1 The Table showing sum of variance mean ‘F’ value and level of significance of marital status and gender:**

Sum of Variance	Df	Mean	F-value	Sign. Level
SS <sub>A</sub>	1	745.29	5.63	0.05*
SS <sub>B</sub>	1	37.21	0.28	N.S.
SS <sub>A*B</sub>	1	15.21	0.11	N.S.
SS <sub>Error</sub>	96	132.32	—	—
SS <sub>Total</sub>	99	13500.51	—	—

Df – 1 = \*0.05=3.92, \*\*0.01=6.84, N.S.= Not Significant

**Table : 2 The Table showing the Mean Score of sexual anxiety of married and unmarried sex workers:**

	A (Marital Status)		‘F’ value	Sign.
	A <sub>1</sub> (Married)	A <sub>2</sub> (Unmarried)		
M	38.16	32.70	5.63	0.05*
N	50	50		

The above table no.2 shows the mean score of sexual anxiety among married and unmarried sex workers. The mean score of married sex workers group is 38.16 and unmarried sex workers

group is 32.70. The ‘F’ value is 5.63 is significant at 0.05 level. This means that the two group interaction effect under study differ significantly in relation to sexual anxiety and marital status. It should be remembered here that, according to scoring pattern, higher score, the higher level of sexual anxiety. Thus from the result it could be said that, the married sex workers group is a higher level of sexual anxiety than the unmarried sex workers group. Therefore the hypothesis no.1 that, “There will be no significant difference in the mean score of sexual anxiety among the married and unmarried sex workers” is rejected.

**Table : 3 The Table showing the Mean Score of sexual anxiety of urban area and rural area of sex workers:**

	Type of Area (B)		‘F’ Value	Level of signification
	Urban Area (B <sub>1</sub> )	Rural Area (B <sub>2</sub> )		
<b>Mean</b>	34.82	36.04	0.28	N.S.
<b>N</b>	50	50		

The above table no.3 shows the mean score of sexual anxiety among sex workers of urban area and rural area. The mean score of sex workers of urban area group is 34.82 and sex workers of rural area group is 36.04. The ‘F’ value is 0.28 which was found to be not-significant level at 0.05. Therefore the hypothesis no.2 that, “There will be no significant difference in the mean score of sexual anxiety among the sex workers of urban area and rural area” is accepted.

**Table : 4 The Table showing the interactive effect of the Mean Score of Sexual anxiety of marital status and type of area:**

			A		‘F’ value	Sign.
			A <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>2</sub>		
<b>M</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B<sub>1</sub></b>	37.16	32.48	0.11	N.S.
		<b>B<sub>2</sub></b>	39.16	32.92		
<b>N</b>			50	50		



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The above table no.4 shows the interactive effect of sexual anxiety among the marital status and type of area. The mean score of married sex workers of urban area group is 37.16, married sex workers of rural area group is 39.16, unmarried sex workers of urban area group is 32.48, and unmarried sex workers of rural area group is 32.92. The 'F' value is 0.11 which was found to be not-significant level at 0.05. Therefore the hypothesis no.3 that, "There will be no significant difference in the interactive effect of the mean scores of sexual anxiety with regards to the marital status and type of area" is accepted.

## CONCLUSION

1. The married sex workers group is a higher level of sexual anxiety than the unmarried sex workers group.
2. There is no significant difference in the mean score of sexual anxiety among the sex workers of urban area and rural area.
3. There is no significant difference in the interactive effect of the mean scores of sexual anxiety with regards to the marital status and gender.

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