

Introduction

Sisonke Botswana and Success Capital Organization collaborated in a data collection exercise to develop a policy brief on decriminalization. Mostly young LGBTIQ and sex worker individuals were engaged in the process. Dumiso Gatsha led the facilitation, which included participants from Gaborone, it's outskirts, Francistown, Maun and Kasane. Tosh Beka provided welcome remarks, highlighting the importance of the convening and need to link criminalization of issues and people to challenge inequality in Botswana.

PRESENTATIONS

Factors Leading to Sex Work.

There was a consensus on sex work being the exchange of sex in order to gain money, goods or some other benefit. It was broadly defined as an exchange, with the following factors/influences:

- Unemployment plays a major role in sex work especially for bread winners in extended families-hardships of life
- Some do it for pleasure, i.e. satisfaction from well-endowed men
- Some face divorce and end up indulging in sex work for material gain/things
- Influence among peers further influences sex work
- The desire for more affluent lifestyles and possessions
- Human trafficking: in most cases young girls are trafficked overseas. Some are promised employment only to find that they are forced into sex work
- High ranking employees solicit sex for promotion or employment opportunities
- High unemployment and poverty levels
- Being orphaned
- Emotional blackmail
- Parents abandoning their children

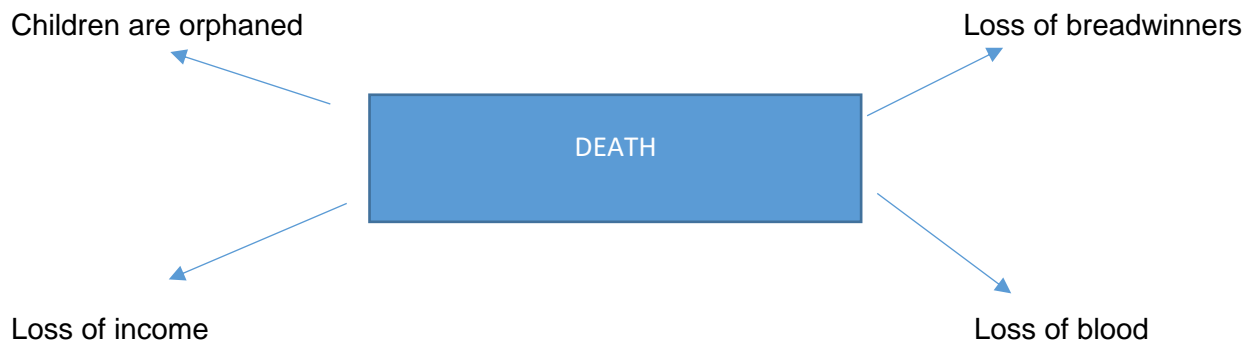
Unsafe abortion issues

- Non sanitized equipment's e.g the scissors, tonsils and blades that are used at the backstreet practitioners
- Regular arrests
- Uncalled for infertility: doing abortions frequently because of rape

- Stigma and discrimination: you being called graveyard, self-butcher
- Death caused by poisonous pills and drinks used and also due to loss of blood
- Loss of breadwinners
- Loss of income due to unplanned events arising
- Loss of confidence
- Leads to depression

Abortion challenges

- Non sanitized equipment
- Regular arrests
- Uncalled for infertility
- Stigma and infertility
- Death
- Loss of breadwinner
- Loss on income due to unplanned budgets



Community support among sex workers (mostly foreign), because they are far from home. This takes shape in supporting the following as a community:

1. Burials
2. Arrests
3. Food
4. Motshelo

Costs of Sex Work - Group 1

1. Violations of the right to freedom, health, privacy
2. Heightened risks of HIV/AIDS and other STI'S
3. Discrimination to the society-family-friends
4. Denied sources of income
5. Risks to lives of sex workers at stake e.g Violence by the clients, police officers and health workers
6. Unplanned pregnancy leading to unsafe abortion and deaths
7. Pending cases filed by sex -workers further taxing their situation
8. Stigma discrimination can result to drug and alcohol abuse
9. Mental health deficiencies
10. Deformation of character
11. Disclosure of theft
12. Pimps

Costs of Sex Work - Group 2

1. Risk of transmitted diseases (STI's etc.)
2. Defaults on treatment e.g ARV's
3. Bana ba lofela sekolo/ba latlhegelwa ke sekolo
4. Even sex workers miss school because most of them do sex to pay for their school fees
5. Emotional distress as they do not have the government on their side. Possession of more than 3 condoms is an offence by the police
6. Intimate partner violence -at home
7. Negligence by family members
8. Bribery by police officers-forced sex as well in order to get off the hook i.e. police hands
9. Changing of location
10. Cost of living is too high-You have to look your level best in order to get more clients and that requires more money
11. Stigmatization by the community-bad naming by the community
12. High risk of abortion (illegal unsafe)
13. Unsafe lifestyle-indulging in excessive intake of drugs and alcohol
14. We live on the run -The fear of the police
15. We sleep with the people we don't want to sleep with just to get off the hook
16. Emotional blackmail

17. Loss of valuables/belongings - during police raids belongings get lost due to running even when the police are manhandling you.

Working Group on Transgender individuals

CHALLENGES

- a) Denied change of gender markers on their ID'S
- b) Face difficulties when acquiring resources
- c) Stigma
- d) Violence
- e) Low self esteem

SOLUTIONS

- (a) Allow transgender to change their genders to highlight the right to expression on identity cards
- (b) Health workers should be aware that transgender people exist, and they should know their challenges and how to address them
- (c) Educate the community about the challenges and the existence of transgender
- (d) Provide for hormones for free just like ARV's are provided for free
- (e) Provide counselling to those who face challenges let them know that there is always a room for them, let them feel accepted in the society we live in

Working Group on Petty Offences

Ill treatment on sex workers	Peer Advisory too to alert others on bad clients
Ill-treatment on clients	Get dressed in front of client, don't carry bags into space
Client falsely accuses (sex workers) & vice versa	2 or 3 alibis, Peer advisory Let friends know of client. Leave valuables behind
Non-Payment	Get paid in advance and leave the money behind
No service	Peer advisory

Stealing from client	Peer advisory/Stick to what you have
Obtaining by false pretense	Screening detection

Working Group on decriminalizing same sex intercourse

Challenges

- Stigma and discrimination on the society
- Some people end up being neglected by their family members
- Emotional desires
- Health orientation at the health facilities

Solutions

- Form support groups
- Educating the community about LGBTQ
- Offering contraceptives to the LGBTQ community
- Offering counselling to those who are affected
- The parents also need counselling

CHALLENGES OF SEXUAL ABUSE

- Lack of employment leading to depression
- Unwanted pregnancies
- Health issues e.g. HIV/Sti's and Renal issues
- Theft
- Dependency syndrome i.e. cravings

MITIGATION

- Psycho-social support
- Family planning methods
- Rehabilitation center
- Correctional services
- Provision of free sterile needles

CHALLENGES

There was no internet access therefore, we were not able to give the attendants a Google form that we had prepared for them. We also experienced transport glitches for transporting individuals from the place that was booked for them to the conference area.

SUCSESSES

- Objectives of the workshop were achieved.
- Everyone who was invited was able to attend and contribute towards each activity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Sex workers and LGBTIQ community had suggested a knowledge sharing on each other's issues and experiences
- There is a need of in-depth work in understanding issues of economic and social issues of life.
- Ensure that parents also get counselling in order for them to understand their children better.