

PROSTITUTION AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT'S ROLE

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Abstract

The feminist movement has been admitted by the society, which is bringing the positive changes for the women. Over the time, the paradigm of women's role in society has been changed because nowadays the women has been entered the job sectors that used to be dominated by men. It cannot be denied that this feminist movement has developed since the 18 century, which has become the sign of the opening of public space for the women. This journal will investigate the influence of women empowerment towards the prostitute workers and their health in Pasar Kembang, Yogyakarta. Because these days, the role of the women has becoming special attention through the various jobs that done by women especially women who participate in the dark industry one like sex tourism which is still being controversial through the women's role.

Keywords: women, empowerment, tourism, health, child

Introduction

The feminist movement that demanding the emancipation or a human right equality and justice with men, which refers to the theory of equality between men and women and also the movement to get the women rights. The feminist movement (also known as the women's movement, women's liberation, or feminism) refers to a series of campaigns for reforms on issues such as reproductive rights, equal pay, maternity leave, domestic violence, women's suffrage, sexual harassment and sexual violence, all of which fall under the label of feminism. The word "feminism" came from the Latin word *femina* or women. It began in the western world in the late 19th century and has gone through three waves. First-wave feminism was oriented around the station of middle or upper class white women and involved suffrage and political equality. Second-waves feminism attempted to further combat social and cultural inequalities. Third-wave feminism is continuing to address the financial, social and cultural inequalities and includes renewed campaigning for greater influence of women in politics and media. In reaction to political activism, feminists have also had to maintain focus on women's reproductive rights.

The women rights are becoming a global challenge that supposes to get the attention. This global challenge is the government and community duties that needs to be fulfilled. To fulfill this duty, the government has a global agreement that was established on September 2000 by the United Nation in New York, United State of America. This global agreement is called MDGs (Millennium

Development Goals), which cover eight points that has purposes to fight against the poverty in the world in the context of development of human qualities. Those eight points of MDGs are:

1. Reducing the poverty and hunger
2. The achieving of basic education for every child
3. Increasing the gender equality and the women empowerment
4. Decreasing the number of children's death
5. Increasing the maternal health (mother)
6. Fight against the HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other infectious diseases
7. Guarantee the preservation of the environment
8. Developing the global partnership for the sustainable development

From these eight points of MDGs, there is three of it that directly related to the women's health. Those are the achieving of women empowerment and gender equality, decreasing the number of children's death, and increasing the maternal health. The debate about the existence of women from age to age always becomes an interesting issue. It is because some people consider and assume that women are weak and cannot do what the men do. It influences the women's ability in many sectors even the sectors that dominated by the men. Over the time, the role of the women is developing and increasingly visible in various industries. One of those industries is tourism industry. Tourism industry is a job industry that related to many sectors in the world, such as politic, law, economy, environment and many others. These sectors are no longer dominated by men, it is also now dominated by women since the feminist movement in late 19th century.

Literature Review

The other similar topic has been discussed by Roces (2006) in the journal entitled "*Prostitution, women's empowerments and the victim narrative in the Philippines*". This journal discuss about how women's organization constructed in Philippines and called themselves as "The Filipino Women". This organization take a part as the feminist project of addressing prostitution as a women's issue in the Philippines from 1985 to 2006. However, the radical positions of women's activism, the eternal binary of the woman as victim/agent, martyr/advocate or martyr/activist haunted the discourses about Filipino womanhood. This feminist engagement with these binary categories was fraught, ambivalent and contradictory. In a result, the transformation of former prostitutes into feminist advocates could be read as evidence of the success of the women's movements in refashioning women. At the same time, the contradictory and ambivalent responses over the representation of women as "victim" underscore the complex challenges faced by the women's movements who focus on prostitution as a feminist issue.

Methodology

Research subject of this journal is the women who work being prostitute in Pasar Kembang (Sarkem) Yogyakarta and also Bunga Seroja as women's organization

.In this paper, it use qualitative approaching , it is formed into narative sentence in a data and facts that happens in community.

Method of Data Collection

Type and source data were were divided into primary and secondary data. Primary data are data collected specifically for the research problem under investigation.Primary data consist of information collected for the spesific purpose at hand.Secondary data are those that have previously been collected for other purposes but can be used for the problem at hand.Secondary data consist of information already in existence somewhere,having been collected for another purpose.

Methods of data collection were done by doing observation, observation involves watching people and recording relevant facts and behaviour. According to Seaton and Bennet(1996), observation tends to be undertaken as a forerunner to other methods for the purpose of obtaining background information or formulating hypotheses.It can also be used to predict future behaviour as well as proving of value in the study of small communities and the pyhsical aspects of a place.Either the researcher can be directly involved in the role as an participant, i.e. participant observation, or the researcher can assume a detached role by using tape recorders, cameras or even two way mirrors.

Results and Discussion

Sex Tourism in General

Tourism is divided into several scopes working in tourism sector. There are natural tourism, cultural tourism, special interest tourism, and so on. One kind of tourism that has women as the main role is sex tourism. Sex tourism is travel to engage in sexual activity, particularly with prostitutes. The World Tourism Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations, defines sex tourism as "trips organized from within the tourism sector, or from outside this sector but using its structures and networks, with the primary purpose of effecting a commercial sexual relationship by the tourist with residents at the destination". There are several destinations for sex tourism, which is mostly the destinations are the developing countries. These countries are Morocco, Cambodia, Brazil, Dominican Republic, The Netherlands (particularly Amsterdam), Kenya, Philippines, Colombia, Thailand, Cuba, and Indonesia (particularly in Bali). Even though sex tourism is a multibillion-dollar industry that supports an international workforce estimated to number in the millions, that also benefits service industries such as the airline, taxi, restaurant and hotel industries, however it is also has disadvantages especially for the women and children.

There will be problems arise from this kind of tourism, such as sex trafficking, child prostitution and others, which leads to the main serious problem, that is women and children health. There are some health problem that very risky that could be resulted in death for the workers in prostitution area, such as

sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and many others. The people or the workers that involve in this tourism are often ignoring their own health for money. It is because the workers are commonly come from the financially poor people, whom the education is low, they have no skill to earn money, and they are lack of knowledge in health. This problem is faced by the developing countries, especially Indonesia. That is why we should empower the workers, especially women which also indirectly affecting the children through organization.

Organization is considered important because it can be used as a tool or facilitator to deliver the political participation of women. Through this organization activity, the women are expected to get the collective consciousness of the important of their own rights that neglected all this time. The examples of organization activities are provide the counseling, training for women, socialization and the giving of information to the women. By doing these activities, it is expected that the women can find another better occupation and change their mindset that being prostitutes and depending their lives on this kind of jobs is totally wrong. So that, in the end the sex tourism can be decreased and if sex tourism is decreasing, the health of the women and children will also increasing.

Women's Role in Sex Tourism

Sex tourism is one of most controversial things in tourism working area. It is one of difficult things to solved though. One thing for sure the main point that this aspect of tourism could run really well is the subject itself who use women as the "main product" in this tourism scope.

Why being "main product" ? Because actually, sex tourism is all about of men can buy sexual access to women's bodies in a freedom contract which is did not used to be bound by the relationship or sexual activity itself. That is why, women's bodies is like the property that men could buy, access and satisfied with. If we take a look deeply, we may call this tourism scope as a prostitution in general. Prostitution itself also dealing with buying and selling women's bodies in order to satisfy the buyer who are generally the mens.¹ Prostitutes are readily available at all levels of the market for any man who can afford one and they are frequently provided as part of business, political and diplomatic transactions. It is shown that the market of sex tourism or called as prostitution is quite large and also quite wide range of motivation by the buyer itself. Many of definition talk that sex tourism is a travel planned spesifically for the purpose of sex. In our opinion, this definition it quite incorect since we all knew that the traveller's motives quite divers too. The motives of enjoying the sexual activity itself could be another plan while they are staying in one country too.

In this scope of tourism, women is being a tool or property to run this business. That is why women is quite powerful in this area of working. Women is

quite powerful in this area of working, but the ironic thing is that women is just being the property to do the sexual service and receive the money. But, the money that the women's receive not going to be full payment it would be shared by the procurer too. As Ericson asserts, a prostitute must necessarily sell 'not her body or vagina, but sexual *services*. If she actually did sell herself she would be no longer be a prostitute but a sexual slave.² In a contrast to employers, the men who enter into the prostitution contract have only one interest; the prostitute and her body. A market exist for substitute for women's bodies in the form of inflatable dolls, but, unlike the machine that replace the worker, the dolls are advertised as 'lifelike'. The dolls are a literal substitute for women, not a functional substitute like the machine installed instead of the worker.

If we may take a look the women's role over sex tourism it could be indicated into two categories. It is following.

1. Paid employee (worker)

This kind of role that women did is casually done like the prostitution used to be like they are sell their body to be accessed by the buyer and satisfy them and got money. But ironically, since they have divers motives such as to fulfill their family needs, being trapped, and also to fulfill their daily life since most of them did not have the chance to reach and got good education.

2. Wage Slave

This kind of role is happens because the women itself want to sell themselves so she could feel satisfied and enjoy the sexual satisfaction. Their motives actually quite different with the worker one, since they did not prioritize on money but they prefer the sexual satisfaction beside they got money from what they already did.

Pasar Kembang as A Sex Tourism Area in Yogyakarta

In this paper , the focus is happening in Indonesia, which is still a developing country that has the same problem that other developing countries are facing. Yogyakarta, as a tourism city in Indonesia that has the second highest number of tourist arrival cannot be separated from this issue. Yogyakarta is a tourism city in Indonesia that has the highest number of tourist arrival. It is because Yogyakarta is rich of cultural and natural tourism. As a tourism city, it cannot be separated from many kind of tourism and one of it is sex tourism. The tourist that come to this lovely city are not only looking for the natural and cultural, but their other motivation of visiting this city is looking for another activity which can satisfied them in their lust such as sex tourism. Many people from other small cities around come here to look for job opportunities but some of them are not lucky enough so that they are forced involve in this kind of industry. Besides, the number of students that learn in this city is quite high, and some of

them have to find for their own money to fund their tuition fees. Not infrequently, they also fall into this sex tourism industry. There are several condition that makes people could involving and participate the activity in this sex tourism area whether it could be the worker or to be the consumer itself. One of the prostitution areas, which are very famous in Yogyakarta, is *Pasar Kembang* or usually abbreviated as *Sarkem*. It is actually a name of a street, which is well known as the area of prostitution. Administratively, this area is a part of *Gedong Tengen* sub-district, exactly in *Sosrowijayan Kulon*. *Pasar Kembang* as a prostitution area in Yogyakarta has been existed since 125 years ago. Therefore, this location has a historical value that is also enrich the culture of this city. According to the history that has been circulating in the community of Yogyakarta, *Pasar Kembang* that has been existed in 1818, it means that this prostitution activity has been existed since Dutch colonialism era. In the past, this area is deliberately built for the workers. At that time, there was a railway project that connected Yogyakarta with other cities. The Dutch government were expected the project workers to spend their money in *Pasar Kembang* as a prostitution area, so that the money will return to the Dutch government. Actually, after the independent era, the government of Indonesia has made an effort to stop this activity by giving the counseling to the workers in *Pasar Kembang*. However, this effort was not working and hard to realized because *Pasar Kembang* has brought the great advantages especially in economic sector that resulted in multiplier effect. With the existence of this prostitution area, the surrounding communities utilize it to open lodgings, restaurants, markets and others as their life support. It is reinforced by its location that is really close with the center of Yogyakarta, especially Malioboro that become a tourism attraction of this city. Nevertheless, Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono X as the government of this city does not want *Pasar Kembang* appointed as prostitution area. He prefers this area appointed as tourism area that provides the typical art and culture of Yogyakarta. It is because he does not want city has a bad image and expects the tourists get the experience historically not side of prostitution.

Women Empowerment's

The development of women empowerment in Indonesia still dominate by the women organization who leading by their programs. In the situation of sex tourism or prostitution, women empowerment could be distribute as facilitator who has the role to educate, guide and to train women who already already been involved in the sex tourism industry to educate, guide and train them to be aware about their health quality, mind set, knowledge, and also child rearing quality. This women organization also has the role to avoid women to enter this industry since this industry is disadvantage women itself. By the empowerment itself it is expected to be one of leading actions that could change the women's mind set and way of living who work in sex tourism to be aware of their rights and responsibility as a women. It might be not a quick step to fix the issue that relate on women in this industry , but slowly it could be recognized as a stepping stone for women to committed the role of women itself by follow the transformation of ages that also did not left behind the value of culture and nation's characteristic. Beside, by the women empowerment, it also could educate women

to become the women that were always proud of like resemble the women's characteristic meticulously. It also could empower women in diverse aspects such as economic, education, child rearing, culture, social, law, and knowledge.

The Role of Bunga Seroja Community and Their Effort in Health

Sex tourism in Pasar Kembang is surely caused the multiplier effect that gives a big advantage whether it is for local government or surrounding communities. However, there are disadvantages that caused by this kind of tourism. One of it is the sexual transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS. Because the government cannot stop this activity, therefore there is a community that formed called Bunga Seroja. Bunga Seroja Community is a community in Pasar Kembang has the role to seek the healthy sex transaction, between the women workers and their clients. They are also helped by the outsiders, that is KPA (Komisi Penanggulangan AIDS) which is also part of the government. This community and KPA (Komisi Penanggulangan AIDS) give the counseling and education to the women workers in Pasar Kembang about the danger of the free sex. They also give the informations to them to use the condom so that the sexual transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS can be prevented.

The Influence of Sex Tourism in Pasar Kembang: Social, Culture and

As one of the most controversial issues that happens in community, sex tourism is one of area in tourism that influence some aspect with huge respond itself. Sex tourism which also known as prostitution can not be separated with social life in general. It have different and huge respond at all to the community. There are three major influences that relate on sex tourism in Pasar Kembang Yogyakarta as follows.

1. Social

As we know that social life is could not be separated with each of things whether it is a major or minor impact since it have strong bond of it too. For sex tourism, it obviously has huge relation of it since it affect the social life whether for the prostitute (worker) and also for the local people who lives nearby. Since we know that Pasar Kembang is located in one of famous tourist attraction in Yogyakarta, it definitely has the pro and contra over the prostitution itself. For the pro one, we may say that the economic rate definitely increased along with increasing of the income for the local people who lives in the area of prostitution and also local people who lives nearby. The other pro one is that the local people could expand their mind set by the arrival of the tourist who come this sex tourism area, by expand their communication skill to the tourists itself. For the contra one, the development of prostitution could make the commoditization to human itself especially women, since the prostitute recognized as commodity that could be traded which could makes the relation between the prostitute supplier and local community is quite unequal. The social class of the prostitute itself regarded as a low class in community because the community recognize it as job which is not that proper and some of them recognize it as illegitimate work. In the other hand, the prostitute class also

low between the prostitute itself and the tourist or buyer since the tourist or buyer quite dominant because they have money to enjoy the sexual service.

2. Culture

Culture is like the most major aspect that could be influenced in. In sex tourism are, this aspect is quite have the relation too. As you know that in this area is also open for the tourists who came from other region out of Yogyakarta even from other countries too. With the characteristic that the tourists has, it could influence the moral and even also the knowledge of the local people who live in this area and even influence the prostitute itself. For the moral one, it is definitely influence the mind set and the living way of women. As you know that women in Indonesia especially women in Java has quite strong tradition to run the role as mother, wives, and children that has domestic issue to work on like to cook, to serve the husband, to follow the rules meticulously, and keep up their pride as a woman in their family. In this area of working, women also break the norm as a wife, since our tradition already taught us that women must be married since marriage is like a lifetime job then raising a children.

But, because of the sex tourism, women who participate in this area already change their mind set to become money oriented and behave like the foreigner or we may say it as act westernized which is not their real personality or characteristic.

3. Child

One of the major turning point in women life is pregnancy and child rearing. Those turning point is also one of characteristic of women that we all know since the past time. But, how about the women especially the prostitutes in localization like Pasar Kembang (Sarkem) ? Do they have this kind of mind set ? It is definitely they do had this kind of mind set for some of women. Some of prostitute also has kids that they raise of. The problem is that how they could child rearing in a proper way in such a location or place. Infact that the localization area is also one of danger area that possibly could infected by the HIV/AIDS. In the other hand, the psychology factors also influence to child rearing too in this area since the area is quite not suitable area for children to grow. It will influence the children's health, mind set, and also their behaviour too. The ironic thing is that there is one kindergarden in the Pasar Kemabang (sarkem) area which is quite inappropriate since in the morning the kids are going to school and being educated and in the night the prostitute could offer the body in the kindergarden. There is have to balancing factors between this business could running and also the health rate of children whether physically or mentally itself.

Conclusions

Even though sex tourism is become one of the biggest revenue for some countries and become the job opportunities for many people, however, it is also

give many disadvantages, such as health, morally, culturally, and socially. Women is expected to be empowered to looking for better job than becoming prostitute. So that sex tourism could be decreased.

It may quite difficult to solve this issue, especially to empower the women who are originally being the subject of sex tourism. But, with the existence of women empowerment and each women organization as the facilitator, it could raise the women pride by expand their health quality, knowledge, skill, education of child raising, mind set, behaviour which relate on social and culture , and also even economic that becoming the major reason of women involving this industry itself. By women empowerment, it expected to empower and inspire women who already been participate as prostitute in this area, so that, they could rebuild their ways of living to be the better one and precious women being one.

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