

Characters of female commercial sex workers in the Tegal Panas region

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Article Info

Article history:

Submission: 2022-09-14

Accepted: 2022-12-19

Published: 2022-12-29



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ABSTRACT

Becoming a Commercial Sex Worker is a disaster because this profession is a disgrace to practitioners, their families, and society. This study aims to describe the character of commercial sex workers who work in Tegal Panas. This study uses qualitative research with in-depth interview data collection techniques, observation, and documentation. This study uses data sources in the form of primary data and secondary data. Informants in this study were 11 sex workers in the Tegal Panas area who were randomly selected. The analysis technique used is source triangulation and technique triangulation. Researchers use an interactive model whose elements include data collection, data condensation, data presentation, and conclusion. The results of the study show that commercial sex workers in the Tegal Panas area have a pragmatic character to earn money easily without having to work hard. Tegal Panas Commercial Sex Workers have the character of not caring about the spread of sexually transmitted diseases to themselves and others. She has a character that violates decency because she seduces a man who is not her husband, dresses sexy, and dresses excessively. The character of Commercial Sex Workers is confused because on the one hand there is a desire to return to the right path someday, but for now, they are still comfortable living life as Commercial Sex Workers.

Keywords:

Character; Female; Commercial Sex Worker

Please cite this article in APA style as:

Cholifah, N., Purnamasari, I., & Handayani, P. M. (2022). Characters of female commercial sex workers in the Tegal Panas region. *Jurnal Inovasi Ilmu Sosial dan Politik (JISoP)*, 4(2), 192–198. <https://doi.org/10.33474/jisop.v4i2.18475>

INTRODUCTION

Commercial Sex Workers are workers who serve sexual activities to get payment or money from consumers who have used the services of Commercial Sex Workers (Destrianti & Harnani, 2018). Commercial sex workers are women who sell themselves to satisfy sexual desires for men who are willing to pay for them, these actions are carried out outside of marriage. Several factors cause a person to become a Commercial Sex Worker, including economic pressure, low education, social factors, environmental factors, and cultural factors (Wicaksono et al., 2020).

Commercial Sex Work should be considered a disease of society or a form of deviation from social norms (Ritaudin, 2019). Commercial sex workers can hurt society, such as causing venereal disease, destroying family harmony, and destroying morals, laws, and religious teachings (Mashuri & Fakhurrozi, 2014).

Philosophically, prostitution or commercial sex workers are included in social pantheology, namely, behavior that is contrary to the norms of goodness, local stability, morals, property rights, family solidarity, living in harmony with neighbors, good discipline, and formal law. Commercial Sex Work is a problem that can harm the health, and physical, spiritual, and social peace of the community, because of that Commercial Sex Worker receives a lot of rejection from society (Yulia & Harsono, 2021).

Epistemologically, commercial sex workers have existed since ancient times until today. The phenomenon of Commercial Sex Workers a phenomenon that continues to grow and has never been resolved. On the other hand, commercial sex workers are condemned by society as despicable and immoral work, but commercial sex workers are currently being used as a business commodity by some parties, such as commercial sex workers themselves and pimps.

Social order as a basic concept of human life is a collaboration of various components of society, such as social structures and institutions, social relations, social interactions and behavior, norms, beliefs, and other social values (Sijabat, et al., 2020). The term social order can mean a state of stability and consensus that exists without confusion or disaster (Arsal, et al., 2020). Social order occurs when an individual agrees to a shared social contract that requires adherence to certain rules and laws and adherence to certain standards, values, and norms (Bashori, 2017). Social order can be observed in national societies, geographic areas, institutions and organizations, communities, formal and informal groups, and even at the global social level (Wulandari, et al., 2021). Practices, behaviors, values, and beliefs that are contrary to the social order are usually considered deviant or detrimental and are limited by law enforcement, rules, norms, and taboos (Heylighen, et al., 2017; Pane, 2022).

Social order can be observed in national societies, geographic areas, institutions and organizations, communities, formal and informal groups, and even at the global social level (Yunus, et al., 2020). Practices, behaviors, values, and beliefs that are contrary to social order are usually considered deviant and/or detrimental and limited by law enforcement, rules, norms, and taboos (Bénabou & Tirole, 2016). In this study, the functional theory is a system of work carried out, namely social mapping and analysis of the problems and needs of CSWs, including practices, behaviors, values, and beliefs which has been embedded as part of the community (Jones, 2015). Widely considered negative, the existence of the rest area has given rise to a karaoke entertainment center with "sex" services which is very disturbing to the general public (Gunawan, et al., 2020).

Behavioral practices that are contrary to social order occur in most areas of social life, including residential areas in Tegal Panas (Santury, et al., 2022). Such behavior is considered a complex socio-economic problem for women commercial sex workers, and it is interesting to see it in both context and perspective (Arnfred, 2005; Zein & Marpaung, 2022). The problem of prostitution is not only a matter of public morality but there are many aspects behind this behavior (Amalia, 2016). Some people agree that prostitution is considered bad and prohibited by religion or the constitution (Anderson et al., 2014), including economic factors and psychological factors for people's lifestyle factors (Olufunmilayo & Abosedo, 2010; Puspitosari, 2010). Motivation for prostitution is an economic motivation that is formed from individual and environmental processes (Kurnialoh & Miftah, 2019).

Tegal Panas is a localization located in Jatijajar Village, Bergas District, Semarang Regency, Central Java. The Tegal Panas localization is located on Jalan Soekarno Hatta Km 29

which is next to the Tegal Panas gas station. The location of the Tegal Panas localization is on the side of the Semarang-Solo road, which is crossed by large vehicles from Jakarta or heading to Jakarta. Localization of Tegal Panas has been established since 1976, which was started by pimps buying land around Tegal Panas and setting up dimly lit stalls as a place for prostitution. Many Commercial Sex Workers come from outside the city to serve truck drivers and other consumers.

The characteristics of sex workers in the Tegal Panas area generally have a pragmatic character when it comes to obtaining material. Sex workers sell themselves for money. They serve consumers for money. Standard rates for sex services have been set by sex workers. Sex workers do not pay attention to the background of their customers, so they sometimes serve underage school children. The character of sex workers does not care about social norms. Based on the explanation above, research on the character of Commercial Sex Workers in the Tegal Panas area needs to be carried out. The purpose of this study is to describe the character of Commercial Sex Workers in the Tegal Panas area in depth and comprehensively.

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative research methodology with data collection techniques in-depth interviews, observation, and documentation. This type of research uses an approach to answer field problems and the data needed to answer social, economic, and environmental management problems and potentials in the Tegal Panas Region, Semarang Regency.

The research uses data sources in the form of primary data and secondary data. The informants in this study were 11 sex workers in the Tegal Panas area who were randomly selected. The analysis technique used is source triangulation and technique triangulation. the researcher compared the answers between one informant and another informant on the same question. Researchers compared the data obtained from in-depth interviews with data obtained from observation and documentation. The researcher uses an interactive model, the elements of which include data collection, then the researcher sorts the data according to the needs of research regarding the character of sex workers in the Tegal Panas area, the researcher presents the results of the research and conducts discussions, and the researcher draws conclusions.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study showed that the number of commercial sex workers in the Tegal Panas area, Semarang district, reached 300 people. About 100 Commercial Sex Workers are permanent and the rest are freelance Commercial Sex Workers who only come at night. The number of Commercial Sex Workers tends to increase due to the closure of localization in other places such as Sunan Kuning, Gambilangu, Semarang City, and Surabaya City Localization and Localization in Other Cities. The results of this study are in line with research conducted by [Gunarto & Harsoyo \(2021\)](#) which stated the closure of several localizations in Surabaya, Semarang City, and several surrounding areas.

It has a direct impact on increasing the number of female commercial sex workers in the Bandungan and Tegal Panas areas. Commercial sex workers who move from brothels that have been disbanded show they have the character of not want to work hard to do a better job. They are back again to become Commercial Sex Workers which is considered an easy job to earn money without having to work hard. This statement is in line with research conducted by [BM et al. \(2018\)](#) which states that Commercial Sex Workers in meeting their

economic needs tend to justify any means by doing work that violates norms and does not want to work hard at work that is by religious values.

The tariff for commercial sex workers in the Tegal Panas area ranges from Rp. 100,000 up to Rp. 150,000. Commercial sex workers do not care whether their consumers have infectious disease backgrounds or not, this will certainly be dangerous if commercial sex workers are also infected and transmit the disease to other people. The results of this study are in line with research conducted by Matahari (2019) which states that there has been an increase in sexually transmitted diseases in the city of Semarang. The character of Commercial Sex Workers shows that they do not care about their health or that of others.

Based on observations made by researchers, commercial sex workers in the Tegal Panas area offer themselves by seducing potential customers who pass by. The results of the researchers' observations show that commercial sex workers wear sexy clothes that reveal sensitive body parts and use conspicuous make-up to attract the attention of potential customers. The results of this study are in line with research conducted by Roem (2014) which states that commercial sex workers look all out using sexy clothes and seductive make-up. Seductive seduction to men who are not her husband and sexy clothes show the character of Commercial Sex Workers as someone who violates social norms to maintain decency and decency. The results of the Tegal Panas localization documentation can be seen in the following figure.



Figure 1. Tegal Panas localization

An in-depth interview with one of the informants, A2, stated that the informant was only targeting as much visitor money as possible. Visitors who do not understand will be invited to karaoke, and drink alcohol and snacks whose prices have been unreasonably inflated. Commercial sex workers have teamed up with pimps to earn a lot of money from visitors. This treatment shows that Commercial Sex Workers have a pragmatic character to earn money by trapping consumers.

Even though there is an appeal to use contraception as an effort to prevent transmission of venereal diseases, Tegal Panas Commercial Sex Workers admit that they do not. The reason is that the service process is faster so that in one-night Commercial Sex Workers can serve many consumers. This behavior shows that Commercial Sex Workers do not have the character to anticipate preventing the transmission of infectious diseases.

Various factors motivate someone to become a Commercial Sex Worker in Tegal Panas. Next the researcher presents the results of interviews with informants A1, A2, A3 A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, and A11 can be seen in the following table.

Table 1. Interview results regarding the factors that drive becoming a sex worker

No	Informant	Factors that encourage doing
1	A1	1. invite friends 2. maintain the family economy
2	A2	1. My husband told me to work as a sex worker 2. Domestic Violence
3	A3	1. Husband is not responsible 2. not given money during the marriage
4	A4	1. Invited to work as a sex worker by husband 2. Economic problems.
5	A5	1. Only karaoke guides who do not serve sex services 2. Karaoke operator's husband
6	A6	1. since the age of 14 have been familiar with the nightlife 2. Love Freedom
7	A7	1. Husband is not responsible 2. Domestic Violence
8	A8	1. invited by neighbors 2. do not have any skills
9	A9	1. Husband is not responsible 2. Debt
10	A10	1. Heartache for ex-husband 2. Betrayed by husband
11	A11	1. Divorced by husband 2. trapped in promiscuity 3. love nightlife 4. parental debt bondage due to serious illness treatment

Source: Data processed 2022

Based on the factors a person becomes a Commercial Sex Worker that has been shown in the table, it appears that the majority are due to economic factors and family ignorance. There have been various efforts made to rehabilitate Commercial Sex Workers with skills training in fashion, culinary business, and buying and selling online. 57% indicated that sex workers are interested in the culinary and fashion businesses. The results of the in-depth interviews show that Commercial Sex Workers are willing to change professions, but they feel that society still views them negatively or has not accepted them, so they are still comfortable living life as Commercial Sex Workers.

Statements of Commercial Sex Workers show an attitude of doubt or not being sure about their expectations. They are hesitant to get out of their comfort zone to leave the world of prostitution to find a better job. Even though they have received training and are interested in one of the training they have received, they do not try to implement the results of the training they have received.

CONCLUSION

Commercial Sex Workers in the Tegal Panas Region have a pragmatic character to earn money easily without working hard. Sexual workers with character do not care about the spread of sexually transmitted diseases for themselves and others. Commercial sex workers violate the value of decency because they seduce men who are not their husbands, dress sexy, and makeup excessively. Characters of Commercial Sex Workers are hesitant because on the one hand there is a desire to return to the right path someday, but for now, they are still comfortable living life as Commercial Sex Workers.

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