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Women's health, sex work and trafficking in Nigeria

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Sex work or prostitution is the exchange of sexual services, performances or products for material or financial compensation. Prostitution has taken a new dimension with modernization and the breaking down of all norms guiding marriage. The downtrodden in the recent economy has warranted an endless search for greener pastures. Young girls have been reported trading their life treasures for money. Trafficking women and children recently emerged as a global issue. Human trafficking is largely a form of slavery. Nigeria is a country of origin, transit and destination for human trafficking. This paper attempts to articulate the vulnerability of the victims of sex work and female trafficking, the health consequences and the Nigeria legal instruments to curb the menace. Sex workers and trafficking victims are exposed to unprotected sexual intercourse with multiple partners. They are also hired for pornography and bestiality. These experiences make them vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) like HIV/AIDS inclusive other female reproductive health challenges. The Nigeria laws, local and international agencies make efforts to curb sex work and trafficking. Fighting sex work and trafficking in Nigeria is all encompassing because it requires synergy of efforts to create public awareness of the crime, address the poverty situation in the country, create employment for the youths, reinforce relevant national laws, organize counseling, rehabilitation and reintegration program for the victims and allow them to access government subsidized services for HIV/AIDS and other female reproductive health care programs.

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Needle stick injury among health care professionals in a Social Security Organization; Khalij-e-Fars Hospital, Bandar Abbas, Iran

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Aneedle stick injury, which is the accidental puncture of the skin by a needle during a medical intervention is the most common cause of sharp injury events in the healthcare environment. Certain groups of individuals are at greater risk than others because of the nature of their work. A cross sectional study was conducted at the Medical Department of Social Security Organization, Khalij e Fars hospital- A 120 beds general hospital located in Bandar Abbas the south harbor of Iran. This survey was based on a self administered questionnaire which was filled anonymously. The questionnaire covered the age, gender, educational level, occupation group, the details of needle stick injuries within the last 12 months, under each professional group, circumstances resulting in the sharp incident, the kind of activity and procedure under which the needle stick injury occurred, and the HBV vaccination status. Overall, 71 (31.7%) of respondents had experienced needle stick injury within the last 12 months. Only 32 (45.1%) of them reported the injury. Operation room was the most prevalent site of needle stick injuries occurrence (16.9%). The most needle stick injuries occurred during surgery (26.8%). There was a significant difference in case prevalence of needle stick injury among various job categories ($p<0.05$). Surgeons appeared to have the highest prevalence (66.7%). Needle stick injuries among health care workers are common and often not reported. These findings underscore the need for ongoing attention to reduce such injuries and to improve reporting systems.

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