

ABSTRACT

Prostitution, an age-old institution, still lacks acknowledgment in society. Prostitutes in the country face stigmatisation and endure significant violence at the hands of pimp's clients and police officials. While the act of prostitution itself is legal, associated activities such as soliciting, pimping, brothel-keeping, kerb crawling, and living on the earnings of prostitutes are criminalised. Despite its legal status, prostitution faces societal backlash and police scrutiny. Prostitutes not only suffer from social stigma but are also frequently subjected to arrests and harassment by law enforcement officials. Debates surrounding the legalisation of prostitution in Indian society have persisted over time, with proponents advocating legalisation as a potential remedy to the challenges faced by sex workers and opponents expressing concerns about the potential increase in trafficking.

The research will look into the evolution of prostitution, encompassing both its historical development and its contemporary manifestations. The research will incorporate a thorough analysis of various models and theoretical perspectives, shedding light on the various models of prostitution that different countries have adopted around the world. It will comprehensively deal with the ITPA as this law is very important to understand prostitution in the country. A recent Supreme Court Order has upheld the dignity and rights of sex workers. A key focus will be the nuanced exploration of the contentious debate surrounding the legalisation of prostitution, presenting arguments from proponents and opponents of legalisation, and drawing insights from advocacy organisations, sex workers, and law enforcement officials. The research explores whether legalisation can be the potential solution to the problem being faced by the sex workers.