

**PROFORMA FOR SUBMISSION OF MSW PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR APPROVAL  
FROM ACADEMIC COUNSELLOR AT STUDY CENTRE**

**Enrolment No: ID1217172**

**Date of Submission: December, 2016**

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**Title of the project: LIVING AND WORKING IN AREAS OF STREET SEX WORK:  
FROM CONFLICT TO COEXISTENCE THE CASE NIKAT CHARITABLE  
ASSOCIATION**

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**LIVING AND WORKING IN AREAS OF STREET SEX  
WORK: FROM CONFLICT TO COEXISTENCE THE CASE  
OF NIKAT CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION**

**MSW DISSERTATION PROJECT PROPOSAL**

**(MSWP\_001)**

**PREPARED BY**

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**DECEMBER, 2016**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

# 1. INTRODUCTION

This is the study that attempts to see the validity of the researcher's hypothesis concerning living and working in areas of street sex work from conflict to coexistence in the city of Addis Ababa in general and in five case study areas of Chechnya, Merkato/Sebategna, Gojjam Berenda, Piassa/Doromanekia and Awtobus Terra in particular. The history of sex work in Ethiopia is hard to measure, although sex work is a fact of life in many of our cities. As there have been no national multi-site audits of street sex work, it is extremely difficult to estimate the numbers of women who sell sex on the streets of Ethiopia cities with any reliability or accuracy. In Addis Ababa estimates of the size of the sex worker sub-population varied between about two thousand and one hundred and fifty thousand, which was a too wide range to be of any help for program planning and evaluation. No attempt had ever been made to estimate the total size of the sex worker population in the city. After considering several population size estimation methods, it was decided that a census of sex workers would provide the best information for program planning and evaluation (Overs C., Alemayehu B., Hawkins K., and Moody N. 2011).

Although there is no real certainty regarding numbers, it is generally agreed, however, that the street sex market is diminishing in importance as mobile phones and the internet provide new ways of making contact with clients. Nonetheless, street sex markets are well established in many areas of Addis Ababa City, providing perhaps the most visible manifestation of sex work (and one continuing to attract significant numbers of clients). Furthermore, while indoor working may be an option for many, this may not be feasible for all because of problems such as homelessness and drug use (Sanders, 2004b; Galatowicz et al, 2005). Some sex workers also exhibit 'occupational mobility', moving between indoor and outdoor working as circumstances dictate, making the overall picture of markets in different cities a dynamic and shifting one (Hubbard and Sanders, 2003).

Street sex workers can be a vulnerable and marginalized group. Research shows high levels of violence and robbery against street sex workers, perpetuated by clients, passersby,

‘pimps’ or managers and, on occasion, local residents who object to the selling of sex in their neighborhoods (McKeganey and Barnard, 1996; Phoenix, 2002; Hester and Westmarland, 2004). Street sex workers may also be vulnerable to exploitation from drug dealers, as many drug-using women sell sex to fund their drug use. The prevalence “chat” in street drug markets has also led to increased risk taking and extended working hours for some sex workers, increasing their exposure to violence (May et al, 1999, 2001; Becker and Duffy, 2002). In light of these concerns, public spaces may become sites of risk and exploitation for some street sex workers, raising the importance of increasing our understanding of this issue to ensure appropriate responses to address their needs, while responding to the legitimate concerns of the wider community about street sex work.

According to Andargachew, Commercial sex workers have been known in Ethiopia since olden times, although there are no data as to when and where commercial sex first appeared in the country. Some sources associate the beginnings of commercial sex with the movement of kings, nobles and warlords, the establishment of cities and the development of trading (Andargachew 1988). Subsequently, towns and government offices became centers for the migration of people, particularly females from rural areas. Initially, the migrant females lived in *tella or araki* houses where they helped the owners to prepare local beverages (*tella or araki*), worked as waitresses and/or entertained the customers; eventually, many of them became commercial sex workers. Over time, with the growth of Addis Ababa, the number of *tella, araki* and teahouses increased (Attaway Mariana, Urbanization in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa University, June 1976).

This research project examines how residential streets in urban communities in Addis Ababa characterized as areas of female street sex work are used and shared. While sex work may be seen as a relatively new feature in some areas, in others it has been a part of the urban street scene for many years. Certainly, some residents are less happy than others with this state of affairs, with some feeling that the presence of sex work restricts their use of public spaces at particular times.

## **2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The research forms part of the wider Nikat Charitable Association ‘Public spaces, shared places?’ programme, which is concerned with developing our understanding of social relations and interactions within public spaces, to help inform policymakers and practitioners about how public spaces function and what this might mean for the design and management of these spaces.

There is substantial literature on how fears of other populations are prompting the increased surveillance and regulation of public spaces at the heart of Addis Ababa. Yet, in contrast to the consumer-oriented spaces of the city center, there has been relatively little attention devoted to the quality of the street spaces in residential neighborhoods beyond the central city.

This study set out to consider whether residential streets could serve as shared spaces where residents and sex workers could coexist, drawing on research in residential neighborhoods in five corridors in Addis Ababa, termed Chechnya, Merkato/Sebategna, Gojjam Berenda, Piassa/Doromanekia and Awtobus Terra. Each represented an established area of street sex working. The five sites were under varying pressure from changes such as regeneration and high population turnover. Residents had common concerns over crime, anti-social behavior, environmental quality, poor housing and lack of facilities.

## **3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

### **3.1 GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

The general objective of the study is to assess the range of community responses to street sex work, identifying why and how groups in some areas have sought to ‘reclaim’ the streets by excluding sex workers, while others exhibit greater tolerance.

### **3.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

- To identify policies that may reduce tension and conflict in areas of sex work; and
- To explore whether residential streets can become shared spaces where residents and sex workers can coexist.

#### **4. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The research topic is chosen, as one of residents' most widespread concerns in the five areas is street sex working, along with activities such as drug dealing, imposed negatively on their use of public space.

For many residents across all five areas, sex work did not impose greatly on their overall quality of life. However, they identified specific concerns, centering on the visibility of sex workers and associated noise and remains, particularly discarded condoms. Street sex work and control crowded also impacted on some residents' feelings of personal safety, linked to perceptions of risk, crime and disorder and lack of social control. Residents' wider concerns over crime often outweighed those relating specifically to sex work.

#### **5. UNIVERS OF THE STUDY**

The universe of the study will consist of with a total of 31 agency representatives; 69 local residents (a mix of male and female residents from different ethnic groups and varied age groups, some being retired and some working); community or business representatives; 36 women sex workers; and 12 staff or volunteers in sex work projects. Focus groups comprised between five and 12 individuals.

The research area covers five corridors in Addis Ababa, termed Chechnya, Merkato/Sebategna, Gojjam Berenda, Piassa/Doromanekia and Awtobus Terra. Each represented an established area of street sex working.

#### **6. SAMPLING OF THE STUDY**

The structure of this study will be administered using both a qualitative and exploratory design. A qualitative design was chosen in order to explore and analyze individual experiences of the participants rather than gathering statistical data from a greater pool of participants.

## **7. DATA COLLECTION TOOLS AND PROCEDURES**

The main tool of data collection shall be interview schedule with a total of 31 agency representatives; 69 local residents (a mix of male and female residents from different ethnic groups and varied age groups, some being retired and some working); community or business representatives; 36 women sex workers; and 12 staff or volunteers in sex work projects. Focus groups comprised between five and 12 individuals.

The interview schedules shall contain mostly closed end questions. Non-participant observation shall be yet another method of data collection. Many issues on which the data is difficult to be collected reliably by way of interview, non-participant observation or direct observation method shall be resorted to.

The research participants will be given to sign an informed consent form prior to being interviewed and will be verbally informed about the purpose of this study.

### **7.1 DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS**

The completed interview schedules shall be scrutinized, verified, edited and arranged serially. The information received from interviews and focus groups with all stakeholders will be analyzed together, with individual members of the research team taking on specific themes.

## **8. CHAPTERIZATION**

The **first** chapter shall be an introduction to the subject-matter of the present study. In this chapter, an attempt shall be made to describe the concept of the issue on living and working in areas of street sex work, from conflict to coexistence.

**Second** chapter shall deal with the Theoretical framework and research design of the present study. A review of literature and findings on the predominant origins of street sex work shall also be included in this chapter.

The **third** chapter shall explain the study design, sampling procedures, data collection procedures, instruments; data analysis approaches and organizing principles.

The **fourth**, chapter analyzes the responses, this analysis focuses on the stress living and working in areas of street sex work, from conflict to coexistence and concerned with developing our understanding of social relations and interactions within public spaces, to help inform policymakers and practitioners about how public spaces function and what this might mean for the design and management of these spaces.

In the **fifth** chapter, will elucidate the major findings of the present study and recommendation.



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