

Economic Rationality and Morality in Preventing Teenager to Be Prostitute

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to identify the background of what causes teenagers having profession as prostitutes, modus operandi, and its impact. Another purpose is to create a model for the sustainable empowerment of adolescent sex workers based on economic rationality and morality to cultivate a positive mindset and behavior as the foundation of productive and consumptive activities in daily life. The present paper is based on a qualitative design using several steps. First step was undertaken through a survey to obtain real description of respondents by snowballing sampling technique. Second step was to have SWOT analysis as determinant of the feasibility of becoming pilot research location. Third step was done through in-depth interview and focus group discussion. The research result indicates that profession as indirect prostitute of teenager currently still exists and grows increasingly in Malang City. The prostitution practice in secretly operated, but indirect prostitutes can be traced through the users such as close friends, sales promotion girls especially with tester products. The majority age is fifteen to twenty three years with education level of junior high school to university. One way to change the teenager prostitute's behavior is by empowering teenagers productive and consumptive activities based on economic rationality and morality.

Keywords: teenager, prostitute, economic rationality and morality

1. Introduction

Profession as prostitute is not something new in society's life, it is as old as the human being. Unfortunately, its expansion involves teenagers now days. Teenagers are children of sixth grade of primary schools to senior high school, with age range of thirteen to seventeen years old. They are active teenagers as they have strong motivation which could give influence to their behavior of huge curiosity. Therefore, if teenagers cannot control their behavior well enough, it will lead to norms distortion.

Deputy of child protection in Ministry of Women Empowerment and Children Protection in Indonesia stated that more and more children under the age of 18 years are sex exploited since 2007. It happens in many cities and Malang City in East Java Province has the most children involved in prostitution (Firdaus, 2010) and might increase in the future. Prostitute has become a profession because there is a reciprocal system, the compensation of a transaction with a model of body attractiveness. The higher the class, requires a lot of capital to create a more attractive face and body (Bahtiar and Purnomo, 2007).

Diseases resulting from prostitution or sexually transmitted diseases are a group of infectious diseases that are transmitted through sexual contact. Sexually transmitted diseases include syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia (lymphogranuloma venerium), genital herpes, condyloma akumininata, and pubic lice. Transmission of sexually transmitted diseases generally is through sexual intercourse (90%), while the other way is through blood transfusions, needles, pregnant mothers to their fetuses, and others. The main source of infection is the female sex workers (80%). Sexually transmitted disease is often called venereal disease, or a disease sexually transmitted (Nurmawati, 2010).

That is the reason why customary norms prohibit prostitution in normal conditions, because it is not respecting woman, teenagers, and insulting wives of the men involved in prostitution, not respecting the marriage sanctity, causing sexually transmitted diseases, and disrupting marriage harmony. The religious norms in general also prohibit prostitution. God's word says do not approach adultery as it is actually an heinous act (Quran, Surah Al-Isra, verse 32). Adultery is a sex intercourse between men and women outside marriage, scandalized, destructing descent, causing sexually transmitted disease, causing disputes in disharmony family, and other misfortunes.

Prostitutes actually understand very well that prostitution is against the religious and cultural norms of

society. On the other hand, profession of prostitution is a complex problem in relations to poverty, ignorance, limited employment opportunities, and low self-esteem. Therefore, prostitution should be encountered, otherwise it will become just common thing. Efforts in controlling prostitution need to involve all segments of the existing government, social institutions, social organizations, religious leaders, press agencies, academic institutions, and experts to work together to assist in creating high quality, with morality, faithful, educated, healthy and tough to compete society of Indonesia and be able to meet the better future.

Changing the behavior structure of juvenile prostitutes is not easy, it requires sustainable coaching to be able to build knowledge and productive thinking habits, then developing attitudes and behaviors that are implemented in the productive and consumptive activities of daily necessities. Improving behavior based on economic rationality and morality is essential as economic aspect is closely related to the fact that most humans live by and have a great influence on other aspects of social life. Therefore, it is necessary to take a study on the existence of potential improvement of human resources juvenile prostitutes through increasing positive behavior in productive and consumptive activities.

This research was conducted in Malang City in Indonesia, with consideration that since colonial times, Malang is known as a resort, temporary living place for tourists and tourist destination. Malang is also known as Paris van East Java and Switzerland of Indonesia because of its tropical and cool mountain climate, rich of beautiful scenery and natural environment surrounded by plantations, mountains, rivers and parks. Another consideration is that there is an increase in number of teenagers trapped into prostitution in Malang City.

The purpose of this study is to identify the background of what causes teenagers having profession as prostitutes, *modus operandi*, and its impact. Another purpose is to create a model for the sustainable empowerment of teenage sex workers based on economic rationality and morality in order to cultivate a positive mindset and behavior as the foundation of productive and consumptive activities in daily life.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Teenagers and Prostitution

Teenagers are young teens who are expected to and can become human resources with good quality, morality, and good morals. The term teenager is a term for those aged around 15 to 18 years of age who are at risk because of the full period of rebellion and the search for identity, age of blooming like a flower unfolding (Lucy, 2008). Teenagers are people who are in a period of transition, from childhood to the teenage years. During this period, it usually occurs acceleration in the growth of the physical and psychological, both in terms of physic, attitudes, ways of thinking, and acting, they are no longer children. They also are not yet adult with maturity of mind. Zakiyah Daradjat limits teenagers age between the ages of 13 to 24 years (Toha, 2008). While Hasan Basri assesses teenager as a group of people who are leaving childhood filled with dependency and towards the formation of responsibility (Toha, 2008).

In vulnerable teenager period, attentions of parents and community surrounding are to be attached to prevent teenagers fall into prostitution. When prostitution has become a profession for teenagers, it is not easy to overcome. Until now, there is yet no single way that successfully eliminates the problems associated with prostitution services business in society, it even expand widely. Prostitution practices may lead to unrest the society, it become social problems, or be the object of legal affairs traditions, morals and religion, sometimes even become problems to the state norms. In addition, prostitution practices not only become symptoms of moral violation, but practice of business trade activities. Therefore, people do not get desperate to find way out in handling the prostitution problems.

2.2 Economic Rationality and Morality

One model of overcoming teenage prostitution problems offered in this research is empowerment of economic rationality and morality behavior, by building self potency in order to control teenagers' self, determine their own life style, increase their skill, increase their self confidence, solve their problems and build their independency, so they could increase their dignity and values off the prostitution trap. The main point of the empowerment is instilling values of modern culture, such as hard work, efficient, openness and responsibility.

Economic activities are found to be in various forms, as the impact of continuous economic development and the rapid advancement of technology. Economic activity has essentially the same goal of meeting the needs of life in order to maintain viability. Economic activities can be divided into two, namely the economic activity that aims to generate resources (productive activities) and economic activity that is directed to spend resources (consumptive activities) (Slavin, 1991).

Pairing productive and consumptive activities in individual's lives requires the assertion that not all individuals can carry out both productive activities and consumptive activities. Since man was born, since then he has consumptive activity, performing productive activities would require maturity until someone is capable to run productive activities. In macro context, it can be concluded that people basically undergo more consumptive activities than productive activities. Consequently, in productive activities they should produce more resources than their consumption needs. In micro context, such consequence is applied to individuals who have responsibility for others consumption needs.

In addition to rationality, it cannot be denied that productive and consumptive activities cannot escape from morality considerations (Etzioni, 1992). Morality that determines the economic behavior, in some cases can cause one to neglect rationality in the productive and consumptive activities. Morality encourages people to consider the good and bad problems in economic action. Another factor in directly determining someone's productive and consumptive activities is lifestyle which can be defined as an individual effort to achieve superiority or perfection in the conception of personality psychology (Adler in Schultz, 1981). These efforts are usually manifested in the form of behavior with orientation of attracting attention or other awards.

Rationality generally interpreted as a symptom of proper behavior, to achieve certain goals under pressure of limited certain conditions and barriers as well. Rationality in economic behavior is assumed that the economic behavior always act rationally, the economic actions have been planned previously and carried out consciously through careful thought. Etzioni (1992) revealed that rational human beings are those who act wisely, can efficiently choose means to achieve economic goals. In this case, the implied meaning is that people are able to access reality and utilize sense in action.

Studying human behavior in relation to social life, cannot be separated from the study of morality, therefore, it is necessary to develop an attitude awards, attention and concern for others, which is conceived as morality. Etzioni (1992) stated that morality is related to attitudes and actions of a person in interaction with other people or groups of people. It refers to a person's moral concern for the presence of other people and groups that exist in the environment.

Morality in economic behavior can be interpreted as an attempt to integrate two opposing views or paradigms. The nature of morality is related to rewards, attention and concern for others, while the economic behavior that has already received generally guided by rationality, which is associated with problems in achieving gains for themselves. The importance of morality in economic behavior, in addition to private interests, is basically number of other motivation and most importantly, moral motivation, because in economic behavior, to achieve the maximization of individual choice is not consistent, due to environmental influences in making choices.

3. Methodology

The present paper is based on a qualitative design using several steps. First step was undertaken through a survey to obtain real description of respondents by snowballing sampling technique, as well as in-depth evaluation on potential group. Second step was to have SWOT analysis as determinant of the feasibility of becoming pilot research location. Third step was done through in-depth interview and focus group discussion, which was then evaluated using monitoring method and participatory evaluation. The benefit of using this method is to build a stronger commitment from the participants in order to corroborate the findings. At the end of this study, a model of empowering teenagers would be validated. Therefore, this research is undertaken in two years time.

4. Result and Discussion

4.1 Identifying Teenagers, Modus Operandi, and Impacts of Prostitution Practices

In Malang City, there are two groups of prostitution such as group of direct prostitution and group of indirect prostitution. Direct prostitution group is a group of people who work as prostitute for their living and localized as legal group so they are recognized even in numbers. Indirect prostitution group is a group of people whose profession as prostitute in hidden operation but can be traced from group of users, friends, group of sales promotion girl especially for tested products. This group of prostitute is still expanding in Malang City, and the number is increasing especially the group of teenagers.

This research finds that teenage prostitutes are most in the age of 15 to 23 years old with level of education starts from high school to university. This research finds that a group of teenagers graduated from high school work with multi jobs such as sales promotion girls and as prostitute. The high information technology era

provides them with the easiest way to communicate in undertaking their professions. A problem of teenagers prostitute is a multi dimensions problem, in which involving girl and boy teenagers. This is actually a common problem, but the new phenomenon shows that there is an increase number of girls teenager involved in this problem.

There are various complex reasons behind the problem of teenagers involved in prostitution in Malang City. A girl teenager become a prostitute is because of many reasons.

IZ (pseudonym) aged of 19 years described:

I was born in a poor family. My mother was from well known rich family but my father was from poor farmer family. At the time, my mother and father were so much in love that they got married. But after several years, my mother could not get along as she was used to the habit of living in rich family whereas my father could not get better living as he was only a farmer. My mother then always got tempered very often because of the poor economic condition of our family. One day I decided to go out from my village as since then, I committed to continue my study to higher level without burdening my parents. I started to have a close relationship with a rich business owner but has only high school certificate who promised me to pay all the cost for my education as if I will marry him after I graduated from university. As the time went, the man asked for my virginity because he wanted to be ensured that I would marry him later after my graduation. After that time, the man never gave me enough money for my education. I then tried to get money myself. My college friend offered some help in getting part time job by using only mobile phone and internet access from my flat room. When I first met people who would employ me in a hotel room, then I realized the kind of job I was doing. I could not refuse the job as I need money for finishing my study. These people whom I usually work for are from different backgrounds. Most of them are rich businessmen, and in fact a few are my lecturer including my supervisor for my thesis writing.

The explanation of IZ is a description of how she was trapped into prostitution life which is not caused by one factor, but complicated one. Table 1 shows the background reasons of teenagers trapped into prostitution practice.

The era of using global communication system, information accessibility through electronic and printed media, mobile phone, and cheap pirated video in community may give advantages to their life. Each phenomenon happens in this life can be known easily and this would give positive and negative impacts. This depends on each individual way of thinking and the foundation of life. Each individual would be grateful with the better and more sophisticated high technology products including internet technology which has knocked down the world border, and electronic media such as television which provide entertainment, actual news and information. In addition, mobile phone which assists people in communication wherever and whenever they are. This becomes the starting point of teenagers' problems. When they have frail morality, all the negative impacts may come across to their life. In this globalization and information era and with lack of parental supervision in educating children, then teenagers may easily trapped into prostitution life.

Table 1 Background Reasons of Teenagers Trapped Into Prostitution Practice

No	Background reasons	Percentage (%)
1	Being in promiscuity environment	17,6
2	Lack of parental supervision	20
3	Following life style trend	24,7
4	Inharmonious family	3,5
5	Having fun and addicted	6
6	Impact of information accessibility and openness	28
	Total	100

Source: respondents' data (2011)

In Malang City, information accessibility and openness is the first rank of reasons for the teenagers being trapped into prostitution life, 28% of respondents mentioned their first experience being trapped is because of the use of sophisticated information technology. The limited government regulation and law enforcement towards the mechanism of using information technology have caused many people destroy the teenagers life. Some of the concerns on teenagers such as juvenile delinquency, hedonistic and consumptive lifestyle, free sex, smoking, drug, and on line game addicted, tend to become lifestyle of teenagers recently.

The sophisticated technology and information openness are developing widely in daily lifestyle. This lifestyle would affect in positive and negative ways for people who are involved in such a lifestyle. Lifestyle trend which becomes more dynamic such as fashionable performance, update with sophisticated mobile phone and laptop, would affect the teenagers being trapped in prostitution practices as they would fulfill all their wants which require a lot of money to buy. For teenagers from the rich family, this would not be a problem as they could afford buying all their needs and wants. On the other hand, teenagers from poor family with such wants would find moneyed people to buy their wants in order to support their daily high performance. This will trigger the teenagers to be trapped in prostitution practices. As what Ina (pseudonym) faced, a second semester university student, she was trapped into prostitution practices because of getting influenced by the lifestyle trend.

..... Ina (pseudonym) condemned that her college friends performance were so fashionable, they have new branded and sophisticated mobile phone. According to Ina, by having a mobile phone will facilitate the communication within her networking. Therefore, Ina would not like to be defeated by her friends in terms of having such a new branded mobile phone. Ina then tried to acquire money to fulfill her needs and wants to have good performance among her friends, which brought her to prostitution practices.

Teenagers need full attention, love and caring from their parents. The parents should of course give their kids full of heartfelt attention. Two ways communication between parents and their kids should be built, as teenagers are in the identity formation phase. Otherwise, the teenagers would be easily trapped into such lifestyle of free sex, prostitution, or drug addicted. Teenagers may rebel to their parents as they think their parents emphasized too many taboos and rules not to have free sex, which this may cause teenagers rebel to the society and moral norms which restrain them, and finally the teenagers will prefer to have free sex lifestyle (Kartono, 2005). The research result in Malang City indicates that 20% of respondents responses confirm that teenagers trapped into prostitution practices is caused by the lack of love and caring attention from parents. Their reasons are mostly because of their parents are busy with their jobs; teenagers get lonely at home, and cared by grandparents.

Some teenagers were firstly trapped into prostitution practices because of their social interaction in life environment. Their curiosity to know about social environment and friends' invitation which trapped teenagers into free social interaction especially prostitution practices. Below is a statement of a girl teenager:

Avi (pseudonym), 15 years old, start her job as prostitute because of friends' invitation who has been involved in free sex lifestyle. Her friends are in second year of junior high school, had have sex intercourse with their close friends. These teenagers gradually become used to the lifestyle and bring it into a platform of making profit, therefore teenagers trapped into prostitution practices, in addition to less caring family.

Teenagers from good life environment will come out as good behavior teenagers. Whereas, teenagers with free lifestyle environment may cause them trapped into prostitution world. According to Kartono (2005), excessive social interaction basically may cause the teenagers trapped into prostitution practices, as curiosity of girl teenagers and pubescent kids on sex life will bring them into prostitution and of sex bandits' persuasions.

The effects of free sex environment are having friendship with bad value of glitzy world, smoking, drinking liquor, demanding luxury lifestyle. These become the reasons for teenagers wanting to try wild world, as their friends involved in this so called "promising business" earlier. The reasons for teenagers plunge into prostitution are vary, nevertheless the environment aspect is the most decisive one.

In relations to sex, it would not be matter if having sex in healthy way such as not with different partner, or changeable partner, be responsible, and not infringe norms. But contrary, the sexuality problems faced currently is having sex with no responsibility and infringing norms, because it is done before marriage. The behavior of teenagers in relations to prostitution is basically not their pure actions but as the effect of teenagers' external side. This is influenced by some factors such as: 1) self quality of teenagers which is reflected from the unhealthy

emotional development, experiencing barriers to healthy social interaction, less understanding of religion norms, inability in using spare time; 2) life quality of the family unsupported the teenagers to behave well, less caring and loving from parents, families norm shift in developing a positive norm, and parents did not provide sex education to the teenagers; 3) unhealthy quality of environment in which communities experiencing the communication gap among neighbors; 4) lack of good information that may lead to difficulties in getting information about sexuality.

The development of information technology may bring not only advancement to the nation but also some victims of misusing the technology. The teenagers who fall into prostitution practices were born in a modern and sophisticated information technology era but their ability is unbalanced with the use of technology. Prostitution practices are done in many ways by teenagers as described in the following Table 2.

Table 2 Prostitution Practices by Teenagers Indirect

No	Method of Practices	Percentage (%)
1	Via the internet	27,8
2	Via mobile phone	44,4
3	Via friends	9,26
4	Via brothel keeper	18,5
	Total	100

Source: respondents' data (2011)

Table 3 Users of Teenagers Indirect Prostitutes

No	Users of Teenagers Indirect Prostitutes	Percentage (%)
1	Government Officials	25
2	Businessman	30
3	Lonely Men	20
4	Thesis Supervisor	10
5	Close Friends	15
	Total	100

Source: respondents' data (2011)

The research results show that most impacts of teenager prostitution practice is some teenagers have striking behavioral changes. For example, they keep performing nice and fresh with less make up, neat and fashionable clothes, exclusive life style (such as treating friends in big restaurants, spending money for clothing, make up, accessories, and beauty salon). In addition, they always have more than one updated, newly and branded high technology mobile phone in which one is used for communicating with family and others are used for prostitution business networking purposes. This is done in order to keep up the prestige and self appearance so not inferior with other friends. There are many impacts faced by teenagers' prostitutes, as shown in the following Table 4.

Table 4 Impacts Faced by Teenagers Prostitute

No	Impacts Faced by Teenagers Prostitute	Amount	Percentage (%)
1	Productive and consumptive behavior which not based on rationality and morality	24	29,3
2	Decline in academic achievement	24	29,3
3	Become subject of conversation among friends	24	29,3
4	Infectious diseases and disseminate venereal diseases and skin	10	12,2
	Total	82	100

Source: respondents' data (2011)

Table 4 shows that most teenage prostitutes faced the impact of having productive and consumptive behavior which not based on rationality and morality, decline in academic achievement, become subject of conversation among friends, infectious diseases and disseminate venereal diseases and skin.

4.2 A Model of Sustainable Empowerment of Teenage Prostitutes Based on Economic Rationality and Morality

Preventing the emergence of social problems caused by prostitution, is not an easy job, especially because the age of this social illness is same as the age of human existence and until now there is no single method that successfully eliminates the problems associated with prostitution service business, including in Malang City. On the other hand, perception stating that prostitution is a dirty and immoral behavior is an indisputable fact. The teenagers prostitute confess that prostitution acts are prohibited by religion and customs norms, as confirmed by Tia (pseudonym) that:

Work as a prostitute is a very disgusting, dirty and forbidden profession by religion. It is a sinful deed, nevertheless Tia could not leave this profession as she still wants to enjoy the job. Tia presume that she will leave prostitution later in the future, when she has found someone who would accept what or how she is.

Handling prostitution cannot be done arbitrarily and cannot be seen from one side only, especially for teenage prostitution because prostitution covers all aspects include social, cultural, economic, educational, political, religious and morality. Therefore, the government along with some related key elements such as schools / universities, religious or community leaders, social services, police force officers, civil service, police, health department are to perform its functions in accordance with the portion of each task in the handling of teenage prostitution, especially in establishing cooperation for handling continuously the prostitution problems, at least the teenage prostitutes will feel cared for and will raise the awareness of themselves to change their behavior in a positive direction.

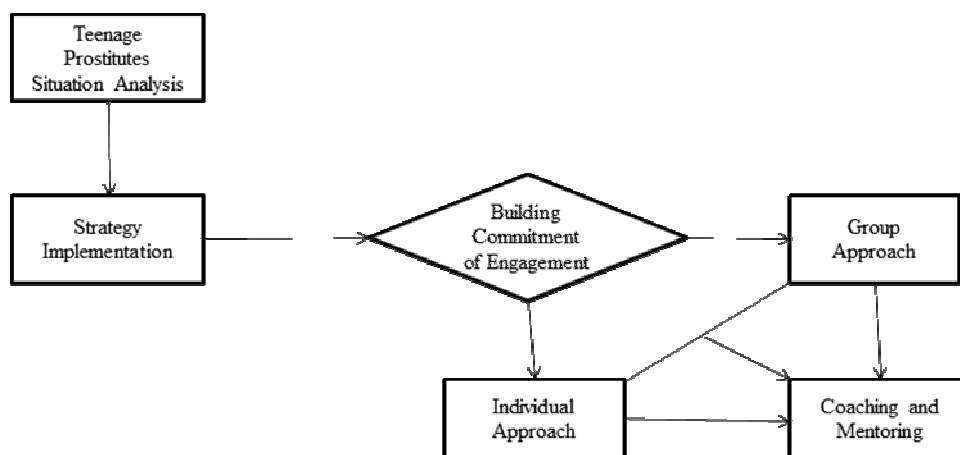


Figure 1 Model of Empowering Teenage Prostitutes in Malang City

An empowerment model developed is shown in Figure 1 are through several steps. First is situational analysis in which empowerment is started by exploring the current situation and condition of teenage prostitutes and expressing all problems faced. Developing empowerment potencies that will be performed by having productive activity, consumptive activity, economic rationality and morality behavior. Second is strategy implementation that are socializing the purpose of empowerment and implementing the formulized empowerment model. Third is building the commitment of engagement that explaining the importance of empowerment program to the selected teenage prostitutes to realize and commit to implement the empowerment model. Fourth is group and individual approach where teenage prostitutes are to be facilitated individual empowerment as their preferences of activities closed to others and some other teenage prostitutes would prefer in group empowerment. The individual and group empowerment could be performed with condition of unpublished activities. Fifth is coaching and mentoring step which covers three aspects such as growing, maintaining and developing the mentoring program to small and micro business by providing technical assistance such as providing training as needed, directions and consultation.

5. Conclusion

Several points can be concluded from the above discussion. First, profession as indirect prostitute of teenager currently still exists and grows increasingly in Malang City. Though, the prostitution practice is secretly operated, but indirect prostitutes can be traced through the users such as close friends, sales promotion girls especially with tester products. The majority age is fifteen to twenty three years with education level of junior high school to university. Second, the reasons for teenagers trapped into prostitution practices are being in free sex environment, lack of caring and loving from parents, following the life style trends, unhappy family background, free sex addicted, and ease access to information openness. Third, handling the teenage prostitutes in Malang City should be undertaken by the social department in collaboration with department of education especially counseling division in each school, health department, department of tourism and SME, department of religion, police department, and research institution in universities, officers in districts, villages, and neighborhoods. In addition, social department collaborates with people from non government organization, public figure, businessman, flat owner, mass media, and social worker forum of city community. Fourth, handling the teenage prostitutes is performed not only to the teenagers, but also to their parents as related to one another in terms of overcoming the impacts of prostitution. The program of empowering teenage prostitutes and parents expect that their productive and consumptive activities are involving morality considerations. Morality encourages people to consider the goodness and badness in economic action. Various experiences on economic issues gained by children in everyday life is by instilling effective traits to achieve economic and efficient goals, especially in spending money or other resources in order to fulfill their daily needs. Fifth, indirect teenager prostitutes are expected to use rational economic behavior in their productive and consumptive activities. It is assumed that the economic behavior always act rationally, the economic action was previously planned and consciously undertaken through careful thought. In fact, it can be concluded that in general, teenagers are doing rational but immoral economic activities.

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