

Sexual Risk Behaviors of Brothel Customer in Bangka Belitung Province

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Abstract. Prostitution activities have a high risk of spreading sexually transmitted diseases. Female sex workers often had no other choice if their customers were refusing to use a condom when providing services that made them at risk of contracting sexual diseases. This study aimed to explore the sexual behavior of brothel customers. The design of this study was descriptive qualitative, data collected by in-depth interviews with three Female Commercial Sex Workers, and a Pimp. Informants were chosen randomly. Data were processed by categorizing or grouping the results of interviews and presented in narrative form. The results showed that a risk sexual behavioral of the customers of Teluk Bayur Brothel was oral sexual services without using condoms. Female CSWs (Commercial Sex Workers) had low education, but they had good knowledge about the risk of sexually transmitted diseases, especially HIV/AIDS.

Keywords: Sexual Risky Behaviors, commercial sex workers, sexually transmitted diseases.

1. Introduction

A brothel is still taboo for some people. Official Brothel is a place where the practice of trading transactions between commercial sex workers (CSWs) and people who need services from these CSWs. This place is a choice for men who usually have a strong sexual desire but cannot vent it appropriately. The established of Brothel in an official area usually has the local government's approval, and it is not free from taxes that must be paid to the government in order to carry out these activities. Sexual behavior is any behavior that is driven by sexual desire, either with the same or different sex. This type of behavior is diverse, ranging from feelings of attraction to dating behavior, flirt, and making love [1].

Safety sexual intercourses are a way of engaging in sexual activity to avoid contracting sexually transmitted diseases by using condoms and not changing partners. Some define

safety sex as sexual behavior without causing penetration of the penis into the vagina or anus, for example, by holding hands, hugging, and kissing. The types of safe sex are using condoms, using water-based lubricants, having sex without penetration (example: kiss), having sex with a partner who is faithful to each other. In contrast, risky sexual behavior has the risk of being transmitted by sexually transmitted infections, HIV and AIDS, such as having sex without wearing a condom [2].

Sexual behavior is divided into two types. The first is risky sexual behavior; including kissing the lips, making out, groping genitals (masturbating), rubbing genitals and engaging in sex (intercourse). The second is sexual behavior that does not cause risks, including dating, holding hands, hugging, and kissing cheeks [3].

STIs can be transmitted through unsafe sexual intercourse, including unprotected sex, condom sex, and oral sex. However, STIs are not spread through skin contact, sweat, saliva, and air. IMS bacterium is mainly present in genital fluids and blood. STIs are contagious, especially when someone's genital fluid or blood that has been infected by STIs enters the body of another person [4]. Behaviors that are at risk for STIs include sexual intercourse without using a condom [5].

The Teluk Bayur Official Brothel has existed since 1980s. Originally Teluk Bayur is a recreation area, but it turned into Official Brothel after commercial sex workers (CSWs) at the Pasir Putih Brothel move to Teluk Bayur. In the Teluk Bayur Pangkalpinang localization, there are 6 guesthouses with around 74 commercial sex workers (CSWs). Most of the guesthouses in this Brothel are in permanent form [6].

Increasing cases of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) are serious concerns to the World Health Organization (WHO). In a recent study, more than 1 million people in the world are diagnosed with sexually transmitted diseases every day.

2. Method

The design of this study was descriptive qualitative, data collected by in-depth interviews with three female sex workers and a pimp. The sampling method used was purposive sampling. Samples were taken with consideration of age, length of work and education of respondents.

3. Results

Table 1. Characteristics of Informants

No	Nama	Info	JK	Age	Education	Length of work
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Years						
1	L	CSW	F	23	Elementary	2 Years
2	E	CSW	F	28	High School	1 Year
3	V	CSW	F	37	Middle School	1 Year
4	H	Pimp	F	42	Middle School	3 years

The research showed that two informants used injection contraception while one informant used implantable contraception. Information from Pimp obtained that there were no facilities or appeals to use contraception for commercial sex workers.

The research showed that all informants had initiatives to precede customers in using condom contraception. Informant Pimp stated a firm appeal to CSWs to use condoms, but Pimp did not provide contraception.

In the case of customers who were reluctant or refused to use condoms, this was rarely the case, because most customers were willing to use them. Several times some customers were reluctant to use condoms for the same reason that they felt uncomfortable, but all informants still recommended in using it. The researchers asked further what if customers gave additional money or in case that the customers looked clean and healthy, all informants insisted that they would not serve unprotected sex.

Other CSWs in the Brothel had to use a condom because of a case of HIV / AIDS that had been found in some sex workers a few years ago.

Two informants said that they had worked in other regions before and said they were happy to work here because they felt safer. Also, they got many guidance and information from the local government, for example through counseling and health checks.

All CSW informants said that there were some customers who wanted the sensation of oral sex services without using condoms and the CSWs stated that they did not mind doing it. The CSW Informants stated that they had never met a customer who wanted anal sex services. all CSW informants also stated that they had never suffered from a sexually transmitted disease. From the description above it appeared that the knowledge about the dangers of oral sex is incorrect.

4. Discussion

The majority of CSWs (86%) had elementary and junior high school education. Characteristics of CSWs based on elementary and junior high school education was

equivalent to the initial basic education level. At this level, a person would not be able to understand the information optimally. Education would affect a person's absorption of the information he received. With a good education, the process of growth, development, and change became assured, a person grew more mature individually, in groups or communities (Notoadmojo, 2010). In the research, it seemed that the understanding of the CSW informants was quite good. Even though their educational background was low but through socialization and counseling, the risk behaviors from customers can be anticipated by CSWs.

All CSW informants took the initiative to use condoms. Motives or motivations were stimuli, encouragement, or strength for the occurrence of an action or behavior (Sarwono, 2013). Sex workers' awareness and fear to be infected by dangerous diseases made them became active to ask their customers to use condoms before the intercourse.

In contrast to the research of Laode Irwansyah (2014), the informants revealed that they did not use condoms because of the motivation. The customers offered them more payment, and the important thing was not to use condoms. This case was in line with research conducted by Oppong et al. (2007), who stated that CSWs wanted to satisfy their intimate partners' desire without using condoms because of financial reasons.

The intimate partner was someone that could directly influence the behavior of condom usage on informants. Using condoms always involved two parties, namely CSW and customers. Therefore, clients' role in using condoms was important either for CSW or a party that inhibits condom usage.

CSW customers did not want to use condoms for several reasons; the first reason was an uncomfortable feeling, and tasteless. In line with research conducted by Zhang et al. (2011), stated that customers always refused to use condoms because they reduced the pleasure.

According to the results of research conducted by Ghimiere et al. (2011), that almost all CSWs revealed that clients refused to use condoms for reason of reducing pleasure. CSWs used condoms only if their clients demanded that they used them; clients generally did not demand to use condoms. In the case of clients' rejection, CSWs did not agree or try to force the client because they were afraid that they would lose the client if they do not agree to have sex.

Another reason why CSWs intimate partners did not want to use condoms is that partners want to use condoms unless they believe in their CSW regarding cleanliness and disease. This result was in line with research conducted by Zhang et al. (2011) that customers always refused to use condoms because of a sign of trust.

The inability of CSWs to communicate regarding the use of condoms would affect CSWs in safe sex. As research conducted by Wojcicki and Malala (2001), that men had power, and women were helpless. It meant that there was powerlessness of CSWs in terms of sexual negotiations with clients.

In this research, pimps were one of the parties that had a considerable role related to the use of condoms for CSWs. Pimps had a significant role and were directly related to the

practice of using condoms among CSWs. However, the availability of condoms in this study was not facilitated directly by pimps. The prostitutes themselves prepared condoms. Informants provided their condoms by buying at a pharmacy. Based on the results of research conducted by Munoz et al. (2011), that CSWs in Tijuana and Ciudad Juarez always prepared condoms, they could afford to buy their condoms, but access to free condoms is minimal.

In general, most of the informants had no difficulty in getting condoms. The availability of condoms contributed to condom use. The informants revealed that they obtained condoms by buying it at a pharmacy because their pimps did not provide them.

Based on the information from the informants, several customers want unprotected oral sex services. According to WHO (2017), quoted from James Gallagher, oral sex caused dangerous gonorrhea and avoided the use of condoms would help in spreading it. The UN agency warned that if someone had contracted gonorrhea, it would now be more challenging to treat and in some cases, impossible to cure. Sexually transmitted infections quickly develop resistance to antibiotics.

Around 78 million people contracted sexually transmitted infections (STI) every year and could cause infertility. The World Health Organization analyzed data from 77 countries and showed gonorrhea immunity to antibiotics was widespread. Dr. Teodora Wi, from WHO, said that there were three cases - in Japan, France, and Spain - where the infection was completely untreatable. He said: "Gonorrhea is a very intelligent bacterium; every time you introduce a new class of antibiotics to treat gonorrhea, the bacteria become resistant." Alarmingly, most gonorrhea infections happened in developing countries where immunity was more challenging to detect.

5. Conclusion

Risky sex practices by customers of Teluk Bayur Brothel occurred in oral sexual services without using condoms, which were at a significant risk of the incidence of Gonorrhea. The risk of other diseases could be minimized by the unavailability of CSWs to serve customers without using condoms, even if the customer wanted it. Even though CSWs had a low education level, they had good knowledge about the risk of sexually transmitted diseases, especially HIV / AIDS. Their knowledge was through counseling, training from the Regional Government, and experience. It is recommended that the official brothel policy can keep going so that the Regional Government can control the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases.

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