

Exploratory Research on

SUSTAINABLE DAILY CLEAN BUSINESSES

for Women and Girls:

A Case for Commercial Sex Workers in Urban Ghetto
in FCT, Abuja



Research by:



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way of
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"No one warned me of what it would be like prostituting and how it would affect me over time".

- Survivor



Executive Summary

- *Why blame them if we don't train them?*
- *Girls do not grow up wanting to be commercial sex workers. Every girl wants to be treated with dignity, love and respect...*

So, what happens to the girls and young women who end up in prostitution? How can we help them get out of this terrible lifestyle, especially when they are willing to quit?

This study is about commercial sex trade and how it affects the women and girls who become entangled in it as a means to survive. It seeks to propose alternative means of livelihood and access to clean daily income for those that genuinely seek to break free from the sex-for-survival way of life.

The study used personal interviews, which were later transmitted into a well-structured questionnaire with 38 open and closed-ended questions. A total of 21 women and girls in commercial sex trade in slum communities within Abuja were engaged to share their experiences, ideas, thoughts and descriptions of what an ideal and clean daily business should be and what they think is needed to escape prostitution.

The findings of the study show that commercial sex trade, otherwise called prostitution, is a complex gender issue. Over 70% of the women and girls in commercial sex trade are from low-income families who lacked access to viable education and are confronted with the pressure of carrying their families' responsibilities. From the survey, many of the women and young ladies in commercial sex trade in Abuja urban slums are single mothers left to fend for their children, as the men responsible for their pregnancies abandoned them.

The study also reveals that factors such as lack of training and skill set, drugs & or alcohol addiction, coercion by "friends" or a pimp, debts, lack of income, lack of accessible social capital and the social stigma associated with commercial sex trade makes it hard for women and girls in prostitution to exit commercial sex trade and migrate to decent jobs.

Apart from the need to further their education, 100% of the respondents said they have actually thought of owning a business and trade to earn a daily income that would enable them leave prostitution for good. These daily income-earning businesses vary from bead/jewelry making, hairdressing saloon, fashion designing/tailoring, provision/mini-mart shop (wholesale and retail), boutique management or retail clothing sales, sales of cosmetics, drinking bar, selling agricultural produce and foodstuff, selling household energy fuel (kerosene, cooking gas), food restaurants, mobile food carts/vans, sales of stationery for students and pupils etcetera.

'There is no choice in the absence of alternatives.'

The study also presented other innovative business ideas that can provide daily income for these beautiful girls while also addressing the psychological, social, economic, environmental and technological needs of the ladies and the society.

The study closes with key targeted recommendations on the roles of various societal institutions that can assist these girls and ladies who desperately seek to break free from commercial sex trade.

A society that allows women to be prostituted, and to be sold and bought as commodities, will not progress educationally, economically, socially, and will never achieve gender equality. Women and girls in the commercial sex trade are humans; they are Nigerians, daughters, sisters, mothers, wives, lovers and dreamers. Their fundamental human rights must be protected regardless of social sentiments.

Part 1

Hang Her or Help Her?

Will you hang her or help her?

Will you stop loving your mother, your sister, daughter, wife or dearest friend; if you learn they once traded sex for survival?

Will you destroy someone for being weak rather than teaching and helping them become strong when they cry for help?

According to the United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), there are over 103,506 commercial sex workers in Nigeria as of 2016¹. A survey of commercial sex workers shows that almost two thirds or about 63% of them started commercial sex work before the age of 19. Majority of them (63%) work from brothels. Due to the negative public perception of commercial sex work, 88% of sex workers operate in cities far away from their childhood home. The survey reports that a majority of the sex workers come from households within the low-income bracket²



Girls do not generally grow up wanting to be commercial sex workers. Every girl wants to be treated with dignity, love and respect. So, what happens to the girls and young women who end up in prostitution and how can they be helped to get out, especially when they are willing to quit?

A survivor, who was in prostitution for 19 years from when she was 18 years old, says prostitution *"has this way of stealing all the dreams, goals and beautiful essence out of a woman. During my years in it, I didn't meet one woman who enjoyed what she was doing... Everyone was trying to get out."* She did manage to get out.

She explained that when she first tried to get out, she kept thinking: "It's legal so it can't be that bad." So, she told herself to handle it and kept on with it, "despite the fact that it was a life of utter misery."*No one warned her of what it would be like prostituting and how it would affect her over time³. And did anyone ever tell her, that for most women in commercial sex work/prostitution, it is hard to get out and that if she does manage to get out, the chances are high that she will be worse off than when she started and have a whole heap of additional problems, like post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)⁴?*



Every girl wants to be treated with a sense of **dignity**, love and



1. 'Sex workers: Population size estimate - Number, 2016'. www.aidsinfoonline.org. UNAIDS. Retrieved 21 July 2018. http://www.aidsinfoonline.org/gam/stock/shared/dv/PivotData_2018_7_22_636678151733621264.htm

2. Nnabugwu-Otesanya, Bernadette (2005). *A Comparative Study of Prostitutes in Nigeria and Botswana* (Thesis). University of South Africa.

3. Nordic Model Now! What is wrong with Prostitution? <https://nordicmodelnow.org/2017/07/04/whats-wrong-with-prostitution/>

4. Reuben Balfour with Jessica Allen (April 2014): *A Review of the Literature on Sex Workers and Social Exclusion*. UCL Institute of Health Equity for Inclusion Health, Department of Health

Commercial sex trade or prostitution in Nigeria is illegal in all Northern States that practice the Islamic Penal Code. In Southern Nigeria, the activities of pimps or madams, underage prostitution and the operation or ownership of brothels are penalized under sections 223, 224, and 225 of the Nigerian Criminal Code and Child's Right Act. Although Nigerian law does not legalize commercial sex work, it is vague if such work is performed by an independent individual who operates on his or her own accord without the use of pimps or a brothel. A society that allows women to be prostituted by men, to be sold and bought as commodities cannot achieve gender equality. Such a society not only discriminates against women but also among women themselves, as normalizing prostitution reflects on the overall status of women and creates two groups of women: one that can be bought and another that cannot [be bought]⁵.

Most women and girls are in commercial sex work/prostitution because of a perceived lack of access to viable options. Women and girls should have access to other viable options. Thus, the need to seek, research and drive advocacy for psychological, technical and funding support from a high-quality non-judgemental perspective to help them exit prostitution and to also bring to an end the systematic inequality and poverty of women.

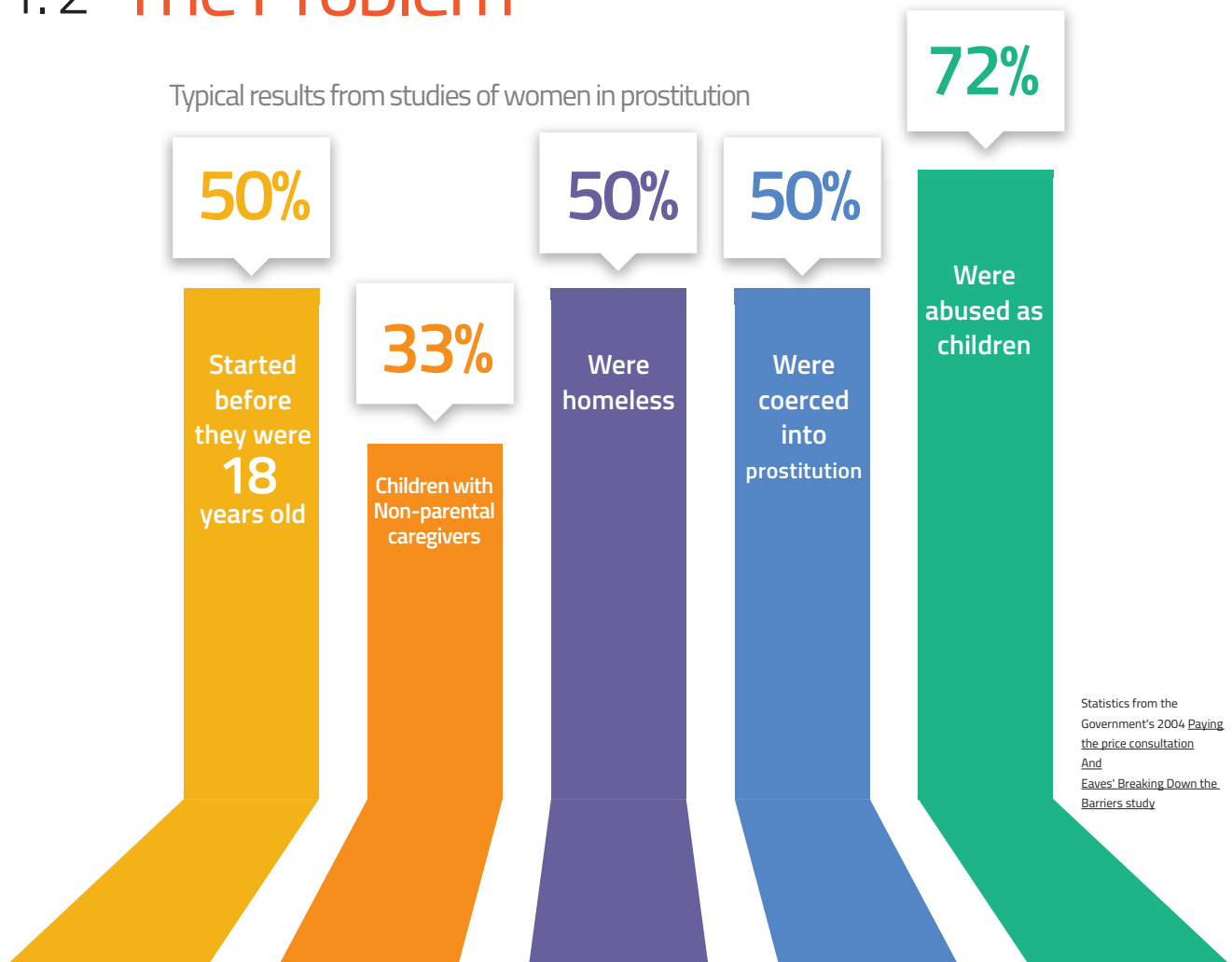
Thus, the need to seek, research and drive advocacy for psychological, technical and funding support from a high-quality non-judgemental perspective to help them exit prostitution, and to try to bring to an end the systematic inequality and poverty of women.

A choice
that is
not free
is not
really a
choice.
Consent
that
is not
informed
is not
consent.



5. Ghada Jabbour (I): EXPLORING THE DEMAND FOR PROSTITUTION: What Male Buyers Say About Their Motives, Practices, and Perceptions. © 2014, all rights reserved, KAFA (enough) Violence & Exploitation. http://prostitutionresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Exploring-the-Demand-for-Prostitution_2014-1.pdf

1.2 The Problem



As shared by Nordic Model Now! (a UK grassroots women's group campaigning for the abolition of prostitution and related practices), in their research studies carried out in 2019, the testimonies of survivors of women and girls in commercial sex consistently show that many, often as many as a third, were children with non-parental caregivers. About half of this group of girls started prostitution before they were 18 years old or when they were homeless. About half were coerced into it by someone while about three quarters had been abused as children. This paints a picture of a marginalized population of girls and young women whose options at the time they started were severely limited. They were not choosing between prostitution and being a doctor, lawyer, poet or a midwife or going to college to study. These figures suggest that the options for most of them were between prostitution and sleeping rough without food, shelter or clothing, or being beaten by the person coercing them or losing his/her guardian support. For a young woman with little or no family support, this might have been more persuasive than being beaten. To a large extent, the above statistics reflect the Nigerian reality.

With Nigeria still struggling with over 90% of her population living in poverty, the rising number of internally displaced people (IDPs), rising food inflation and crime rates, in addition to government austerity policies, low wages, multiple taxations in the informal space and the non-inclusive social development programs; economic pressure hits very hard on the citizens, leaving people with little or no option for dignifying livelihood. Women and young girls, especially single mothers, are hardest hit by these issues.

1.3 Objective of The Research

This research takes a hard look at commercial sex work, otherwise called prostitution, and how it affects the young women and girls engaged in it. It takes a close look at the possibility of collating the dreams of these young women and girls, given their various peculiarities, with the hope of coming up with new clean businesses which will generate sustainable daily income for them. This can be used as an advocacy tool and a template to attract support for these young women and girls desperate to break free from the vicious circle of sex trafficking, exploitation and hopelessness. Specifically, this investigative study will:

1. Engage with young girls and women in the Commercial Sex work who are willing to be interviewed, on their ideas, thoughts and description of what an ideal clean daily business should be and what is needed to start and sustain such business.



2. Conduct a survey on daily businesses that are sustainable and empowering for these young ladies. The survey will include real-life businesses, skills required, as well as the time frame for acquiring these skills.



3. Collate at least 10 innovative business ideas that is suitable as viable options to generate daily income.



4. The collated business should be small scale businesses initiative requiring about N350,000 or less to start up.



1.4 Research Methodology: Sampling, Research Instrument and Method of Analysis

This investigative study will gather both primary and secondary data and testimonies on commercial sex work/prostitution locally. The primary data will be sourced with the aid of a well-structured questionnaire having 38 open and closed-ended questions. To administer the questionnaire, we selected 1 of the field officers who had previously been embedded in one of these communities by Hipcity Innovation Centre in 2018 for six weeks and who has continually maintained effective communications with members of the community, especially the commercial sex workers during and after the 2018 exercise. For this exercise, the selected field officer was the entry point to have an open and honest conversation with the commercial sex workers who were willing to be part of this exercise.



A total of 21 girls and women who relied almost totally on or mostly on commercial sex work for survival, and were willing to interact with the research team were taken as the sample size of the study. While there is no accurate data source for the total number of commercial sex workers in the community on focus or an effective way to detect who is and is not a commercial sex worker, this study relied on the feedback from those involved in commercial sex work, the field officer who put the total number of commercial sex workers in the community to be between 170 to 200, as well as through observation of the number of girls who engage in the act during the day and at night within their residence and in some hotels in and around the community. It is also worthy to note that these girls and young women are very nomadic, given the psychological and social stigma associated with commercial sex work. Secondary data was extracted from journals, magazines, reports from related studies and third-party testimonies of commercial sex workers and survivors of prostitution.

Our primary data collated from the questionnaire were processed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and MS-Excel. Data were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistical methods. Tables, graphs and charts will be used to describe outcomes, while percentages, simple frequency and cross-tabulation will be employed to analyze the data for easy understanding and inference.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The study is restricted to just one major community in Abuja. The village is one of the numerous nascent slum settlements situated in the heart of the Abuja metropolis. The community has between 1,300 and 1,400 households with an estimate of 5 persons per household; giving it an estimated population of about 6,750 people (that is, an average of 1,350 houses and 5 persons per family). The community is host to a variety of tribes from all over Nigeria. Because of the diverse nature of the community, it is hard to identify a dominant ethnic group. However, the traditional customs are respected and the local chieftain manages the customary headship of the community. The period of study for this research exercise is 2018 – 2019.

The study is not interested in debating the legality or decriminalization of prostitution or commercial sex work in Nigeria. The study does not present itself as a moral tool or makes a case for prostitution. The study does not dispute the existence of commercial sex workers who may find joy in the trade, nor does it in any way support the abuse of their own fundamental human rights. The study is focused on those commercial sex workers who are desperate to quit the sex trade and are looking for help to do so, to enable them to live an honest stigma-free life.

1.6 Use of Terms

The study uses the term Commercial Sex Work (CSW) and prostitution interchangeably. The study, however, avoids describing the women and girls in the study as “prostitutes”; rather we call them “commercial sex workers” or “beautiful/wonderful young ladies and women”.

1.7 Confidentiality

This research study is a sensitive and challenging topic. It is therefore important to protect the identities of the participants (individuals, community and respondents) by not disclosing their names and location. For the purpose of this research, the focus community is referred to as **‘COMMUNITY A’**. Community A is one of the urban ghettos in the Federal Capital Territory.



Part 2

How Commercial Sex Work Affects Women and Girls



2.1 Commercial Sex Work: The Hidden Truth of Prostitution

Prostitution or commercial sex trade in this study and in practice is deeply gender-specific as more than 90% of commercial sex workers are female. The flow of sex buyers (mostly male) is unpredictable, with the women maintaining a state of perpetual readiness at all times and compete against each other for the buyers' attention. The buyer buys the use of her body, including her vagina, rectum, mouth, and breasts. This is the core of prostitution. This is not a service; rather he is renting the use of her body. And while he is using her, she has to pretend she is enjoying it or act out his fantasy. She also has to pretend she thinks he is great. No matter what she is actually thinking or feeling, she has to maintain this charade. This is part of the deal; part of what he is buying. Men who participate in prostitution view women as mere sex objects and not human beings. He buys the "right" to say whatever he wants – no matter how insulting. Sex buyers, and even people within the immediate vicinity/neighbourhood of this sex trade use pejorative terms in labelling the commercial sex workers. You hear words like "ashawo", "meat", "bitch" and "whore." The use of slur and derogatory innuendoes is part of the deal too. He buys the "right" to be in control and behave as he feels and without any compulsion to treat her nicely.

The prostitution encounter takes place outside normal social conventions. In the words of Julia O'Connell Davidson⁶, ".....he is allowed to treat her as if she is socially dead; as if she is not a human being....". Or in the words of a survivor, "like a public toilet." So, to exist in prostitution, commercial sex workers have to suppress involuntary responses and even pretend to enjoy the sexual experiences. This requires dissociating from their true feelings; from their true self. This can cause long term psychological problems. Many commercial sex workers turn to drugs or/and alcohol just to endure the harrowing ordeal. Although some women go into prostitution to fund a drug habit, it is more common to eventually turn to drugs or/and alcohol once they get entangled in prostitution– because it's the only way that they can bear the damage caused by the violent and abusive situations they find themselves in. The entire life of the average commercial sex worker can be summed up in two words: alienation and exploitation.



In the words of a Survivor – *"I'd actually leave my body and go somewhere else with my thoughts and feelings until he got off me and it was over with. I don't know how else to explain it except it felt like rape. It was rape to me."*

6. Prostitution, Power and Freedom by Julia O'Connell Davidson. ISBN: 978-0-745-66809-3 July 2013 Polity 240 Pages

7. Prostitute Survival Testimonial by Alice Glass. <https://nordicmodelnow.org/testimonial/alice-glass/>

8. Trauma as Pre-condition and Consequence of Prostitution by Dr. Ingeborg Kraus, Edmonton/Canada, 16.09.2016. <https://www.trauma-and-prostitution.eu/en/2016/11/05/trauma-as-the-pre-condition-and-consequence-of-prostitution/>

9. Farley Et Al (2003): Prostitution and Trafficking in 9 countries: An Update on violence and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder. Journal of Trauma Practice (the Haworth Maltreatment and Trauma Press, an imprint of the Haworth Press. Inc) Vol2, No3/4, 2003. Pp 33-37. <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdf/Prostitutionin9Countries.pdf>

According to Alice Glass⁷, all the prostituted women she met during her ten years in prostitution, “carried with them the same burden of neurosis, addiction and melancholy without exception.” Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is an anxiety disorder that develops in response to traumatic or life-threatening experiences, such as war, sexual assault, or accidents. Symptoms can be physically and emotionally crippling and are sometimes delayed for months or even years. And they are usually worse when the trauma is deliberately inflicted by a human being or repeated over time⁸. In Farley et al (2003), 68% of women in prostitution met the criteria for PTSD. This is a similar prevalence rate to that seen in combat veterans⁹.

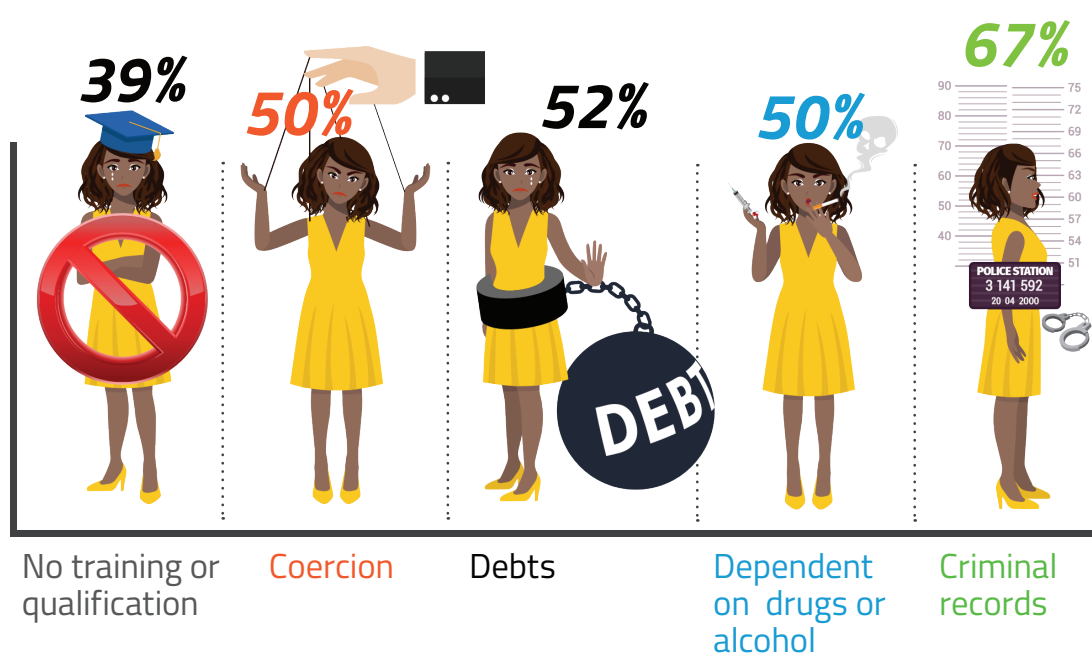
Women in prostitution have a very high mortality rate. A study in Canada estimated it to be 40 times higher than women in the general population. Women in indoor prostitution, in particular, have a very high rate of suicide. In another study, 75% of women in escort prostitution had attempted suicide¹⁰.

Prostitution does not just affect those who are directly involved. It impacts everyone strongly. That is why it cannot be justified simply on the basis of the choices of those directly involved. Women and girls deserve better choices than the commercial sex trade.

2.1 Factors that make it hard to leave

Most of the time, women involved in the commercial sex work continue in it because of an absence of viable alternatives. This should not surprise us, because, in study after study, most women say they want to leave prostitution but have no other options for survival. According to Julia et al (2013), 89% of the women interviewed confirmed this.

Common factors making it so hard to leave prostitution include: having no training or qualifications, being dependent on drugs or/and alcohol, being coerced by “friends” or pimp, owing debts, need to support family and dependents, lack of daily paying business, lack of accessible social capital, social stigma from potential employers and a criminal record blocking job opportunities¹¹.



¹⁰. Prostitution Fact: Prostitution and Trafficking - Quick Facts <http://www.rapecs.org/activism/prostitution/prostitutionfacts.html>

¹¹. Breaking down the barriers: A study of how women exit prostitution by Julie Bindel, Laura Brown, Helen Easton, Roger Matthews and Lisa Reynolds Eaves and London South Bank University (LSBU) <http://i4.cmsfiles.com/eaves/2012/11/Breaking-down-the-barriers-a37d80.pdf>

“Prostitution
treats women as
objects and not
human beings.”



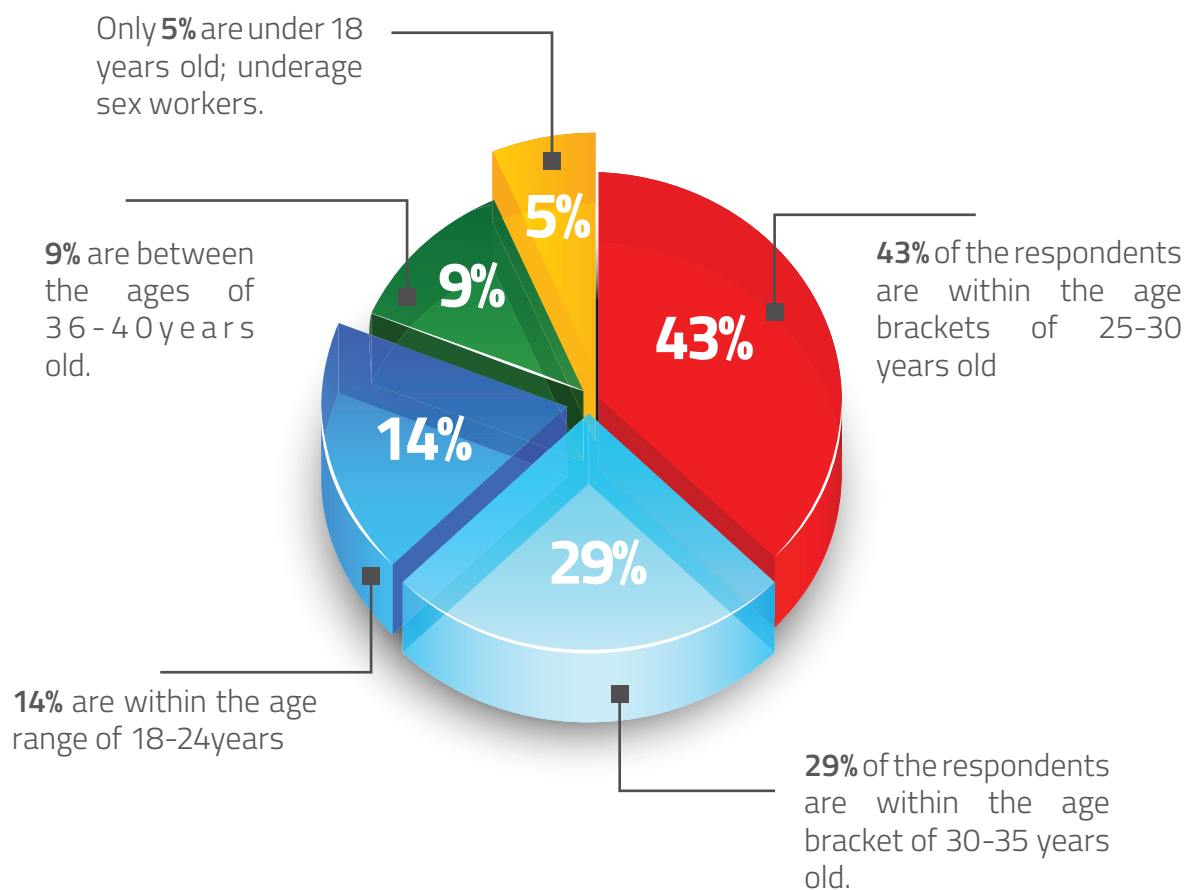
What does
it mean for
society if we
can treat some
people as if
they're not
human beings?

Part 3

The Data: Dreams and Peculiarities

3.1 Data Presentation and Analysis

100% of the respondents are female. No male commercial sex worker was captured in the sample. This confirms not only the gender dimension of prostitution but also emphasizes the need to also interrogate the peculiarities of male commercial sex workers



From Table 1 below, of the 21 commercial sex workers interviewed, 13 (or 61.9%) are single. 28.6% (that is 6) are divorced or separated, while only 2 (or 9.5%) are actually married.

Table 1: Marital Status of Respondent				
		Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percent
Valid	Married	2	9.5	9.5
	Single	13	61.9	61.9
	Divorced / Separated	6	28.6	28.6
	Total	21	100.0	100.0

Source: Survey data 2019

From Table 2 below, 6 out of the 21 respondents, that is 28.6% of the sample, have no children to cater for. The remaining 71.4% (or 15) all have at least a child to cater for. Of those that have children, 14.3% (or 3) have 4 children each to cater for. 23.8% (or 3) have 5 children each to provide for. 14.3% (or 3) have two children each. The remaining 19% (or 4) have only one child to cater for.

Table 2: Number of Children				
		Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percent
Valid	0	6	28.6	28.6
	1	4	19.0	19.0
	2	3	14.3	14.3
	3	5	23.8	23.8
	4	3	14.3	14.3
	Total	21	100.0	100.0

Source: Survey data 2019

Comparing Tables 1 and 2, if 61.9% of the commercial sex workers are single and 71.4% of them have children which indicate that more than half of the commercial sex workers are single mothers left alone to cater for their children. Where are the men responsible for getting these women pregnant? Do they contribute to the upkeep of the children? If not, why are they not equally held responsible?

Table 3 shows the cross-tabulation between the marital status of the commercial sex workers and the number of children they have between them. Among the 2 married commercial sex workers, 1 has a child and the other has 3 children. All the married commercial sex workers have children. Out of the 13 single commercial sex workers; 6 of them have no children, 2 women have 2 children each, 2 have 4 children each while 3 of them have 3 children.

Furthermore, all the 6 divorced or separated CSW have children summarised as follows: 3 of [the divorced commercial sex workers] have a child each, 1 has 2 children, another has 3 children and 1 has 4 children to provide for. In all, only 6 of the commercial sex workers have no biological child to provide for. 2 of the commercial sex workers are married and have husbands who we want to assume ought to share in the responsibilities of raising their children.

Additionally, 15 of the commercial sex workers all have at least a biological child that they fend for without any support from the men that got them pregnant, except for 2 who are married.

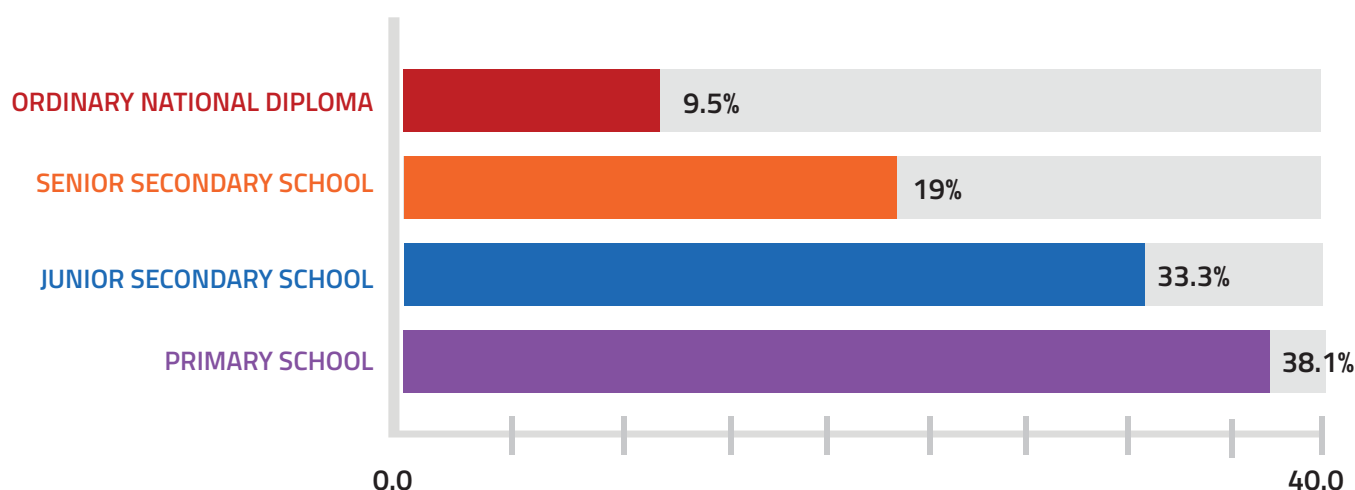
Both Parents should take responsibilities in raising and providing for a child. Traditional, religious, societal and constitutional flaws that enable one of the parties to abandon their biological child/children (for any reason), leaving the other party to exclusively carry the pressure and the responsibility of raising a child/children should be stopped. As a matter of urgency, there is a need for stricter legislation, mass public awareness and enforcement that makes it a criminal offence, punishable by law and without the option of bail for any biological parents to abandon their offspring. The current Nigerian Child's Rights Act 2003 is rather soft on offences against the child and should be reviewed to remedy this glaring lacuna. The implication of having teenagers and adults growing without proper parental care is evidenced in the rising number of suicide bombers, armed robbers, cult groups, thugs, commercial sex workers, kidnappers, etc.

Table 3: Marital Status of Respondent * Number of Children Cross-tabulation

		Number of Children					Total
		0	1	2	3	4	
Marital Status of Respondent	Married	0	1	0	1	0	2
	Single	6	0	2	3	2	13
	Divorced/Separated	0	3	1	1	1	6
Total		6	4	3	5	3	21

Source: Survey data 2019

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF RESPONDENTS



On their level of education, 38.1% of the respondents only have primary education. 33.3% have up to junior secondary school education. 19.0% were educated up to senior secondary school level, while only 9.5% have a tertiary school experience up to ordinary national diploma. This shows a direct correlation between the level of education and the recourse to commercial sex work as the only viable option the respondents believed were accessible to them.

Interactions with the respondents showed that they are keenly interested in not only furthering their education, but also in acquiring viable skills sets that will enable them to start and successfully nurture a business to profitability. Additionally, they highlighted the need to gain knowledge in the use of computers; at least the basic Microsoft Office tools. When asked why they could not further their education and even acquire basic skills, they highlighted that aside from the lack of finance, the conflict between learning hours (formal or informal skill learning) and productive time to earn an income was a major problem. The young girls and women noted that the required time frame to go to school or learn computer or other skills (7 am to 6 pm), not only clashes with productive work time but totally erodes it. This clash opens an opportunity for evening schools and evening/night training centres for adults who seek to further their education. While one can point to the current Open University system that allows for flexible learning, this is only limited to university education which none of the respondents qualifies for.

In Community A, there is an adult literacy school operated by the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) Education Board, however, it is not only grossly understaffed with one permanent staff and 2 N-power interns who do not come regularly, but the teaching methods are archaic and it makes learning unattractive as cited by some of them.

If these women had access to viable education and had proper counselling in schools and worship places as growing girls and teenagers, maybe they would have been aware of the dangers in prostitution and made better choices about their lives.

Table 4 shows that 57.1% of the respondents have lived in Abuja for more than 6 years; 14.3% have lived there for 3 - 5 years; 19% have lived in the same vicinity for more than 1 - 2 years while 9.6% have lived in Abuja for less than a year.

In Table 5, about 57.1% have lived in Community A for at least 6 years; 9.5% have lived in the same community for 3 - 5 years; 19% have lived there for about 1 - 2 years while 14.4% have lived there for less than a year

Table 4: How long have you lived in Abuja?				
		Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage
Valid	Less than 1 month	1	4.8	4.8
	4-6months	1	4.8	4.8
	1year -2 years	4	19.0	19.0
	3 years - 5years	3	14.3	14.3
	6 years and more	12	57.1	57.1
	Total	21	100.0	100.0
Table 5: How long have you lived in Community A?				
		Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage
Valid	Less than 1 month	1	4.8	4.8
	2-3months	1	4.8	4.8
	4-6months	1	4.8	4.8
	1year -2 years	4	19.0	19.0
	3 years - 5years	2	9.5	9.5
	6 years and more	12	57.1	57.1
	Total	21	100.0	100.0

Source: Survey data 2019

3.2 Business Plan

Have these girls ever thought of starting and managing their own personal businesses and leaving prostitution?

Have you
ever thought
of owning a
business/trade/
craft before
now to earn a
daily income?



100%
CSW
SAID
YES!

When this question was presented to the respondents, all 100% of them said they have actually thought of starting a trade with the aim of earning daily income and leaving prostitution.

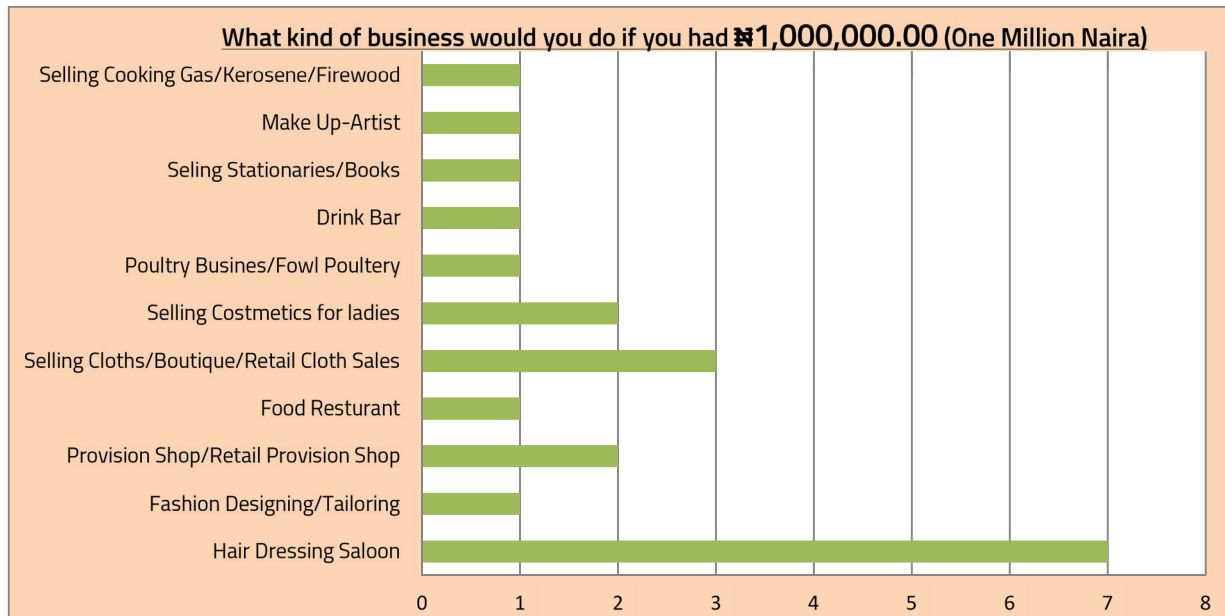
As shown in Table 6 below, 33.3% of the respondents have thought of owning hairdressing saloons of different sizes. 14.3% have also thought of clothing business ranging from boutiques to second hand/fairly used clothes. Other choices of businesses include bead making, restaurants/food stalls, fashion designing, provision stalls and shops, etc.

Table 6: If yes, which business/trade/craft have you thought of doing to get a daily income?

		Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage
Valid	Bead/Jewelleries Making	1	4.8	4.8
	Hair Dressing Saloon	7	33.3	33.3
	Fashion Designing/Tailoring	1	4.8	4.8
	Provision/Retail Shop	2	9.5	9.5
	Food Restaurant	2	9.5	9.5
	Boutique/Retail Cloth Shop	3	14.3	14.3
	Cosmetics Sales for ladies	1	4.8	4.8
	Drinking Bar	1	4.8	4.8
	Selling Agricultural Produce (food stocks)	1	4.8	4.8
	Selling Stationaries/Books	1	4.8	4.8
	Make Up-Artist	1	4.8	4.8
	Total	21	100.0	100.0

Source: Survey data 2019

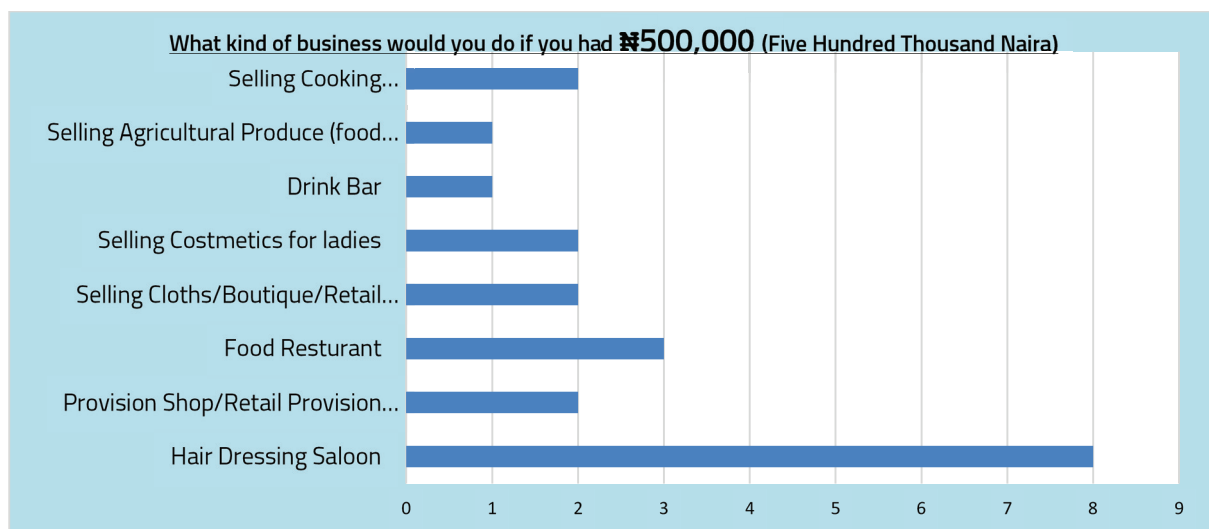
The sampled respondents were asked on the type of business they would like to venture into if given One Million Naira (N1, 000,000.00) or \$3,333 (at N300/\$1), to do business. 7 of them (33.3%) said they would like to go into hairdressing business. 3 (14%) said they would prefer to go into the clothing business, either boutique or selling of fairly-used clothes. Other business plans include provision shops/kiosk, selling of female cosmetics and selling household energy fuel like kerosene, cooking gas and even firewood. Others preferred food restaurants, mobile food bars, resale of agricultural crops and selling of stationery for students and pupils. None of their responses was related to the sex trade or anything connected to it.



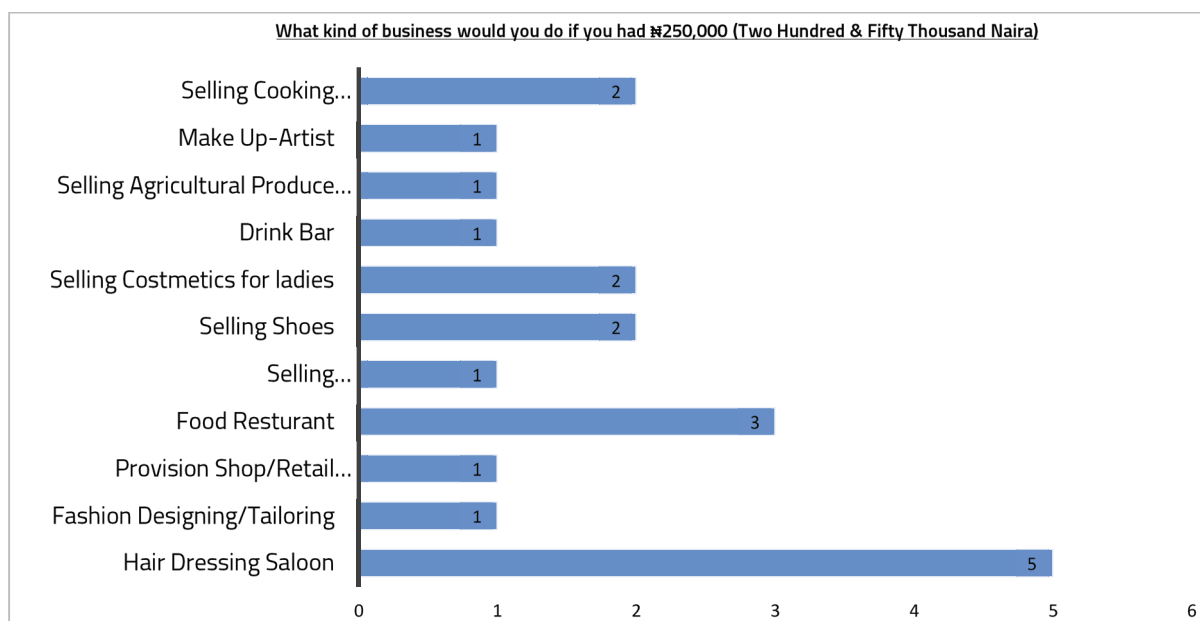
Source: Survey data 2019

With a reduced offer of Five Hundred Thousand Naira [N500,000.00] or \$1,666 (at N300/\$1) as startup capital, the respondents could still figure out businesses that can help them exit prostitution. Same reactions were recorded at even a lower offer of Fifty Thousand Naira [N50,000.00] or \$166 (at N300/\$1).

Recall that the average amount these women make from commercial sex work range from N500 - N2,000 or from \$1.66 to \$6.66 (at N300/\$1) a day. Therefore, these business ideas have the potential to generate daily income of more than N1,500 or \$5.00 a day. Please see the charts below:



Source: Survey data 2019



Source: Survey data 2019



Source: Survey data 2019

With One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira [N150,000.00], 28.6% of the respondents think they can run small roadside hairdressing/make-up saloons that require no shop rentals. They also believe they have an alternative in going into shoe-related business. With this same amount, another 38.1% also confirm that they can venture into various trades such as the sales of kerosene, selling cookstoves to women, firewood trading, buying and selling of foodstuffs, selling cosmetics for women and small out-door tailoring and fashion outlets. Other businesses that can generate daily income with this idea include road side fast foods, baking confectionery and pastry shops for children.

3.3 Innovative Business Ideas

Other innovative businesses that they can invest in with as much as N350,000 include the following:

Mobile Solar phone charging and internet hotspot kiosk/trolley can charge up to 100 phones at a go while also providing internet hotspot for interested internet users. The system is mobile; thus, it can move from one place to another where electricity and internet are constrained. Business cost is between N150,000 – N500,000 and the materials can be fabricated locally.



Pay-To-Use Clean Toilets especially for Women in communities with major open defecation issues like that of Community A, and other poor communities with hygiene and infection issues. The start-up cost is between N200,000 and N500,000 with solar energy.



Solar Shops that allows entrepreneurs to not only sell their provisions but also serve as a phone power charging spot and internet hot spot. The start-up cost is between N300,000 – N1,000,000 (depending on size and types of materials utilised for this).



Producers/Supplier/Distributor of Clean Cook Stoves of various types and prices to replace expensive and health-threatening firewood and kerosene stoves. The start-up cost for this is from N20,000 and above.



Community Viewing Centre with projectors, solar TV and a laptop and seats; women can run local cinema/viewing centres. These viewing centres can view sports, movies and soap opera. The start-up cost can range from N150,000 – N1,000,000.



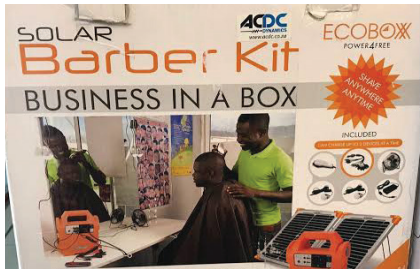
Mobile Food Vendor for both fast food and agricultural produce. There will not be any need for a permanent shop. The start-up cost is between N300,000 – N1,000,000 depending on the design and items to be sold. These also thrive in motor parks with local delicacy and take-away meals.



Snacks and pastry for school children and workers - This can be purchased and resell; it can be delivery and direct marketing, or production and supply to hot spots. The start-up cost



Mobile Barbers and Hairstylist – Skilled women and young ladies can go into mobile barbing business. With a working call line and a mobile solar kit, female in barbing business can reach customers anywhere to have a clean haircut and shave. Start-up cost is N250,000 and above. Purchase of solar barbing equipment can be acquired on a pay-as-you-go basis.



Sim Registration and sales/Bulk SMS Business/Sales of Call Card/Mobile Phone Sales and Repairs – Women and young girls can go into this business with as little as N50,000. The business can be expanded to other telecoms related ventures as sales increase.



Mobile/Fixed Cooking Gas Refill and pick-up in areas where use of cooking gas is high i.e. urban settlements and estates. The startup cost is from N100,000 and above.



Female Tricycle Riders – Last-mile transportation system with tricycle. This business can generate an income of N4,000 per day and an average of N120,000 per month. The cost of a used tricycle can go for as low as N80,00 - N350,000 while a brand new one will cost between N850,000 and N950,000



Waste Collection, Recycling and Plastic Bottle Collection – Women and girls can go into plastic collection and recycle business in hotels, estates and neighbourhoods for some income. They can also mobilize community waste collectors at a fee per household, shops and outlets. There is no need for significant startup capital in this case.



Natural Fruit Juice Production – Startup juice bar businesses are now showing up in different places as the people's demand to lead healthier lifestyles keep on growing. The startup cost is from N250,000 and above.



Video Game Centre – provision of round the clock video game centres in communities, powered by solar power, can generate lots of income for women. The investment cost is also as low as from N350,000.



Ice Block Production and Sales – with the epileptic power supply affecting the nation and the increasingly hot temperature; the need and craving for some cold drink can birth another opportunity for women in the ice block making business. The machine can be locally fabricated and powered by solar panels. The startup cost is N350,000 and above



Errand/Cargo Supervision and Delivery in major markets in Nigeria. Women and young girls can also venture into cargo/market stock inspection for traders based far away from the point of sales, to ensure that their demands as ordered from various suppliers are the right quality and quantity. They also ensure proper way-billing through reliable cargo courier is carried out. Initial startup capital can be from N50,000 and above.



Note: All prices quoted above are subject to inflation and other economic Government Policies

The various business ideas compiled above are not only innovative for private people interested in small scale businesses to generate daily income, but are also very viable and bankable projects that can be implemented by the governments at various levels (National, State, Local government) and their ministries and departments. Though the Federal Government has its Social Investment Programme (SIP), this is not sufficient to cover everyone and the respondents do not fall into the categories of those qualified to access the funds.

Companies in the private sector, as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility and in conjunction with reputable and qualified NGOs can run these type of intervention programs. Donor organisation and community-based NGOs can replace some of the expensive workshops organised for youths with more direct intervention programs that will have a more immediate impact such as these concepts. Philanthropists and constituency projects of legislators should devote part of their funds for programs like these. We also implore religious organisations, in addition to the various outreach programs they have in place, to intensify efforts in rehabilitating these beautiful women. They can provide emotional support, counselling, mentoring schemes and a potential way out for these sex workers.

With various sorts of supporting projects, complemented with counselling, a year's accommodation cover and free (or highly subsidized) quality education in government-run schools and vocational training centres, these women and young girls (and even men) can comfortably escape a life of crime and prostitution.

Tables 7 and 8 below show that beyond the provision of financial support, these women and young ladies would require some technical training spanning from financial management, marketing skills, as well as technical skills in various trades and crafts etc. These training can be provided by the private sector and non-governmental organisations and other non-state actors, as opportunities for investments and project implementations. 76.2% of the women said they will need this type of training in addition to any financial support that they may be offered while 19% of the respondents said they are not sure on the type of support that they need apart from financial support. This can be explained by the fact that this will be their first time venturing into any business, as well as the fact that many small businesses with daily income may not need much technical skill support beyond financial management, bookkeeping and good marketing skill. However, it is better that they are given this type of technical support because some of them may grow to be big businesses with tens, maybe even hundreds of people, in their employ.

Table 7: Apart from financial support, do you need any specific technical support i.e. training or mentoring, to manage your business dream?

		Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage
Valid	Yes	16	76.2	76.2
	No	1	4.8	4.8
	Not Sure	4	19.0	19.0
	Total	21	100.0	100.0

Table 8: If Yes, what kind of training would you need to best support your dream

		Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage
Valid	Training in the craft	10	47.6	47.6
	Financial management	6	28.6	28.6
	Nil	1	4.8	4.8
	Computer Training	4	19.0	19.0
	Total	21	100.0	100.0

Tables 9 and 10 show that apart from requiring financial and technical support, the women and young girls highlighted the need to get psychological support in various forms ranging from professional counselling to mentoring. There is a desperate cry for help as many of them already display anxiety, depression and traumatic stress. At least 70% testified that they desperately need counselling and rehabilitation. Only 23.8% said they need just medical support.

Table 9: Apart from financial support, do you need any Medical /Health Support?

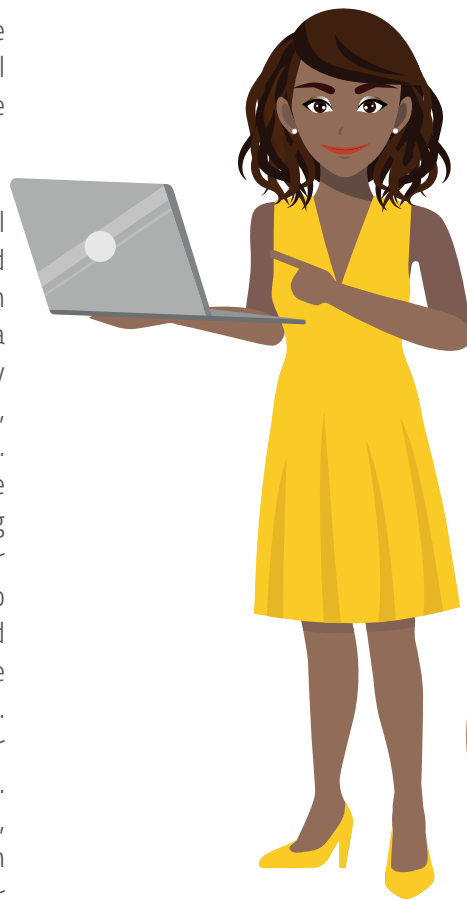
		Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage
Valid	Yes	5	23.8	23.8
	No	16	76.2	76.2
	Total	21	100.0	100.0

Table 10: Do you need any Psychological(counselling, prayers,mentoring)

		Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage
Valid	Yes	15	71.4	71.4
	No	6	28.6	28.6
	Total	21	100.0	100.0

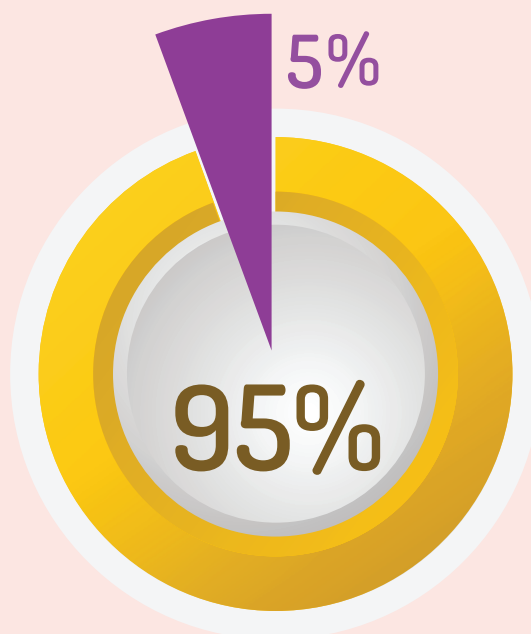
Even with the lack of technical knowledge and the need for psychological counselling, all 100% of the respondents interviewed still see themselves as potential entrepreneurs.

Asked if they have ever had any criminal records, 95% of the respondents confessed to having no criminal records even though they admit to knowing that prostitution is a crime in Nigeria. They reiterated the difficulty of getting an alternative livelihood. For them, commercial sex work is solely for survival. They also stressed that they get no pleasure from the sex trade. They confessed to feeling trapped and disgusted, having to rent their bodies to men in order to get money to survive. They blame the government and the insensitivity of the society towards the plight of women in low-income households. They stressed that prostitution locally or internationally is no option for any woman. For them, where choice and support exist, prostitution in any currency is not an option for any woman, as the woman's body is her most prized treasure; after protecting and providing for her children.



Do you consider yourself a potential entrepreneur ??

100%
ANSWERED
YES!!!

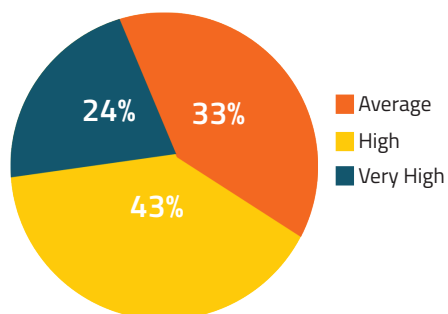


Have you ever had a criminal records in the past?

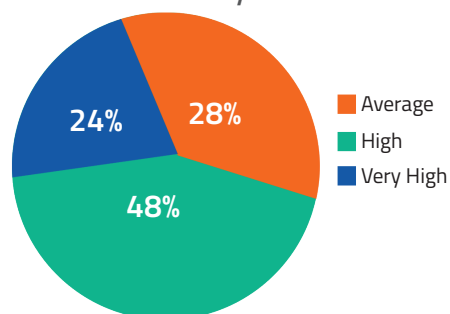
Yes
No

Self-Assessment: The respondents were asked to rate their level of patience, humility, tolerance, trust-worthiness, self-esteem, prudence, desire and will to start afresh, learn something new, etc.

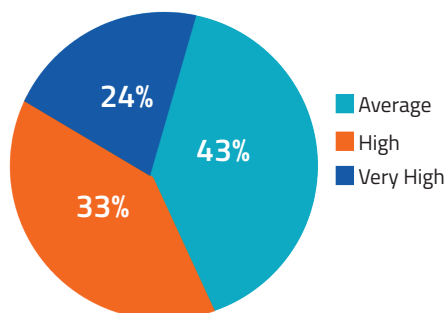
How would you rate your Level of Patience?



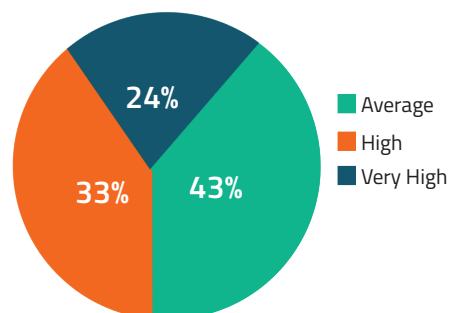
How would you rate your Level of Humility?



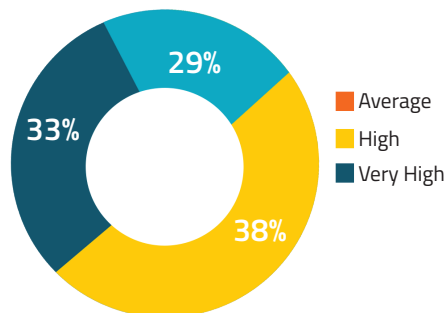
How would you rate your Level of Tolerance?



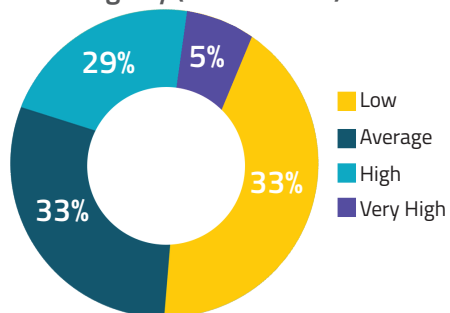
How would you rate your Level of Trust-Worthiness?



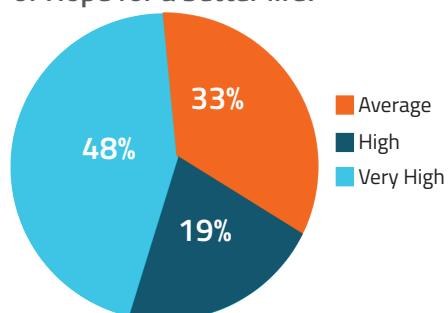
How would you rate your Level of Self-Confidence?



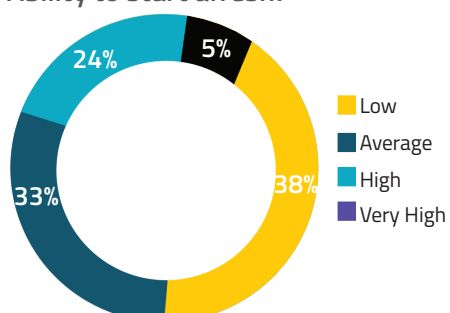
How would you rate your Level of Dignity (Self Esteem)?



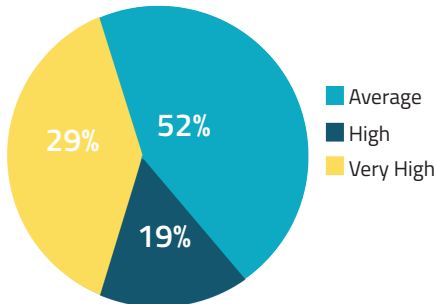
How would you rate your Level of Hope for a better life?



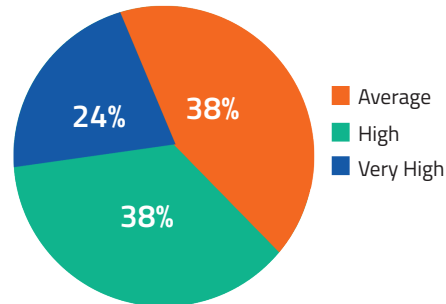
How would you rate your Ability to start afresh?



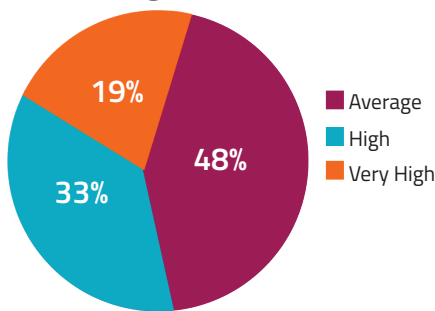
How would you rate your desire to start a new life?



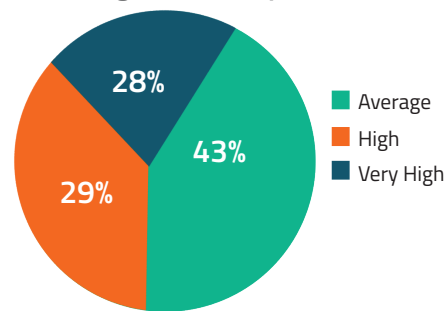
How would you rate your ability to learn something new?



How would you rate your saving culture?



How would you rate your Level of financial prudence (manage the little you have)?



The above charts illustrate the self-assessment of the women and young ladies which shows that apart from the 35% of the respondents that scored themselves low on dignity and self-esteem; most of the women scored themselves high on the integrity and optimism scale.

They also consider themselves able to build up their savings from their earned income. It may be tempting to speculate why the women and girls in commercial sex work are unable to save enough to leave the business.

However, considering an average income of N500 – N2,000 a day; deduct daily meal costs of N200 – N300, with the additional expenses going towards rent, feeding the children and dealing with health challenges; there is nothing remaining to save.

When these beautiful women and young ladies were asked why they should be given any support to start a business, 42% of them said they would like a fresh start and empowerment towards more dignifying business skills. 28.6% said such support would enable them to support their families and better fend for their children without the shame and stigma of prostitution. 19% of the respondents said the reason why they need support is because they are fed-up with prostitution. 4.8% said they need support to further their education. One respondent did not make any comment on the question.

Table 11: Why should you be given support to start a business, against your getting a regular job no matter how small the wage so that you save up to start a business?

		Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage
Valid	Support my family; children without shame	6	28.6	30.0
	Empower Myself with a Skill	9	42.9	45.0
	Tired of Prostitution and Want to be useful	4	19.0	20.0
	Further My Education	1	4.8	5.0
	Total	20	95.2	100.0
Missing	System	1	4.8	
Total		21	100.0	

At the end of the interviews, all the respondents were asked how sincere and accurate they were in their responses in the questionnaire. Upon reflecting on their response, 66.7% of the respondents said they were 70% sincere and accurate in their responses. 14.3% of them said they are 100% sincere and accurate with the information provided. Therefore, 84.3% of the total respondents were very sincere and accurate in their responses. 9.5% said they were 50% sure of their responses. Only 1 respondent representing 4.8% of the total sample was not sincere or provided accurate responses. Thus with 84.3% accuracy and sincerity, the outcome of the analysis can be considered reliable.

Table 12: Considering all your answers above, how sincere have you been in your response

		Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage
Valid	100% Sincere	3	14.3	15.0
	70% Sincere	14	66.7	70.0
	50% Sincere	2	9.5	10.0
	20% Sincere	1	4.8	5.0
	Total	20	95.2	100.0
Missing	System	1	4.8	
Total		21	100.0	

Part 4

Conclusion and Recommendation

4.1 Data Presentation & Analysis

With a well-structured questionnaire, 21 women and girls in commercial sex work were engaged to share their ideas, thoughts and description of what an ideal and clean daily business should be; and what is needed to escape prostitution. The study did confirm the fact that girls do not just grow up wanting to become commercial sex workers. They all desire to be treated dignity, love and respect. For them, prostitution has a way of stealing all their dreams, goals and deprive them of the beauty of being a woman. In their words, prostitution is for survival; an absence of choice.

The study took a look at commercial sex work/ prostitution, and how it affects the women and girls in Community A. It took a comprehensive look at the choices available to women and girls in prostitution and tried to collate their dream businesses and other innovative businesses that can generate the necessary daily income needed to empower them and their families.

The findings of the study show that prostitution is a complex gender issue. Over 70% of the women and girls in commercial sex work are from low-income families who lack access to viable education and are confronted with the pressure of carrying their families' responsibilities. From the survey, many of the women and young ladies in commercial sex work in Community A are single mothers. The men responsible for getting them pregnant abandoned them to shoulder all responsibilities regarding her and the children. Other factors that made it hard for the women and girls in prostitution include: lack of training and skillset, drugs or alcohol addiction, coercion by "friends" or a pimp, debts, lack of daily paying business, lack of accessible social capital and the social stigma associated with commercial sex work once they engaged in it.

Apart from the need to further their education, 100% of the respondents said they have actually thought of owning a business and trade to earn a daily income that would enable them leave prostitution for good. These daily income-earning businesses vary from bead/jewellery making, hairdressing saloon, fashion designing/tailoring, provision/mini-mart shop (wholesale and retail), managing a boutique or retail clothing sales, selling cosmetics for ladies, drinking bar, selling agricultural produce (foodstuff), selling household energy fuel like kerosene, cooking gas, food restaurants, mobile food carts/vans, and sales of stationery for students and pupils. None of their response is related or linked to the sex trade or drug peddling.

The study also presented other innovative business ideas that can provide daily income for these beautiful girls while also addressing the socio-economic, environmental and technological needs of the society; such as the provision of various amenities like – mobile solar phone charging and Internet hot spot kiosks, mobile toilets and bathrooms in communities with open defecation challenges, solar shops and solar storage rooms, clean cookstove business and supplies, solar TV viewing centres, mobile food and natural juice vendors, sales of pastries and snacks, mobile female barbers using solar-powered tools, mobile gas refill/supplies, last-mile transport businesses with tricycles, plastic bottles collectors/recyclers, local video game centres, errand running business, etc.

These business concepts are not only innovative for private people interested in small scalable businesses to generate daily income, but are also very viable and bankable projects that can be implemented by a variety of stakeholders.

Asked why they should be given any support to start a business 42.2% of them said they would like a fresh start to empower themselves with better dignifying business skills. 28.6% said such support would enable them to support their family and better fend for their children without the shame and stigma of prostitution. 19% of the respondent said the reason why they need support is because they are fed-up with prostitution. 4.8% said they need support to further their education.

In summary, a society that allows women to be prostituted, and to be sold and bought as commodities, will not progress educationally, economically, socially, and will never achieve gender equality.

4.2 Recommendation

A. Nigerian Legislatures (National, States, and Local Government levels) must hasten to revisit the Nigerian Child Rights Act 2013, especially Part Three of the Act and ensure severe punishment (minimum of 3 years jail term) without the option of fine for parents/guardians who outrightly fail to cater for their children or abandon the responsibilities to properly parent their biological children.



B. Apart from reviewing laws on child rights, civil society organisations and human rights groups need to protect the rights of women, specifically single mothers (especially those abandoned by the men who got them pregnant), to ensure that the men live up to the responsibility of providing for the welfare of the child.



C. The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons should be better funded and empowered by providing the necessary human resource, tools, training and all that can be done to orientate/ rehabilitate these beautiful girls.



D. The Ministry of Women Affairs at all levels in collaboration with the National Orientation Agency (NOA), Media Practitioners and the academia, need to drive continuous advocacy to protect women and young girls, as well as create awareness on the dangers of prostitution, while also providing rehabilitation, empowerment and counselling for women and girls struggling to exit prostitution.



E. The Office of the First Ladies (at Federal, State and Local Government levels) in collaboration with other female legislators and their counterparts in the Ministries of Women Affairs, Education, Health and the NOA, need to take personal actions as women, to develop initiatives to empower young girls and women trapped in sex trafficking.



F. Faith-based organisations should do more to support women in the sex industry. Their outreach programs, which seems to be currently geared more towards orphans, prisoners, widows and less privileged people in the society, should also focus on the women trapped in the sex industry. They should also not point accusatory fingers at these women. Medical aids, mentoring and counselling, financial and technical supports can be provided for these women. They can also partner with the Government and Law Enforcement Authorities to identify and help these women escape the snare of the sex industry.

G. Communities with thriving commercial sex trafficking and prostitution, should do more than frown at the act; they need to reach out to their elected representatives, CSOs, relevant government agencies and private business sectors on ways to help mainstream these women and girls into more productive activities.

H. Communities and citizens need to demand from their elected representatives and the government responsive and sustainable programs that target empowerment and rehabilitation of the women and girls in sex trafficking and prostitution.

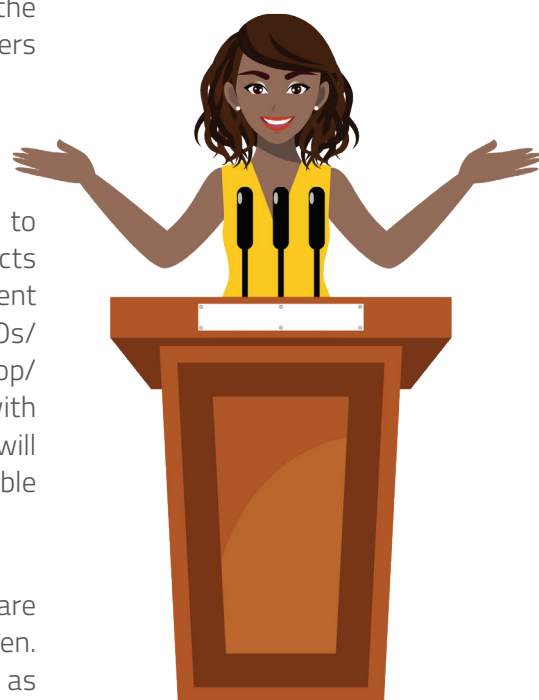


I. Business innovative hubs and think-tanks organizations can play a crucial role in developing programs, business models and crowdfunding support for marginalized women and girls trapped in sex trafficking and prostitution by first breaking them out from the CSW and then empower them to stay out once they are free.



J. The government and her ministries, specifically, the Ministries of Education, Science and Technology, should work closely with the private sector and affected communities to provide educational programs and learning centres that offer evening classes for women and young girls in low-income communities.

K. Private sector businesses and financiers should also drive their corporate social responsibilities towards rehabilitation, counselling and small business support for young girls and women struggling to exit the commercial sex work. They can also provide support for single mothers while at the same time offer financial management training to them.



L. Civil society organizations and human rights groups, need to revisit their Youth and Women Empowerment programs and projects for proper impact analysis and future planning. Millions of Naira is spent on workshops for youths and women with little or no impact. NGOs/ CSOs need to consider replacing their youth empowerment workshop/ talk shops with job/skill placement programs. This can be achieved with collaboration with big and small private business entrepreneurs. This will not only provide real skills to youths but have a more positive measurable project impact.

M. It is obvious that gender equality and human rights principles are at variance with men buying sexual services and exploiting these women. It would make a huge difference if our government would see, as well as treat these women as the victims that they are and not as criminals as they are currently being treated. The government should therefore be compelled to treat and penalise demand for sexual services.

N. Lastly, women and girls in the commercial sex trade, are humans. They are Nigerians, daughters, sisters, mothers, wives, lovers and dreamers. Their fundamental human rights must be protected regardless of social sentiments.



Questionnaire

Clean Jobs for Youth



1.	Gender:	Male		Female			
2.	Educational Qualification:	Primary Education		Junior Secondary Education		Senior Secondary Education	
		Senior Secondary Education		OND		College of Education	
		HND		B.SC		Post Graduate	
3.	Marital Status:	Married		Single		Divorced	
4.	Number of Children:						
5.	Have you ever engaged in Commercial Sex Work?	Yes		No		Only a few times	
6.	Age:	Less than 18 years		18 - 24 years		25 – 30 years	
		30 - 35 years		36 – 40 years		Above 40 years	
7.	How long have you lived in Abuja?	Less than 1 month		2 – 3 months		4 – 6 months	
		7 – 12 months		1 - 2 years		3 – 5 years	
		6 years and more					
8.	How long have you lived in Community A?	Less than 1 month		2 – 3 months		4 – 6 months	
		7 – 12 months		1 - 2 years		3 – 5 years	
		6 years and more					
9.	Have you ever thought of owning and running a business/trade/craft (handwork) that will provide you with DAILY INCOME, prior to this period?	Yes			No		
10.	If YES, which business/trade/craft (handwork) have you thought of doing to get daily income?	a.					
		b.					
		c.					
11.	If NO, which business/trade/craft (handwork) do you like that will earn you some daily income?	a.					
		b.					
		c.					
12.	Do you have any experience in any business/trade/craft (handwork) to earn a daily income?	Yes		No		Not Enough	
13.	What kind of business would you do if you had ₦1,000,000 (One Million Naira only)?	a.					
	Mention at least 5 businesses.	b.					
		c.					

a.						
b.						
What kind of business would you do if you had ₦500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira only)? Mention just 3 businesses. Do not hesitate to repeat some of your previous responses.	a. b. c.					
What kind of business would you do if you had ₦250,000 (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira only)? Mention just 3 businesses. Do not hesitate to repeat some of your previous responses.	a. b. c.					
What kind of business can you think of doing if you had ₦150,000 (One Hundred & Fifty Thousand Naira only)? Mention just 3 businesses. Do not hesitate to repeat some of your previous responses.	a. b. c.					
What kind of business can you think of doing if you had ₦50,000 (Fifty Thousand Naira only)? Mention just 3 businesses. Do not hesitate to repeat some of your previous responses.	a. b. c.					
Apart from financial support, do you need any specific technical support; training, skill or coaching to manage your dream business?	Yes		No		Not Sure	
If YES! What kind of training would you need to best support your dream business?	a. b. c.					
Apart from financial support, do you require any medical/health support?	Yes		No		Not Sure	
Do you need any Mentoring, Psychological or Spiritual help i.e. counselling, prayers, deliverance?	Yes		No		Not Sure	
Do you consider yourself as a potential entrepreneur?	Yes		No		Not Sure	

How would you rate yourself in the following categories?

	Categories	Very High	High	Average	Low	Not at All
1.	Level of Patience					
2.	Level of Humility					
3.	Level of Tolerance					
4.	Level of Trust Worthiness. Can people trust you?					
5.	Level of Self Confidence					
6.	Level of Hope for a Better Life					
7.	Ability to Start Afresh					
8.	Ability to Learn Something New					
9.	Desire to Start a New Life					
10.	Level of Dignity or Self Esteem					
11.	Financial Prudence i.e. Manage the little you have.					
12.	Level of Savings Culture					

Additional Questions:

Do you have anyone/persons that can stand in for you as a guarantor to access soft loan					
Yes		No		Not Sure	
Have you ever been convicted of any criminal offence?					
Yes		No		Not Sure	
Have you ever been arrested and charged with any criminal offence?					
Yes		No		Not Sure	
Why should you be given supports to start a business, as opposed to you getting a regular job; no matter how small the wages, so you can save up to start a business?					
<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>					
Considering all your answers above, how sincere have you been in your responses?					
100% Sincere		70% Sincere		50% Sincere	
20% Sincere		5% Sincere		0% Sincere	

Please fill the space below if you want us to contact you later on updates:

Name (your nickname is okay):	
Phone Number:	
Social Media Contact:	

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