LEGALIZING PROSTITUTION

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GROUP 31

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INTRODUCTION

• The practice of prostitution has carried through ancient civilizations such as Hebrew culture, Greece, and Rome, all the way through present day. The definition of prostitution has undoubtedly changed over the years. The definition today is “the business or practice of engaging in sexual relations in exchange for payment.” The stigma associated with prostitution is often negative, but with the proper workers safety laws, prostitution could bring in millions of dollars in revenue for the country.
GROUP THESIS STATEMENT

• Prostitution should be legalized and regulated throughout the United States, in order to make way for greater worker safety and increased revenue, which will, in turn, significantly aid the economy.
OUTLINE

I. Introduction
II. Impact on Worker Safety (Elyse Eitches)
III. Benefits for the Economy (Yasmin Stukes & Conner Velez)
IV. Rebuttal (Victoria Campbell & Saleeya Harris)
V. Conclusion
EVOLUTION OF RESEARCH STRATEGY

Preliminary research strategy

- Gain a working knowledge through newspaper articles, videos, google, and Wikipedia
- Conduct a keyword search through the Discovery Tool on the library’s website, utilizing Boolean operators and truncations
- Read abstracts of potential articles, and utilize the “find” tool to ensure that they cover the topics needed

Evolution of research strategy

- After gaining a working knowledge, it became evident that there is not a lot material on prostitution, that does not contain a heavy bias. After I found a few great articles, I would sift through the citations, and then search for them on the library database, in order to get more specific results
- This saved me a lot of time, and allowed me to find more sources than I planned on, and because I used the Library database, I was able to export to endnote easily

- This article is very reliable, as it has over 83 sources cited, as well as an independent study that the authors conducted themselves. The information is very specific and is in a well known journal, the Journal of Public Health. Since its publication, this article has been updated, as recently as 2014, to ensure that information shown is current.
- The authors made an effort to gain information from all over the world, citing studies and interviews conducted on men and women from diverse regions.
- This source fits into my topic of worker safety, in that the entire article focuses on the violence and risk that sex workers face, along with specific data to back up all of the statements made.

- This source is an academic, peer reviewed, article from the Canadian Journal of Law, examining structural stigma in Canadian laws and describing the effect it has, mainly the civic exclusion of sex workers.

- This source is reliable because it is peer reviewed, constantly sites sources, was written by two well known criminology professors, was obtained through the library database, and is a relatively recent study.

- This source fits into my section of the group research project in that it explicitly lists the disadvantages that prostitutes face from civic exclusion, backing up every claim with numerous sources.
RELIABLE SOURCE #3


• This source is reliable because the research done spanned 8 years, consisted of over 40 face-to-face interviews, 25 surveys completed by prostitutes from four different brothels, 11 semi-structured open ended interviews with current and former brothel managers and owners, 10 interviews with state regulators and activists, 5 discussions with brothel customers, and many visits to 13 legal brothels in Nevada. It is also an academic peer-reviewed article.

• This source fits into my section of the group research topic in that it analyzes risk and policy in Nevada's legal brothels. It also provides an analysis comparing multiple locations with legalized prostitution, examining the effects legalization made on violence towards workers.

- While this is an academic source, the bias is too strong for the purposes of research, but the bibliography provided an easy way to find additional sources in the beginning of the research process.
- There are large portions of the article dedicated to responding to specific points Farley, Raphael, and Shapiro made, making it a bit confusing to read and understand.
- Overall, the source was useful in the beginning steps of research, but currently has no use in this assignment.

- This source appeared to be helpful at first, but upon further reading it became obvious that it was too vague for my purposes.
- While this article does speak to safety being an important aspect in terms of legalizing and regulating prostitution, it does not go into detail about it.
- This would have been a great source for gaining a working knowledge about the debates over legalizing prostitution, but it is unhelpful in locating more specific information.
EVOLUTION OF RESEARCH STRATEGY

Preliminary research strategy

- Obtain a general understanding of revenue portion of legalizing prostitution, through google research.
- Use Old Dominion University’s database to find scholarly information on prostitution.
- Take notes and cite works in APA format as I preform my research to create an outline.

Evolution of research strategy

- While doing my research my strategy changed drastically. I actually used keywords and “AND, OR” and “ALSO”.
- I avoided my outline until the end, after my notes were gathered. Reliable sources I found off of ODU database I entered the title in the search engine. This allowed me to export my citations into Endnote.
- Many sources I was not able to use because the author was not specialized in the area of human services, he was a history professor at Virginia Common Wealth University.

- This article was written by David Goldman. Mr. Goldman is a law attorney who specializes in human services.
- The article has many reliable sources and even has primary resources from former and current prostitutes. He focuses on the revenue benefits of legalizing prostitution. Quotes are used from government officials on this topic.
- Also, he introduces his article by giving a background history of prostitution. Although this is a scholarly source, he uses common language so this information can be understood by most people.

• This source discusses the economic benefits of legalizing prostitution, along with its lasting effects. As well as others sources found on revenue benefits of legalization.

• As a bonus, they display websites on what to do if you, or someone you know, is in that predicament.
RELIABLE SOURCE #3


• This website is an has an ORG domain which means organization. The website has the opinion of many credited professors, as well as plenty of primary sources, some of which being prostitutes.

• This source fit into my focus concerning the possible revenue brought in by legalizing prostitution.

• Focuses on revenue related to prostitutes marketing themselves through craigslist.
• This source has zero cited references.
REJECTED SOURCE #2


• This source is about how sex slaves can recover from human trafficking. It discusses emotional needs and healing, trauma, coping, and safety.

• This source has a heavy focus on religion, which is not related to my topic.

• It is a great site, all of the references are cited and seem reliable (all pass CRAP test). Even keywords are present in the footer of the article.
EVOLUTION OF RESEARCH STRATEGY

Preliminary research strategy

- Get a general understanding using Wikipedia about the financial effects of Prostitution.
- Went on ODU EBSCO host and searched for peer reviewed articles having to do with my topic.
- Downloaded PDFs of documents that seemed relevant and beneficial to my topic.

Evolution of research strategy

- I looked up how the income from legal prostitution would help with the growing debt of the U.S.
- I used my knowledge from Wikipedia to find scholarly papers with credible authors and studies.
- I also slimmed down the amount of paper I had found on EBSCO host, until it consisted of the papers I found most fitting for my topic.

- This is a scholarly journal written by about the approximate size of the underground commercial sex economy, in 8 major US cities. It includes studies that have taken place in order to calculate the size and economy of prostitution. It is written by 8 credible authors, Meredith Dank, Bilal Khan, P. Mitchell Downey, Cybele Kotonias, Debbie Mayer Colleen Owens, Laura Pacifici, and Lilly Yuand. It was also written in the last two years, making it a relatively recent and current study. The benefits discussed are that the legalization of prostitution would lead to equal pay.

• This is an article that contains different facts that are pulled from studies. The author is credible due to the fact that she has written many different research papers on the topic, including another article that I am using in this assignment.

• Some key information included in this article relates to the amount of money made by the different positions in the prostitution business, such as pimps compared to the prostitutes, as well as which cities, such as Atlanta, Dallas, Denver, and other large cities, receive the biggest profit.

- This paper is about the regulation of prostitution in the state of Oregon. It has many valid points about how it can be regulated and handled in an established setting while being carefully watched. It is written by an experienced writer with a lot of knowledge on the subject, and has been peer reviewed. It talks about how prostitution is monitored and the dividing of profit between the employees.

- This is a peer-reviewed paper based on the safety of the sex work. The paper is peer reviewed and reliable, but I didn’t use it because I am not dealing with the safety aspect of our topic. If I were this would have been a good paper to use in the research of the topic. It has many useful facts and is very well written.

- This is a good scholarly paper and is peer reviewed. It is about prostitution in other countries like the Netherlands. I rejected this because it is not relevant to our topic because it takes place outside of the US. Also it doesn’t talk about the money that is made.
EVOLUTION OF RESEARCH STRATEGY

Preliminary research strategy:

• I got a general understanding of the topic from Google and Wikipedia
• I researched the supporting side of legalizing prostitution to learn better about what topics would be used against my argument.
• Look at the ODU library for books.

Evolution of research strategy:

• I used Boolean operators to find more specific journals, articles, etc. related to my topic.
• I learned how to analyze my sources, which allowed me to sort out reliable, helpful sources from sources that weren’t worth my time.
• I used EBSCOhost instead of a regular search engine such as Google or Wikipedia.

VICTORIA CAMPBELL
RELIABLE SOURCE #1


• This journal article evaluated condom use of sex workers and reactions among law enforcement. The authors want to “end the use of condoms as evidence”.

• The quality of the journal article was good, with a lot of reliable footnotes. It comes from “Health and Human Rights: An International Journal”. The authors collaborate with Harvard and the Harvard School of Public Health, an accredited and prestigious school.

• The journal article helped me with my paper by providing me another reason to criminalize prostitution, which also inspired me to find more information about the controversy surrounding prostitution.

• This article focuses on “Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST).” The authors feel as if there is confusion with some definitions regarding trafficking, so they included a section with definitions and laws. Then, they explain characteristics of victims of trafficking, which is the section that helped me the most in my paper to explain how trafficking and prostitution negatively affects the victims. After that, they discuss the characteristics of pimps, traffickers, and buyers.

• The article is reliable because it comes from the School of Social Work from the University of South Florida. The source is Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment. The year the article was published was 2013, so the data is very recent.

- This article discusses the immorality of prostitution and the United States and “its impact on legal norms and government policies.”
- It comes from the Journal of Law and Society, which allows people to submit their papers. That could have been unsound, but it has a strong and professional Editorial Board, so I am confident that the source is reliable.
- This article helped me because the whole article supports my side of the argument, to criminalize sex work.

• This article tells the reader to put themselves in the place of a sixteen year old girl who suffers from abuse at home and runs away. The girl meets a ‘nice’ man who swoops her off her feet and starts a loving relationship that quickly turns violent and abusive. The man becomes her pimp and she is swept into the world of trafficking and cannot escape. One night, she is arrested by an undercover cop. While in her jail cell, she reminisces about her life at home and school, more specifically history class. She thinks, “If America truly is the land of opportunity and freedom, then why do I feel so enslaved?”

• I rejected this source because it sounds too informal, almost like a book written for a teenager. Though the author is a well-educated professor, I didn’t feel like this source could flow easily with my paper without having to edit or change a lot of syntax in the quotes.

• The source would be useful, because it shows how the pimps can manipulate girls, especially young girls, into trafficking. It also shows how the girls are arrested and punished for being a prostitute.

• This article discusses how “sex workers and transgender women” are susceptible to HIV infection and are becoming even more susceptible because now condoms are used as “evidence of prostitution-related offenses in criminal proceedings.” This makes the sex workers afraid to carry condoms, which increases chances of obtaining HIV and other diseases.

• The article has a lot of authors, but it is really short. The article says that the authors had no conflicting interests and that they all edited the article, but between all five of the authors I feel like the article should be longer and/or more in depth than what it is.

• At first, I thought this source would be helpful because the main author is a corresponding author of another article I used in my portion of the essay. However, as I was reading the article, I realized that the article is against criminalizing prostitution, which is not the stance I’m taking for the assignment.
EVOLUTION OF RESEARCH STRATEGY

Preliminary research strategy

• I typed in “prostitution in the United States” in Google scholar the main things that popped up was why prostitution should not be legalized.
• I used keywords from my thesis statement to see if they would give me more of what I was looking for.
• I then went to ODU libraries and went to the discovery tool and typed in my keywords.

Evolution of research strategy

• When I googled my topic some webpages came up that looked credible but actually weren’t. I then looked through Google scholar and credible sources came up, however, some of the articles I really needed were locked or needed login information to access it.
• I then went to the database at ODU libraries and searched my keywords in the discovery tool box. About 50,000 articles came up so I advanced my search to articles starting from 2000-2016 and changes results to peer-reviewed articles.

• This article focused mainly on the impact of legalized prostitution on human trafficking inflows.

• The article talks about two opposing effects of the unknown magnitude of the prostitution market and the direct effects it has on human trafficking for women. If cross examines countries who have legalized prostitution and the crime of human trafficking has sky rocketed in those countries.

• This article fits in with my topic because it discussed the main issue with legalizing prostitution which is human trafficking and that is the strongest argument for the rebuttal.

• This article is about a current bill being introduced in the Netherlands to end the legalization of prostitution

• The article discusses all the bad things and the negative statistic that have occurred due to the legalization of prostitution. The author talks about how the working conditions for prostitutes have actually gotten worse. They experience more abuse, human trafficking, and diseases.

• This article is perfect for my topic because it has all the element that I need for the rebuttal with actual evidence and statistics.

- This article argues that the normalization of prostitution is morally wrong.
- In this article the author opposes the argument that feminist are making. Feminist are saying that by the government making prostitution illegal they are infringing on the rights that women have and limiting them to the way that they can make a living with their own body.
- This article is very useful to me because it shows two views in one article and gives me more things to base my argument off of.
REJECTED SOURCE #1


• This article was very informational and it was credible.
• The article talks about how making prostitution legal would benefit the economy.
• The reason I did not use this article is because it did not have very much information about the negative effects of prostitution like human trafficking and diseases.

- This article was not as helpful as I thought it would be. Initially with the title I thought it would be very informationally and have good facts
- I got the article from ODU library so I thought it would be like the rest of the articles that I got from the database. The article was extremely bias and only focused on one point of view from the article.
- This article would not be good for my paper because I am doing rebuttal so I need information that will goes against my topic.