

PROLIFERATION OF HOTELS AND MORAL DECADENCE IN OWERRI, IMO STATE, NIGERIA**MACALEX-ACHINULO, E.C, PhD.****Department of Political and Administrative Studies****University of Port Harcourt****Choba, Port Harcourt****Abstract**

The main focus of this research was majorly to investigate the proliferation of hotels and to establish the relationship it has with the moral decadence in Owerri, Imo State. It examined the proliferation of Hotels and moral decadence in Owerri, Imo State and revealed the negative impacts and human character destruction the numerous hotels operations have caused the various communities within Owerri and its environs. The level of moral decay that have engulfed so many youths and destroyed so many families as well, was brought to the lime light. Even the rate of criminality that has resulted to kidnapping, human trafficking and murder were equally revealed. Triangulatory method was used and two theories were adopted, the metaphysics of Immanuel Kant's moral theory and moral sense theory, to evaluate the dynamics between hotel management/business and moral decadence. The methodology adopted were primary and secondary method of data collections, that involved interviews and published academic materials. Hotel business and management were properly examined and prostituting women and young girls were also interviewed to know the causes of prostitution and the hospitality services consequences on moral behavior. Findings show that poverty is the major cause of most women's prostitution, coupled with the economic hardship in the state caused by administrative haphazard execution of the development plan which is very hash on the people. To this end, series of recommendations were made which include; Government ensuring adequate welfarism scheme, provision for social security, strengthening of security system, regulatory policy that will aid monitoring and control of Hotel management operations, enhanced industrialization, Anti-corruption agency fortification, Technological advancement, etc. Obviously, these preferments will ameliorate the rate of poverty and change the character and behavior of the people of Owerri in Imo State.

Key words are: Hotel, morality and moral decadence.

Introduction

In Nigeria, every state that made up the thirty-six states has what its known for and such has a contribution to the state's development or underdevelopment. Imo State is one of the states that are known for high social life. The life style in Imo State with particular reference to Owerri that is the capital of the state can be said to appear the same with the life style in Rivers State that is tagged Treasure Based of the Nation and the capital Port Harcourt as the Garden City. In comparism, there is so much differences that resulted to the nuances in their developmental level, such as the level of industrialization and commercial activities that go on in Rivers State. Again, the oil and gas multinational companies in Rivers Slate as it is, attract a whole lot of foreign capital investment in the state that create jobs which inturn alleviate the empoverished youths. It is equally a state known for their great zeal and interest in hospitality but have the supportive means of livelihood. On the contrary, Imo State is not as fortunate as Rivers State are to have such endowments and opportunities rather, in Imo State there are moribund industries, less productive private companies,

unstable market existence, less commercial activities and proliferation of hotels that have caused high level of moral decadence in the state with particular reference to Owerri.

Moreover, this proliferation of hotels in Owerri and considering the high' rising hardship in Owerri, has worsen the rate at which the young and old in the city go about seeking for easy way to survive thereby compromising morals. Most of the young school girls are now engaged as part-time sex workers in the various hotels in Owerri. Some young ladies are presently operating as call girls to service men that patronize these hotels. It has gotten to a stage where most married women are equally involved in this saga, which is reinforcing the high level of moral decadence within the environment. This situation has caused a whole lot of unemployed youths to get involved in secret cults and so many others into criminal activities such as; armed robbery, kidnapping and even murdering of innocent people. All these were done in a bit to find ends meet as a survival strategy given the bad economic situation that they are facing. A typical example was the incidence that took place inside the evil Igwebuike forest in Awarra, Ohaji/Egbema Local Government Area of Imo State, where Mr. Okoro Ogbuji (a chief priest) confessed the activities of cult boys involved in kidnapping of Mrs. Ogo Omeriji who was later killed and buried in the evil forest by the cult boys after collecting ransom of \$4500,000.00 in December, 2015. Another victim according to Mr. Okoro Ogbuji was Stanley Eluwa Ihechika, a 24 years old motorcyclist who was equally kidnapped, killed and buried after ransom in October, 2017 (Okpara, 2017).

Furthermore, poverty and unscrupulous life style have caused a lot of involites to indulge in the crime against humanity which involves the sale of babies and setting up of baby factories by organized syndicates who collaborate with illicit criminal midwives and doctors to use maternity homes, orphanage homes to sale babies to couples in need of a child and those that needs them for rituals. They do all these by luring young girls and those that are having unwanted pregnancy to their hideouts with series of promises and incentives. For instance, in 2013 pregnant teenage girls open up to a team of security officers on how they were tuned to motherless baby homes at Ahamefule hospital and maternity with laboratory services. This was a government recognized hospital for motherless babies home at Umuaka in Njaba Local Government Area, Imo State: owned by one woman tagged "Madam one thousand" (Njoku, 2013). On May 9, 2013 Police rescued 23 teenage girls involved in the business against their will (Njoku, 2013). Some of all these illicit practices going on in parts of Owerri and its surroundings are caused by ravaging poverty in Imo State. The essence of all these madness was and is to make huge sum of money so as to go to Owerri and lavish it with women and girls in their various hotel rooms of lodging. Proliferation of Hotels are of different gradation that facilitates the easy access for all categories of boys, men and women to choose where they can afford as long as they do what they please without minding or getting checked up by anyone.

Finally, the metropolitan low lives that are prone to criminality, drug abuse, window children, under-employment and over bloated rate of unemployment are at that level because there is no welfare policy that covers them which Imo State government ought to have put in place to ameliorate their sufferings. This welfare policy equally supposed to cover other categories such as single mothers with children, widows, children and youths, the urban poor and those with economic challenges as to avert them having criminalities and prostitution as their last resort given the availability of various categories of hotels around. Welfare

programmes are aids and supportive measure to assist the low-income and the downtrodden in the society. These supports and aids are in the areas like; food, medical health treatment and other aspects of social life as their social security (Bryner, 1998).

Conceptual Clarification

Hotel is a public and private social place of agreed convenience hospitality between groups of people, man and woman, organizations, etc; built and owned by government, individuals or corporate organizations. It is often situated at strategic locations or secluded areas in a community, capital cities or any part of a state and the country at large. It is a public setting for accommodation, food and drinks and any sort of public activities or dealings. Whereas proliferation of hotels are incessant multiplicity of built up public and private social convenient places tagged hotels amounts to proliferation of such.

On the other hand, morality is the sanctity of man, the uprightness of man's attitudinal behavior which connotes morality of man as a living being.

Authentication of morality to avert God's wrath needs acknowledgement of God's existence as a supportive force. Glaringly, morality portrays good character of human being.

Morality is an agreed code of conduct, mode of behavior and character exhibition of any group of people or society. It is a disciplined type of behavior and attitudinal way of life. Examples of it are the Nazi type of morality that was their agreed conduct of a real Nazi believer, Greeks morality based on Greeks ways of life, and Christian type of morality that is expected of any true Christian as their own agreed pattern of behavior and operation (Gert, 1988). "Morality is a public system applying to all rational persons governing behavior which affects others and which has the minimization of evil as its end, and which includes what are commonly known as the moral rules as its core" (Gert, 1988:6). Rationality and irrationality connotes good and bad as well as discipline and indiscipline respectively. Therefore, desires and attitudes are Judged by these opposites, for instance, desires to feel bad and suffer oneself are irrational desires while desires to conduct oneself based on the agreed code of conduct in a society is a rational desire (Gert, 1988). While moral decadence connotes the high degree of immorality of man in his attitudinal behavior in terms of his ways of life and his operational pattern on his social activities and social relations with one another. The manner with which an individual operates marks the differences in peoples life style which could be tagged morally right or wrong with positive or negative impact on the society he or she lives. Moral decay only comes to limelight when human "behaviours are -absurd and out of cultural standard in a particular environment. Morality is associated with discipline, rationality and accepted or stipulated code of conduct of a group of people, organization and any particular society. Immoral activities are avoided, done in a hideout, punishable by law, sanctioned by society and ought to be discouraged by government through welfare schemes and programmes in form of social security as it's obtainable in the developed world. However, immorality of a few can be influencing others and over time, could become an acceptable customary way of life. This is how society and tradition are unknowingly changed.

Furthermore, moral knowledge is an ideal knowledge of how people suppose to exist in a particular society and blossom. While moral judgments have to do with attitudes or feelings

that can be used to quantify the character of an individual. Morality checkmates human beings ways of life existence. In the Aristotelian view, moral knowledge is all about the understanding concerning the well-being of humans (Perry, 1988). These knowledge about morality differs from community to community, although, there are fundamental ones. This is the reason why

"The ambition to achieve a politics that transcends the deep, pervasive, persistent differences among us — a politics less divided, less fragmented, than we, a politics that unites us — is easy to understand. Indeed, the ambition to avoid a divisive politics in our morally pluralistic society and to achieve, instead, a punitive politics is noble" (Perry, 1988:55).

Considering the menace in these variants of morality, it becomes confusing to make a decision on what to believe as reality in terms of ideal character to portray in a state. This confusion equally exists as an individual do have conflictual interest with what that individual desires deeply as being alright. These desires are as a result of our natural needs and the way and manner society has infused such in the various organizations within the state. In the end, all these reinforce each other and manifest in the political, economic and social relations in a particular surrounding (Perry, 1988). These moral differences most importantly are exhibited in our daily religious practices among the various religious enclaves. Hence, "a catholic perspective on morality is based on the assumption that humans have choices to make believing to be the correct ones that they become good persons (Perry, 1988:101).

Finally, the knowledge of morality and ethics aids our god existence because ethics has character as its major concern. And this ethical character helps human being live a reasonable life in a society (Aristotle, 1996). Those humans that are buffoonery have a lot of pleasure in social immoral relations. Equally, there are virtues in morality that guides our actions correctly, which excess of these pleasures result to profligate indulgence. Whereas in our good habits which life has given us the capacity to exhibit, helps us to attract virtues. Obviously, profligacy is a premeditated actions often displayed by over pampered youths than being cowardice (Aristotle, 1996).

Theoretical Framework

The adequate theories to adopt for this research study are the metaphysics of Immanuel Kant's moral theory and moral sense theory. Kant (1724 - 1804) was a German philosopher and originator of critical philosophy. He was the son of a saddler and was educated in Konigsberg in East of Prussia (Blackburn, 2005). He later formulated the basic principles of the metaphysic of morals in 1785 and the critique of practical reason called second critique (Blackburn, 2005). To Kant, he evaluates the moral worth of somebody in relation to the respect for the law so long as the action is based on true reality, devoid of one taking his or her life solitary sexual relations and selling part of one's body for whatever purpose (Blackburn, 2005).

Moreover, tradition and custom alongside with the law decipher between morality and immorality in a society. Moral matters are of so much importance for a rational state of mind and reasoning that are fundamental for proper and cordial coexistence in a society.

Secondly, is the moral sense theory that is linked to Hutcheson that humans have moral sense, just like every other sense that controls our feelings. But the consequences are centered on the attitudinal behavior of man; Hutcheson belongs to the sentimentalist school of thought introduced by Shaftesbury. These theory triangulation is applicable here due to matters concerning moral actions and immoral actions which are grossly determined by customary tradition and the laws of the land. Individuals sees sexuality as a privacy issues and that morality is equally a private matter. This is the circumstances that makes it difficult for one to access and measure morality. Again, it also makes it very difficult to reprimand one except by applying the law which is made to regulate characters and behaviours of citizens in a state with sanctions or punishment.

Methodology

The method to apply in this research work is both the primary and secondary methods of data gathering. For the primary method, interviews will be conducted on Hotel managers and call girls or prostitutes within the areas under review. While the secondary method will be information extracts from newspapers, textbooks, academic published materials and internet sources for in-depth findings on the subject matter.

Liberty and Morals

In the beginning, great philosophers are of the view that what is right behavior in societies has been of the strongest interest, which imply the leaders of societies who influences certain types of behavior on the general masses in conformity with their own benefit. Hence, "morality is nothing so more or less than the code of behavior so exacted" (Plato, 2007:15). This is the reason why in democracy that is ideal system by liberals, liberal perfectionism is frowned at because liberalism embraces different belief and character in a civilized state. Any act of exacting a believed perfect life style will infringe on others rights of existence and behavior (Vernon, 2001). Liberalism paves way for procedural sort that subsumes different kinds of virtues like bearing and consideration for one another, endurance and ability to wait, and moderation both in primary and secondary virtues of life (Vernon, 2001). It is worthy to note that "liberalism is a trend of moral thinking that seeks to influence the laws and policies of liberal democratic (or other) political systems" (Vernon, 2001: 169).

Moreover, morality is seen as personal decisions and way of life that an individual indulges in to attend to his or her needs and feelings in life. But it beholds on the state to take charge in the nuances in the beliefs of people, their values and ways of life as to proffer a proper and acceptable character and behavior that should be suitable for harmonious existence in that particular state (Nwosu, 2006). Liberty permits one to behave as it pleases him or her and free to decide whether to act well in behavior or do good in his or her operations in life. Therefore, any life style, so long as it pleases the person, such person is at liberty to live it but in the end, behaviours and characters like that have a lot of negative or positive influence on the masses and society at large. It is based on these views that any avenue or means that is promoting such immoral behaviours ought to be checked before it pollutes the society and increase the level of moral decay in it. Morals is synonymous to ethics that defines code of conduct and originated from Greek word *ethos* and that of Latin *mores* (Runes, 1962).

Furthermore, modernization has made it very paramount that liberty is the order of the day in our societies but, the challenge here becomes the expected good behavior as society demands from individuals. Although, these expectations are construed by people of different orientations, it must be recognized that there is dynamism in social life and it's believed to be followed as it comes. By this understanding, individuals see it that they have the liberty to live their lives without bordering on what implication it might result to or the impact on the rest of the society members. "It is this rock-bottom, indigestible fact of each person's lonely individuality, his ultimate responsibility for his own beliefs, judgements, and choices, that grounds our demand that we be free, that is the ground for our liberty" (Fried, 2007:22). The separateness and independent nature of a person from other people and society at large can be validated from the understanding of one self, the foreseen relationship and connectedness to the society, the feelings of a person in connection to other people and how society feels about that person in his behavior and the consequences (Ndu, 2002).

Hotel Business and Public Morality

The number of functional hotels in Owerri that is the capital of Imo State is quite alarming in this present time. It appears to be a city of hotels and the people of Owerri main town seen as Jolly-fellow people where tourists can go for a good time relaxation. The hotel business is a lucrative one in this vicinity and has sprung in almost all the roads in Owerri more specially the major roads in the new Owerri axis. A lot of people have resorted to boost the hotel business more especially the youths and even the elderly because of the economic hardship in the state. To make ends meet, the female folks have resorted to commoditize their body and engage in monetary bargain with influential men for sexual satisfaction as sex workers. Other categories of men and women are not left out because it goes according to levels and this has resulted to a lot of crisis within the homes. Girls are unfortunately giving birth to unanticipated child, marriages are broken and divorce is the order of the day now in that society, to the point that men are now indulging in all kinds of criminality to have money to be able to provide for the family and be incharge of the home.

Furthermore, within the new Owerri axis of Government Reserved Area (GRA.H) and World Bank (Umuoguma) area, it is an eye saw in the nights between 4040 Hotel and Owerri Concorde Hotel areas and some other big and small hotels where one can find a whole lot of prostitutes and call girls ready for sex services. Mostly, at nights when usually they parade themselves half naked to lure and attract men that are passing by, more especially those that come back late or the noctonal human being. This situation currently has gone seriously bad caused by the high rising poverty in the city since the present administration of Government Rochas Okorochoa demolished most of the major markets for instance, the Main Market (Ekeukwu Owerri) and the stoppage of keke napepe riders. At this point, most people especially the girls, ladies and even married women have resorted to all kinds of immoral activities to make money for themselves as to survive for life.

Again, these hotels have caused high social deviance and commercial sex workers to be on the increase in Owerri. Even those that gain employment in the hotels often times fall victims of temptation/immorality which have caused a lot of discord in families. Also, this moral decay has series of side effects and consequences of it which includes; spread of disease, death, divorce, armed robbery, professional and seasonal prostitutes and a whole

lot of problems on the people and the environment. These are mostly orchestrated by sugar daddies that enjoy sleeping with these girls, ladies and women. And it must be well understood that poverty and unemployment are both, among other factors, causes of indecent life style without minding the societal norms and traditions which in turn results to wrong life style that breeds immorality in any society.

Moreover, the cost of marriage in Imo state appears to be very much on the high side and it is obvious that girls get matured early than boys. Therefore, it is important and necessary that the cost should be reduced drastically to affordable cost to achieve the reduction of the number of unmarried women in the state. This is imperative and equally understandable that the immanent impulse that leads to the desires of nature is always there and cannot be ruled out, will from time to time leads to the call of nature. At this juncture, if marriage is not contracted due to the high cost of it, the girls and women resort to prostitution which they found very easy to join giving the availability of so many hotels questing for lady entertainers as to enable them boost their male customers patronizing their hotel. This single act of high cost of contracting marriage in Imo State has resulted to increase in single-motherhood within the state but worst in Owerri communities. The level of prostitution in the state has been noticed by the state government that warranted the Hon. Commissioner for happiness and couple's fulfillment, in Imo State, Mrs. Ogechi Ololo to call on men who can afford for more than one wife to marry more wives as to reduce prostitution and redundancy. As she puts it:

"Our women are crying every day due to lack of men to marry and support them economically hence they engage in prostitution. So please try to work hard and be productive so that you can help our women by marrying two or more wives provided you are able to provide for their basic needs "(Ololo, 2018:1).

According to her, statistics shows that the population of Imo State is about 3.9 million indigenes and 3 million are women while just 9 million are the men folks. In a conference of about 14,000 men, she advised men to marry more than one wife to help avert women committing adultery with other women's husband (Ololo, 2018).

In addition, hotels in Owerri are about 172 hotels comprising five star hotels, three star hotels and other category of hotels within Owerri. While the total of hotels in Imo State is about 246 hotels of different categories (Jumiatravel, 2018). Amongst these hotels are; Rockview, Fullmoon, Oxygen Holliday Resort, Immaculate Royal International, Shelvac, Bervonn, Imo Concorde and Casino, Winter Suites, Mavis Suites, Owerri Hotel Plaza, Pinewood, Clairbon Plaza, Seaview, Comet, bayview Resorts, Jacob's Place, new Castle, Delegand Hotel & Suites, Intanbul Guest House, Grandeur, Bestway, Abbot Luxury, Villa Garden, Great Wood, Titanic View Hotel & Suites, All seasons, Caribbean Suites, Protea, West Brook, G: Towers, Ospuc Hotels etc just to mention a few. These hotels are located within Port Harcourt Road, law Nwankwo Street, New Owerri, Ikenegbu Layout, off Uwazurike .Street, G.R.A.H; Egbu owerri, Orlu Road, Amakohia Owerri North, Concorde Boulevard Owerri, etc (Jumiatravel, 2018).

Lastly, welfarism is the pathway for this menace on immoral behaviours of people in Owerri which, will certainly restore self-respect, self-esteem and self-confidence on the

individuals. Although, those contributing to welfare, for instance, the affluent and opulent class are grudging at the recipients and see them as not being fare to them because they ought to be working (Bryner, 1998).

Poverty and Prostitution among Women

Poverty is an indication that a particular area is underdeveloped especially if the rate is so high, because there is inequality everywhere. Development stands for increased economic productivity and human capital development that synergies to bring about quality standard of living. While improved neurotic qualities result to a better state of mind for good social, economic, political and physical outcome which the otherwise, is all about poverty in both objective and subjective forms. Poverty in the land has led so many young boys to disguise themselves as young ladies and indulge in homosexual practice and in a deceitful manner too, some pretend to be young ladies that men carry unknowingly thinking that they are actually female folks, only for them to be robbed on the way. Immorality is very much on the high level, thanks to the proliferation of hotels rather than functional industries that would have created enough jobs that would have alleviated the people of the vicinity in particular and Imo State people in general.

Moreover, poverty has been the reason why some individuals in Umuezeala community at Ahamefule hospital indulge in a baby factory home where teenage pregnant girls gave birth to children and after was settled and separated from their children as Ogechi Chibue, 22, from Nkwere Local Government Area disclosed. While Ada Onuoha, 18, from Oguta Local Government Area attested that she came on her own as she was passing by, looking for where she can be attend to free. Also, Chiamaka Akubuiru, 22, from Agba in Oguta Local Government Stated that she lost her husband and was pushed out by her mother-in-law to fend for herself and in the cause of looking for help ended up there (Njoku, 2013). There was another case where nine girls were forced into pregnancy at a baby factory in Imo State; The girls were aged between 14 and 25 years. Equally, a 17 year old Adaobi Akubueze, a student at Lagos was referred to this centre by a medical doctor who conducted a pregnancy test on her. At that centre, there was a boy "Oga" who comes around to sleep and pregnant the girls and at birth they will be settled £460,000.00 for a baby boy and N30,000.00 for a baby girl (Rilwan, 2013). Whereas at Ihiala, a secondary school 2 girl got pregnant and the boy responsible denied her because of poverty for he was not yet established. There, after delivery the payment ranges from. 1440,000.00 to ₦70,000.00 for a male child and between ₦20,000.00 to ₦30,000.00 for a female child at that orphanage that harboured about 30 pregnant girls (Ujumadu, 2011). At the peak of all these menace, a new police commissioner was posted to Imo State to curb this dastard act against humanity. Mr. Mohammed Musa from Katsina was posted to face the high level of notorious baby factories, child trafficking, kidnapping, etc. The transfer was from Kogi State equally where he was a police (CP) and on 2nd February, 2014, the sight of teenagers forced into pregnancy was horrendous (Nwokpara, 2014).

Interestingly, this present administration of Governor Rochas Okorochoa has in his developmental mission worsened the poverty level of Owerri people and Imo State at large. Between 26th August, 2017 to 9th September, 2017 that witnessed the demolition of Owerri main market (the Ekeukwu and Ekeonuwa) which resulted to the death of a 10 years old boy and

two others that caused blood and tears to flow on people. Another tragedy stroke when the main market went on flame, which the inferno destroyed a lot of goods worth millions of naira. At this point, the traders went on rampage and protested to the point of blocking the Imo State Government House on 13th November, 2017 after their relocation to Nnaze (Apara, 2017). This was followed by the restrictions on the keke napepe ridders not to ply on major roads and certain areas which brought untold hardship on those depending on it and equally hardship on road users because the alternative is not easing the challenges of transport movements. Imo State government has the intension to consolidate Naze industrial cluster and Alaba Market along Aba Road in Owerri and modernize Owerri capital city at the detriment of the people for now because Imo is not an industrial prone state rather hotel pruned. On top of this excruciating poverty, the Governor went on to appoint 27 commissioners where "Civil servants in the State are receiving 70% of their salaries, pensioners are not paid full salaries, even after being meant to undergo screening monthly before payment, some are alleged to have received dud cheques" (Chukwuka, 2017:4). Injustice and inequality have been the challenges faced all over the globe in a bid to curb poverty and rural dwellers who are farmers contributing to the food production of the nation are the ones most impoverished (Salvationary, 2015).

On the other hand, prostitution among women in Owerri is quite alarming caused by high quest for sexual desires by men and the women use it to make money for themselves. Women that indulge in prostitution have made themselves an object of appetite for men which commonalise them to be and can be used by any who is interested in the sexual usurpation and cost regardless of morality (Blackburn, 2005). Sex is ubiquitous and can be practiced as created to be or inform of prostitution, homosexuality, erotic art, child abuse, nudity, oral and bestiality (Nussbaum, 1999). The prostitute all over the world takes or demands money for sex, the profession is full of health risks and it is violent prone, it is not a forced or tricked art, neither, is it a rape or one sexually harassed by another but, a voluntary profession or art that makes it problematic for a good intimate relationship to be established because they alienate themselves from falling in love (Nussbaum, 1999).

Furthermore, sexual relations are the most binding force that cannot be performed publicly in any society because of its sacred nature. It is regulated by government, culture and most of all by God Almighty but, a lot of people feel it is against human liberty for sex to be controlled by anybody (Fried, 2007). The liberals believe that there should not be any sort of encumbrances by any on the rights of man. And sex is seen to be so powerful to distract and detract one's interest and behavior that will be meaningful to one's advancement and that of society at large (Fried, 2007). It is important to know that there are so many reasons why women turn to prostitution,

"A woman turns to prostitution as the only -way to feed, her children. A rich and successful model gives into a client because she is desperately ambitious to appear in a particular magazine. Another gives in to the policeman who is about to arrest her because she is caught with cocaine. And some women become high-priced call girls when other well-paid work is available because they have a taste for luxury that they could not otherwise satisfy" (Fried, 2007: 137).

In all these, it is caused by both poverty categories of either objective poverty or subjective poverty. Most of the jobs that most women do are less paid jobs that cannot properly take care of their needs hence, they need support from men. Their situation is more complicated by other factors such as illiteracy and poor health conditions probably caused by child bearing, most of them are tagged secondhand because of their window child, out-of-wedlock and most profound-divorce, that devastate women without getting any help (Bryner, 1998).

Finally, Imo State has a land very endowed with natural resources such as crude oil, lead, zinc, natural gas, and vegetations like Iroko, oil palm, rubber trees, mahogany woods, bamboo, obeche and a well fertile farm lands that are underutilize (Jumiatravel, 2018).

This drift away from Agriculture and harnessing of the God given natural resources is one of the major factors breeding poverty in the land because every individual wants to make it so quick on a fast lane. Other factors are sharing and monolithic economy, lack of understanding of what constitutes advancement, wrong policy making and targeted objectives, unqualified leaders at political positions, gross corruption, the societal value system and recognition, lack of industrialization and technological advancement, lastly, lack of human capital, development in terms of sponsored skill acquisition and entrepreneurship alongside with Bank facilities (Ohale, 2018).

Hotel Management and Moral Decadence

Hotel management deals with hospitality industry that is responsible for hospitality management. There is every need to evolve and make some radical changes that are novel as to remain current in the industry and flourish better than before. Also, creating extraordinary things and going extra miles for guests in terms of a service delivery that is more efficient, effective and attracts interest are required for more boost of the Hotel. These are some of the initiatives of the owner and most often from the hotel management headed by the hotel manager. A good hotel manager must be innovative and have that creative ideas that guests will appreciate and continue to patronize them always which will result to expansion and quality apartments with moderate cost that is or can be affordable. Hotel management is all about luxury and hospitality arrangement and control, these extend to recruitment and firing of any staff of the hotel. So much are involved in the management process because procurement of quality toiletries and other accessories are under the purview of the management as to guarantee good teast. In this regard, hotel management has been able to create over 80 million jobs to the extent that travel and tourism sector will account for one in every nine jobs by the year 2026 (Glion, 2017).

On the contrary, hotels have done more harm than good in Owerri because the number of hotels within and around Owerri has really increased the level of immorality in the area. Most of the services of these hotels are so enticing and is capable of making one be gluttonous about the facilities. This has made it much easier to lure women to come and enjoy what they can not ordinarily afford in their houses. To this end, moral decadence is on the very high side in Owerri with its negative consequences. Therefore, there is need to concentrate on building industries or reactivate the already existing ones as to engage youths on productive livelihood and less time for negativity that destroys their destinies. There is about 764 business companies in Imo State and Imo State government has strategy to revive three

old industries established by the late Gov. Sam Nmbakwe 33 years ago that are moribund now. These industries include; Resin Paint Industry at Aboh Mbaise; Avutu Poultry at Obowo and Paper Packaging Industry Owerri Ebiri Orlu and according to Mrs. Ugochi Nnanna - Okoro, the State Commissioner for Industry and non-formal sector, the idea is to enhance economic development in Imo State (Taiwo, 2018).

Moreover, these felicitations and luxuries in the midst of impoverished class has motivated and induced them to indulge in criminality as to make quick money and partake in the hospitality and flexing that are staring their faces every day. To achieve that goal, kidnapping and murder becomes the current business that is very lucrative for them. An instance was the activities that took place at Igwebuike forest where people who were kidnapped, after collecting ransom were killed and buried (Citiscopes, 2017). This is Clarion call on the people of Imo State to have a rethink on their areas of investment instead of building so many hotels and entertainment industries that are causing character pollution on the youths resulting to moral decadence, they should divert to setting up technological industries. It is a necessary diversion as to meet up the objectives of indigenization policy tagged Indigenization Decree in 1972 that was amended in 1977 under General Yakubu Gowon's military regime (Ohale, 2018).

Furthermore, it is worthy to highlight some of the industries, companies and professional bodies in Owerri and Imo State at large. Industries include; Prince Chi enterprises, Emmiynaz Internal, St. Evans Scientific World, Hardel and Enic Nig. Ltd, Delengend Graphics, Benchidi Professionals, Evermore United Company Ltd, Alice Sunrise Ventures, Victory Family Enterprises Nig. Etc. and 12 Plastics professionals in Owerri Municipal (V. Connect, 2018). While Chemical industries include out of 52 chemical professionals; Gmicord Industrial Group; Anex & Sons Nig; Saco & Sons Nig. Ltd, Mice Medicals & Cosmetics Shops, Stanchemical Group, Johndon Consulting Ltd, My Own Need, Model Lab; Awac Aluminium, etc (V. Connect, 2018). Also, there are about 717 manufacturing professionals in Owerri Municipal which are as thus; Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria, Amata Chuks Global Ltd, Uwenjah Fashion Magazine, Airtel owned Shops, I cell Integrated Services Ltd, Christussy World, Vitafoam Nig. Plc/Vitafoam.

Distributor, KSL Investment Ltd, etc. (V. Connect, 2018). In addition, there are about 13 Engineering companies in Owerri which are as follows; Amphibex Ltd, August Multi Projects Ltd, Basison Engineering Co. Ltd, Baron Vearl, Foutis Energy Ltd, industrial Dynamics Nig. Ltd, Mafia Records, Hydro Resources Industry Ltd, Barnax Electrical Works Ltd, Elusos Electrical Works Ltd, G.C.M. Electrical Products Ltd, Osy Dum Elect. Electronic and Umez Engineering Contr. Co. Ltd (Businesslist, 2018).

Lastly, there are about 16 companies in Owerri, amongs them are; Aluminum Extrusion Industries PLC, Zenith Computer Technologies, Proximidia Technologies LTD, Bizbridge Net-work, Associated Bus Company LTD, ABC Transport, Futo Consult Ltd, Franklin Howard International LTD, etc (Masterseek, 2018). Obviously as a Niger Delta State, Imo State has some oil and gas companies which include; Ariboil Company Ltd, Southoak oil & Gas Services Ltd, Danchidi Energy Resources LTD, Pamtech Oil & Gas LTD, Shorelink Oil & Gas Services LTD, etc. Imo State has about 160 oil fields in 12 locations which Gov.

Okorochoa has accused them, the oil & gas companies of causing crises within their host communities. While Mr. Chinedu Ndubuisi on 16 March, 2018 spoke concerning having a database of oil companies as to help create opportunities for Imolites (Alozie, 2018).

Table 1: Analysis of conducted interviews based on four research questions concerning proliferation of hotels and moral decadence from prostitutes, call girls and ladies along the Concorde Boulevard to 40-40 hotel axis, Akanchawa/full moon axis, Umuoguma/World Bank axis, Government House/Rockview axis, MCC/Fireservice/Orata road axis, Naze/Building Material/Alaba axis, and nekede Ancient Kingdom axis in Owerri, Imo State.

S/N	Number of Interview	Location/ Axis/Area	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Yes	No
			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No		
1	10	Concorde/4040 Hotels	8	2	7	3	10	0	10	0	35	5
2	10	Akanchawa/Full Moon Hotel	9	1	6	4	9	1	10	0	34	6
3	10	Umuoguma/World Bank	9	1	9	1	8	2	10	0	36	4
4	10	MCC/Fireservice/Orata Road	8	2	8	2	10	0	10	0	36	4
5	10	Government House/Rockview	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	32	8
6	10	Naze/Alaba/Building Material	10	0	8	2	6	4	10	0	29	11
7	10	Nakede Ancient Kingdom	9	1	9	1	9	1	10	0	29	11
Total	70 Prostitutes		63	7	57	13	62	8	70	0	231	49
Gross Total											280	

Interview Analysis

For proper analysis of this research findings on proliferation of hotels and moral decadence in Owerri, Imo State, interviews were purposively conducted appropriately on some selected female prostitutes. A purposive sample population of 70 people were selected from seven locations at the ratio of 10 persons from each location purposively.

Furthermore, there are four research questions used, which are as follows:

- (a) Are you in this prostitution profession because of poverty?
- (b) Do you think business is better than prostitution?
- (c) Do you intend to retire from prostitution any day?
- (d) Is there any challenge in this prostitution profession?

From Table 1 above, the frequency of the Yes response of 63 against 7 No shows that poverty is a major cause of women, girls and ladies indulging in prostitution which breeds moral decadence in any society. While the frequency of the Yes response of 57 against 13 No shows that even though the female folks are involved in prostitution, they know that business is far better than the prostitution that they are into for survival. Whereas, the frequency of the yes response of 62 against 8 No shows that almost all the prostitutes have the intension to retire from the prostitution profession. That they are into it because it does not require capital to join it rather it is a decision, determined to sale the body to men and get paid in the end.

Lastly, the frequency of the Yes response of 70 against, 0 (zero) shows that there are supper challenges big time in this immoral business of prostitution ranging from diseases contacted in the process of rendering sexual services, to being vulnerable to be used for rituals by occultic men and jazz from their fellow prostitutes in order to out shine others and cause men to find them more attractive than the rest prostitutes.

Finally, these findings shows that proliferation of hotels in Owerri has sparred and influence the rate of immorality among youths that have caused most female folks to have access and avenue to indulge in such immoral practices that have resulted to high level of moral decay in Owerri, Imo State. Based on the findings from these seven locations where the female prostitutes are always most often found every day in the night lined up awaiting male patronizers to come and pick them up. Some other of the female prostitutes do reside in most of the hotels while some do hang around for any need of their services by any one lodging.

Conclusion

Proliferation of hotels in Owerri, Imo State is seen to be more of harm than good because of the negative consequences that have resulted to moral decadence in the vicinity. On the other hand, there are also the positive impact that is beneficial from hotel from hotel business such as employment, promotion of tourism and hospitality in the state. The problem here is that the number of hotels in Owerri is too much so is the problems that they are causing. There are hotels in other states that try to fortify their industrial base to balance the- equation which is not the case in Owerri.

Again, the economic hardship created by government through the policies and actions that government of Imo State are formulating and implementing are major challenges of the people that lead them to criminal activities to survive. It beholds on government to know that all aspect of development are for man and that the people need to be taken care of, probably through a welfare scheme that will be a pull to curtail these criminal and immoral indulgence of Imolites in such wrong attitudinal conduct that is self destructive with negative influence in the communities and state at large.

Finally, from the research findings on both the interviews and literature, it is obvious that poverty, hardship and sexual distraction and detraction were the major causes at moral decadence in Owerri. Based on these findings, there is need to proffer solutions as a way forward to ameliorate this menace and Government intervention in terms of regulative policies are necessary.

Recommendations

- ❖ Government should put in place adequate welfarism scheme to ameliorate the excruciating pains the masses are facing in Owerri in particular and Imo State in general.
- ❖ In addition, there should be provision for social security of quill the exacerbated level of unemployment that is ravaging and contributing to the rate of those in abject poverty.
- ❖ Security -system has to be strengthening to clamp down on those involved in human trafficking and sexual abuse.
- ❖ There should be a. regulatory policy to monitor and control the operations and activities of the hotel owners and management.

- ❖ Empowerment scheme and skill acquisition programmes should be established to be functional as to actually and positively impact in terms of taken off a good number of those involved in illicit activities and behavior into a better life with decency,
- ❖ Enhanced industrialization in the State.
- ❖ Government should stage a war against corruption.
- ❖ There should be technological advancement,
- ❖ There is need to vote into power, qualified and dedicated political leaders,
- ❖ Improved human capital development and sponsored skill acquisition and encouraged entrepreneurship,
- ❖ There is need for changed societal value system and recognition in our society.
- ❖ There is need for the provision of technological improved implements, tools and machines for improved agricultural production; as well as proper and improved training for farmers.

References

- Alozie, C. (2018). Imo has over 160 Oil fields in 12 locations. Owerri: <https://www.vanguardngr.com> (Retrieved 26th April, 2018).
- Aristotle, (1996). The Nicomachean Ethics. Hertfordshire: Wordsworth Editions.
- Blackburn, S. (2005). Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Bryner, G. (1998). Politics and Public Morality. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.
- Businesslist (2018). 764 Companies in Imo State. Owerri: <https://www.businesslist.com.ng> (Retrieved 29th April, 2018).
- Chukwuka, U.-(2017). As Okorocho Appoints 27 Commissioners in Midst of Hardship. National Question Newspaper. Owerri: Legacy Infotech.
- Citiscopes (2017). Forest where people are murdered, buried in Imo State. National Question Newspaper. Owerri: Legacy Infotech.
- Fried, C. (2007). Modern Liberty and the Limits of Government. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.
- Gert, B. (1988). Morality: A new justification of the moral rules. Oxford: oxford University Press.
- Glion (2017). Glion Institute of Higher Education. Switzerland: <https://www.blog.glion.edu> (Retrieved 01st May, 2018).
- Jumiatravel (2018). 246 Hotels in Imo State. Owerri: <https://travel.jumia.com> (Retrieved 1st May, 2018).
- Masterseek (2018). 16 Companies in Owerri. Owerri: <https://www.masterseek.com> (Retrieved 28th April, 2018).
- Ndu, E.G. (2002). The Primordial State: A Study in Disciplined Political Practice. Port Harcourt: Amajo V and Coy.

- Njoku, (2013). How we were lured to motherless baby home at Ahamefulé Hospital and Maternity. Owerri: <https://www.osundefender.com> (Retrieved 10th April, 2018).
- Nussbaum, M.C. (1999). Sex and Social Justice. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Nwokpara, C. (2014). Police Commissioner Transfer. Owerri: <https://www.vanguardngr.com> (Retrieved 18th April, 2018).
- Nwosu, O.K.S. (2006). States and Morals. An Introduction. Owerri: Springfield Publishers.
- Ohale, L. (2018). Poverty in the Midst of Plenty: The paradox of Nigeria's development. An inaugural Lecture. Port Harcourt: University of Port Harcourt Press.
- Okpara, D. (2017). Forest where people are murdered, buried in Imo State; National Question Newspaper. Owerri: Legacy Infotech.
- Ololo, O. (2018). Marry two or more Wives to reduce prostitution - Imo State Commissioner for Happiness. Owerri: <https://www.infomationng.com>. (Retrieved 30th April, 2018).
- Perry, M.J. (1988). Morality, Politics and Law. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Plato, (2007). The Republic. London: Penguin Books.
- Rilwan (2013). How we were lured into baby factory -- Pregnant Teenagers. Owerri: <https://www.thenationalinerg.net>. (Retrieved 02nd May, 2018).
- Runes, D.D. (1962). Dictionary of Philosophy. Ancient-medieval-Modern. New Jersey: Littlefield, Adams & Co.
- Salvationarmy (2015). Passport out of Poverty. London: Salvationarmy Press.
- Taiwo, G. (2018). Imo Government to revive Industries. Owerri: <https://www.thecable.ng> (Retrieved 30th April, 2018).
- Ujumadu, V. (2011). Booming babies business: Paying off pregnant teenagers after delivery. Owerri: <https://www.vanguardngr.com>. (Retrieved 15th April, 2018).
- VConnect (2018). 717 Manufacturing professionals in Owerri Municipal, Imo State. Owerri: <https://mv.connect.com>. (Retrieved 02nd May, 2018).
- Vernon, R. (2001). Political Morality: A theory of Liberal Democracy. London: Continuum.