

The Problem of Prostitutes in Thailand

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Prostitution is a social problem which causes many kinds of evils such as venereal diseases, threats of compulsion, traffic in persons, exploitation, and crimes. It is a chronic problem faced in many countries. An attempt to solve this problem has come through the co-operative action by governments many times. The League of Nations prepared in 1937 a draft convention on the subject. Owing to the outbreak of the Second World War, this plan was not carried out. The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations resumed the study of the League of Nations draft convention of 1937 to make any necessary amendments in order to bring it up to date, and to introduce any desirable improvement in view of the changes in the general situation since 1937. This led to the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly in December, 1949, of the Convention for the Suppression on the Traffic in persons of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. The policy of the convention calls for the abolition of any form of regulated profiteers and the prevention of prostitution and rehabilitation of its victims.

The Government of Thailand, as a member of the convention, had to abolish the Prevention of Venereal Diseases Act, B.E. 2452, and the Prohibiting Prostitution Act. B.E. 2503 was enacted. The new act abolished all registered prostitutes and registered brothels. By this act no one can have prostitution as a legal professional career. According to the law, the government must provide some rehabilitation activities for the abolished prostitutes.

This thesis attempts to describe the measures of the Government for solving the prostitution problem. Based on the hypothesis that the policy of the government to

control and eliminate prostitution was found not very satisfactory, the study analyzes obstacles and problems. Some suggestions for future improvement are to amend the law by having heavier penalties and eliminating loop - holes, to promulgate the prevention of Venereal Disease Act, to expand the rehabilitation activities into other densely populated areas, to set up half - way homes, to suppress the deceivers, female agents, gigolos, owners of the establishments, to develop counselling services, and to improve the standard of living of the low income people especially in the rural and remote provinces.

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