



FACULTY OF HEALTH AND OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES
Department of Social Work and Criminology

“It's just that we have to stand together in society, against the purchase of sex”

Methods and Interventions Used by Service Providers Working with Women Affected by Sex Trafficking in Germany

A qualitative study of social services organisations in Germany

Amal Abdi
Relana Waldner

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Supervisor: Brita Backlund Rambaree
Examiner: Anneli Marttila

Abstract

This study aims to explore the working methods used by service providers in Germany when working with women affected by sex trafficking, as well as connected challenges and how these can be tackled. The authors used a qualitative research approach, semi-structured interviews were used as a data collection tool. The participants of the study consisted of four service providers working with women affected by sex trafficking in Germany. The collected empirical data was analysed with the ecological systems theory. The collected data was divided into three themes: *methods and interventions*, *challenges*, and *tackling challenges and desired changes*. These themes represented the most important information collected within this study. These findings illustrate trust-building as the most important method to effectively work with women affected by sex trafficking. Besides that, one of the key challenges identified was lack of awareness and misconceptions on the issue of sex trafficking.

Keywords: *Sex Trafficking, Women, Service Providers, Methods & Interventions, Ecological Systems Theory*

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1. Introduction

Sex trafficking is a global phenomenon, which has started to globalise more at the beginning of this century (Hodge & Lietz, 2007). According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) 49.6 million people were living in modern slavery in 2021 (International Labour Organization et al., 2022). Approximately 4.9 million of those were women and girls that were subjected to sex trafficking and had to perform commercial sexual acts under force, fraud, or coercion. It is often emphasised to be a human rights issue with a crucial importance to the social work profession. Additionally, as Orme & Ross-Sheriff (2015) mention, factors and social problems related to sex trafficking include but are not limited to poverty, unemployment, domestic abuse, economic and political instabilities, governmental corruption and more. Therefore, sex trafficking is a multifaceted social problem that constantly needs to be addressed on various levels, more so by social workers in a proactive role. In the past few decades, despite its heightened presence, the recognition of sex trafficking as a social problem and its response by social work practitioners is something which has been relatively lacking.

Since sex trafficking is globally prevalent, a variety of definitions of sex trafficking exist. This study will make use of the definition of sex trafficking, according to the UN defined in the Palermo Protocol, which is provided in the background. Briefly summarised, it defines sex trafficking as the exploitation of women and children for engaging in prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation within the broader category of human trafficking (Hodge & Lietz, 2007; United Nations, 2000).

Despite some research efforts on the topic of sex trafficking, whereby the narrow majority of the studies focus on the context of the United States, there remains a significant, especially empirical, research gap in the literature (Okech et al., 2018). However, this study will focus on the German context due to its prevalence and legal framework regarding sex trafficking. The legal framework in Germany has legalised prostitution, but persecutes sex trafficking, which leads to a thin line between prostitution and sex trafficking (Farley et al., 2022). This, in turn, turned Germany into a popular destination for sex trafficking. However, it presents challenges to its eradication and the provision of support for the women affected by it.

With that in mind, this study will be conducted with the interest of exploring and expanding the issue of sex trafficking of women in Germany. The focus of this study will be especially on the methods and interventions used by service providers when working with women affected by sex trafficking, as well as the challenges service providers encounter and how these can be tackled.

1.1. Aim

The study aims to explore the methods used by service providers when working with women affected by sex trafficking in Germany. This study also aims to explore challenges faced by service providers and how these challenges can be tackled.

1.2. Research Questions

- 1.2.1. What are the methods and interventions used by service providers to work with women affected by sex trafficking?
- 1.2.2. What challenges do service providers encounter while working with women affected by sex trafficking?
- 1.2.3. How can these challenges be tackled and what are desired changes according to service providers?

1.3. Thesis Structure

Chapter 1 Gives an introduction to the main topic of this essay. It also provides the aim, research questions, and definition of key concepts regularly used in this paper.

Chapter 2 Presents background information on the research topic and its area of focus, Germany.

Chapter 3 Provides the reader with examples of previous research relevant to the study.

Chapter 4 is dedicated to the theoretical framework of this study, which is the ecological systems theory, and its use.

Chapter 5 Presents the implementation of the methodology of this thesis.

Chapter 6 Contains the results and analysis of this study.

Chapter 7 Covers the theoretical and literature discussion. It also suggests further research and implications for international social work.

1.4. Explanation of Concepts

Service providers: The term service providers within this thesis will be defined as anyone who professionally works with vulnerable people, for instance women affected by sex trafficking. However, they provide a variety of different services to individuals and groups that experience marginalisation. The work experiences as well as the educational background the service providers have are within the framework of the social work profession.

Outreach (street work): The term outreach (street work) refers to the engagement with individuals in their ordinary environment who do not seek out assistance. It aims to create a bond and refer these individuals to appropriate services and provide relevant information (Gerassi & Nichols, 2018). The service users execute outreach (street work) by going directly to the location of the women affected by sex trafficking to engage with them and provide support as well as other services for them.

Women affected by sex trafficking: In this thesis, “women affected by sex trafficking” refers to any woman that is or has been affected by sex trafficking according to the UN definition of sex trafficking. Thus, focusing on only women, specifically those who have reached the legal age of 18 years, according to the German constitution.

2. Background

This chapter of the thesis provides essential background information on the research topic and its focus area Germany.

2.1. Definition of Sex Trafficking

There are a variety of definitions of sex trafficking. However, the first internationally recognized definition of sex trafficking was within the United Nations trafficking protocol from 2000, also referred to as the Palermo Protocol. (United Nations, 2000). The protocol defines sex trafficking as:

“Trafficking in persons’ shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs” (United Nations, 2000, p.2)

As stated above, sex trafficking is a subtype of human trafficking. More precisely, sex trafficking can be described as the form of human trafficking that involves the exploitation of individuals, mostly young women, and children, for the purpose of engaging in prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation (Hodge & Lietz, 2007).

2.2. Factors contributing to Sex Trafficking

A variety of factors can contribute to an individual becoming subjected to sex trafficking. On the macro-level, factors like poverty, wars, natural disasters, gender inequality as well as the globalisation of the consumer market and global sex tourism can be named (Okech et al., 2018). On the micro-level, factors like low levels of education, challenging family dynamics, the presence of abuse, violence, or

homelessness as well as the prevalence of substance abuse can be factors that contribute to becoming a victim of sex trafficking (Meshkovska et al., 2015). Moreover, the individuals affected by sex trafficking are mainly females. Therefore, it could be said that sex trafficking is gendered.

Individuals exposed to one or various of these factors can be more vulnerable to becoming subjected to sex trafficking. However, it is important to remember that the existence of any of these factors does not automatically lead to the occurrence of sex trafficking (Schwarz et al., 2016). Additionally, it should be noted that not a single factor is the root cause of sex trafficking, it rather is the interplay of these various factors (Schwarz et al., 2019).

Besides that, individuals who are not directly impacted by any of these factors can become subjected to sex trafficking too. Those individuals commonly seek to improve their living conditions and pursue a better quality of life (Meshkovska et al., 2015). Whereby factors such as the image of a better life in more developed countries, presented by media or transmitted by other women, can contribute to pushing these women and children into being trafficked (Meshkovska et al., 2015).

2.3. The Physical and Psychological Effects of Sex Trafficking on Women and their Lives

Being affected by sex trafficking can have severe and wide-ranging effects on individuals, impacting their physical and psychological well-being in numerous ways (Steiner et al., 2018). Physical health issues such as vertigo, fatigue, different kinds of pains like stomach or back pain, and memory problems or even memory loss can occur because of being affected by sex trafficking (Steiner et al., 2018). Additionally, women may experience traumatic brain injuries and face sexual health issues as they are at risk of getting infected with sexually transmitted infections or HIV (Steiner et al., 2018; Orme & Ross-Sheriff, 2015).

Furthermore, the effects on the mental health of the individuals affected by sex trafficking are often equally adverse. Most of the women develop posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Many even experience the extreme form of PTSD, which is called complex trauma. This is the result of the repeated exposure to and experience of traumatic events over an extended period of time (Orme & Ross-Sheriff, 2015). The exposure to different forms of psychological abuse and social isolation affects their mental health further. Other mental health issues the women can develop are “anxiety disorders, mood disorders, dissociative disorders and substance-related disorders” (Orme & Ross-Sheriff, 2015, p.291).

All the effects, taken together, make it harder for the women affected by sex trafficking to integrate back into a society or other societal systems. The women are often confronted with certain stigmas related to their past, which makes it harder to exit the trafficking situation and build a new life (Orme & Ross-Sheriff, 2015). Additionally, some women start to face the same issues, like economic problems or poverty, that they faced before being trafficked (Orme & Ross-Sheriff, 2015).

2.4. Sex Trafficking in Germany - Prevalence and Legislation

In spite of the ratification of the Palermo Protocol in 2006, which illegalizes sex trafficking in Germany, the country has also enacted the Act on the Regulation of Prostitutes (ProstG) in 2002, effectively legalising prostitution (Farley et al., 2022; German Institute for Human Rights et al., 2009). This legal framework leads to a thin line between prostitution and sex trafficking in Germany. This can be argued to nourish sex trafficking and create challenges to combat it. In addition, prostitution in Germany is socially normalised, which makes the country a popular destination for sex trafficking (Farley et al., 2022). It has even earned the reputation of being Europe’s largest brothel. A high number of unregistered prostitutes further complicates the identification and assistance of women subjected to it (German Institute for Human Rights et al., 2009). Even though the German government has made significant progress in prosecuting and convicting traffickers, the government still only meets the minimum standards for combating sex trafficking in Germany (“Trafficking in Persons Report: Germany,” 2022). For the year 2021, the German Federal Criminal Office (BKA) reported 417

cases of human trafficking for sexual exploitation, that is, sex trafficking (Bundeskriminalamt (BKA), 2022). However, it should be noted that this report only covers a small part of the actual cases, as it only includes successfully concluded trafficking investigations. In addition, the German Institute for Human Rights et al. (2009) further suggests that the actual number of victims is hard to detect and there is most likely a high number of unrecorded cases of victims of sex trafficking.

Due to the prevalence and complexity of sex trafficking in Germany, studying this topic becomes crucial for understanding the underlying dynamics, identifying gaps in existing legislation and policies and research in order to develop effective interventions and support systems for women. Therefore, this research study will delve into the perspective of the service providers when it comes to the methods they use when working with women affected by sex trafficking, as well as challenges that occur while doing so and how they can be tackled in the context of Germany.

2.5. Sex trafficking in Germany as a Research Gap

Previously, research has been conducted on the issue of sex trafficking and the social work response to it, however a lack of research on the topic still exists. A high lack of empirical research was particularly detected in previous research. (Okech et al., 2018). The reason for that is that it poses a challenge to researchers to obtain this kind of data, no matter in which form (Edwards & Mika, 2017). In addition, the existing research literature, especially within the social work field, is limited, and researchers have difficulties in studying the issue of sex trafficking due to the trickiness of the topic. Furthermore, the findings regarding the service provider's response to sex trafficking in the existing literature is limited. Besides that, these findings cannot be generalised or customised to service providers, including social workers (Edwards & Mika, 2017). Lastly, it should be mentioned that the narrow majority of research conducted on this topic is focused on the US American context (Okech et al., 2018). Due to these challenges and limitations mentioned, it makes sense to ask whether the existing literature and research can accurately inform about appropriate practice in the field of social work.

Based on that and the situation concerning the prevalence and legislation regarding sex trafficking in Germany, this research is necessary. It will provide insights into services provided to women affected by sex trafficking in Germany. As it is an empirical study, it will especially help to fill the gaps of this type of research in the field.

3. Literature Review

In this chapter, the authors will be presenting an overview of previous research in relation to the aim and research questions of the study. This chapter will first highlight the methods and intervention used by service providers in previous research, as well as the challenges they face. Furthermore, this chapter will also present some of the identified barriers of previous research.

3.1. Methods and Interventions in Previous Research

A study that examined the methods and interventions used by service providers in the field of sex trafficking identified a number of methods and approaches that can be applied to individuals affected by human trafficking (Steiner et al., 2018). To this extent, the study was done with the aim of understanding and pinpointing several practices across the world. Examples of the methods presented in the findings included empowered-based, survivor and human centred approaches. Some of these approaches as mentioned by Steiner et al. (2018) were often used simultaneously together by providing a range of services such as trauma-informed care, health care, support groups, legal support and short as well as long term housing. Trauma-informed care as mentioned by Steiner et al. (2018) is utilised as it acknowledges the vulnerability of survivors and the nuanced nature of trafficking. Additionally, trauma-informed care is applied as it focuses on the emotional health of the individuals affected by sex trafficking by applying principles of safety, resiliency, trust, empowerment and promoting agency to encourage the survivor to make their own choices.

The study highlighted services which also included working with the individuals affected by sex trafficking in efforts to improve education and life skills training in job and economic empowerment, amongst other things (Steiner et al., 2018). Therefore, a combination of services was used as a general method of service providers towards individuals. These various services were provided mainly due to the complex issue of

sex trafficking and diverse needs of the individuals affected by the issue. The study therefore shed light into the importance of conducting a needs assessment in order to provide the crucial services needed by the service users (Steiner et al., 2018).

This as the participants identified in the study also included trust building as a key factor to the foundation to the needs assessment being conducted. This as mentioned in the findings of Steiner et al. (2018) was essential between the service providers and the victims of trafficking as it would help create a supportive and safe environment which enables and facilitates the recovery as well as the reintegration of the people affected by sex trafficking. Trust building was also highlighted as a major factor impacting the anti-trafficking systems in a study done by Cox (2018). The study aimed to explore the services and policies implemented with the help of service providers in Cyprus against sex trafficking. The findings of the study emphasised on the significance of building trust and relationships with people affected by sex trafficking as this was critical for not only assessing the needs of the trafficked people but also guiding them to seek help as the people affected by trafficking are often reticent to seek aid services and/or prosecute traffickers (Cox, 2018). Therefore, the study's findings indicate trust building to be the foundation of helping people affected by sex trafficking and a great tool for service providers.

Similarly to both the studies of Steiner et al. (2018) and Cox (2018), this was also highlighted by a qualitative study done by Busch-Armendariz et al., (2014) which presented needs assessments as a priority to establishing different effective services for the people affected by the issue of sex trafficking. The study aimed to explore the response available to individuals of sex trafficking. Likewise, this study also presented cooperation of services as methods applied in sex trafficking due to the different needs of the service users (Busch-Armendariz et al., 2014). The findings also emphasised and highlighted trust building as another crucial factor and working method used by service providers.

3.2. Challenges and Barriers in Previous Research

Previous studies have shed light on the challenges faced by service providers when working with women exposed to sex trafficking. In one notable study by Wilson (2019),

gathered data from 55 service providers in India and the United States, the focus was on identifying the needs and barriers experienced by service providers in supporting women who were attempting to exit the realm of sex trafficking. The findings revealed several significant obstacles, with structural barriers emerging as a primary concern. Many of the women involved in trafficking had limited education and employable skills, which made it difficult for them to seek alternative forms of employment (Wilson, 2019). This issue was particularly prevalent among foreign women who lacked other means to support themselves and their families.

In addition to the structural barriers, the study by Wilson (2019), also highlighted other noteworthy challenges. Trust issues were a prominent factor, as the women had experienced significant trauma and exploitation, leading to difficulties in establishing trusting relationships with service providers. Low self-esteem and internalised stigma were also identified as contributing factors that hindered their ability to make positive changes in their lives. Furthermore, a lack of awareness about available resources and options further compounded the struggles faced by these women (Wilson, 2019).

Supporting the findings of Wilson's study, a recent investigation also conducted in the United States by Salami' et al. (2021) underscored the vulnerability of women from minority backgrounds in relation to their hesitancy to leave the world of sex trafficking. This research further highlights the importance of raising awareness about the various facets of sex trafficking. By addressing structural barriers, building trust, promoting self-esteem, combating internalised stigma, and increasing awareness of available support services, service providers can better assist and empower survivors of sex trafficking on their journey to recovery (Salami' et al., 2021).

In summary, these studies shed light on the multifaceted challenges faced by service providers when working with victims of sex trafficking. The findings emphasise the significance of addressing structural barriers, establishing trust, promoting self-worth, combating internalised stigma, and increasing awareness to better support survivors. By employing comprehensive and sensitive approaches, service providers can enhance their ability to assist and empower individuals impacted by sex trafficking.

3.3. Ecological Systems Theory in Previous Research

The previously mentioned studies conducted by Wilson (2019) and Salami' et al. (2021) presented several systematic barriers encountered surrounding the women affected by sex trafficking. These barriers can be argued to be interlinked, as they interchangeably affect one another. Similarly, looking at the methods and interventions mentioned previously, a variety of services were applied overall on various levels depending on the needs of the women affected by the issue of sex trafficking. This highlights the importance of the ecological approach in examining the methods and interventions used in addressing sex trafficking. This is due to the perspective recognising that sex trafficking is a multidimensional issue which is influenced by a variety of reasons in relation to the individual's interpersonal, community and societal environment (Barner et al., 2017). Therefore, the ecological perspective can both be used for the indication of the efficient methods and interventions that can be applied on the various systems as well as simultaneously recognising the barriers which present themselves on each level, thus also how said barriers can be tackled.

3.4. Gaps Identified in Previous Research

As previously mentioned in the background, despite the growing attention given to sex trafficking and the response by service providers, there remains a significant research gap in this field. Previous studies have indicated a scarcity of evidence based research specifically focused on sex trafficking and the services offered by service providers (Okech et al., 2018). The topic of sex trafficking presents inherent complexities and sensitivities, making it challenging for researchers to gather empirical data and conduct in-depth studies (Edwards & Mika, 2017). This is, as mentioned by DeBoise (2014) due to the delicate nature of the issue of sex trafficking as well as the stigma surrounding it. Therefore, due to the scarcity of research on the topic a research gap was detected by the authors of this study which in turn reiterated and therefore highlighted the importance of conducting this research.

4. Theoretical Framework

This chapter will elaborate on the theoretical framework chosen for this study. The authors have selected the Ecological Systems theory by Urie Bronfenbrenner since it

acknowledges the reciprocal importance and influence of relationships as well as interactions an individual has with the different systems it's surrounded by (Cox, 2018). The study aims to explore the methods and interventions used by service providers when working with women affected by sex trafficking in Germany. This study also aims to explore challenges faced by service providers and how said challenges can be tackled. Therefore, the ecological system theory will be used to explore this and give the authors insight in how and which systems influence the mentioned aspects.

4.1. Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory

The ecological systems theory was developed by Urie Bronfenbrenner, and it deals with the influence of five different systems on the development and behaviour of an individual. According to Bronfenbrenner, every individual has reciprocal relations and interactions with these different systems, which influence the development, experiences, and behaviour of the individual (Lishman et al., 2018; Parrish, 2014). Therefore, the ecological systems theory is highly relevant as it acknowledges these interactive systems around an individual and their different influences on an individual as well as possible outcomes. This enables the service providers to assess the problems and needs of an individual with a value-free approach (Parrish, 2014). Besides that, it can be equally applied on all five levels that influence the individual. The five different systems are the micro-, meso-, exo-, macro- and chronosystem.

4.2. The Five Environmental Systems

As already mentioned, the ecological systems theory consists of five different system levels. The first and closest system to the individual is the microsystem, it has a direct connection to the individual (Parrish, 2014). It consists of the most immediate surroundings of an individual, including direct family members, partners as well as peers. The following level is the mesosystem, which entails the interactions between different microsystems, such as doctor-patient or client-practitioner relationship (Parrish, 2014). Whereby, both systems have a constant reciprocal influence on each other, which leads to a stable relationship.

The next level and system, namely the exosystem, refers to the social settings and circumstances which indirectly influence an individual's development. This entails the social settings and circumstances which can affect the individual, but in which the individual necessarily has no direct participation (Lishman et al., 2018). Examples of this as mentioned by Parrish (2014) include parents' own experience of childhood, partner's employer, various governmental agencies, and their various policies.

The next level, which was originally Bronfenbrenner's last level, is the macrosystem. This level refers to the overarching cultural and societal values, beliefs, and norms that influence an individual's development (Parrish, 2014). Those are determined by the individual's religion, ethnicity, culture, or economy, for example. The fifth and last level is the chronosystem. This level was later added by Bronfenbrenner and refers to the changes and transitions that occur over an individual's lifetime and how they interact with the other systems (Lishman et al., 2018). Examples for this level could be a wedding, divorce, or a change of residence.

4.3. Relevance for the study

Sex trafficking is a multidimensional social problem which affects individuals, communities and societies in numerous ways (Steiner, 2018). With that being said, the problem can be seen as a consequence of several factors which makes the individual vulnerable to being trafficked. Some of these factors may include as mentioned previously unemployment, domestic abuse, poverty, economic and political instabilities and more (Orme & Ross-Sheriff, 2015). Based on the ecological systems theory, this can also be seen as a reflection of the type of environment the individual lives in. As previously mentioned, the ecological systems theory is a theory which emphasises on the importance of the person-in-environment perspective, which in turn also acknowledges that individuals are influenced by their immediate and broader social environment (Parrish, 2014).

Therefore, as this theory provides an approach that highlights how an individual interacts with their environment, the ecological systems theory can prove as a relevant theoretical framework for service providers methods and interventions in relation to sex

trafficking and the women affected by it. The framework will provide an understanding of the variety of different and complex factors, socially and economically, which promote sex trafficking (Barner et al., 2018). As mentioned by Orme (2015), making use of the ecological system theory enables service providers the opportunity to tackle sex trafficking interdisciplinary and intervene on various levels.

Henceforth, in the context of this study which aims to explore the methods and interventions when working with women affected by sex trafficking, the theory as a framework will give an insight and understanding to the underlying factors and systems that may influence the methods and interventions used by service providers. Additionally, this theoretical framework will also provide us an insight on the challenges that service providers face in connection to the factors and interconnected systems of the service user and how said challenges can be tackled. It should however be noted that with reflection to the aim and research questions, this study will most likely focus on the first four systems which are the micro-, meso-, exo-, and macrosystem. The last integrating system will be touched upon when the need should rise based on the findings.

In accordance with the aim of this study, which is to explore the methods and interventions used by service providers working with women affected by sex trafficking in Germany as well as the challenges faced by them and how these challenges can be tackled. The ecological system theory will help us to analyse and understand how the different systems influence the lives of the women affected by sex trafficking. Moreover, it enables us to understand and analyse on which levels service providers can intervene and how this multi-level approach influences the methods and interventions used. Likewise identify challenges service providers may face in different levels when providing service.

5. Methodology

The fifth chapter of this thesis will provide information on the methodological approach of this study. It will illustrate the specific methods used, as well as the reasons for their selection.

5.1. Research Design

This research uses a qualitative approach to explore methods and interventions used by service providers when working with women affected by sex trafficking in Germany. This study also aims to explore challenges faced by service providers and how these challenges can be tackled. Qualitative research can provide a deep insight into the research topic through the customised descriptions of diverse personal experiences, capturing the unique views and perceptions of individuals involved (Rubin & Babbie, 2016). This approach is the most appropriate within the context of this study, as service providers represent the most direct connection to the women affected by sex trafficking. Furthermore, the method of interviewing will be used, more specifically semi-structured interviews with open-ended questions. This was detected to be the best fit for this study, as it allows the participants to answer freely in the way that fits best for them (Grinnell & Unrau, 2011). As this study is rather exploratory, it aims to contribute to the rather little research done in the field. Therefore, the insights and experiences of the service providers gained from working closely with these individuals are essential for expanding the knowledge and understanding in this specific area.

5.2. Data Collection

As mentioned above, the data collection tools used within this research are semi-structured interviews with open-ended questions. The use of semi-structured interviews in this study allowed the authors to explore the personal experiences of the interviewed service providers. Using this method enables the interviewees to freely describe their personal experiences within the field of study (Grinnell & Unrau, 2011). Moreover, it allows the authors to stay flexible and elaborate on the answers given with more detailed and customised follow-up questions to explore the experiences of the interviewees thoroughly (Grinnell & Unrau, 2011). The authors created an interview guide for this study in accordance with the aim and research questions (see Appendix 2). The interviews were conducted digitally via Zoom, due to the different locations of the authors as well as the participants. Prior to the interviews, the authors sent a consent form to the participants (see Appendix 1), which among other things served to obtain their permission to record the interviews. The obtained recordings were later used to

prepare the transcripts. Due to language as well as time restrictions, the authors couldn't conduct all the interviews together.

5.3. Literature Choice

The literature search for this study was done by using a variety of databases, which consisted of Discovery, Google Scholar, Sage Journals, SocIndex, Taylor and Francis and Oxford Academic. These databases provided sufficient literature, which meant no additional databases needed to be used. The search terms used to find literature included the following: “social workers”, “social services”, “social work methods”, “sex trafficking”, “human trafficking”, “prostitution”, “social work interventions”, “women or females” , “Germany”. These search terms helped the authors find appropriate literature as a foundation of this thesis. Primarily, articles found through these databases with the help of the search terms were used. At times, the discovered articles led the authors to additional articles, as the latter were cited within the found articles. In addition, to these articles, literature from previous courses of the International Social Work Bachelor programme at the University of Gävle, was used. Moreover, other search engines such as Google were used to find further documents such as reports from governmental agencies, for example.

5.4. Sampling Method

Furthermore, a combination of purposive and availability sampling was used within the context of this study. Purposive as well as availability sampling refer to non-probability sampling methods (Grinnell & Unrau, 2011). Whereby, purposive sampling involves the intentional selection of participants that have specific knowledge or experiences in the field of study. Availability sampling in turn describes the selection of participants for a study, purely based on their availability (Rubin & Babbie, 2016). The combination of these two sampling methods occurred, since the authors started to purposefully contact organisations that have experiences in working with women affected by sex trafficking. However, after the first contact was established, the participants were purely chosen based on their availability and willingness to participate in the study.

5.5. Study Participants

The participants in this study consisted of four service providers who work with women affected by sex trafficking in Germany. Therefore, the population of this study was service providers working with women affected by sex trafficking in Germany. Due to ethical reasons and to protect the privacy of the participants, they will be given pseudonyms, namely participant A, B, C and D. A brief description about the participants, their organisations and their roles within those organisations will be provided to ensure a better understanding of their background.

Participant	Information
Participant A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● represents a nonprofit- organisation providing services for women affected by sex trafficking in Germany ● has worked in the organisation for a total of eight years and has been the shelter manager for the last three years ● The organisation they represent provides a variety of different services in the field of sex trafficking. Those include street work, exit aid in the form of a safe shelter, reintegration support, public outreach, and political commitment.
Participant B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● represents the same organisation as Participant A ● relatively new in the organisation and has received a university degree, prior to working in the area ● currently in the transition of becoming the future shelter manager ● The organisation they represent provides a variety of different services in the field of sex trafficking. Those include street work, exit aid in the form of a safe shelter, reintegration support, public outreach, and political commitment.

Participant C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● occupies the role of operational management in a non-profit association that aims to combat human trafficking and forced prostitution in Germany ● they have been working in that position for seven years ● is responsible for the management of two different drop out shelters for women affected by sex trafficking and oversees other projects that the organisation plans to initiate connected to the field ● is responsible for the cooperation and collaborations with other organisations ● The organisation they represent mainly offers exit aid and assistance in the process of reintegrating. However, the organisation also does educational work and raises awareness about the topic of sex trafficking in different ways, including in digital media.
Participant D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● represents a non-profit association that advocates against human trafficking and works to combat sexual exploitation in the context of prostitution ● The organisation they represent executes educational work, street work, assistance to exit prostitution and reintegration programs. ● they have been one of the founders of the organisation and have been working in the nonprofit organisation for nine years ● inhabits the role of program lead ● their responsibilities include a variety of operational tasks such as the establishment of new shelters or fundraising

5.6. Data Analysis

The data analysis process was initiated with the transcription of the interviews. The interviews were initially transcribed by using an automatic transcription tool. Once the transcriptions were ready, the authors carefully listened to the recordings and reviewed

the transcriptions multiple times to ensure they're verbatim and accurate to transport as much meaning as possible (Grinnell & Unrau, 2011). As two interviews were conducted in German, due to the preference of the participants, those were translated following the transcription process. The translation was done by using an automatic translation tool. Once the translations were completed, they were revised various times to ensure the accuracy of the translated interviews.

To analyse the gathered data, the authors applied thematic analysis with an abductive approach. This was done by the authors to identify patterns that emerged amongst the collected data, rather than using predefined themes. (Patton, 2015). Therefore, the data was coded into several related concepts, following the method of open coding. Applying open coding allowed us to be open in the identification of potential categories, patterns, and themes as well as arranging and reducing the content of the data into the most important themes and findings (Rubin & Babbie, 2016). The coding of the gathered data was done by the authors separately. Thus, the reliability of the results can be increased, and the occurrence of possible bias was reduced. Thereafter, the authors discussed and compared the different identified themes and concepts and grouped those together into categories and themes for a more structured and comprehensive analysis. (Rubin & Babbie, 2016).

Besides that, the ecological systems theory was used to analyse the data obtained within this research study. This seemed adequate to the authors, within the framework of this study, as it enabled us to identify different interconnected concepts and consequently categorise them based on that. Following, the authors then further divided them into themes as well as sub themes.

5.7. Ethical Considerations

While carrying out this research study, a variety of ethical aspects were addressed to ensure the safety of the participants. One important ethical aspect to consider is informed consent. This includes to inform the participant about the possible consequences of the study, its purpose as well as its scope, and to obtain their consent of participation (Rubin & Babbie, 2016). The informed consent was obtained through a

consent letter that was sent out to the participants prior to their participation. Another important ethical concept is voluntary participation. Voluntary participation refers to the voluntary decision of the participants to take part in the study, therefore they can withdraw from it at any given point in time (Swedish Research Council, 2017). This was likewise included in the consent letter to inform the participants about this concept.

Lastly, the authors had to ensure confidentiality. Confidentiality refers to the protection of sensitive data of the participants. In addition, it includes different measures to protect the privacy of the participants as well as ensuring that their personal data is treated confidentially (Swedish Research Council, 2017). The authors took different measures to ensure confidentiality within this study. Initially, access to the recordings was limited exclusively to the authors, with no access to any external third parties. Additionally, the authors used pseudonyms to refer to the participants (Participant A, B, C, D). Lastly, all the recordings were deleted once the process of transcription and data analysis was completed.

The authors ensured all these ethical aspects to protect the study participants. In order to accomplish this, all these different aspects were included in the consent form, which was distributed to the participants by us before conducting the interviews. The requirement to participate in the study consisted of having signed the consent form. Besides that, the authors also explained all the ethical aspects and their implications at the beginning of each interview.

5.8. Credibility

Credibility refers to the trustworthiness and believability of the research findings and the authors themselves (D'Cruz & Jones, 2013). In qualitative research, credibility can be ensured by seeking confirmation from participants regarding the accurate representation of their realities. To enhance the credibility of this study, the authors applied the method of communicative validation. Communicative validation refers to a method where the interviewer engages in reflective listening during the interview process to reaffirm the findings (Patton, 2015). The application of this method helped to determine the correctness of the data obtained in this study and therefore increased the

credibility of this research study. Besides that, the credibility can be strengthened through an appropriate provision of information on the research design and the methods used within a study (Robson & McCartan, 2016). Hence, the authors provided a detailed description of the research design, mode of procedure, and methods used within this study. Lastly, the credibility of a study is influenced by the training, knowledge, and level of education of the authors (Patton, 2015). The authors recognise that the level of education as well as the knowledge of the topic can be argued to be rather limited, which therefore can affect the credibility of this study. Recognising that, the authors tried to apply different methods to enhance the credibility, like communicative validation, as mentioned above. Furthermore, the authors applied other methods to make this study more credible, reliable, valid and generalisable, which will be explored in the following.

5.8.1. Reliability

The reliability refers to the consistency of the results of a research study (Rubin & Babbie, 2016). There are different approaches that can be used to increase reliability, one being investigator triangulation, which refers to use of several authors in the different stages of conducting a study, such as data collection and analysis (Patton, 2015). In addition, the application of this approach reduces personal bias, while conducting research.

The authors made use of this approach and took various measures to enhance the reliability of the study findings. Firstly, all participants were asked the same set of questions as defined in the interview guide. However, follow-up questions varied based on individual responses of the participants. Although the two of the authors could not conduct and transcribe all the interviews together, due to language and time constraints, the authors cross-checked the accuracy of the finished transcripts to enhance the consistency. Additionally, the analysis of the findings and results of this research study was a collaborative effort between the two authors. The authors constantly collaborated, reviewed, and cross-checked with each other's work to enhance the reliability of the study. Furthermore, the authors highlighted recurring themes and cross-checked with each other to enhance consistency.

5.8.2. Validity

To ensure validity, the research method chosen in a study needs to have a certain quality and be targeted to answer the aim and research questions of the research study (D’Cruz & Jones, 2013). The authors ensured that by using a qualitative research method, namely semi-structured interviews. The authors created such an interview guide in accordance with the aim and research questions of the study. As the obtained findings answer the aim and research questions accordingly, at least the empirical validity may be affirmed (Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008).

However, the authors are aware that the results of this research study may not be valid for the greater population of women affected by sex trafficking in Germany. However, hopefully the study provides insights for the assistance of altering and developing the methods and interventions used while working with women affected by sex trafficking.

5.8.3. Generalisability

Generalisability refers to the degree to which the research findings can be generalised to broader populations and transferred to diverse settings (Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008). The sample of this research study only consisted of four service providers from different organisations working with women affected by sex trafficking in Germany. Thus, a very small sample and therefore the study findings cannot be generalised as these may be influenced by the subjective perspectives and personal feelings of the participants.

5.9. Limitations of the Study

The interviews within this study were all exclusively conducted digitally, due to the different locations of us as well as the participants. This presented a limitation as it restricted the authors from observing crucial non-verbal cues such as the body language, non-verbal communication, tone of voice, facial expressions etc. of the participants.

However, these cues often provide further contexts and implications to the statements of the participants.

Another limitation of this study is connected to the language used during the interviews. The participants of this study expressed a preference for speaking in their native languages, which are English or German. However, not both of the authors had the necessary language skills to conduct the interviews in German. Additionally, the interview conducted in English, which represented the second language for both of the authors, may have presented a possible limitation.

6. Results & Analysis

In this chapter, the authors will present the results and analysis of the study. The results will be analysed with the help of the ecological systems theory. Based on the data collection, the result and analysis obtained were divided into three main categories, which reflect on the aim and research questions of the study. The three main categories were then divided into themes which explore the methods used by service providers, the challenges faced by service providers and lastly how these challenges are tackled. The first category is methods and interventions, which includes the themes, *Outreach (street work) and Trust building, Trauma-informed care and Reintegration*. The second category is challenges and includes the themes of *Cultural differences and Lack of awareness and misconceptions*. The third and last category is how to tackle the identified challenges as well as desired changes and include the themes *Cultural awareness, Raising awareness and education* as well as *Further developments and Policy Changes*.

6.1. Methods and Interventions

The first category in this study correlates to the first research question, which is; *What are the social work methods and interventions used by service providers while working with women affected by sex trafficking*. While at the same time, it connects to the aim of this study: *The study aims to explore the methods used by service providers when working with women affected by sex trafficking in Germany. This study also aims to*

explore challenges faced by service providers and how said challenges can be tackled. This category is further divided into three themes; *Outreach (Street work) & Trust Building; Trauma-informed care; Reintegration.*

6.1.1. Theme 1: Outreach (street work) and Trust Building

Outreach (street work) was one of the methods that all the organisations in this study mentioned. The participants highlighted the importance of this method, especially in the form of the service providers going out to the field where the women work and establishing the first contact with them. This was seen to be the opportunity to start trust building with the women and inform them about the different forms of support they can provide for them.

“That would be through what we call intervention. A lot of other teams call it street work, so we have teams that go into the brothels and the apartments, basically anywhere where a woman is working in prostitution.” (Participant D)

The different participants highlighted this type of outreach to be essential in reaching out to the woman in the first place. Equally, Participants A, C and D mentioned that this method is used on a regular basis to support the women in initiating their process of dropping out. However, Participant C mentioned that their main work focus has shifted to the provision of safe houses and educational work. Nonetheless, they are still collaborating with other organisations that do street work (outreach), which then refer the women to their organisation.

“There are an incredible number of teams that regularly go into the red light milieu with different attitudes and objectives, in very different milieu structures. Whether it's the well-known red-light district, its streets, bars, individual flats, caravans in very different places in Germany, we are in contact with them, and we used to do some of this work as well.” (Participant C)

Besides that, it was also mentioned by the service providers that digital media was another important way through which they reach out to the women. This was stressed to be especially important as prostitution takes place electronically as well. Therefore, the

Participants B, C and D mentioned digital media to be another important method to reach out to the women and vice versa anonymously. Likewise, Participant D expressed:

“So a lot of prostitution is carried on electronically, like everything else. There are apps and websites where women are advertised. They leave a phone number, so we've started contacting them and reaching out. Just saying that. But we have an alias name. We don't describe our organisation at all. We have a different name we use, and we just say we are here as a group of women.”

As mentioned by Participant D as well as other Participants as Participant A, they usually use different names and telephone numbers which are not directly associated with their organisations when reaching out to the women via digital media. In addition, all the participants mentioned the importance of trust building when it comes to working with the women. The participants mentioned trust building to be an essential method to guide and provide support to the women. All the service providers highlighted that trust can be seen as the base of their work with the women. Once trust is built with the women, the service users can identify the individual needs each woman has and provide aid in accordance with those needs. However, all the participants of this study stressed that it can be challenging as the women are sensitive, hard to gain friendships with or support outside their work as they face difficult situations. Thus, it makes it hard for women to communicate with people outside their work.

“They're very sensitive. Like you cannot go in there and say, hey, I can help you out, but you go in, and you start to establish a relationship, especially because prostitution is legal in Germany, and we have to be sensitive.” (Participant D)

In addition, Participant D expressed that once trust is built they are able to ask questions such as *“if they have their papers, if they need to register, do they need medical appointments and to offer that we will help them find what they need, and we will also go with them to their appointments”* to assess what support and services each specific woman needs. This, again, highlights the importance of trust building to identify and assess the needs of the women and the provision of the appropriate aid for them. That then leads focus to the second method identified to be of great importance.

6.1.2. Theme 2: Trauma-informed care

As briefly mentioned in the previous theme, the women affected by sex trafficking face a lot of hardships which contribute to them developing various symptoms of trauma. All the participants therefore frequently highlighted the significance and need for a trauma-informed care method when working with the group of women affected by sex trafficking. For instance, Participant A mentions, *“We always try to offer the women trauma informed care and to work on it.”* Indicating that the service providers put great importance in understanding the women's situations and making sure that trauma informed interventions are implemented. This was also touched upon by Participant D, *“learning how to breathe, learning how to connect, learning how to work through their feelings is important.”* Thus, it was strongly noted by all participants that ultimately, trauma-informed care enhances the importance of providing support and being trauma sensitive in all interventions and services.

“I think we have to understand that most women who drop out bring trauma symptoms with them, and that's why all the trauma pedagogical work is very important, and everything that comes into play in the field of trauma pedagogy should be very much part about everyday life, from resource-oriented work, stabilising crises to emergency case support, to being trauma-sensitive.”

(Participant C)

This highlights the crucial importance of service providers serving as a secure and dependable support system. Considering the women who have experienced the difficult effects of sex trafficking were traumatised by different attachments, the participants emphasised on the significance of building healthy attachments (Participant A; Participant B; Participant C; Participant D). Hence, all participants argued that it is vital for service providers to provide trauma-informed interventions That fosters a sense of security as well as help create reliable and healthy attachments. Therefore, once trust is established and trauma-cared interventions are provided, helping them go out in the society again was something that was repeatedly mentioned by all participants. Which brings us into the next theme, being reintegration.

6.1.3. Theme 3: Reintegration

Reintegration was another method that was highlighted by the service providers. This can be described as an intervention done in the safe house with the intention to reintegrate the women back into society. A safe house as mentioned by the participants is where women who are exposed to sex trafficking get placed once they reach out to the service providers. Some of the participants expressed the necessity for safe houses as they work as a key factor for the reintegration process (Participant A; Participant B; Participant D). This is due to the fact that the women come from very unstable and dysfunctional backgrounds. Hence, once they are in the safe house it is important to work on their day-to-day interactions and guide them with simple things such as learning how to cook, clean and keep their finances in order (Participant A; Participant B; Participant C; Participant D). These activities are therefore implemented as one of the methods done in the safe house in order to help the women get control over their lives, become independent and thereafter able to go out in the normal society.

“It is also very important for the women, that they simply experience structure and also live their lives.” (Participant B).

Similarly, Participant C also mentioned and said:

“Exactly, so the goal is always independence and everything we do should actually strengthen self-responsibility, self-efficacy, independence and for that we need a certain pressure. Ok, you won't be here anymore at some point, and it's good if we start dealing with it.” (Participant C).

Overall, the participants of this study universally recognised the importance of reintegrating women affected by sex trafficking into normal society. This was explained as an ongoing method that provided continuous support and encouragement to the women at every step of their journey (Participant A). Therefore, this served as a vital approach to help women escape the cycle of prostitution and successfully reintegrate into society.

6.2. Challenges

The second category of this study focuses on challenges faced by service providers while working with women affected by sex trafficking. This category concerns the second research question; *What are the challenges that occur while working with women affected by sex trafficking?* However, it should be noted that the service providers in each organisation may use certain methods and interventions more than others, which can present different challenges. Therefore, the theoretical framework enabled the authors to formulate and identify two main themes; *Cultural differences & lack of awareness and misconceptions*. These challenges will be presented below.

6.2.1. Theme 4: Cultural Differences

The effects of cultural differences were one of the challenges highlighted by several participants. The reason for this is, as mentioned by Participant A, C, D, was due to the fact that the majority of the women originate from other countries. Therefore, one of the main challenges which was presented by participants involving cultural differences was language barriers. The limited ability of a shared language between the service providers and the women hindered effective communication in aspects such as building trust and needs assessments. This would at times lead to misunderstanding and misinterpretation between the service providers and the women. For instance, Participant D explained that having communication on a conversational level was often functional

“But as soon as you wanted to go deeper, you realised her language skills weren't there, but also in her native tongue sometimes weren't there.”

Participant D continued:

“If you have a woman from South America, her culture group is very different and the way she communicates what she says with her words won't be what she needs. But it's just her culture, but it's just her culture and a German will take her words as truth, because that's Germany. And so we've had culture issues.”

In addition, participants also expressed that belonging to another value system posed challenges to working with the women. The higher emphasis on collectivism in other

cultures led to pressure and expectation for the women to contribute to their family's income and help them in other ways (Participant C & Participant D). These expectations have often led them to prostitution and held them or posed difficulties in them accepting help to leave.

“The shame of not helping your parents to own property is even greater than the shame of prostitution, so they have an incredibly high pressure to contribute to the income or somehow help their family.” (Participant C)

Participant C emphasised the differences between different values systems, specifically focusing on the contrast between individualism and collectivism, was also seen as a challenge. Thus, it was detected to be essential for the service providers to identify this challenge in order to effectively support and engage with women from different cultural backgrounds.

“In Germany we have an individualistic value system, which means that we talk and deal a lot with who we want to be and how we want to realise ourselves, and then we also have a lot to do with women from Eastern European cultures where the family or family membership is very important and the role as a daughter and whether you help the family, whether you contribute to the family's income or not.” (Participant C)

Therefore, challenges related to different cultures were detected by all participants in the study. Leading to difficulties and challenges in language communication with the women and difference in value systems which may affect the effectiveness of interventions.

6.2.2. Theme 5: Lack of Awareness and Misconceptions

This theme addresses the challenges associated with a lack of awareness and misconceptions surrounding sex trafficking. The study identified a general lack of awareness and misconception regarding the issue, which can be attributed in part to the legality of prostitution in Germany. For instance, all the participants talked about how women viewed prostitution as a job and a way to earn income and financially aid family

members (Participant A; Participant B; Participant C; Participant D). Thus, oftentimes even the women lacked awareness of the sex exploitation and trafficking they were exposed to as they couldn't differentiate it from legal prostitution. For example, as mentioned by participant D some women would get coerced and deceived into getting tattoos by their customers in order to brand them and assert ownership over them (Participant D). This is due to many of the women lacking awareness of the issue and believe sex trafficking takes place only when one is forced and not deceived and/or coerced.

“The women don't believe they're trafficked. They don't think that they are a victim by any means. The women, you know, like human trafficking in any way if they're deceived, if they're forced, or if they're coerced.” (Participant D).

This highlights the thin line between legal prostitution and sex trafficking, leading to the misconception when distinguishing between the two, as also noted by Participant C;

“Because we have experienced that prostitution cannot be clearly distinguished from forced prostitution.” (Participant C).

Furthermore, the lack of awareness is a challenge which contributes to this misconception, as many women are easily deceived by traffickers. This lack of awareness is not only prevalent among the women themselves but also within the community, where sex trafficking is often viewed as an integral part of the legal prostitution industry. Consequently, women can be manipulated and coerced without realising that they are being trafficked. Both Participant C and Participant D mentioned manipulative tactics employed, such as the "lover boy" method or false job promises (Participant C; Participant D). The women involved do not consider these methods as deception since they are given false promises, such as job opportunities or expressions of affection. Therefore, the participants of the study argued that the liberal prostitution law frequently facilitates the use of these deceptive methods, as perpetrators exploit the legal framework while engaging in illegal acts of human trafficking.

“Anchored in our liberal prostitution protection law, and it is unfortunately a bit forgotten in the whole area that we have such liberal sex purchase, but what actually falls under it and runs even if it is officially illegal, human trafficking and pimping and whatnot.” (Participant C)

Thus, the thin line between legal prostitution and illegal prostitution was found to contribute to the issue of misconception and lack of awareness. As a result, it leads to the challenge of women refusing to receive help or get out of it, due to the misguidance in when it is legal and when they are being trafficked for sex.

“The biggest challenge is that they don't want help. Oh man, that's the biggest challenge.” (Participant D)

Overall, the participants unanimously highlighted the misconceptions surrounding sex trafficking and the lack of awareness as significant challenges. It was argued that the liberal laws protecting prostitution contribute to the issue and emphasised the need for clarification and differentiation between the two issues.

6.3. Tackling Challenges and Desired Changes

The third and last category of the study focuses on how service providers tackle challenges that occur in the process of providing interventions to the women and what changes are desired. This category also correlates to the third research question of the study; *According to service providers, how can the identified challenges be tackled and what changes are desired?* In addition, the category is also connected to the aim of this study which is to; *To explore the methods used by service providers as well as challenges faced and how to tackle these challenges.* Within this category, the authors were able to establish three themes; *Raising awareness & Education; Cultural awareness; Further developments & Policy Changes.* How can these challenges be tackled and what are desired changes.

6.3.1. Theme 6: Cultural Awareness

The first challenge that was identified by all participants of this study was cultural differences, which can manifest in having different value systems or language barriers,

which posed challenges to work with the women in the first place. Therefore, cultural awareness was recognized as an approach by the service providers to tackle this challenge. It was found to be a skill that especially the people working the women directly such as volunteers and service providers need to have. As mentioned earlier, the affected women the organisations work with come from different countries with different cultural backgrounds as well as different values. (Participant A; Participant B; Participant C; Participant D). Consequently, this made working with the women challenging for the service providers. Therefore, the participants highlighted that to tackle this challenge, it is important to have cultural training to acquire cultural awareness. Besides that, it was also mentioned by the participants that the service providers need to inform themselves to understand the different cultures as well as their different values in the area they work in.

“Researching the culture groups that we know are in our area, where our teams are interacting with in the brothels. Who's here? So let's use that time to research. Let's use that time to get outside training so that we can be, you know, that we are always improving, that we do team building or that we're out in communities.” (Participant D)

This emphasises the importance of cultural awareness to provide appropriate interventions and understand the influence the culture has on the women's lives. Additionally, some of the participants, namely Participant C and D, mentioned that the different value systems that are present in different cultures lead to challenges when working with the women. For instance, women from collectivistic societies where family membership is important were put under pressure to contribute to the family's finances.

“And then we also have a lot to do with women from Eastern European cultures who do not come from an individual value system, but where the family or family membership is very important and the role as a daughter and whether you help the family, whether you contribute to the family's income or not.” (Participant C).

Thus, this challenge equally requires cultural awareness and the understanding of the different value systems coming along with that to tackle it. This is especially important

as belonging to a more collectivistic society can put the women under pressure to contribute to the family finances. Therefore, cultural awareness was found to be essential in order to communicate, reach out to, and approach the women affected by sex trafficking appropriately. Therefore, the challenge of cultural differences is an issue that has to be tackled through the acquisition of cultural awareness on all levels of society in order to approach the issues of sex trafficking in a fitting and applicable manner. Which leads to the next theme of this category, raising awareness and education on among other things cultural awareness and tackling the issue of sex trafficking.

6.3.2. Theme 7: Raising awareness & Education

In the previous theme, it was mentioned that tackling issues related to cultural awareness was crucial for service providers. Indicating the importance of this theme, raising awareness and education regarding the issue of sex trafficking. The participants of this study all highlighted this as a desired change which service providers are currently tackling. It was argued by participants that helping women get out of sex trafficking was not enough, due to the issue being nourished in many other levels such as on the community level and societal level (Participant C; Participant D; Participant A). The organisations raise awareness and educate using varieties of methods including going out to schools, out in streets, in areas where sex trafficking takes place and through social media.

“We are not only active in helping people to leave the movement, but also in educational work, and we are concerned, for example, with how we can communicate about the topic in digital media.” (Participant C)

Furthermore, participants argued that not only is education and raising awareness important in order to tackle the issue of sex trafficking, it is equally important to raise awareness against the purchase of sex and how it interlinks and at times nourishes sex trafficking (Participant A; Participant B; Participant C). Hence, why, participants raise awareness and try to educate people on how legal prostitution rights contribute to higher levels of sex trafficking.

“It's just that we have to stand together in society, against the purchase of sex, and that we have to raise awareness, that we have to publicise this more.”
(Participant A)

Therefore, all participants of the study numerously highlighted how important it was to raise awareness and put more attention into the topic. In addition, one participant even expressed the extreme importance of the authors choosing to write about this topic for their degree, as it contributes to raising awareness and furthering research on the subject (Participant B). Thus, it is crucial to raise awareness and educate, not only for enhancing the effectiveness of services provided to women, but it also highlights that it is important to identify and be aware of how legal prostitution affects and contributes to sex trafficking.

6.3.3. Theme 8: Further developments & Policy Changes

In this theme, the participants of this study talked about desired further developments and policy changes in order to tackle the detected upcoming challenges. Those desired developments were mostly changes in the policy system regarding the legalisation of prostitution. As already mentioned in the above theme, the participants of this study heavily emphasised the importance of raising awareness regarding how the legalisation of prostitution contributes and nourishes the issue of sex trafficking in Germany. Therefore, the service providers argued that changes of the economic and social policies are inevitable to tackle the issue of sex trafficking in the country. Whereby, the participants especially stressed the importance of illegalizing prostitution. It was argued that, once prostitution is not seen as a job any more, the women are able to look for other jobs, and it will also give the women the opportunities to seek out other jobs.

“They need jobs. And if we eliminate this as a possibility for a job, then, you know, then maybe they really can come and do the jobs that they were hoping for.” (Participant D)

In addition, to the mentioned policy change of illegalizing prostitution, a policy change to the Nordic model was desired as well, as it would lead to even more positive developments on the issue of sex trafficking. This was argued to be the case as it would

not only legalize prostitution, but also criminalise the monetary purchase of sex (Participant A; Participant B; Participant C; Participant D). Moreover, it was also expressed that the change to the Nordic model would, apart from the criminalisation of prostitution, lead to a decrease of the rate of sex trafficking, as these two issues have been identified to be interlinked (Participant C & D). In addition, it was argued that changing the policy model to the Nordic model would change the image and the stigma put on only women in Germany who make a living through prostitution, but not on the men who purchase sex from these women. Therefore, it was expressed that the change to the Nordic Model would equally dishonour both men and women involved in prostitution (Participant A & B). Besides that, Participant B expressed:

“We stand for the big minority who have no voice. We are not the big sex worker lobbyism now, which unfortunately has a very loud voice, and we definitely fight for the Nordic model for the many more women who have no voice in that aspect.”

Emphasising that they want to be a voice for women who are the big minority in Germany and that they want to tackle the advertisement in the country, which often argues that sex work cannot be tackled. This as well as the desire for further developments and desired changes regarding prostituting women in Germany was equally expressed by all participants of this study.

Conclusively, the change to the Nordic Model was the most desired change mentioned by the service providers and was argued to be the most effective way to start changing the image of prostitution as well as the shift of the stigma from the women to the purchasers. Besides that, it was also seen to immensely contribute to lowering prostitution rates of women and therefore the occurrence of the issue of sex trafficking in Germany. Furthermore, the participants expected the change of the policy model to contribute to the creation of more opportunities for the women to access other jobs.

6.4. Analysis

As mentioned previously in the findings above, the methods and interventions found in this study included outreach (street work) and trust building, trauma-informed care and reintegration. The findings were analysed with the help of the ecological systems theory which provided the authors with a helpful insight into understanding the results. Outreach (street work) together with trust building was applied as the initial method used to engage with the women affected by sex trafficking. These as identified by the authors were categorised on the micro level as well as the following meso level of the ecological system theory. The micro-level, as defined by Bronfenbrenner entails the interactions an individual has with its direct surroundings which includes direct family members, partners and peers. The meso level entails the interactions between different microsystems such as client-practitioner relationship (Parrish, 2014).

Hence, the participants emphasised on the importance of outreach and trust building with the women as this was crucial to do as the women affected by sex trafficking came from vulnerable backgrounds and unhealthy attachments with family, friends and peers. Therefore, outreach and trust building was seen as an important method as it enabled the service providers to establish contact, trust and relationship with the women affected by trafficking. This was crucial to do because the women affected by sex trafficking came from vulnerable backgrounds and unhealthy attachments with family, friends and peers which made it difficult for them to trust their immediate surroundings.

Additionally, this was also required as trust building was a key factor for the participants to ensure a needs assessment for the women affected by sex trafficking. This was evidently seen in former studies which highlight the importance of trust building and needs assessments as it would help create a supportive and safe environment which enables and facilitates the recovery of the people affected by sex trafficking (Steiner et al., 2018). Therefore the authors were able to identify with the help of the ecological systems theory and previous research why outreach and trust building were applied on the individual level as this was seen to be crucial by participants in order to provide valuable and effective services which met the needs of the women affected by sex trafficking.

Besides that, the participants also argued trauma-informed care to be another important method used on the micro-level, with some overlaps on the meso-level, when working with women affected by sex trafficking. This method equally acknowledges the importance and reflects the huge influences of the direct contact and interactions an individual has with its direct environment (Parrish, 2014). As mentioned, the majority of the women affected by sex trafficking have developed various forms of trauma. Therefore, the service providers highlighted the importance of understanding that and how these traumas affect the women and their every-day lives as well as their interactions. According to the findings, it was also mentioned to be important to ensure the implementation of trauma-informed interventions on the micro-level. Therefore, the participants highlighted the importance of their function as secure and dependable support systems, while building healthy attachments with the women. Thus, the method of trauma-informed care also overlaps with the meso level, which involves relationship between different micro-systems as the client-practitioner relationship (Parrish, 2014).

Furthermore, in previous research trauma-informed care was mentioned as an appropriate method applied in a variety of different settings (Steiner et al, 2018). Therefore, it is an important and universally applicable method when it comes to working with women affected by sex trafficking. Thus, the ecological systems theory as well as previous research enabled the authors to identify the importance and necessity of applying trauma-informed care when working with women affected by sex trafficking.

Besides that, the last method mentioned by the participants was reintegration. This method covers a variety of different activities regarding the daily life of the women such as cooking, cleaning and keeping their finances in order. It aims to enable them to reintegrate into normal society. As these activities are taking place in the safe houses, where the women live in and therefore present their immediate surroundings they are according to the ecological systems theory equally categorised to be on the micro level (Parrish, 2014). As the women often come from unstable backgrounds the client-practitioner relationship is important during the application of this method as it influences the success of the reintegration. Therefore, similar to the method of trauma-informed care, reintegration as a method can be not only located on the micro-level, but also slightly overlaps with the meso-level as the client-practitioner relationship also plays a role in this intervention.

Previous literature equally illustrated the use of different methods with the aim of the reintegration of women affected by sex trafficking on the micro- and meso-level of the ecological systems theory (Steiner et al., 2018). As it became evident in previous research and through the application of the ecological systems different methods are needed on the micro- and macro-level of the ecological systems theory to assure the reintegration of women affected by sex trafficking.

The ecological systems theory was equally used to analyse the challenges detected by the service providers in this study. According to the findings of our study, the challenges faced by the service providers concerned cultural differences as well as lack of awareness and misconceptions. The cultural differences included language barriers as well as belonging to different value systems, which posed challenges to properly engage and work with the women. Whereby, the lack of awareness and misconceptions referred to the missing knowledge and awareness about what sex trafficking actually means and when it starts, this equally complicated providing support for the women. Therefore, the findings stressed the importance for the service providers to acquire knowledge regarding these topics. Applying the ecological systems theory to these findings, makes it evident that the findings are located on the macro-level of the theory. According to Bronfenbrenner the macro-level refers to the cultural as well as societal values, beliefs and norms that have an influence on an individual (Parrish, 2014). Thus, these different values, beliefs and norms are the underlying factors, which cause the cultural differences as well as the lack of awareness and misconceptions and therefore determine the location of the challenges of the macro-level of the ecological systems theory.

In former studies similar challenges were detected, indeed, the study conducted by Salami' (2021) also pointed out that a lack of awareness regarding the different facets regarding sex trafficking exists, which makes it important to raise the awareness regarding it. Salami's study as well as a study from Wilson (2019) stressed that increasing awareness is important to better the provision of services for individuals affected by sex trafficking, similar to our study. Thus, similar findings were detected in our as well as previous studies, in addition, raising awareness can be seen as essential since it initiates change on the different system levels.

The findings of the study also emphasised on how the service providers could tackle challenges they met in the process of providing interventions to the women affected by sex trafficking. Additionally they also mentioned the changes desired for future development. These, as noted by participants included cultural awareness, education and raising awareness on the issues of sex trafficking in Germany and lastly developments and policy changes such as criminalising the purchase of sex. These themes are also categorised by the authors to be on the macro level of the ecological theory. Hence why participants of the study highlighted these specific changes to tackle the underlying roots of the issues of sex trafficking. From the findings, it could be argued that with these changes in place service providers are able to tackle and deliver more effective services and reach out to more individuals who are affected by sex trafficking.

As mentioned by the German Institute for Human Rights (2009), the actual numbers of people in sex trafficking is difficult to measure as the purchase of sex is legal in the country, leading to a high number of unrecorded cases. Additionally as the findings of this study highlighted, most of the women affected by sex trafficking in Germany originate from foreign backgrounds therefore contributing to the higher number of unrecorded cases. Additionally this also contributes to the challenge of cultural differences between the service providers and the women affected by trafficking. Hence why the desired changes and future developments are presented to be on the macro level of the ecological theory, as this level of the theory highlights the influence of cultural and societal values on the individual. Therefore the ecological theory helped the authors realise the necessity of applying the desired changes and further developments on the macro level.

7. Discussion

In this chapter, the authors of this study will briefly cover a summary of the results of this study in relation to the aim to thereafter discuss the chosen theoretical framework, results concerning previous research, suggested further research and lastly the implications for the practise of international social work.

7.1. Summary of Results in Relation to the Aim

The authors of this study were able to establish a few findings in this study in relation to the aim and research question which indicate a need for discussion. The aim of this study is to *explore the methods used by service providers when working with women affected by sex trafficking in Germany. This study also explores challenges faced and how to tackle these challenges.* The research questions of this study correlate to the aim and focus primarily on three main factors, the methods and interventions used by service providers, the challenges detected and how these challenges can be tackled as well as desired changes according to the service providers.

The findings of this study, regarding the methods and interventions, showed that there are several methods the service providers use when working with women affected by sex trafficking. Whereby, one of the main methods used by service providers is outreach (street work), which consists of the service providers going to the areas where the affected women work and informing them about the help and aid that is available for them. This method served as the initiation of the work with the women. The next detected method that was used to work with women affected by sex trafficking, which is connected to the first, is trust building. This method was argued to be essential to properly provide support to the women. It was seen to be the determinant when it comes to the effectiveness of the provided services to the women. This was the case as the service providers needed to build trust as a foundation to work with the women and assess the needs of them. Once this was done, the service users were able to provide the appropriate services to them. In addition, trauma-informed care was seen to be equally important, when working with the women, as the women are often affected by trauma due to their experiences in the past. Thus, it is essential that the service providers acknowledge these traumas and provide service accordingly, in a trauma sensitive way. Therefore, the findings highlighted the importance of the presence of the service

providers in the areas where the women work as well as trust, sensitivity, and awareness regarding the situation of the women and the provision of trauma-informed care and services.

The next findings of this study included the challenges detected by service providers when working with women affected by sex trafficking, one of the detected challenges were cultural differences. All the participants of this study detected cultural differences to be challenging as they can manifest in different ways, one being the limited ability of shared language. This limited ability hindered the work with the women as they limited the communication and therefore the proper provision of support to them. Besides that, the cultural differences, which were found to be due to different origins of the women, also manifested in inhabiting different value systems. Whereby, the women in most cases belonged to more collectivistic and therefore family-oriented cultures, while the German culture is more individualistic. Thus, this created barriers to the service providers to understand these different cultures and the expectations that come along with them. Therefore, the participants stressed the importance of informing themselves about the different cultures the women inhabit to understand their perspective and to properly engage and work with them. This leads to the other challenges, which were detected by the service users. These challenges were the lack of awareness and misconceptions. According to the service providers, there were misconceptions in defining and outlining what legal prostitution and what sex trafficking is, which was mostly due to lack of awareness in the distinction between the two issues. The findings reflect that due to that, the women were often unaware whether they were exposed to legal prostitution or sex trafficking. This was enhanced by other factors used by the perpetrators to further blur the lines between these two. These methods included the lover body method and the premise of jobs in exchange for being labelled and trafficked, which was from the women's perspective no different from legal prostitution.

The last findings of this study covered how to tackle the identified challenges and the desired changes by the service providers. As mentioned in the challenges, cultural differences were mentioned to be challenging in different ways when working with the women affected by sex trafficking. Therefore, the participants highlighted that cultural awareness is necessary to be aware of these differences and tackle them. This was done through informing and researching about the cultures and their differences. Besides that,

the findings showed that to tackle the challenges of lack of awareness and misconceptions, it is essential to raise awareness and educate others regarding the issue of sex trafficking. It was especially highlighted that it is not enough to only help women to exit sex trafficking, it is equally important to educate people about sex trafficking and the thin lines between it and legal prostitution. Lastly, the findings included further developments and policy changes to tackle some of the detected challenges and improve the issue of sex trafficking. Whereby, the participants highlighted that due to the fact that prostitution is legal in Germany, there is a huge, desired change of the policies regarding it. The change to the Nordic model was desired by the service providers, as it would not only make prostitution illegal in Germany, but would also have an influence on the stigmatisation of the negative image of women in prostitution. Besides that, the participants argued that those who purchase should equally be stigmatised for it rather than advertising the act of buying sex, which could happen through this policy change. This was believed to be possible by changing policy in the country, which was also believed to provide more job opportunities to women.

7.2. Theoretical Discussion

Sex trafficking is a multi-dimensional issue which affects the global society in various ways. Some of the issues of sex trafficking can be seen on an individual, interpersonal, cultural and societal levels and must therefore be tackled by service providers in all the systems mentioned (Barner et al., (2017)). This can be done with the help of the ecological systems theory which was applied as a relevant framework throughout this study. The ecological systems theory framework was applied in the formulation of research questions and in analysing the findings in order to explore methods and interventions used by service providers when working with women affected by sex trafficking. Likewise, to discover challenges service providers stumble upon and further developments and desired changes. The theory proved to be relevant in the study as it provided a useful lens in the topic of aim of this study was to explore the methods and interventions used by service providers when working with women affected by sex trafficking in Germany as well as challenges faced by service providers and how these challenges can be tackled.

The use of the ecological systems theory enabled us to identify the different system levels on which the interventions and methods by the service providers were applied. Besides that, we were also able to identify the different levels on which challenges occurred as well as how and on which level they can be tackled. Additionally by using the ecological systems theory, we were able to find out that different levels play a role in the aspects just mentioned and that those are interconnected with each other and influence one another reciprocally (Cox, 2018). Therefore the ecological systems theory showed to be a relevant and appropriate theory for the analysis of our research as it acknowledges the influences the different systems have on an individual and vice versa (Parrish, 2014).

7.3. Previous Research Discussion

In this section, the authors of this study will discuss the relevance of previous research studies in relation to the findings of this study.

The findings of this study were evidently consistent with the scarce existing research and literature found on the topic. As previously mentioned, one previous study found the use of trauma-informed care to be an effective method when applied to victims of sex trafficking (Steiner, 2018). This finding can be connected to the findings of this study, where it was found that service providers use the method and argued it to be very important. Similarly, the studies of Steiner et al. (2018) and Busch-Armendariz et al. present in their findings offering a range of services including health care, legal assistance, housing support, skill building and more were needed as a method of integration. However as both the findings and previous literature highlight, trust building was evidently the most important aspect of methods and interventions when working with women affected by sex trafficking.

In addition to the methods, the challenges found in this study were also somewhat consistent with the findings of the previous research mentioned. As Wilson (2019) and Salami' et al. (2021) mention, lack of awareness and cultural barriers were seen as a challenge for the service providers. As the previous studies touch upon, most of the women affected by sex trafficking were from minority background and often had no

other means of income thus leading them to be vulnerable to being deceived and coerced into trafficking. Additionally some were even reluctant to leave as they had no other no education and/or employable skills, thus making it difficult for them to provide an income to their families. Furthermore a lack of awareness made it difficult for the women to gain assistance as they were not aware of their vulnerability to being trafficking as well as the services that were available to them. Similarly in the finding of this study, cultural barriers and a lack of awareness were identified as the challenges that service providers often face when working with women affected by sex trafficking. Therefore the presented findings in relation to previous research highlight the importance of both the methods and interventions as well as the challenges faced by service providers whilst working with women affected by sex trafficking.

In relation to the theoretical framework in previous research, a study done by Barner et al. (2017) highlighted the ecological systems theory as a relevant framework, in order to identify barriers in different levels and also applying a range of services on the various levels of the individuals environment in relation to the individuals needs. This showed the usefulness of applying the ecological system theory in order to understand the influence of different levels of the system on the individual to thereafter outline proper and individual based methods and interventions. This then can be also said to be the case for this study because the ecological systems theory was applied as a tool to understand the relationship between different levels of the system and how that influences the individual.

7.4. Suggested Further Research

In this section, the authors of this study will suggest further research in the area of sex trafficking among women both in Germany and around the world. In this thesis study, it was highlighted in the literature review that studies and research done on the issue of sex trafficking is limited. Although, in recent years there have been research studies done on this issue, the narrow majority is focused on the USA, which argues the importance of highlighting and discovering more about the subject in other parts of the world. Furthermore, previous study has shown, the issue of human trafficking is global

and stresses the need for more researchers and institutions to carry out more studies, which will in return raise more awareness and contribute to tackling the issue.

7.5. Implications for International Social Work

In this section, the authors discuss the implications this study provides to international social work practice. The two authors of this study are both international social work students. Therefore, it is important to discuss this concerning the study.

The social work profession aims to address and tackle social problems on all levels in society (Healy, 2008). To achieve that, social workers work with a variety of different communities and people, especially those who are vulnerable, exploited or face other kinds of hardships. Besides that, social workers' overall mission is to try to promote social justice and address human rights issues (Healy, 2008). Being subjected to sex trafficking is arguably a case of exploitation of a certain group of people and presents a human rights issue. Being affected by sex trafficking is often connected to being affected by other social problems (Orme & Ross-Sheriff, 2015). As mentioned earlier, sex trafficking has become a global social issue as it started to spread in the last decade due to globalisation (Hodge & Lietz, 2007).

Therefore, sex trafficking is a multifaceted social and human rights issue that needs to be addressed by social workers worldwide. Thus, tackling this issue has a crucial importance to the social work profession, especially in the global social work context. Due to that, this thesis has hopefully contributed to building a foundation for the methods and interventions that can be used when working with women affected by sex trafficking as well as challenges that can occur and how these can be tackled. Furthermore, the thesis has highlighted social work methods and other changes that can be applied in a global context and not only in Germany.

8. Conclusion

In conclusion, this study gave some valuable insights into the working methods and interventions used by service providers while working with women affected by trafficking in Germany, connected challenges and how these can be tackled as well as desired changes. As sex trafficking is a global multifaceted social problem, this research study helped to understand the multilevel approach this social issue needs to be tackled by service providers. In addition, the study gave specific insights into the sex trafficking context of Germany, where the research is relatively little and therefore made a small-scale and limited contribution to the present research gap.

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Appendices

Appendix 1

Consent form

Information on participation in the research study

The purpose of our study is to explore the social work methods used to work with women affected by sex trafficking and the challenges that can occur. The purpose of our study also aims to explore how these methods can be further developed when working with women affected by sex trafficking. The study is conducted within the International Social Work program at University of Gävle by the researchers Amal Abdi & Relana Waldner and is a BSc thesis project.

The participation in the study is voluntary and the respondent is free to withdraw from it at any time.

The interview will be recorded (video/audio), depending on the preference of the participant. The material will only be used for research purposes and only the researchers, the supervisor and the examiner will have access to the material. Additionally, the recordings will be deleted as soon as the thesis has concluded. All the information revealed in the study will be handled confidentially, so that no names or other information to identify the participants will be shared. This also applies for the presentation of the information obtained within and for the study.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this study.

With this background I agree to participate in the study:

Date _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Appendix 2

Interview Guide

Introduction

Inform about framework of interview: introduction of the researchers and the study, explaining the purpose of the study

Consent form

(Ask for permission to record the interview)

Explain ethical considerations etc.

Ask if there are any questions, concerns

Background Questions

- What is your current position? What do you work with? How long have you been working in this area? For how long have you been working in this position?
- Do you have specific target groups? If yes, can you describe them further?

Theme 1: Methods and interventions while working with women affected by sex trafficking

- Could you explain to us how you establish contact with women in the first place?
- What are the methods and interventions you use to work with them?
 - Are there any certain procedures or processes you use every time you work with women ?
 - What has been shown to be the most effective methods and interventions according to you/organisation?
- What is especially important to consider when working with women affected by sex trafficking?
 - Triggers etc.
 - Special skills
 - Resources, materials you use
- Do you cooperate with other agencies?
 - What agencies? (Governments, law enforcement..)
 - Do you perceive it as beneficial or not?

Theme 2: Challenges while working with women affected by sex trafficking

- What challenges do you face while working with women affected by sex trafficking?
- How often do these challenges occur?
- What factors contribute to these challenges?
 - Additional social problems?
- How do you face and confront these challenges?

Theme 3: Implications for future development of social work methods

- What do you think can be further developed regarding your methods in working with women affected by sex trafficking?
- What change would you like to see to improve the efficiency of the organisation and its work?
- Are there some policy changes that would be useful to your work?

- Anything else that is important to you and you want to add?

Appendix 3

Interview Guide (german version)

Einleitung

- Information über den Rahmen des Interviews: Vorstellung der Forscher und der Studie, Erläuterung des Zwecks der Studie
- Einverständniserklärung
- (Bitte um Erlaubnis, das Interview aufzuzeichnen)
- Erläutern Sie ethische Überlegungen usw.
- Fragen Sie, ob es irgendwelche Fragen oder Bedenken gibt.

Allgemeine Fragen

- Was ist Ihre derzeitige Position? Womit arbeiten Sie? Wie lange arbeiten Sie schon in diesem Bereich? Wie lange arbeiten Sie schon in dieser Position?
- Haben Sie bestimmte Zielgruppen? Wenn ja, können Sie diese näher beschreiben?

Thema 1: Methoden und Interventionen in der Arbeit mit von Zwangsprostitution betroffenen Frauen

- Könnten Sie uns erklären, wie Sie den Kontakt zu den betroffenen Frauen überhaupt herstellen?
- Welche Methoden und Interventionen wenden Sie bei der Arbeit mit ihnen an?
 - o Gibt es bestimmte Verfahren oder Prozesse, die Sie jedes Mal anwenden, wenn Sie mit den betroffenen Frauen arbeiten?
 - o Welche Methoden und Interventionen haben sich Ihrer Meinung nach als am effektivsten erwiesen?
- Was ist bei der Arbeit mit Frauen, die von Zwangsprostitution betroffen sind, besonders wichtig zu beachten?
 - o Auslöser etc.?
 - o Gibt es besondere Fähigkeiten, die Sie anwenden?
 - o Gibt es bestimmte Ressourcen und Materialien, die Sie verwenden?
- Kooperieren Sie mit anderen Organisationen?
 - o Mit welchen Stellen? (Regierungen, Strafverfolgungsbehörden...)
 - o Empfinden Sie dies als nützlich oder nicht? Warum oder warum nicht?

Thema 2: Herausforderungen bei der Arbeit mit Frauen, die von Zwangsprostitution betroffen sind

- Mit welchen Herausforderungen sind Sie bei der Arbeit mit Frauen, die von Zwangsprostitution betroffen sind, konfrontiert?
- Wie oft treten diese Herausforderungen auf?
- Welche Faktoren tragen zu diesen Herausforderungen bei?
 - o Zum Beispiel zusätzliche soziale Probleme/Herausforderungen, von denen die Frauen betroffen sind?
 - o Welche Rollen spielen dabei bestimmte Gesetze andere Regularien
 - o Welche Rolle spielen die Kooperationen mit anderen Professionen (Strafverfolgung, Migration etc.
- Wie gehen Sie mit diesen Herausforderungen um und wie begegnen Sie ihnen?

Thema 3: Implikationen für die zukünftige Entwicklung der Methoden der Sozialen Arbeit

- Was kann Ihrer Meinung nach in Bezug auf Ihre Methoden in der Arbeit mit Frauen, die von Zwangsprostitution betroffen sind, weiterentwickelt werden?
- Welche Veränderungen würden Sie gerne sehen, um die Effizienz der Organisation und ihre Arbeit zu verbessern?
- Gibt es politische Veränderungen/Änderungen von Richtlinien/Gesetze, die für Ihre Arbeit nützlich wären?
- Gibt es sonst noch etwas, das Ihnen wichtig ist und das Sie hinzufügen möchten?