

## **TORUISM AND SEXUAL BEHAVIOR: EXPERINCES OF YOUTHS IN GOA, INDIA**

**By**  
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### **Introduction**

In the present times, tourism is an irreversible social and human phenomena never before known in these dimensions and that results from the freedom of movement, easy mobility at economically accessible prices, a greater purchasing power of the people including those belonging to the lower and middle classes, more free time and spirit of adventure as well as the desire to experience new world and enjoy one's free time to fullest. Liberalization of the international economic market through the international economic agreements like the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade ratified in 1993 placed the tourism industry in its present structure. During the year 1987, the World Trade Organization (WTO) had projected for Goa as one of the most preferred tourists destination for the international tourists. It was projected that by the year 2000, Goa would host two million tourists, with a maximum of 16,000 tourists arrivals per day (Tourism Handbook, 2000).

Young people represent about a third of the India's total population. No doubt that in comparison to their ancestors and/or their counterparts in the previous generation, the present generation of youth is more urbanised and better educated, however, they face tremendous risks related to reproductive and sexual health. A substantially large proportions of our youth today lack correct knowledge on these very important matters. At the same time, they are lack power to make informed sexual and reproductive choices. These circumstances make India youth extremely vulnerable and hence pose greater risks to their lives. These risks may rise multi-fold in a population that is exposed to wider international and domestic tourism. The intricacies of these issues and the vulnerabilities of youth as a result of this remain poorly understood and served.

Tourism is an irreversible social and human phenomena resulting from freedom of movement, easy mobility at economically accessible prices and greater purchasing power of the people including those belonging to the lower/middle classes with the spirit of adventure. Many youths who have been exposed to the dream of living in luxury as fed to them through television and other mass media, some actually initially believe that they will receive luxuries and hence engage themselves in easy life style. Youth tired of living in rural poverty with no future find themselves ready and willing to take chance at a new life promised to them by the agents. Engaging in sex-tourism related activities seems to them the only means available to actualize their dreams. Sex-tourism includes various occupations such as bar girls, female and male escorts, singers, erotic dancers and masseuses. Economic factors are major causes of sex-tourism. Government has admitted that Goa is in danger of replacing Bangkok as Asia's prime sex resort.

Denville's report on 'Pedophilia shifting focus to Goa, Kerala' (Denville 2003) concentrates mainly on child related sex tourism, found that the majority of the victims are street children, urchins etc. It may be mentioned here that India's first pedophilia case surfaced in Goa with the arrest and

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conviction of Indo-German Freddy Peats some years ago. The weekly magazine Goa Today organized an open discussion in the year 2001 on the topic 'Is tourism in Goa a driving force for poverty alleviation, job creation and social harmony' (Goa Today, 2001). During the discussion, many issues related to sex-tourism and employment came up. According to Gerald Fernandes of *Balcao*, the jobs related to tourism are not only seasonal but are low paid as well the employees often rely upon the tips from the customers to make both the ends meet. Although the tourism industry has great potential but it has to be viewed in the context of the changing social structure, increasing migration and urbanization and social harmony. The experience of the coastal areas of Goa has been quite worrying with families imparted with increasing crime and drugs, commercial sex, child abuse (Goa Today, 2001).

Desai (2001) clearly brings into light the havoc played by the tourism related pedophilia with the lives of innocent children in Goa. Boys and girls, both Goans and non-Goans are vulnerable to the attention of few-perverted tourists who seek them to satisfy their sexual desire from children. In a report published by the ECPAT (an organization which fights against child prostitution), O'Connell and Taylor (1996) observed that a small number of men who might be described as 'hardened' sex tourist have identified Goa as a site in which they can cheaply accommodate their social interests. Most of the above cited studies and researches are in the field of tourism related pedophilia operating in Goa. However, not many references are found on sex-tourism as a major source of earning for the local population, although much has been talked and discussed about the commercial sex workers operating in Goa.

So far a few studies and research have been conducted on tourism related social and cultural problems but not much is explained about sex tourism. According to Cecil Rajendra, a lawyer and human right activist, today the tourist is a consumer and the raw material of the tourist industry is the flesh and the blood of people and their cultures. Thus its long-term effects on a state whose main income is derived from tourism can be devastating. Once people or culture has been exploited and subverted to the needs of tourist industry it can never be replaced. With government of Goa promoting tourism, the flocking tourists have raised many socio-cultural and environmental concerns. Various problems such as drug abuse with newspapers flashing the news of foreigners being involved in drug trafficking, pedophilias, casino culture Internet pornography related problems, nudism are the direct pitfalls of tourism. Environmental problems like fresh water shortage, space shortage, pollution, pressure on civic amenities, traffic congestion are catastrophic. Therefore a need is felt to bring into light and explore the various issues related to tourism that has negative effect on the younger generations.

In view of this, the present study is an attempt towards understanding the sex-tourism related to the Goan youths who are actually not a part of commercial sex operators but are engaging in the sex trade either through agents or through their own contacts, particularly catering to the sex related needs of the foreign tourist. The major difference between sex workers and the youth involved in sex-tourism is that the former cater to domestic tourist as well as the local population throughout the state while the later cater only to the needs of the foreign tourist visiting the state during the season. Thus the present study attempts to explore important social and economic dimensions of tourism on the lives of youth in the state of Goa with prime focus on the issues related to their reproductive and sexual health. The present study was conducted in the four-coastal talukas of Goa (namely *Tiswadi, Salcette, Marmugaon* and *Bardez*). *The selection of these four taluka's was purposive as majority of the tourist population visiting, particularly that of the foreign tourists, Goa comes to these places.* The youths for the present study were selected from the seashores of *Colva, Majorda, Benaulim, Anjuna, Vagator, Baga, Calangute, Arambol* and *Palolem* beaches in these four talukas. It may not be out of the context to mention that the *Arambol* and *Palolem* beaches are famous for their nude culture while *Baga, Vagator* and *Anjuna* are acclaimed destinations for drug trafficking by foreign tourists.

In all we have interviewed Fifty-seven (57) youths who are involved in various types of tourism related services. Out of the 57 youths interviewed, 23 were found to be involved in the sex-tourism. The youths interviewed in the present were aged 15-34 years who were involved in some or the other types of close and personal interaction with foreign tourists. Beside this, we have also carried out 10 case studies (including one female). The cases were selected based on type of service

they were rendering, duration, and sexual involvement with the tourists and types of sexual involvement etc. The study was conducted in the year 2003.

### **Tourism in Goa: historical perspective**

Tourism sector, the backbone of the Goa state, provides ample opportunities for employment to a larger portion of the state's total population. At the same time tourism also leads to eruption of many socio-cultural and environmental issues that are the direct fallout of tourism, more importantly for the youth. During the last stage of Portuguese administration in Goa in the 1950's, the state department of information and tourism was unable to establish the tourism industry since the border with India had been closed and Portuguese policies of the time feared the influx of new ideas that mass tourism inevitably would bring along. With the liberation of Goa on 19 December 1961, its future which till then had a Western connotation, passed abruptly to being oriented according to the structure of Indian sub-continent.

The period 1966-77 witnessed the 'Hippies' culture to Goa and these communities discovered Goa as small paradise, at that time however Indian administration did not perceive this as an economically profitable activity. In fact, it was rather considered as a threat to the locales because of the Westernized free behavior of the tourists. As a result, the state made their entry difficult by imposing greater restrictions on the granting of visas to the foreign tourists and thereby directly reducing the influx of the tourists. It may not be out of the context to mention that as a commercial activity tourism in Goa had its origin during the 1970's with the start of charter flights from Germany. After the grant of statehood in 1987, tourism was given the status of official industry. Very soon, people in Goa realized many disadvantages of the mass tourism. The problems of the tourism industry touched alarming proportions both on the national and international map due to its ecological, economic and social implications.

### **Tourism in Goa: present perspective**

In the present time Goa has earned the status of an international tourist hotspot for a number of reasons like liberal culture, easy availability of cheaper sex and liquor, scenic beauty and safe surroundings without any fear to any terrorist attacks etc. It has been estimated that almost 20 percent of local population earns income directly through tourism and even larger number of people depend on it indirectly. The local population of the state is nearly 1.4 million followed closely by a tourist population of 1.2 million (Goa Tourism Development Corporation Brochure, 2002-03)

The main plank of the state economy rests on the exploration of minerals and tourist industry. From the point of view of the economy of the state, the tourism is the fastest growing industry of Goa contributing 14 to 15 percent to the state's Gross Domestic Product. The Government of Goa promotes tourism having participated in international fairs, sending prospectus, supporting conferences and seminars with organizations in charge of tourist department of Goa. Over the years, tourist arrivals have increased multifold and the ratio of domestic tourist to foreign tourists has changed drastically from about 94:06 in 1965 to 80:20 during 2002. Out of the foreign tourist arrivals to India, nearly 12 percent make it to Goa. A spatio-temporal analysis shows that the four coastal taluka's (namely *Tiswadi*, *Bardez*, *Salcette* and *Marmugaon*) which accounts for nearly 25 percent of the state's total geographical land, receive as much as 97 percent of the total tourist arrival in any year (Sawant, 2001). The domestic tourists visiting Goa mainly prefer *Tiswadi* taluka while *Bardez* and *Salcette* taluka are favorite spots for most of the foreign tourist visiting the state. Further, a foreign tourist, on an average spends about nine to ten days, while the domestic tourist stay for five to six days. Though the state has tourist traffic throughout the year, the bulk of the tourists visit Goa in the post monsoon season (that is during the months of October to February).

Tourism industry not only provides ample employment opportunities that are seasonal in nature to the much-needed unemployed population but it also creates new avenues for earning fast money for many. One of these avenues is sex-tourism that has opened Pandora's box. Like Philippines and Thailand, where sex-tourism serves as a backbone of their economy, Goa too apparently is following their footsteps. The concept of sex-tourism is gaining momentum at a much

faster speed beyond anybody's imagination. No doubt the business involves large sums of money, not only in local currency but quite often in foreign currency as well, the unemployed youth (many of them happen to be school drop outs) fall prey to such business.

### **The socio-cultural impact of tourism**

Right from the beginning, Goa attracted young people from Europe and America and quickly became an international destination for young bohemian travelers despite the fact that the tourism in the state at that time was highly unstructured activity since government has not yet intervened in it. By the mid 1980's the state had begun attracting Indian and international mainstream high spending tourists. In 1987, the Indian Government issued a plan to turn Goa into a tourist state. Thereafter investments from India's and international business took over tourism in Goa that changed the socio-economic, cultural and demographic profile of the state resulting into exploitation of the locales in order to be able to cater to the ever rising needs of the tourists industry.

Government officials admit that the small western state of Goa is in danger of replacing Bangkok as Asia's prime sex resort. Sex-tourism includes various occupations such as bar girls, female and male escorts, singers, erotic dancers and masseuses. Economic factors are major causes of sex-tourism. Youths sometimes give up to sex-tourism as a sense of duty to their parents or to share the family burden. Youth tired of living in rural poverty with no future find themselves ready and willing to take chance at a new life promised to them by the agents. Many of the youths who have been exposed to the dream of living in luxury as fed to them through television and other mass media, some actually initially believe that they will receive luxuries and hence engage themselves in easy life style. Engaging in sex-tourism related activities seems to them the only means available to actualize their dreams. Among teenagers it is also popular to follow the lead of one's peer group. This study highlights youth related and dominated sex-tourism in Goa.

The occupation of Goan population in the past like those of fishing, toddy tapping and agriculture have moved to a dependence on the needs and services of the tourism industry. The consumption of drugs, especially among youngsters has increased heavily due to tourism. Prostitution and Pedophilia, as happen in Philippines and Thailand are the harsh realities occurring as direct consequence of the tourism influx. While nudism in Europe is accepted, it has negative significance for the Goans. The sexual liberty as well as the imitation of the western habits as a model of conduct resulted for the loss of values for the local population.

### **Family Profile**

The variables used to understand the family background of the youths were parents' educational status, family composition of the youths, siblings' educational status and working and occupational status of the parents, annual family income and ownership of the property by the family. Seven and five cases mother and father of the youth were dead respectively. Majority of the cases they are engaged in low paid jobs. In majority cases, both the parents of the youth were poorly educated as well as were engaged in seasonal jobs with poorly paid jobs such as toddy tapping, fishing, vegetable cultivation, domestic servants and laborers. About a quarter of the youth reported that their father and/or mother were not working any more. The family income (of the parents and/or other siblings) ranged between Rs.5000 to Rs. 45000 annually excluding youths' income. About half of the youth lived in the family owned houses and about a third had family land. The socio-economic profile of the sibling too appears to be on the lower side. In about 23 cases, the siblings of the youth were neither studying nor working, indicating the youth has greater role and is supporting siblings who are neither studying nor contributing to family income. Thus poor educational and economic status of the parents may have been an important factor towards vulnerability of the youth and led them in search of ways and means to earn money so as to support families and fulfill the social responsibilities.

### **Individual Profile**

Fifty-three of the youth covered in the study were males and 4 females. The mean age of the youth is 28 years. Thirty-five of the youth were Christian, 10 Hindus and remaining 12 were Muslims.

The educational status of the youth is rather poor as 15 have studied up to SSC only and 13 completed graduation. Majority of youth were dropouts from school/college. Only 7 of the youths were still pursuing their studies. Overwhelmingly large number of youth discontinued studies due to 'need to support family' and 8 did so as a personal choice. Nine of the youth quit studies to earn fast money that would support their costly lifestyle.

The data reveals that the youths are engaged in different occupations such as tourist drivers, masseuses, tourist guide, personal assistants etc. Twenty of the youth were engaged as 'personal assistants' to their customers whose main job is to cater to each and every need (emotional, sexual etc.). Twenty-five of the youths were working as tourist taxi drivers. Majority of the youth are engaged in these occupations for about 2-5 years. The monetary incentives involved in the job ranged anywhere from Rs. 5000 to Rs. 40000 or more, supplemented with occasional tips in foreign currency. Besides monetary incentives, there are non-monetary incentives like foreign gifts such as perfumes, soaps, cosmetics, promised trip to abroad, dinner, lunch and stay in five star hotels which actually attract these youth into these jobs.

### **Knowledge of Family Planning, RTI, STI and HIV (AIDS)**

All of the youths interviewed had correct knowledge of use of at least one method of family planning. In fact many have correct knowledge of most of the modern methods. Friends, mass media, doctors and the tourists are the main source of knowledge of contraceptives to them. One of the burning health issues of the state is the increasing number of HIV positive cases. Forty-three of the youths were aware of RTI/STI and all were aware of HIV (AIDS). Print media appears to have played an important role in providing the youth with the knowledge on these issues, especially in creating awareness on HIV (AIDS). Many of the youth have heard about the same from their partners, NGO's, newspapers, Television, Radio, Hoarding etc. Thus knowledge of RTI/STI is slightly poor than that of the HIV (AIDS). To quote from one of the discussion:

*I: Are you aware of RTI/STI and HIV (AID)?*

*R: I have heard for the first time about RTI/STI. But I have heard about HIV/AIDS on radio and also seen on the television also. It seems it is a very deadly disease and one gets it by having sex only with commercial sex workers (24 years working as tourist guide).*

Homosexuality and Multiple sex-partners were reported as source of RTI/STI transmission by nearly half of the youth. Many also told that one could get RTI/STI if he/she does not maintain proper personal hygiene. The knowledge level of youth about HIV (AIDS) to seem to be better as 49 of them were aware about the transmission of the virus through unprotected sexual contact with the infected persons. However, relatively a few were aware about other modes of transmission such as intravenous injections, blood and organ transplantation, and mother to child. A handful of them also reported heterosexual, lack of personal hygiene, and homosexual and unsafe delivery as the mode of HIV transmission.

The knowledge of youth about preventive measures appears to be relatively. There was only 5 and 18 youth respectively reported condom use as means of avoiding RTI/STI and HIV (AIDS) infection. However, 10 each youth told that one could protect self from getting RTI/STI and HIV (AIDS) by avoiding sex with commercial sex workers. Other means reported were- 'abstain from sex' (by 20 for HIV (AIDS)), 'safe sex' (by just 8 and 5), 'avoid blood transfusion (by 5 and 14) and 'use of sterilized needles' (by 4 and 12) respectively. There were 14 of the youths who had no knowledge about means of preventing oneself from acquiring RTI/STI. However, the youth has misconceptions regarding the mode of transmission of HIV, as most of the youths believed that HIV virus could be transmitted through shaking hands, sharing the same towel, bedding, plate, social kissing and hugging, stepping on the urine/stool of the infected person etc. Thus it is very clear that very few of the youths were aware of the modes of HIV (AIDS) transmission and at the same time the misconceptions were rather commonly prevalent.

Almost all of the youth knew about the place of treatment for RTI/STI and HIV (AIDS). However, nearly half of them told that one could take treatment form the ayurvedic system of

medicine. It is found that 25 and 20 of the youths respectively believed that RTI/STI and HIV (AIDS) diseases were curable.

### **Sexual Behavior**

A quarter of the youths (23) were engaging in all types of sex that included homosexual and heterosexual and oral sex, group-sex and sex with the same sex person etc. Eight of the youth were engaging in homosexual activities and 15 in heterosexual activities. Eight each were engaging in vaginal sex and anal sex, 3 in both anal and vaginal sex and 3 in oral sex. There were 8 people who were engaging in group-sex. It may be specified here that on average, the size of the group would range anywhere between 10-12 members. It is important to mention that all those who were engaging in these activities have modern life styles as many of them were in to drugs and alcohol (liquor is freely available in the state and also foreign tourists coming to the state too provide narcotics to the youths).

The tourist season in Goa starts from the month of October and lasts till April. The number of customers handled in each season by a single youth range between 5-26 depending upon the availability of the customers and their duration of stay. For example, about 29 of the youths serve to more than 20 customers per season while another 22 to 10 to 20 customers per season. There were six of the youths who reported that they serve to less than 10 costumers per season.

With increasing number of HIV (AIDS) cases being detected in the state, these types of sexual activities would be an open invitation to the disease. Foreigners having fascination for the brown skin often lure the youths with the promises to take them abroad and encourage them to engage in such activities. Thus it is important to understand what brings these youth in this types of jobs. Most of the youth have said that they are in these jobs not by choice but because of the social and economic pressures. As one of the youth opines that “...initially it was very difficult for me to accept such a job, but the money involved in such job is quite a lot as compared to many of my friends who work as just tourist drivers and besides this job does not have any fixed time.” Thus, attraction to earn fast money clearly emerges as the important factor that makes these youth take up these jobs. Another youths opines:

*I: What makes you engage in these (sexual) activities?*

*R: ...besides earning money, such type of involvement opens the avenues for us to go abroad for job and these contacts always help...(Youth working as attendant in a reputed hotel)*

*I: How did you get in this (group sex)?*

*R: We were taught about the group sex by the foreigners and first time we did not enjoy, but to tell you frankly, after that we realized that it was more enjoying to be with so many sexual partners at the same time with different taste' (Youth involved in group sex)*

*I: Do you worry about any ill effects of these acts?*

*R: .....since there is no fear of being pregnant and man's sexual desire are better understood by a man and therefore nothing is wrong if I have sex with another man. Actually is very safe and satisfying too'. (Youth engaging in homosexual activity)*

### **Contraceptive use**

Out of the youth engaging in sexual activities with the tourists, 8 reported that they never use any contraceptive during sexual intercourse, as the partner refused to do so. However, remaining reportedly used Condom (10 used it always while 5 used it occasionally). It is important to note that those who used condom mostly received the supply from the tourist partner and a few from pharmacist/chemist and/or friends. As one of the youth reported, *I prefer to get condoms from the foreigner who are my customers because they have good quality condom sand besides it saves me from the embarrassment of going to the pharmacy and buy the same. Since I am not married, there is always fear that someone known to me might see me buying the same and inform my parents.*

### **Process of Interaction Between the Youth and Tourist**

It is very important to understand the process of interaction between the foreign tourists and the youths. Many of the youths reported that they find the customers through their agents to whom they pay 5 to 10 percent of their earnings as commission. However, there were a few youths who operate on their own since they have been into the business for quite some time now and have established direct contacts so to keep the agents away.

*I: How/where do you find your clients (referring to foreign tourists)?*

*R: ... I operate on my own to get the customers. Off course initially I had to work hard to learn English that too their type of accent and believe me it was very difficult because I have not even completed my SSC. Sometimes I have to wait for 8 days to get a customer.*

*R: We have to be very careful in locating the customers. Generally we target the one's who have come all alone and who keep roaming on the seashores even till late hours. Sometimes we locate them at beach parties or at the Flea night markets.*

### **Prevalence of RTI/ STI and treatment seeking behavior**

Eight of the youth reported of 'swelling in private parts' while 5 were suffering from 'itching in private parts'. Another 8 of the youths reported 'boils on their private parts'. Out of the 23 of the youths who suffered from any of the above-mentioned infection, only 13 sought treatment. Four of the youth did not seek any treatment on account of 'being ashamed to go to the doctor' and 5 said that they did not know 'exactly what had happened to them'. One of the youths told that he 'did not know the exact place of treatment'. As one of the youth opines that "*when I got one of the symptoms as you mentioned, I told my friend about it and he advised me to visit a sexologist who had just arrived newly in the town but I did not do so as I felt ashamed of myself and though that the doctor would think of me badly*".

### **Conclusion**

The study has touched upon many issues related to sex-tourism in Goa. A growing sexual interaction (ranging from oral sex to homo-sex) is a major concern for health of the youths. Involvement in risky social activities like drinking, smoking and drug abuse is also raising an alarm for various problems. With government of Goa attracting more tourists every year, the demand for sex tourism will increase and more and more youth will get involved in future. The study clearly reveals that the driving force behind the sex tourism is the availability of fast money involved in the business. With increasing number of tourist arrivals, the needs of the tourism industry are increasing leading to increase in demand for tourism related services that are highly paid. Thus for the unemployed youths with poor economic background, who are unable to find any white-collar jobs, drives many young man and women into sex tourism. This may have also resulted from the fact that the tourism as an industry has not expanded adequate employment opportunities for the locales. A decade or two ago, majority of the local youths after completing matriculation would seek job in Middle East countries, but the situation changed after Iraq-Kuwait war. The Gulf countries are no more a source of employment for the Goan people. The population from the neighboring states of Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh etc, generally grab the job opportunities, whatever available. This pattern has become more evident after the completion of Konkan railway that has connected these states to Goa. It has been found that during the off-seasons, these youth prefer to work as courier boys, waiters etc. Attraction of fast money has hampered their educational status.

The study clearly brings out that a lot of youth engaged in tourism industry also engage in sexual activities and have exhibited very risky sexual behaviour, from homosexual to group sex to multiple partners, anal sex etc. Almost all the youths engaging in sexual activities are well aware of various family planning methods, RTI/STI infections and HIV/AIDS. Nevertheless, there are many misconceptions pertaining to mode of transmission of HIV/AIDS. Sexual activities like anal sex and

group sex were invitation to such disease. Many of the youth have reported symptoms of STI and often do not seek any treatment for the same.

The basic issue that arises here is what is the future of all these youth who were involved in such activities and how long will they be able to earn for themselves and their families. Sex exploitation is a growing sector of the tourist trade with many tour companies offering special package tours to the best sex spots. There are some disturbing indications that Goa (like Phuket) may become the hub of Sex-tourism in the coming years. What is seen is the tip of iceberg and more exploration and research in this area will bring out many more issues. Mere promoting tourism to earn foreign exchange is lopsided development. Various NGO's are raising voice against tourism related socio cultural problems. The biggest red light area in Goa situated in Marmugaon taluka, Government is trying to rehabilitate them. With such rehabilitation, the domestic tourist also will start attracting youth into such activities. Child sex tourism is on rise and newspapers are flashing with the news on tourism related pedophilias. Obviously the doubts are raised as to who is paying for the development of the state through fastest growing tourist sector- the younger generations, the children or the entire population of the state.

**Table 1. Details of the Selected Life Style Indicators and Sexual Behavior of the Youths.**

<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>No.</b>
<b>23 Involved in Sex by Types of Sexual Activities</b>		Sexual Involvement with costumer	
Homosexual	08	Not involved in any	34
Heterosexual of which	15	Oral Sex only	4
Single sex	07	Vaginal Sex only	8
Group sex	08	Anal Sex only	8
		Both Vaginal and Anal Sex	3
<b>Number of Youth</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>Number of Youth</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Types of Social activities</b>			
Drinking		04	
Smoking		05	
Drug abuse		02	
Drinking +Smoking		05	
Smoking +Drug		03	
Drinking + Drug Addict		02	
All of the three activities		05	
Not involved in any		31	
<b>Number of Youth</b>		<b>57</b>	

**Table 2. Process of Interaction Between Youths and the Tourists**

<b>CHARACTERISTICS</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>CHARACTERISTICS</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>
<b>Access to the customers</b>		<b>Average No. of customers attended per season</b>	
Through the agent	41	Less than 10	06
Own contact	16	10 to 15	10
<b>Nature of involvement</b>		15 to 20	12
Business	33	More than 20	29
Personal	01		
Sexual	23	<b>Total No. of Youth</b>	<b>57</b>



**Table 3. Prevalence of RTI/STI and Treatment seeking behavior of the youth.**

Characteristics	No.	Characteristics	No.
<b>Presence of symptoms</b>		<b>Sought treatment of STI</b>	
Itching in private parts	05	Yes	13
Swelling in private parts	10	No	10
Boils on private parts	08		
<b>Treatment Place, who sought treatment</b>		<b>Reasons for not treating</b>	
Government Hospital	03	Feeling Shy to visit the doctor	04
Private Practitioners	06	did not know the exact place of treatment	01
Ayurvedic Treatment	04	did not know exactly what had happened to them Any Other reasons	05
<b>Total No. of Youths</b>		<b>57</b>	

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