Dr. Sonal Pandey
Postdoctoral Fellow, Center of Social Medicine and Community Health, JNU, New Delhi

will give a talk titled:

“Neither a Victim nor a Prostitute: Decoding the ‘agency’ and ‘vulnerability’ among the females in the Prostitution, Sex Work, and Trafficking in India”

Abstract

The history of paid sex is not new or unique to India. The phenomenon of sexual liaisons between two individuals outside the nuptial ties for cash or kind has been prevalent across time and space in the country from time immemorial and has been documented in various treatises. Although prostitution or sex work has been quite common in India, yet the makers of the modern constitution patronized the abolitionist model of prostitution/sex work. According to the abolitionist framework, prostitution per se is not a crime provided the prostitutes refrain from overt solicitation. It is found that street solicitation is prohibited in the country, but indoor prostitution is endured or tolerated. Further, the Immoral Trafficking in Persons Prevention Act 1986 criminalizes trafficking of children for sex work. It provides for their mandatory rescue and rehabilitation. However, the situation becomes complex for adults in the sex work who neither have legal rights as a sex worker nor enjoy legal protection as a victim of trafficking and are exposed to an array of discriminations from the brothel personnel, the clients in the sex work, and even the law enforcement agencies. In this respect, this paper would like to unveil the binaries of victimhood and agency among the adults in sex work, prostitution, and trafficking in India.

Date: Monday, 04 November 2019; Time: 3 – 5 pm

Venue: CSSSC Seminar Room 2, Patuli Campus

Maidul Islam
(Convenor, Seminar Committee)
All are welcome to attend.