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Ethics of Sex Tourism in Thailand: Finnish Tourists' Stance to Prostitution and Human Trafficking

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Abstract

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Ethics of Sex Tourism in Thailand: Tourists' Stance to Prostitution and Human Trafficking, 57 pages, 2 appendices

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This thesis researches attitudes, justifications and judgements of sex tourists towards responsible travelling, sex tourism, prostitution, prostitutes and human trafficking. The aim was to find out how sex tourists are thinking about the concepts related to the phenomena.

The research was executed by surveying using quantitative research method via webropol.com. The questionnaire was spread in discussion forums regarding sex and sex tourism. The questionnaire generated altogether 75 responses mostly by sex tourists, however some of them were not used due to problems with data collection. Responses were by all of the targeted age groups, from 18 years to 55 and older.

The research results indicated that the sex tourists are of all ages, and general attitude towards all those concepts is accepting. Sex tourists are judging exploitation and abuse towards prostitutes but see their occupation as acceptable as any other. Younger sex tourists are looking for fun and are not looking for a durable relationship, while middle-aged are more open for a relationship that has started in Thailand with a prostitute.

Key words: Thailand, responsible tourism, human trafficking, sex tourism.

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1 Introduction

Thailand is not only known for its beautiful nature and beaches but also for its reputation for being a key destination for sun, sea and especially sex in Asia. According to Leheny (1995) in Sirkkilä (2005, p.83) sex tourism has been a phenomenon in Thailand since Vietnam War, when U.S. American soldiers started to spend holidays in the coasts of Thailand and it has remained a popular destination for western men ever since. While enjoying warmth, shining sun and delicious food and drinks also love can be received with only a little of money.

Thailand is known as the key destination of sex tourism in Asia (Åsvik & Åsvik 2004, p.13). That is why Thailand was a natural choice as a topic for this study. This research is introducing concepts of sex tourism, prostitution and human trafficking in Thailand, and investigating attitudes, justifications and judgements of supposed sex tourists. It will answer questions about who the sex tourists and people selling sex are and what the consequences are. Main goal of this research is to find out how these supposed sex tourists are thinking about sex tourism and their morals. The survey will consist of groups of questions that map out background of respondents, frequency of visits to Thailand, previous sex buying experiences, prostitution in Thailand, attitude towards prostitution and human trafficking.

These results will clarify what the attitudes are like, if there are any differences in the responses of respondents of different ages or marital statuses, and if the attitudes have changed after experiencing or witnessing sex tourism in Thailand.

1.1 Justification for the topic

Sex tourism and human trafficking is an internationally recognized phenomenon, however it is considered as sensitive and even a taboo topic. Sex tourism and human trafficking are causing different kind of effects on Thailand and its citizens, but also society and people in other countries. Therefore it is important to observe these attitudes and consider how these attitudes have formed and how they are affecting the continuation of this phenomenon in Thailand. If there

is a general acceptance of this phenomenon, there will certainly be continuation of prostitution in Thailand.

Thailand was chosen as the destination area because it is internationally known as a destination for cheap, quick and easy paid sex. Thailand is also a good choice in terms of ethics, as sex tourism there is a large phenomenon. Therefore consequences are also significant and visible.

This topic has not been researched in Saimaa University of Applied Sciences many times before, so therefore this provides opportunity for also other students and staff members to get to know this issue and to learn and ponder their own knowledge and attitude towards sex tourism.

As I am interested in human rights, ethics and dark tourism, this topic suits me very well as a topic for my thesis. Usually tourism is presented to students as a happy and easy business but I hope that my thesis will also introduce darker side of tourism. I find it important to learn also about harder and more sensitive parts of my profession, so I wish to spread information via my thesis to other students as well.

1.2 Aims and delimitations

The aim of this research is to study attitudes, judgements and justifications of sex tourism and consequences following from those actions. Questions survey whether there are any differences in attitudes between marital statuses or ages, and if the attitudes have changed after visits to Thailand or after learning more about the phenomenon. Ideal result of the research is to find differences in the attitudes between ages and representatives of different marital statuses.

However, as in any research, there are delimitations also in this study. As method of research is surveying, there might be a possibility that there are no respondents responding to the survey due to the survey's sensitive topic. Some sex tourists do not necessarily want to answer questions about their experiences and especially about their own justifications.

The amount of responses might limit possibilities of making conclusions and generalisations of the results. If there are not enough responses, generalisation

of responses and conclusions of some marital statuses or ages is not possible, and therefore survey might fail.

1.3 Definition of the target group

Target group in this study is Finnish men. This target group was chosen as the publicity of the phenomenon is focusing on the western men. According to Åsvik & Åsvik (2004, p.9) and Cohen (1996) in Sirkkilä (2005, p.84) still users of the prostitution services are both western and Asian men.

As introduced in the chapter 'Profile of a sex tourist', there is not a clear frame for a sex tourist, and therefore men of all ages, nationalities and marital statuses are ideal target group of this survey. Visit to Thailand is the main demand of the respondent, however responses of the persons that have not yet visited Thailand are qualified also to answer the survey. Men of all ages, from all social classes are the target group of this research, and variety of background only gives better view to the phenomenon.

There is a possibility of having false responses, as there is no identification of identity of respondents. Internet survey does not allow identification of respondents, and even if it did, it would be likely that respondents would not want to be recognised as sex tourists. It is possible that respondents have never visited Thailand or they might be women.

2 Sex tourism in Thailand

The following chapter will define sex tourism and introduces how it actually happens in the destinations that are known for availability of sex, where sex tourism and sex tourists are located in Thailand and why the whole phenomenon really exists. In addition the consequences and effects on individuals, communities and governments are discussed, but also prostitutes' movement to protect their position in the society is examined briefly.

According to Chris Ryan and C. Michael Hall (2001) in Sirkkilä (2005, p.80) sex tourism defined is tourism in which the most important goal or motivation is to form sexual relationships. Basically this means that the purpose of the holiday is

to have sex, but there might also be other motivations for those trips, such as sun, warmth, costs of living or atmosphere in the destination. Sex is only one advantage with many others of having a holiday in Thailand.

Procedure of buying sex starts with men arriving at red lights district areas and bars there. Men visit their friends or have after-work beer. Girls start their job; attracting men to bars, serving and entertaining. Customers can buy alcohol-free 'lady drinks' for the girls that they are interested in. Income from those drinks is for the girls, and they can reclaim the money whenever they want to. If a customer wants to pay out a girl that is working in a bar for a night, he must pay the bar 'bar fine'. Bar fine is the payment for the absence of the waiter, and that fine is only for the bar. Everything else that will happen will be paid straight to the girl. (Åsvik & Åsvik 2004, pp.23, 47.)

According to Cohen (1996, p.251) as stated in Sirkkilä (2005, p.84) sex tourism in Thailand does not focus entirely on western men, but also Asian men from China, Malaysia and Singapore are traveling to Thailand for sexual purposes. Therefore it cannot be claimed that sex tourism is only a phenomenon of the western countries. Country of origin might affect the motivations for trips, and there might be significant differences in attitudes of people from different continents.

An essential part of understanding sex tourism in Thailand is awareness of prostitution being illegal in the country (ECPAT International 2011, p.9). Despite the legislation, Thailand is known for being a key destination for sex tourism. It seems illogical that one of the most well known sex tourism destination is actually banning sex selling. Powerlessness or neglect of the government is allowing the continuation of the phenomenon, and fighting against might be impossible as Thailand is in a position of 'promised land' of men. Strict legislation could limit the sex trading, but economy and international relationships could be significantly affected.

Sex tourism takes place in many venues in tourist destinations. Main destinations are the centres of the country; Nana Plaza, Patpong, and Soi Cowboy in Bangkok, Pattaya and Phuket are all attracting men seeking for cheap and easy

sexual intercourse (Location of prostitution, Prostitution in Thailand). Red lights districts, e.g. Nana Plaza in Bangkok are the centres of girl bars. Beer bars, gogo-bars, massage parlours and billiard venues have each possibility to redeem a girl for a night. (Åsvik & Åsvik 2004, pp.16, 74-77,46.)

For a westerner, visibility of sex and sexuality is common through advertisements and popular culture. However prostitution and markets for sex services are hidden and considered as a taboo. A woman selling herself is instantly considered to be in desperate need of money or emotionally traumatized. Concept of sexuality and sexual behaviour differs significantly from the western viewpoint. Buddhism is not regulating sexual behaviour as Christianity or Islam, and therefore sex is not seen as a sin. Even though sex is seen much more acceptable, public endearments are not honourable behaviour. (Åsvik & Åsvik 2004, p.73.) This allows Thai girls to master their own body and sexuality, which makes the profession of prostitution much more acceptable in comparison to western countries, in which selling sex is seen much more culpable and as 'the last chance to make some money'. For Thai girl her intentions mean much more than what she actually does, and prostitution is not seen as a questionable form of income as she is usually working to support her family. (Åsvik & Åsvik 2004, p.73.)

Bars are now strictly following the legislation for the age of the employees. Bar girls are all of legal age, and many of them have already been married or have children in their hometowns, raised by their grandparents (Åsvik & Åsvik 2004, pp.30, 65). In that sense the age of the prostitutes is not the questionable factor, but still the legislation can be avoided, and then children might be involved in the sex business. Even though general atmosphere would not allow underage girls to work in the bars, they still can work as freelancers. This creates another ethical concern, as it is dependent on the morale of the customer whether he accepts underage girls sleeping with grown men. However a girl can always hide and lie her true age, so it might be impossible to identify the age of a freelancer.

2.1 Consequences of sex tourism

Thailand has been a popular destination for tourists for a long time, and it seems fairly understandable why people keep going back to the land of sun and sea, but also sex. Sex has consequences, and a place where sex plays such an important role it, those consequences occur; sexually transmitted diseases, it boosts economy, enables human trafficking, creates immigration and emigration and generally maintains tourism in Thailand. Basically not all of the consequences of the sex tourism are negative, and it might even increase welfare of people generally. However, if there are multiple individuals paying the price with their own body and mind, is sex tourism justifiable?

As sex tourists are living in the hotels, eating in the restaurants, visiting sights, shopping in retail shops and drinking in bars, they are putting money in the Thai economy. Expenditure creates employment and increases variety of services. Potential of Thailand in tourism might be one reason why prostitution is to some extent accepted and not fought against aggressively. According to Francoeur (2011) as stated in Eskelinen & Köpsi (2015, p.31) even 70 percent of male tourists that travelled to Thailand, were sex tourists. In that context it is clear that economic impact of sex tourists is significant, and tighter legislation would harm Thailand remarkably.

In the darker side of tourism in Thailand is human trafficking and exploitation. The worst cases include children working as prostitutes in tourism industry. Young Thai girls are having sexual relationships with adult men in exchange for shopping, holidays and dinners. (ECPAT International 2011, pp.8, 9, 13.) Basically, those underage girls are working in the same positions as adults in the sex industry. It might be impossible for a customer to know the real age of the prostitute, and it is a question of morale of an individual whether the age has any influence on the decision to use services of a prostitute.

It is not the case that sex tourists would not recognize that their actions might allow the injustice that the prostitutes might be suffering. They are wondering how the same girls can cope with such kind of work day after day (Jussila 2011, p.85). However they are still taking advantage of them even if they understand

that they might not be happy with their position. This might illustrate the ideology of a western man of being justified of taking advantage of less-fortunate. They might misunderstand that they are able to help those girls, but in fact they are determining the continuation of the phenomenon, as there will be many men after them doing exactly the same thing. According to the online discussions of Finnish men, tourists are advising each other not to pay too much so that general level of payments would stay reasonable. This indicates that paid sex is seen as a form of consumption. (Jussila 2011, p.76.) In that light it would seem that men are seeing Thai prostitutes as objects that can be consumed as any other commodity. However this cannot be generalized to a whole group of sex tourists, not even to a Finnish sex tourist, but it opens up the attitudes and justifications of some of them.

To protect their rights and occupation, sex workers have founded Empower Foundation that is defending the prostitutes, providing education, running social facilities and advising sex workers with questions related to their work and life in general (Empower Foundation 2016). Their activity is supporting the sex workers and highlighting their own power in the phenomenon. This shows that they are proud of their work and value the skills of the women that play an important role in Thailand's economy.

Sexually transmitted diseases take place also via sex tourism if proper protection is not handled with care. Even if a proper protection is used, transmission is possible. Whenever an individual is infected, the disease may be transmitted to a third party in tourist's home country. Some of the diseases are in their lightest quite harmless, but without a decent treatment they might cause an inability to reproduce. In the worst scenario, the incorrigible Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) might develop into Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and then lead to the death of a person. However, HIV is controllable with a proper medication treatment, but any risk of getting infected should be prevented with good hygienic practises and using a condom while in sexual intercourse. (HIV-säätiö 2016.) According to Åsvik & Åsvik (2004, p.111) the bar owners test their employees and those with HIV are fired. However, those girls

are able to infect many others before they are unemployed, and they might get a new job in another bar and then continue their occupation.

Tourism that involves a close contact with locals might also form also lifelong friendships and relationships that reach over the borders of the countries and oceans separating them. A holiday romance might turn into a marriage, even though the relationship had started with an exchange of money to services. Men might be giving up of their life in their country of origin or women might follow their new love to western countries.

2.2 Profile of a sex tourist

Determining a clear profile of a sex tourist that travels to Thailand for having paid sex there is extremely difficult since tourists have very different backgrounds, and there is no exact frame that everyone would fit in. In Thailand a western man or woman is called 'farang' and the sex of person is dependent on the context in which he/she is put into. Concept of a western person includes an European, an US American, an Australian or a New Zealander. (Åsvik & Åsvik 2004, p.9.) In this case farang is indicating a man.

According to Rao (1999, p.96), a sex tourist is "a man who is tired of taking a politically correct position on his sexual preferences because of social pressure". Basically, a sex tourist is a man that is tired of complicated phases of the formation of relationships and recognises the exchange of money as easier route to relationships with women. In the background of a sex tourist there might lay a breakup with a western woman, a divorce or death of a former partner. Dating and finding a new partner might seem too arduous and time consuming in their home countries, so fulfilling the need of intimacy and social communication is rather easy via paid companion. There is not any expectation for the future, which allows a person to enjoy the present moment. This freedom in communication is liberating in comparison with dating in regular environment.

According to Åsvik & Åsvik (2004, p.80) men are describing behaviour of western women in company of men manly, and they are constantly trying to assure that they can do as well as the men, or even better. Still, men want a feminine woman with them, not a woman acting like a man. The Thai women are pleas-

ing their spouse even if they would be really in charge of things. In western countries the gender roles are much more equal to each other, and it seems that some of the men traveling to Thailand in terms of forming relationships there, are valuing more traditional gender roles.

The exchange of money eases the emotional pressure included in the relationship formation, as there are no expectations of catching feelings. There is no need to wonder if the date partner would like to get intimate, as it is assumption that sexual intercourse is likely to happen in return to money. However, those feelings might occur after getting to know each other in paid situations, and it might develop into constant relationship. Still, the sex tourism is not only sex but also it might form friendships and develop even real love that lasts for years. Those relationships might lead to marriages and children in either Thailand or in the home country of the man.

Rothen (1997) in Sirkkilä (2005, p.82) states that studies of motivation and social backgrounds of the sex tourist travelling to Thailand indicate that there is no actual social prototype of sex tourist, and sex tourists come from all social classes (Sirkkilä 2005, p.82). Income or status are not defining a profile of a sex tourist, he can be a manager, a manual worker, a student or a pensioner. As poverty is common and social classes important, even a lower-middle class farang is seen as wealthy and therefore also respected. For a Thai girl from the poor countryside, a farang with average income is already seen quite wealthy.

Ages of sex tourists vary from those who have just reached their legal age to pensioners. Since in the most cases the outer appearance of a person is not defining the chance to meet a possible sex partner, men of all ages are visiting Thailand's sex tourism destinations. There are many ways to divide types of the tourists, and none of them is covering all the possible profiles. Student, divorced, husband, single, unemployed, pensioner or corporate manager are filling frames of the sex tourist. The only thing they all have in common is that they all are interested in paid sex (or just paid company).

While discussing the sex business and the tourists visiting Thailand for sexual purposes, the fact that not all the service users are westerners cannot be

passed. According to Cohen (1996, p.251) Asian men are using prostitution services of the Thai women as well. It is clear that the phenomenon does not exist only because of farangs are paying for sex with prostitutes. Paid sex is common, even though it is not seen respectful behaviour. The Thai men start to use prostitution services even in their teenager years, and continue throughout their life. Sex is not seen as a sin, however women consider having more control over themselves than men in sexual instinct.

2.3 Profile of a prostitute

It is important to understand why exactly the sex tourists are visiting Thailand, and how they see the prostitutes. Attitude towards the prostitutes reveals their morale perception. Who are the girls in the tourist destinations in Thailand pleasing western men that are seeking for cheap and easy sex? Where do they come from and what are the reasons behind their choice of occupation? There are not simple answers that would answer those questions precisely, but there certainly are similarities in the backgrounds of those girls.

Prostitution appears in many different venues in Thailand, including different kind of bars (beer bars and gogo-bars), massage services and billiard lounges (Åsvik & Åsvik 2004, pp.27, 74-77) One thing in common with them is that almost everywhere girl can be paid for leaving with the customer (Åsvik & Åsvik 2004, p.46).

Ladyboys, in Thai Kathoeyes are men that have changed their gender to female partly or fully. Many bars are employing at least one kathoey. As kathoeyes feel themselves as women, they are not likely to introduce themselves as transsexuals for customers either. (Åsvik & Åsvik 2004, pp.10, 34-35.) According to the Wikipedia article of Nana Plaza (Red lights district in Bangkok) there are seven kathoey bars in the district in November 2015 (Nana Plaza). Great number of kathoey bars states clearly that there is a demand for them also, which could indicate that some of the sex tourists are searching for company of 'former' men.

The bar girls are working in the bars that sell beverages and small snacks. Their job is to entertain customers and tempt them to stay as long as possible (and

thus spend as much as possible). That entertainment might include chatting and playing games with customers. The bar fine needs to be paid to get a girl to leave her job for the day. That payment is only for the bar, and each girl needs to be paid for the services that they are providing separately. (Åsvik & Åsvik 2004, pp. 33, 46-47.)

Gogo-girls are the girls working in the bars that are providing entertainment with girls dancing. Bars are reminding the western strip clubs, but there is not such kind of stripping involved as dancing is more squirming-like. The Gogo bars are much more sexually charged, and shows with sexual content are common especially at the late evening time. The procedure of the visit starts with an employee attracting a potential customer in, and then leading him to the table. Then he will be asked for his drink order. While he is enjoying his drink, he can chat with the girls that are not currently performing or just checking the ones who are. There are often number tags attached to boots or wrists of the dancers so customer can easily negotiate the price of the girl with the bar hostess, mamasan. (Åsvik & Åsvik 2004, pp.27-28.)

There are also girls that are not able to work in the bars or they simply just do not want to. Those girls are working as freelancers near the bars and hotels. As those girls are not working for anyone, bar fine is not included in the payment for their services. Still they can be found from the freelance bars, and the men are describing those bars more relaxed in comparison with regular girl bars as there is not such payment procedure included. However the familiarisation process is lacking and then the whole activity does not seem to be so innocent. (Åsvik & Åsvik 2004, p.29.) As the freelancers are working for themselves, they are not able to turn to their bar hosts whenever some misunderstandings or problems arise, which deteriorates their position and safety. On the other hand they are able to determine their own rules and schedules.

Many of the employees working in girl bars of the tourist destinations in Thailand are actually from the countryside. Poor possibilities of employment and need for an income push the girls for work to busier areas. Bar work is rather easy and light work in comparison with industrial factory work, fieldwork or being a sales person in department store, as they are able to socialize and have

fun while working. Thai girls enjoy social communication and spending time with each other, so working in bar seems to be much more comfortable. The income the bar is paying and payment from the tourists for the services might make a good income that allows a girl to enjoy a comfortable lifestyle. (Åsvik & Åsvik 2004, pp. 59-63.) The good income and easiness of the job are attracting girls from the countryside to the hotspots of the country.

Selling sex services to westerners allows many benefits for the girls besides the easy, social and well-paid job. The good income allows girls to support their family and relatives, which is seen as an important part of Thai culture. Working is versatile as they are taken for dinners, shopping and sightseeing with their customers. Still they can choose their own clientele, and make up their own rules. While working, they learn English and can teach their long-term customers some Thai. With those men who they might fall in love with, they travel to their home countries, so they are able to see new places and travel around. As western men are all over those destinations, bar girls are most likely to meet a future husband. They are respected partners due to their education, wealth and skin colour, so many girls are searching for the right one. (Åsvik & Åsvik 2004, pp.62-65.) For those reasons it is easy to understand why many of the country girls are choosing bar work and prostitution as their profession.

One important aspect of prostitutes in Thailand is how their customers see the girls. For many, the first image of a Thai prostitute is a sad-looking spiritless small woman who is forced to sell herself for overweight old men. Image of men that have visited Thailand's sex hotspots, this image is rather different, and that might be one reason why they keep coming back to Thailand and even move permanently there. The Western men describe the Thai women to be completely different in comparison with other women and there is just something magical in them. This can be explained with a stereotype created by media of Thai girls being exotic and erotic beauties. (Åsvik & Åsvik 2004, p.69.) This exoticness appeals and might be related to fascination of holidays in general. In holiday times people let themselves to be more relaxed and try things that they could not in their normal weekdays. Western sex tourists describe the Thai women to be beautiful, sexually appealing, feminine and modest and they are treating

their men better than any western woman ever had (Åsvik & Åsvik 2004, pp.69, 99). Due to those comments it is easily understandable that men are flattered and then hooked to Thai women.

Love and amount of love is understood throughout money. Many Thai prostitutes have several boyfriends that are regularly sending them money. Western ideology separates money and love, but Thai people see money as a meter of love. If their western boyfriend is not giving them any money, how could he love her? (Åsvik & Åsvik 2004, pp.66, 162.) Even though Thai prostitutes meet hundreds of potential customers every year, they do not deal lightly with issue of previous customer partnering with another girl. In their understanding a man is 'property' of the first girl that took contact with the man (Åsvik & Åsvik 2004, pp.148-149). This viewpoint questions the assumption of Thai prostitutes being unhappy with their occupation, as if they were miserable with their life, they would not fight for the clients. Of course if the customer has been displeasing in his behaviour or looks, it would be only natural if that prostitute does not want to sell her services to that customer again.

The customer-prostitute relationship might develop into a real girlfriend-boyfriend relationship, but the money exchange is still present. According to Hall (1995, p.73) this girlfriend could be described as rented wife, 'mia chao' (Sirkkilä 2005, p.85). 'Mia Chao' is filling qualities and requirements of wife, still charging for her services.

3 Responsible tourism

According to the Finnish Association for Fair Tourism, responsible tourism basically means that positive effects of tourism are maximised and negative ones are minimised (Reilun matkailun yhdistys). Responsible tourism comprehends three aspects; economical, socio-cultural and environmental. In case of sex tourism in Thailand, the ethical concerns are socio-cultural. Responsibility in travelling is closely related to ethics, as irresponsible choices might be fighting against general rules of ethics. The sex tourism and the effects of the phenomenon include quite a few ethical concerns, as advantage of the tourist could be harming the members of local communities, but also their own community.

The ethics or moral philosophy studies the concepts of right and wrong behaviour by systemising, defending and recommending them (Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy). However the concepts of the ethics might vary greatly between different cultures and groups, and it might be impossible to state only one truth that would be valid in every group of people. This can be seen fairly well in difference of the concept of sexuality in Buddhism and Christianity, presented in the chapter 'Sex tourism in Thailand'. The right and wrong are of course matters of the individuals at the most basic level, but surrounding atmosphere determines whether the individual is punished or praised for his actions.

The responsible tourism is a growing trend in travel and tourism business, as people are more aware of the impacts of their consumption choices, and try to choose products and services that suit their own ideology. Responsible tourism is expected to be the next trend in tourism industry, but eventually it will become a necessity to protect the diversity of environment and cultures (Eskelinen & Köpsi 2015, p.6). To maintain the diversity and unique destinations, single individual needs to take his actions and think critically of ethics of his own consumption choices. Purchase determines the viewpoint to responsibility or at least the level of knowledge in ethicality of the product or service. By supporting unethically produced products one also supports inequality or unsustainability that those products, suppliers or companies represent.

According to Saukkonen (1999, pp.11, 14), understanding the effects of tourism on local communities of the travel destination is essential. The tourists should understand that they might be affecting economically the violations of human rights. There should not be a gap between equality of the tourists and the locals. Basically responsible tourism is not harming anyone or anything, respects the environment and local people, but also the culture of the destination. Responsible tourism is taking into account the effects of the tourism and pondering if the costs of the tourism are too big in comparison with the benefits. In case of Thailand, are the economical benefits that are followed by sex tourism creating a greater good in comparison with the single individuals that are paying the costs of the phenomenon?

What is actually an ethically produced product or service like? According to Saukkonen (1999, p.12) supporting the local small businesses in a large scale will be beneficial for the local community, but also a responsible action for the tourist to do. Supporting services provided by western enterprises will only benefit the western countries, as the main income actually flows back to the westerners and only a small share benefits the locals. The price and quality are often the qualities weighing most when choosing the product or service, but purchase includes also responsibilities and values that those products represent. A service or a product that is somehow harming the destination and its inhabitants cannot fulfil the qualities of a responsibly produced product. When a consumer makes the decision whether he buys that product, he also makes a decision if he is acting responsibly and ethically. Therefore responsibility in production is not only the one's that producing the product but also the one is who takes the benefit of the product.

It might be even impossible to make sure if the product or service is actually produced ethically, as product or service goes through many phases before the customer consumes it. It is possible that an excursion to natural reserve that protects the unique environment is guided by an employee that is actually exploited by his employer and working with no proper wage 12 hours per day. At the first glimpse a guest could say that the service must be ethical as they are advised to make sure that they do not leave anything to the nature and they are walking, but in fact the rights of the employees are actually non-existent.

The main focus in responsible and ethical tourism in the case of Thailand phenomena caused by the sex tourism. There are two main grievances included in the sex business in Thailand; the child prostitutes and the human trafficking, which can include both children and adults (ECPAT International 2011, p.9).

According to Francoeur (2011) in Eskelinen & Köpsi (2015, p. 31), one of the most shameful forms of sex tourism in Thailand is sex tourism including children. Having sex with a person less than 18 years of age is illegal. However, many children are attracted to the destinations of sex tourists by misleading means, for example by promising employment as a waiter in a city. In reality the children are forced to work as prostitutes and get raped repeatedly. In some of

the countries having sex with a child might lead even to death penalty, but in Thailand this act is rather easy and cheap to execute. Sexual abuse affects the growth and development of a child, and might lead to both physical and emotional injuries that follow the victim all his life (Suomen Delfins ry).

Even though child prostitution problem seems to be supported by the foreign tourist paedophiles in Thailand, there is even larger population of local people that are looking for sexual services by children (ECPAT International 2011, p.9). According to Bailey (2004) in Eskelinen & Köpsi (2015, p.31.), minister Pavena Hongsakula has stated in Bangkok Post in 1999 that the government of Thailand has not accepted sex tourism, and neither is ever going to accept, and the actual reason behind the phenomenon are the foreign male tourists that come to Thailand. That issue should be dealt with in the countries that are supporting those men. This point of view could be interpreted as uncertainty and responsibility avoidance, as the phenomenon is still taking place in Thailand. It is clear that a part of the responsibility is of the countries that those men come from, but still Thailand has allowed the continuation of the phenomenon.

Whenever a person that is working as prostitute is not working by her own approval, using her services is not filling the qualities of responsible tourism. Human trafficking is violating self-determination of a person, and then violating human rights. The main concern in the ethics of sex tourism in Thailand is that one should not risk her health and safety for income. It depends on the morale of an individual if it is honourable to use characteristics and body to generate income. Basically the decision of using this possibility is individual's, and there should not be anything doubtful in that. However if the girl is not making the decision by herself, using services of that person is morally questionable.

A victim of trafficking might be in front of us, but they might not be willing to accept the help in fear of abuse. A victim of trafficking can be identified by observing the behaviour, living conditions, age, physical appearance of a person. (U.S. Department of State.) Responsibletravel.com website recommends the tourists visiting Thailand to report all the suspicions of child prostitutes to the managers of the hotels, restaurant and bars or police. They remind that the victims of child trafficking are more likely to be male than female. (Responsible Travel 2016.)

When traveling to destinations where issues such as exploitation and human trade exist, tourist should choose hotels and destinations that are not supporting or ignoring the phenomenon. ChildSafe International has certified guesthouses in Bangkok that do not allow guests with children that do not belong into their families. There are also ChildSafe-certified taxis and tuk tuks that do not take clients with local children. (Responsible Travel 2016.) Using those services individual can take his/her position in the fight against child trafficking.

4 Research methods and data collection

As the main goal of this research is to find out how the supposed sex tourists are judging, justifying or thinking of sex tourism, sex tourists, prostitutes and ethics of their actions, questions will be focusing on the attitudes that they are holding of the issue. It would be rather challenging to get interviews related to this issue, since the topic might be seen too sensitive and private. Due to nature of the topic, anonymous questionnaire was chosen as the research method. Questionnaire questions are including several themes that illustrate the perception of the phenomenon of the respondents.

Background questions of age, nationality and marital status are helping with the difference identification. Ideal result for the survey is to find differences in the attitudes between ages marital statuses. If there are differences, it could be concluded that the background of the sex tourist matters how he sees the phenomenon and whether he is accepting prostitution as an occupation.

Groups of the questions are following:

1. Background questions of age, gender, nationality and marital status
2. Responsible tourism
3. Using sex services in home country and abroad.
4. Questions of the sex tourism in Thailand
5. Prostitution and attitude towards buying sex services in Thailand
6. Human trafficking
7. Questions of how Thai prostitutes are seen by the respondents

8. Possible changes in attitudes and future travel plans

5 Results of the research

The survey was executed with the webropol.com survey tool. Webropol was chosen due to the fast and easy use. Survey was available for the respondents three weeks in January and February 2016. Survey included 31 questions, all of them being closed with ready-made options, except the nationality which was the only open question in the survey. The survey resulted altogether 67 responses, during three weeks.

Research method used in this questionnaire was quantitative. Every question in the survey was compulsory, and option of choosing 'I cannot say/ I do not want to answer' was consciously avoided to get as much analysable data as possible. There was only one open question about the nationality of the respondent, all the rest had options that respondents needed to choose from.

The survey in Finnish delivered 67 responses, but there were 155 views of the page. That could mean that there were possibly 88 potential respondents that could have answered to the survey but chose not to answer. Some of them could have answered the survey another time, or were just curious of the topic even though they had no experience of the issue. Small amount of the responses limited the possibilities of making conclusions, and some groups were so underrepresented that making conclusions would have been impossible. There were three female respondents that had responded the questionnaire, and their responses are handled separately from male respondents.

5.1 Background of the respondents

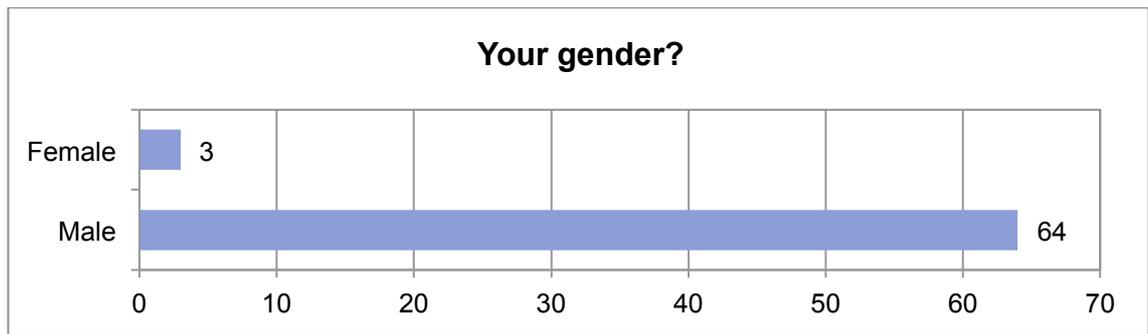


Figure 1. Gender of the respondents

Majority of the respondents were male with value of 64, as expected. They represented 95.52 % of the respondents. All of the responses illustrated above were by the Finnish travellers.

There were three female respondents that had answered the questionnaire, and their share was 4.48% of the whole sample. They were not the target group of this research, but two of them had bought sex either in their home country or in a foreign country.

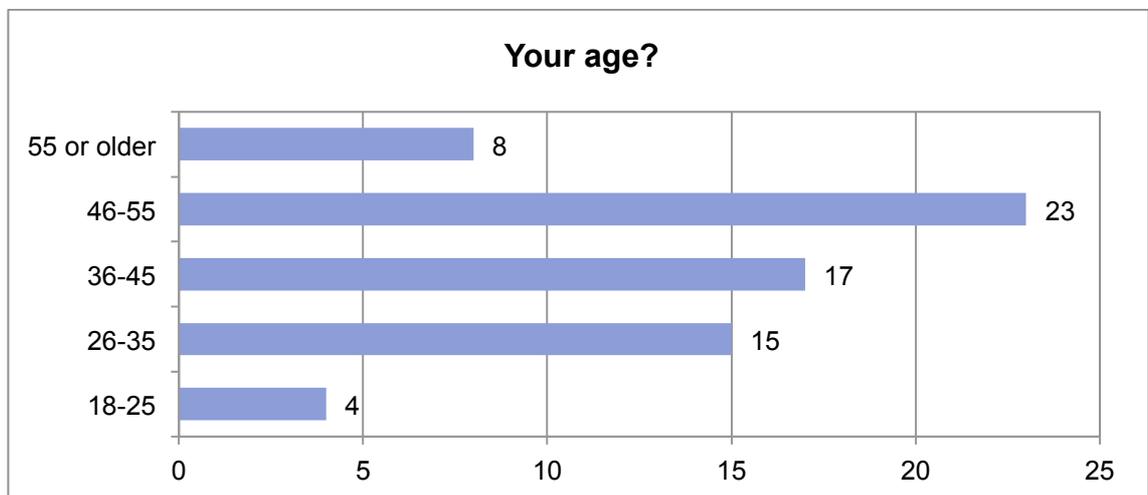


Figure 2. Age of the respondents

A majority of the respondents with value of 23 (34.33%) were of age group 46-55. The second largest age group was 36-45 year olds with 25.37% of the sample with 17 answers. The third largest group were 26-35 were 22.39% of the sample with 15 responses. The oldest age group of 55 years old or older were

11.94% of the sample with eight responses. The smallest group was the group of 18-25 year olds representing 5.97% of the sample with value of four.

However, there were not very big differences in the division of the age of the respondents, and as the sample was rather small, any speculation of the specific age of a sex tourist cannot be made. This also supports the claim that sex tourists come from all social classes and ages.

There was a typing mistake in this question already in the data collection phase, as age 55 is available in two options. This was not noticed until the analysis started, so to retain credibility of the results, mistake was not corrected either in this phase.

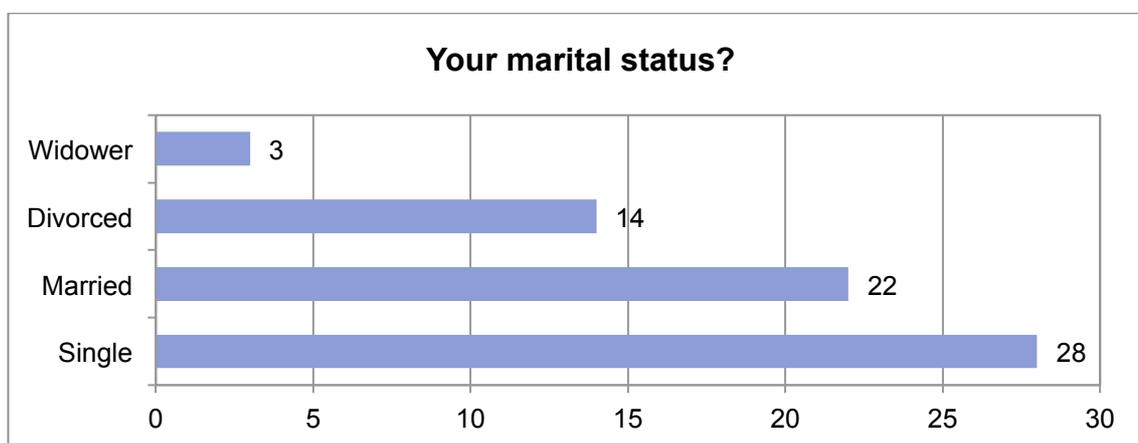


Figure 3. Marital status of the respondents

Respondents represented all marital statuses. The largest group of the all respondents was single with 28 respondents (41.79%). The second largest group was the married ones with 22 respondents (32.84%). The third largest group were divorced with 14 respondents (20.9%). The smallest group was three widowers (4.48%). Majority of the respondents had been married or currently were. The results do not reveal whether the respondents were married while they had experienced sex tourism in Thailand.

5.2 Frequency of the visits to Thailand

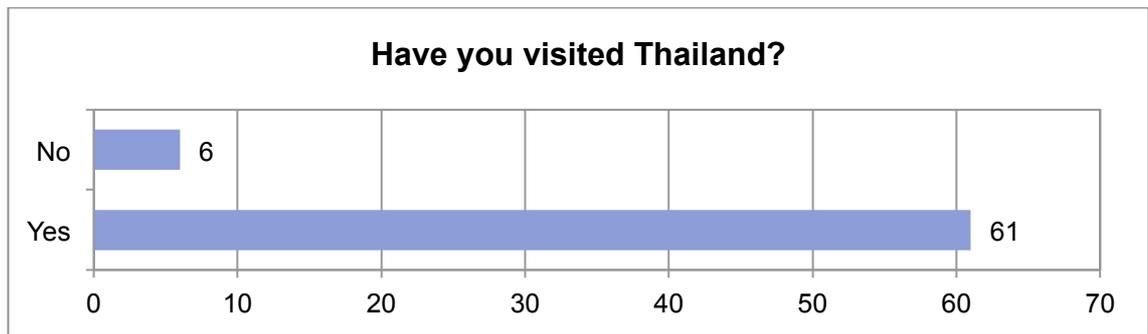


Figure 4. Visitations to Thailand

Sixty-one respondents (91.04%) had visited Thailand at least once. There were six (8.96%) respondents that had not visited Thailand. All from the age groups 26-45 had visited Thailand. Also all of the singles had visited Thailand at least once.

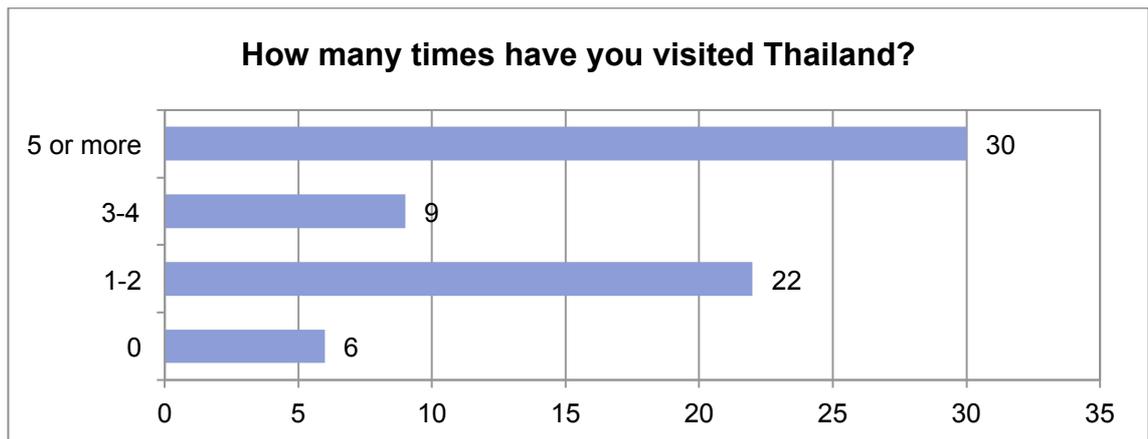


Figure 5. Frequency of visits to Thailand

Surprisingly a majority, 30 of the respondents, (44.76%) had visited Thailand at least five times. Once or twice had visited Thailand 22 of the respondents (32.84%). Nine of the respondents (13.43%) had visited Thailand 3-4 times. Six (8.96%) had never visited Thailand. Those who had visited Thailand most often were from age group 46-55. Also the married and the divorced respondents had visited Thailand the most.

5.3 Responsible travelling and consumption

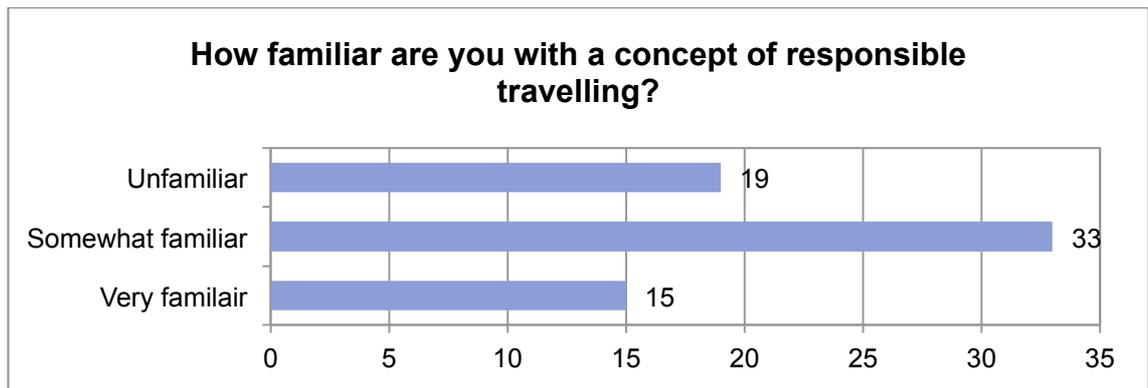


Figure 6. Familiarity with the concept of responsible travelling

For 33 respondents (49.25%) responsible travelling was somewhat familiar. Majority of the respondents were familiar with the concept of responsible travelling at some level, but only 15 (28.36%) knew actually what the term meant.

Most unfamiliar with responsible travelling were from age group 45-55 and those who were divorced. People that were very familiar with responsible travelling represented all groups rather equally. Most familiar with responsible travelling was age group of 55 and older. Most of the respondents that were familiar with concept of responsible travelling were also divorced, so there certainly is not correlation between marital status and knowledge of responsible travelling. All three women were either unfamiliar or somewhat familiar with responsible travelling.

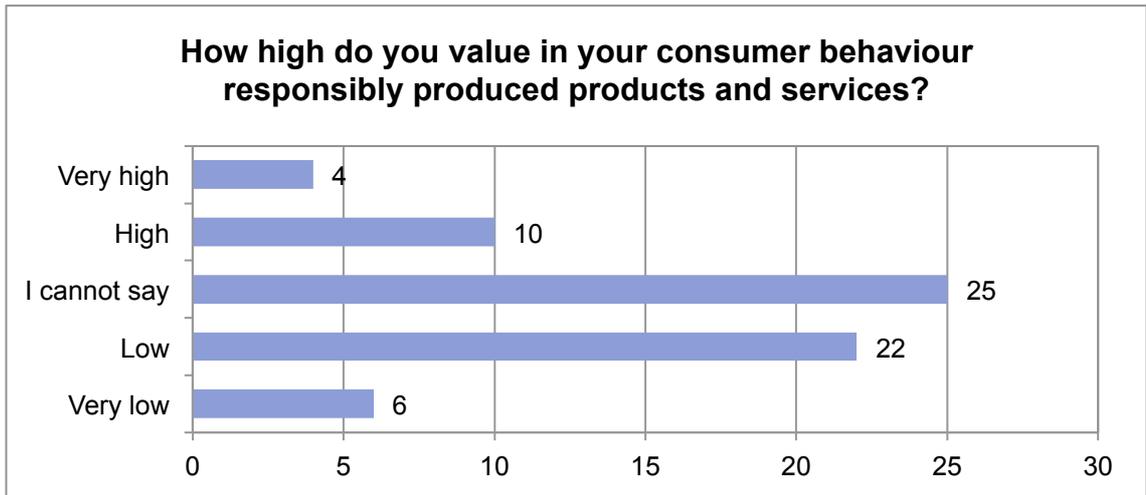


Figure 7. Valuing of responsibly produced products and services.

Majority of the respondents, 25 were not able to say how they value responsibly produced products and services (37.31%). Twenty-two of the respondents (32.84%) valued responsible products and services low in their consumption behaviour. Ten of the respondents (14.93%) valued them high. Majority of those who were able to answer, valued responsibly produced products and services low or very low. Basically it means that they do not care a lot of the production or circumstances that those are produced in. Six (8.96%) valued those very low. Only four (5.95%) valued those products and services very high in their consumption behaviour.

The least those products and services valued 55 or older and those who were single. However, also those respondents who valued responsibly produced products and services high in their own consumption behaviour, were singles. Also age group 26-35 valued those products most. Two of the female respondents valued them low, but the third one valued them very high.

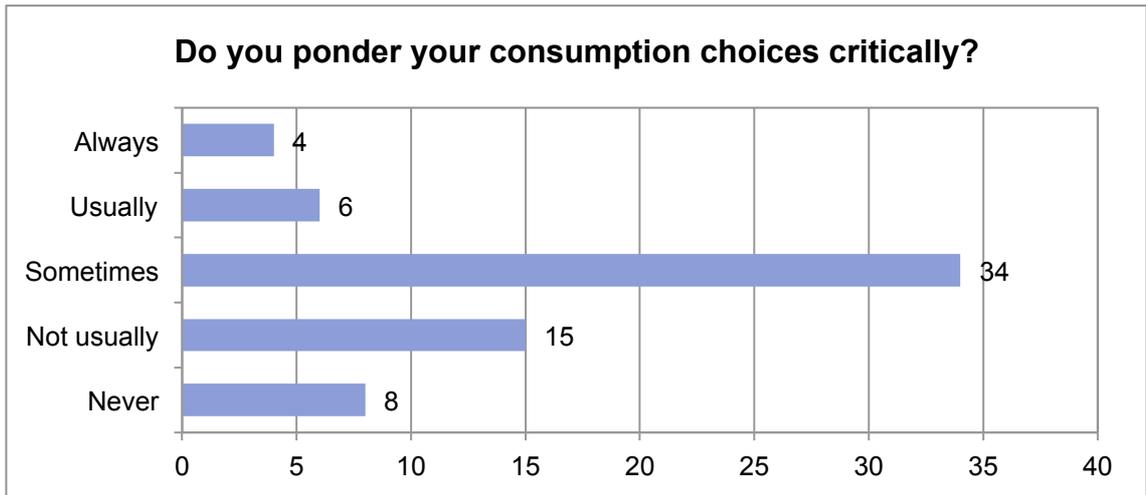


Figure 8. Critical attitude towards respondents' own consumption choices

The greatest share, 34 of the respondents (50,75%) are sometimes thinking critically their choices. Fifteen (22,39%) are not usually thinking their choices, and eight (11,94%) never think their choices critically. Six of them (8,96%) are usually pondering their consumption critically. Four of the respondents (5,97%) always mind their own consumption critically.

The ones that most often pondered their choices represented all different age groups from over 26 and they all had different marital status. Also in the opposite end age was not a determining factor, and respondents that did not ponder their choices critically were from all different age groups, except from 55 and older. Two of the female respondents do not usually or never ponder their choices critically, and the third responded that she is sometimes thinking critically her choices.

5.4 Buying sex

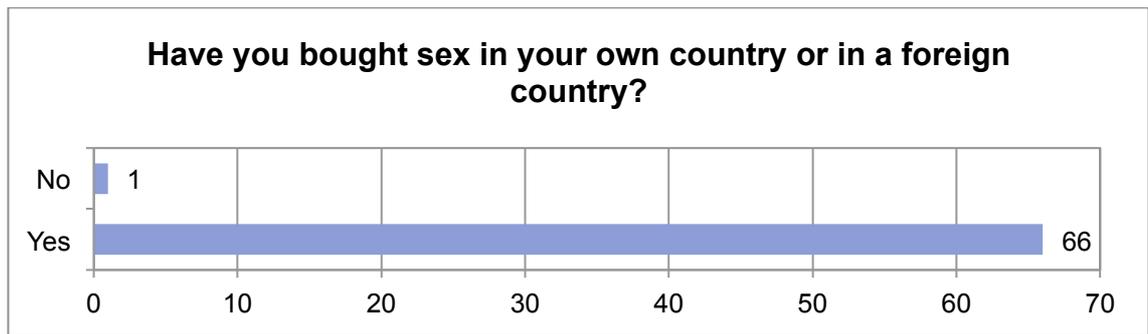


Figure 9. Buying sex in home- or foreign country

As figure above illustrates with 66 answers (98.51%), the survey reached its target audience, people that have bought sex at least once either in their home country or in foreign country. Only one respondent (1.49%) has not bought sex anywhere.

All of the male respondents had bought sex in their own county or abroad. Two of the female respondents had bought sex.



Figure 10. Sex as a motivator in selection of travel destination

Sex as a motivation behind the decision of travel destination was significantly recognised, but majority of the respondents did not base their decision on availability of sex services. Decision of the destination was based on some other interest, for example in nature or culture. Almost a half, 33 of the respondents (49.25%) did not base their decision on the sex, but the decision was affected by the availability of sex services. There were 21 respondents (31.34%) that did not base their decision on availability of purchasable sex. Thirteen (19.4%) respondents based their decision on the availability of sex services, which practi-

cally means that their main motivation was to have sex with prostitutes during their holiday.

Age group of 26-35 single men was most often affected by availability of sex, but their decision was not based on it. Those who were affected by the availability but did not base their decision on sex were mostly married or divorced. Majority of the respondents that did not base their decision on availability of sex, are from age group of 46-55. Ages 36-45 based their decision on availability of sex more than the other ages. Also married men had based their decision on sex more than the other groups. It is however unclear whether they were married at the time they decided to travel to Thailand for sex. Only one of the female respondents, married of age group 46-55 based her decision on availability of sex.

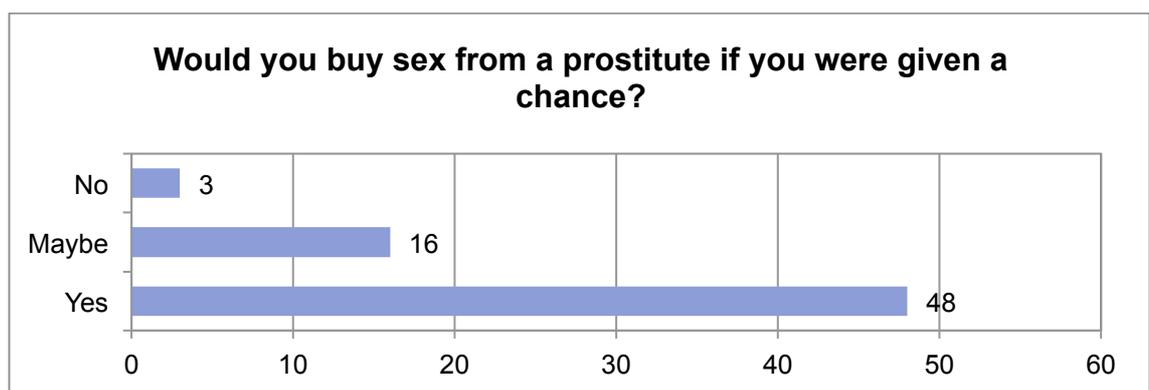


Figure 11. Possibility of purchasing sex services from a prostitute

Majority of respondents, 48 (71.64%) certainly would buy sex if they were given a chance. Sixteen respondents (23.88%) might buy sex if they had a chance. Only three respondents (4.48%) would not buy sex from a prostitute if they were given a chance to do so.

In this case also men of ages 26-35 would be buying sex in case they were given a chance. The divorced were more eager to buy sex if they had a chance. Only one married, and one single respondent would not buy sex if he got a chance. Division of the 'maybe' answers was rather equal between all age groups. One female respondent would not buy sex; the other two would and might if they were given a chance.

5.5 Prostitution in Thailand

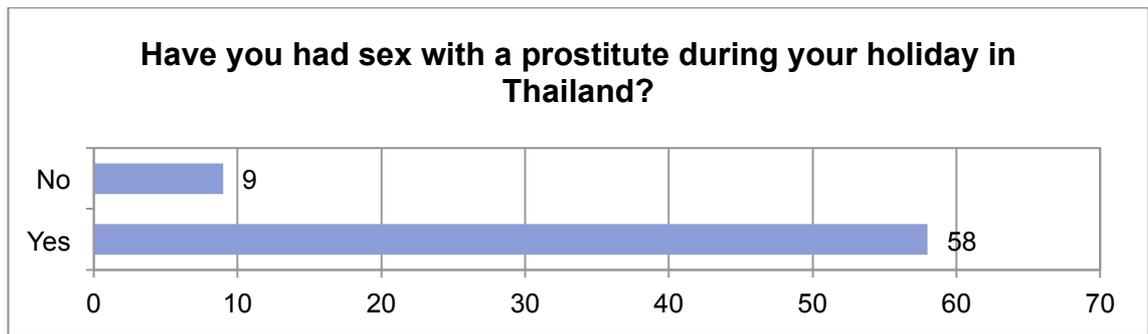


Figure 12. Using sex services in Thailand

Majority of the respondents, 58 (86.57%) have had sex with a prostitute during their holiday in Thailand. Nine (13.43%) have not had sex with a prostitute in Thailand.

Most of the ones that had bought sex in Thailand were singles and from age group 26-35. Those who had not had sex in Thailand were 55 year olds and older. Also respondents that were divorced had had the least sex in Thailand. Two of the female respondents have had sex with a prostitute during their holiday in Thailand.

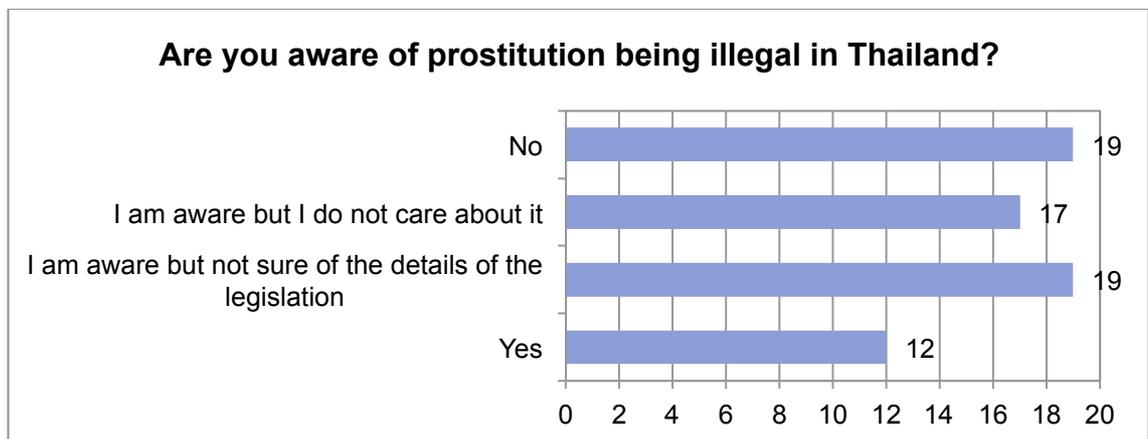


Figure 13. Awareness of Thai legislation regarding prostitution

Division of awareness of the Thai legislation concerning prostitution was very equal what comes to awareness: most of the respondents were aware of prostitution being illegal in Thailand at least in some scale. However, nineteen respondents (28.36%) did not know the legislation. Details of the legislation were unknown for nineteen respondents (28.36%). Seventeen (25.37%) respondents

were aware but simply just do not care about it. Twelve (17.91%) knew that prostitution is illegal in Thailand.

Most of the respondents that did not care about the legislation were age group 18-35, singles and divorced. Most aware of the legislation were 36-45 year olds and most unaware were from age group 46-55. Unawareness of the legislation details was divided rather equally between all the groups but more unaware were ages 55 and over. Two female respondents were not aware of the legislation, another being the one that had not bought any sex ever. The third one did not know the details of the legislation.

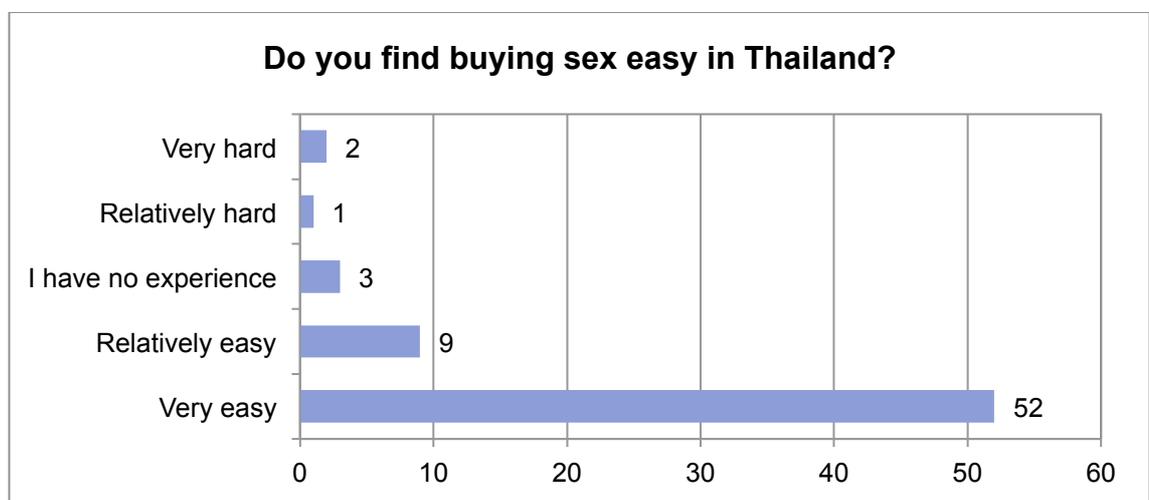


Figure 14. Ease of buying sex in Thailand

It is clear that respondents found purchasing sex easy in Thailand. Majority of the respondents, 52 (77.61%) found buying sex in Thailand very easy. Nine (13.43%) respondents found it to be relatively easy. Three respondents (4.48%) did not have any experience on buying sex in Thailand. Two (2.99%) found buying sex in Thailand very hard and one respondent (1.49%) stated that buying sex is relatively hard.

Majority of the respondents that found buying sex very easy were from age groups 26 to 45, but also the singles and the divorced found it very easy. The few that found it hard represented different groups. Two female respondents found it easy, but one of them thought that it is relatively hard.

5.6 Attitude towards prostitution

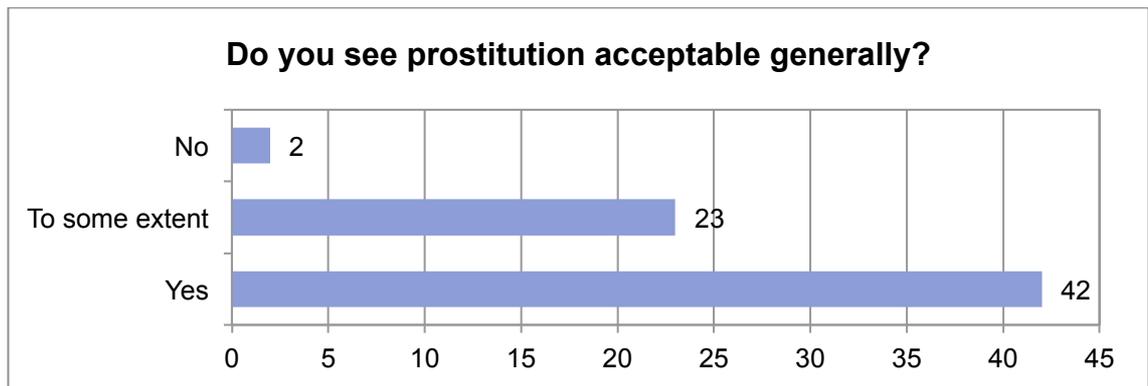


Figure 15. Acceptance of prostitution

Acceptance of prostitution on a general level clearly indicates if prostitution is seen justified rather than judged. This is one of the key questions that this survey is studying; are sex tourists accepting or judging the phenomenon. Over a half of the respondents, 42 (62.69%) stated simply that prostitution is acceptable. 23 respondents (34.33%) had some doubts and accepted prostitution to some extent. That indicates that the great majority of the respondents are accepting prostitution on some level. Only two (2.98%) did not accept prostitution.

Age group 46-55 saw prostitution acceptable the most. The married were most accepting what comes to prostitution. However, all of the groups had similar attitude. Only one single male respondent did not accept prostitution. One of the female respondents did not accept prostitution, but other two did.

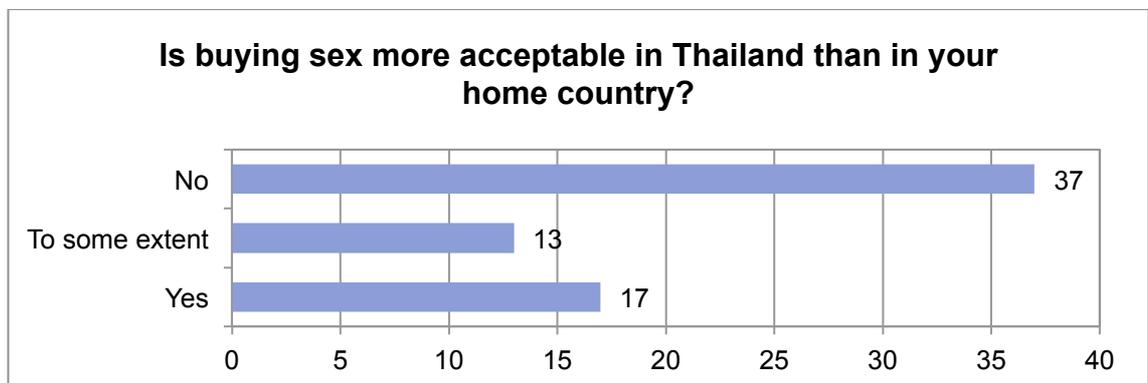


Figure 16. Acceptability of buying sex domestically and abroad.

In western countries prostitution is seen shameful and it is mainly hidden so that outsider cannot detect it. A man that has bought sex does not really declare it to

others, as money and sex are not connected in western societies. Buying sex in Thailand was not more acceptable for 37 of the respondents (55.22%). Keeping in mind the previous question 'Do you find prostitution acceptable generally?', this question is most likely understood correctly, and those who see prostitution acceptable, find it acceptable also in their home country. Seventeen (25.37%) find it more acceptable in Thailand than in their home country. Thirteen (19.4%) find it at some level more acceptable in Thailand.

Even though many of the respondents did not see prostitution more acceptable in Thailand than in their home country, respondents from age group of 36-45 were accepting prostitution more in Thailand. Divorced male respondents were also accepting prostitution more in Thailand than in their home country. Age group of 26-35 did not see prostitution any more acceptable in Thailand than in their home country. Also singles saw prostitution to be as acceptable in Thailand as in their own country. All of the female respondents saw prostitution as acceptable in Thailand as in their country of origin.

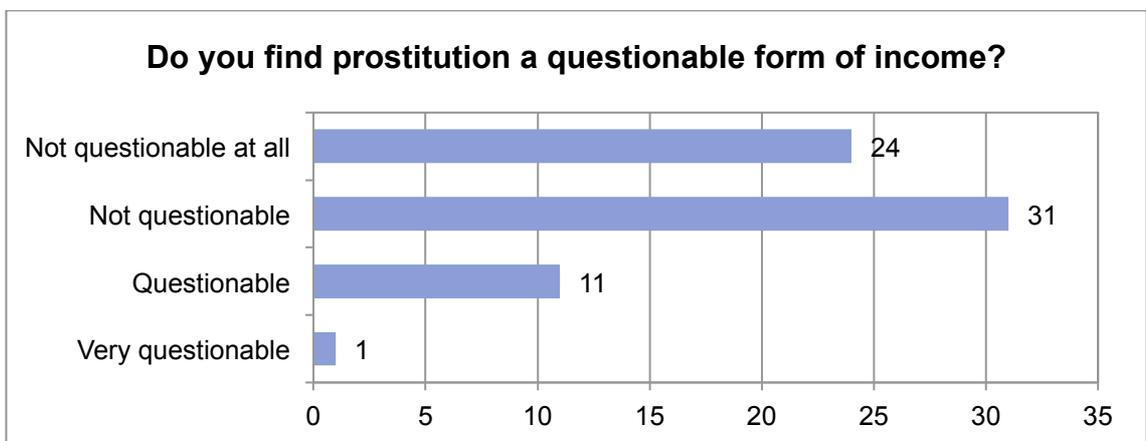


Figure 17. Questionability of prostitution as an occupation

Western comprehension morale is judgemental what comes to prostitution, and prostitution is often seen as the last effort to survive. Images of drug abuse and weak financial situation are often related to prostitution. This question finds out how Finnish travellers see the issue; is prostitution an occupation for desperate or is it occupation among all the others. Thirty-one respondents (46.27%) found it not questionable. Most of the respondents did not find prostitution questionable, and 23 (35%) did not see prostitution questionable at all. In the other end

eleven respondents (16.42%) found it questionable, and only one respondent (1.49%) sees prostitution very questionable.

There were no big differences between age groups of those who answered that prostitution is a questionable form of generating income. Age group of 26-35 and married were however the groups that had found prostitution questionable the most. Ages 36-45 found prostitution not to be a questionable form of generating income, and divorced were most accepting in this case.

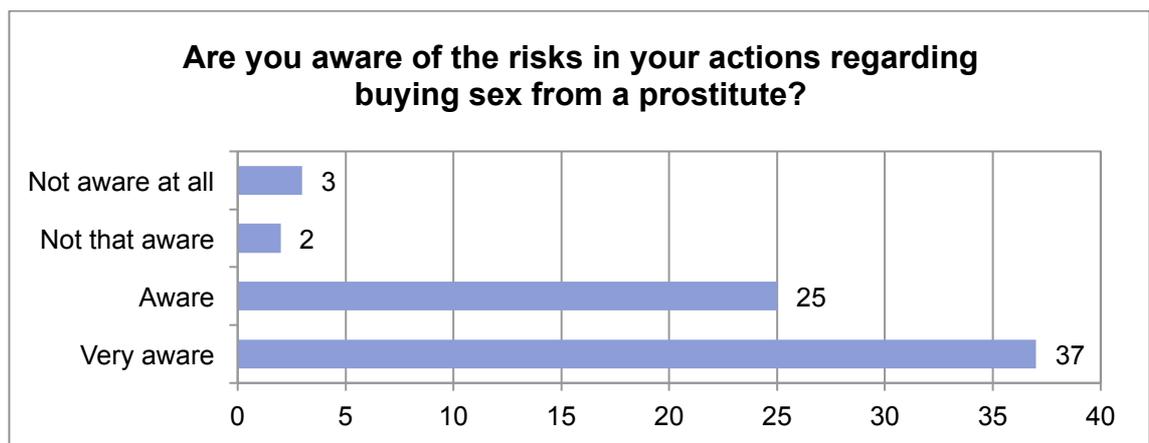


Figure 18. Awareness of risks involved with buying sex

Risks related to sexual relationships include undesirable pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, for example very serious HIV and hepatitis c. A person who is using sexual services of underage prostitute, even inadvertently, is perpetrating to child abuse and committing a crime also in his home country, which can lead to punishment. Majority of the sample, 37 respondents (55.22%) were very aware of the risks included in purchasing- and having sex with a prostitute. Twenty-five (37.31%) were aware of the risks. Only three (4.48%) were not aware at all what could be following from buying sex from a prostitute. Two (2.99%) respondents had some clue what the consequences could be.

Age groups of 26 to 45 were most aware of the risks included in using prostitution services. The divorced were also more aware of the risks compared to other groups, even though the differences were minimal. Two of the male respondents were not that aware of the risks included. They represented different age groups and had different marital status. All of the female respondents were aware of the risks included in purchasable sex.

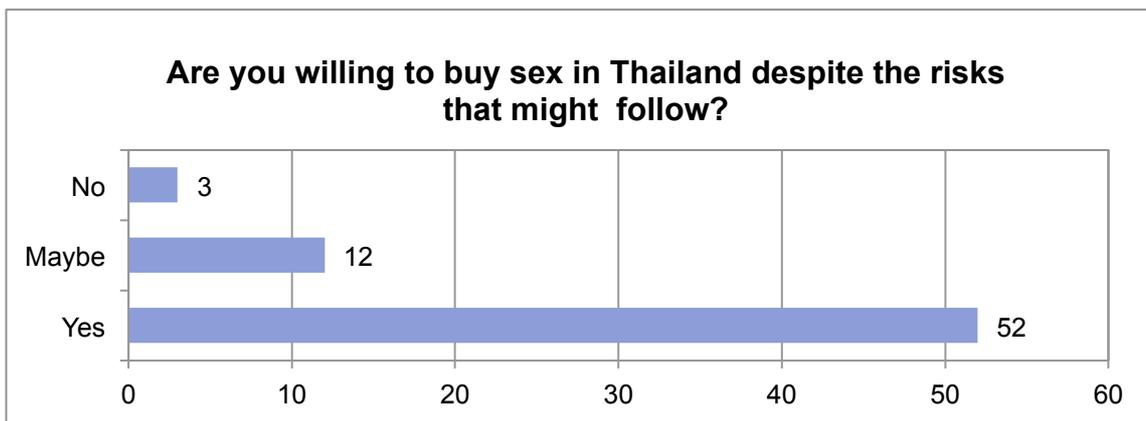


Figure 19. Willingness to buy sex despite the risks

Majority of the respondents, 52 respondents (77.61%) are willing to take the risk and buy sex. Twelve respondents (17.91%) might buy sex despite the risks. Only three (4.48%) respondents would not take the risks included in purchasable sex.

Most eager to buy sex despite the risks were from age group 36-45. The singles and the divorced were also willing to have sex with prostitutes despite the risks. Those who would not want to take the risk were of ages 55 and older and divorced. All of the female respondents responded differently.

5.7 Attitude towards human trafficking

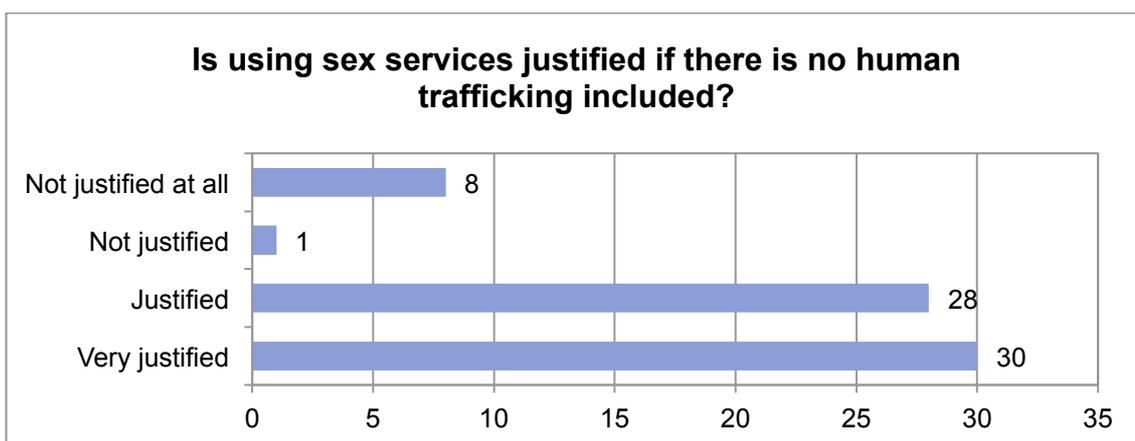


Figure 20. Acceptance of prostitution in case of human trafficking

As sex and prostitution are a large stimulation to travel business in Thailand, it is likely that someone is trying to take advantage of those who are in desperate need of money and employment. If the prostitutes are working by their will and

with their own rules, is buying sex justified? For the greatest share, 30 respondents (44.78%) find buying sex very justified. Twenty-eight respondents (41.79%) finds buying sexual services justified if there is no human trafficking included. For eight respondents (11.94%) buying sex is not justified at all even then if the prostitutes are doing it by their will. One respondent (1.49%) states it is not justified.

Age group of 35-45 found buying sex most justified if there is no human trafficking included. The married were most accepting to what comes to buying sex from a prostitute that is certainly not a victim of exploitation. Respondents that were judgemental represented equally different marital statuses, but age group 26-35 was most critical towards the prostitution excluding human trafficking. Two of the women respondents do not accept buying sex from a victim of human trafficking.

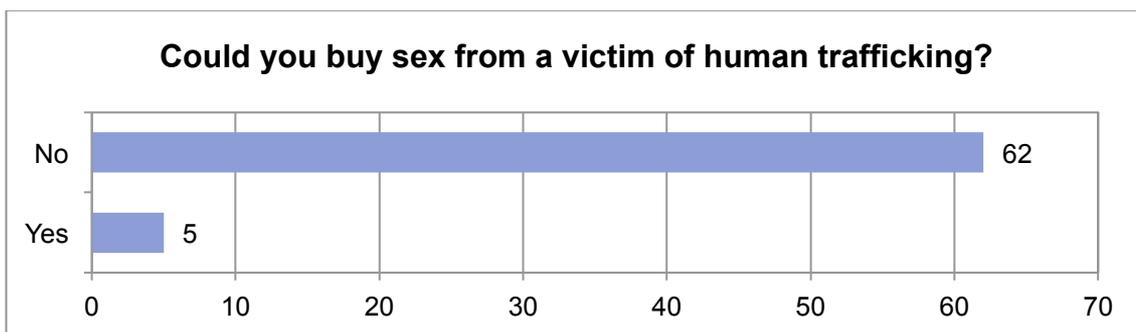


Figure 21. Possibility of buying sex from a victim of human trafficking

Buying sex from a prostitute that is not working by her own will means that purchaser is actually supporting the criminality and exploitation, and part of the income that prostitute receives is going for someone that is only taking advantage of person in need of help. A great majority, 62 respondents (92.54%) could not buy sex from a prostitute that they knew was a victim of human trafficking. Still, five respondents (7.46%) could even if they knew that someone was exploiting their service provider.

Those respondents who would buy sex from a prostitute that is victim of human trafficking, all represented different age group. From those most were singles. As the majority of the respondents would not buy sex from a victim of exploitation, there were not great differences between the results of those respondents,

however divorced were most critical towards the issue. Two of the female respondents could buy sex from a victim of human trafficking.

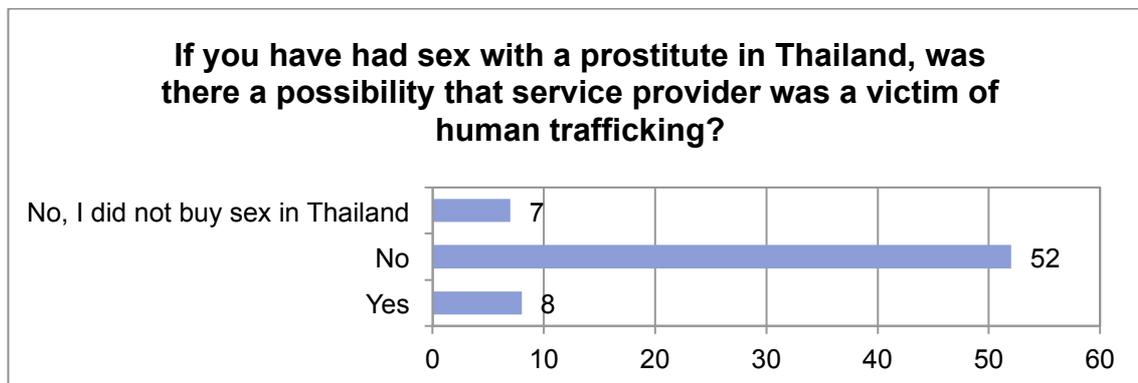


Figure 22. Possibility of buying sex from a victim of human trafficking unintentionally

For 52 respondents (77.61%) it was clear that there simply just were not possibility of their service provider to be victim of human trafficking. Eight (11.94%) respondents admitted that it was possible that the prostitute that they slept with could have been a victim of human trafficking. Seven respondents (10.45%) did not buy sex in Thailand.

Those who responded that it could have been possible that a prostitute that they slept with was a victim of human trafficking were mostly singles. The age group 35-45 and married were most sure that the prostitute was not a victim.

Either in this question or in the next one there is an illogicality, as seven claimed in this one that they had not bought sex in Thailand, but in the next one there are nine respondents that claim that they have not bought sex in Thailand. Those who could not have been sure that the prostitute was not a victim of human trafficking, were mostly singles. Two of the female respondents responded that the prostitute could have been victim of human trafficking.

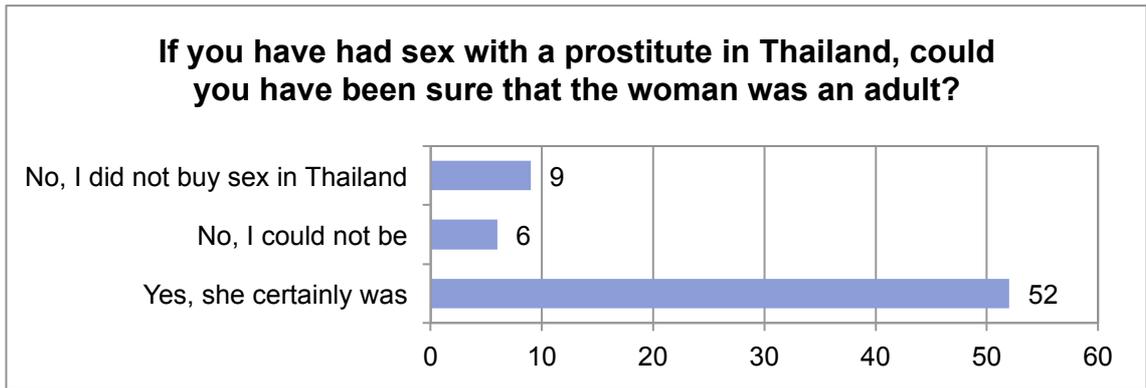


Figure 23. Possibility of buying sex from an under aged unintentionally

Statistics have indicated that children are involved in the sex business in Thailand, even though bar owners are claiming that they do not employ under age girls. However the girls can always conceal their real age and work as prostitutes even before their legal age. Majority, 62 responded (77.61%) that a prostitute that they had sex with was an adult. Nine respondents (13.43%) did not buy sex in Thailand, so there was no possibility of a prostitute being underage. Six (8.96%) admitted that they could have not been sure that the prostitute was an adult.

The age group 35-45 and the married were most certain of the prostitute not being underage. Division between those who could have not been sure was equal, but singles were most uncertain. All of the female respondents had different responses.

5.8 Qualities of prostitutes

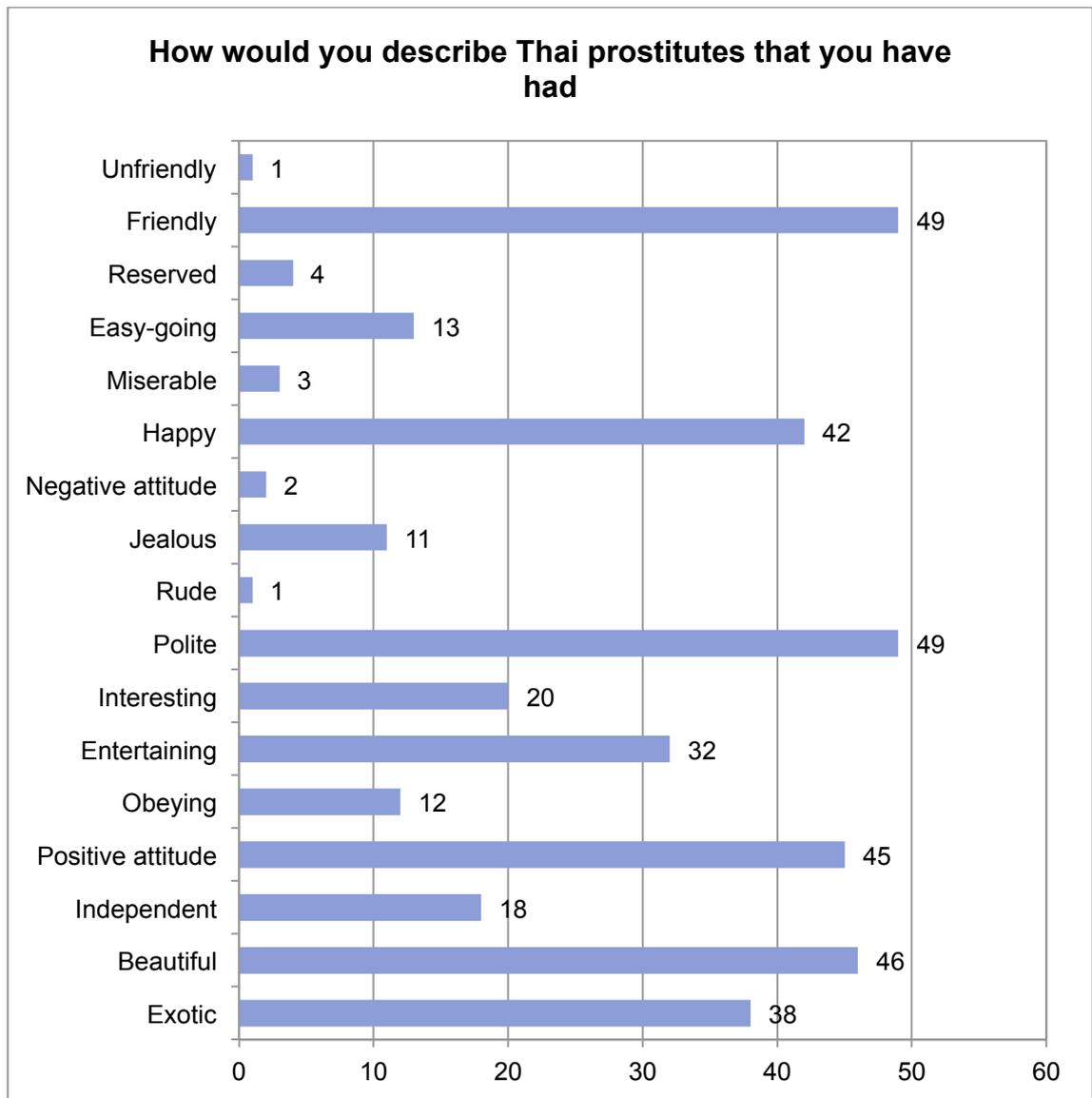


Figure 24. Portrayal of Thai prostitutes by the respondents

Exotic, beautiful yet friendly Thai bar girls often appear in the experiences of sex tourists that are fascinated by the beauty of Thai girls. Most descriptive adjectives chosen by the respondents were friendly (49, 73.13%), happy (42, 62.69%), polite (49, 73.13%), positive attitude (45, 67.16%), beautiful (46, 68.66%) and exotic (38, 56.72%). Easy-going (13, 19.4%), jealous (11, 16.42%), interesting (20, 29.85%), entertaining (32, 47.76%), obeying (12, 17.91%) and independent (18, 26.87%) were also selected often as characteristics of Thai prostitutes. Negative paced adjectives were chosen only by the few; unfriendly (1, 1.49%), reserved (4, 5.97%), miserable (3, 4.48%), negative attitude (2,

2.99%) and rude (1, 1.49%). There was no correlation to any group in this question.

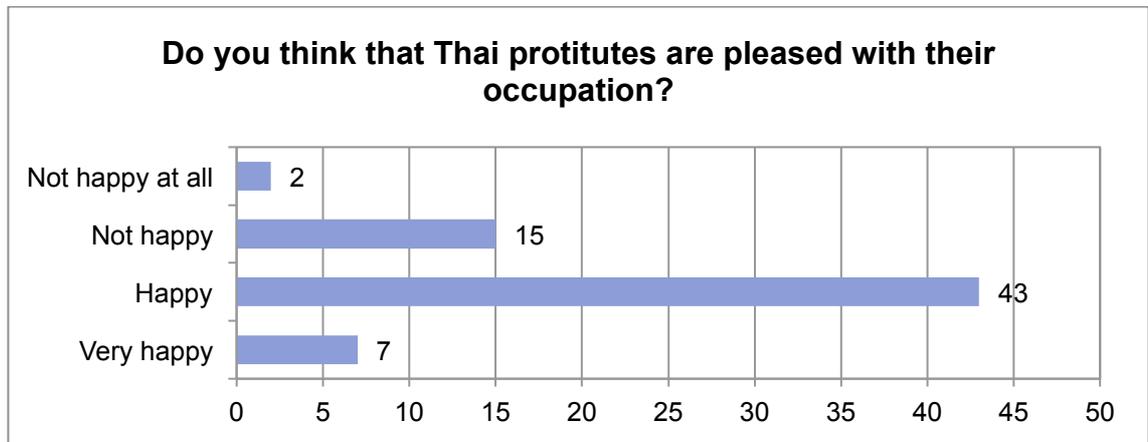


Figure 25. Respondents' perception of the happiness of the prostitutes with their occupation

For many girls coming from the countryside, prostitution is a way to improved welfare and financial situation. As the bar work is rather light in comparison with laborious field- or factory work, and the income is much more bigger, it is clear that many are choosing it than staying in their home villages. Buddhist morale comprehension is much more approving for what comes to sexuality, and bar work is social for collectivist Thai people; it is not hard to understand why some are choosing prostitution as their occupation. Still it rises up the question; are Thai prostitutes really pleased with their occupation? Majority, 43 (64.18%) think that they are happy with their occupation. For fifteen (22.39%) they seem to be unhappy with their job. Seven (10.45%) think that they are very happy with their situation. Two respondents (2.99%) thought that the Thai prostitutes are not happy with their occupation at all.

Those who thought that the Thai prostitutes were happy with their occupation were mostly from age group 35-45 and singles. Those who were thinking the opposite represented group 26-35 and married ones. Two of the female respondents think that they probably are not happy with their occupation.

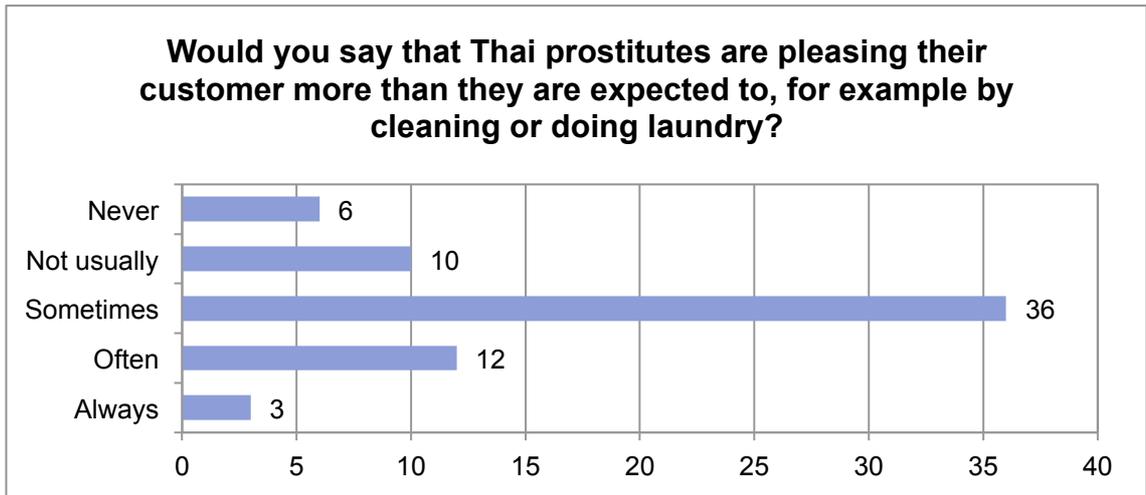


Figure 26. Respondents' perception of Thai prostitute's customer service

Many sex tourists have described that the Thai prostitutes cannot be unhappy with their occupation as they have cleaned up the accommodation room of their customers without even asking them to. This question divided the responses significantly, and opinions were quite equal, still 'sometimes' being the most popular option with 36 responses (53.73%). Twelve (17.91%) say that the prostitutes are often pleasing their customer excessively. Not usually responded ten respondents (14.93%). Six (8.96%) say that the Thai prostitutes are never pleasing their customer more than they are expected to. Three (4.48%) are always pleased more than they expect.

Those who felt that they are more pleased than they are expecting to be were of age 35 to 45 and married. Those who think that the Thai girls are sometimes pleasing their customer more than they are expected to were singles and of ages 26 to 35. Those who felt that they are not pleased more than they are expecting, were equally different ages but they were also mostly singles. All of the female respondents think that the Thai prostitutes do not please their customers more than they are expected to.

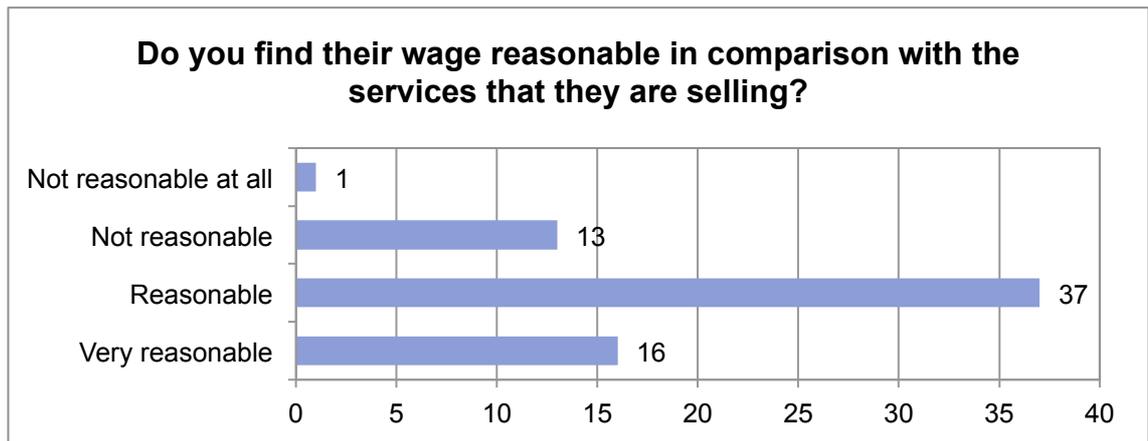


Figure 27. Reasonability of the wage of Thai prostitutes

As Thailand is still struggling with inequality, poverty and differences in welfare, prostitution is providing better income than many more laborious jobs. Still purchasable sex in Thailand is cheap for a westerner, which is one of the key reasons why sex tourism is that focused on Thailand. Even though the prostitutes are paid better than many other workers, is the pay reasonable with the risk that the prostitutes are putting themselves in?

37 respondents (55.22%) think that their wage is reasonable, but for 16 (23.88%) the wage is very reasonable. For 13 (19.4%) the wage is too small in comparison with the work. One respondent (1.49%) does not find the wage reasonable at all.

Those who found Thai prostitutes' wages reasonable in comparison with their occupation were of age 35 to 45, singles and divorced. Division between those who thought that their wage is not reasonable was rather equal, but they were mostly married. All of the female respondents found their wage reasonable.

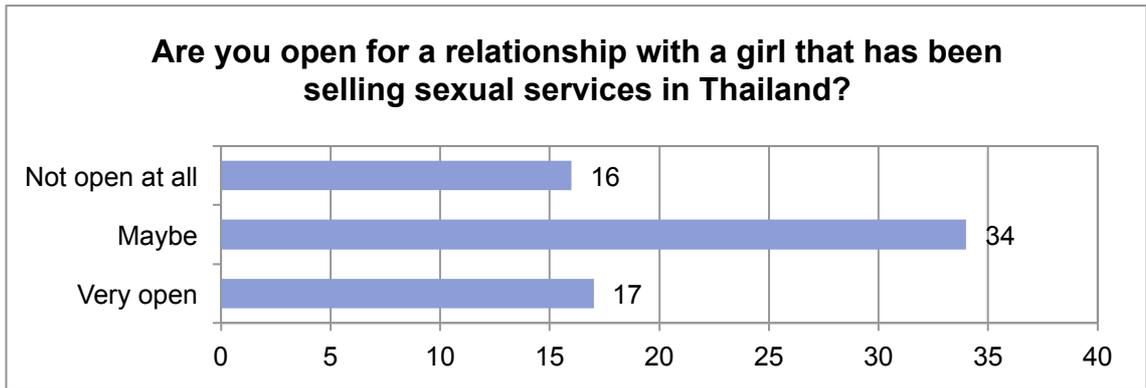


Figure 28. Possibility of starting a relationship with a prostitute

Many of the relationships that have started with an exchange of money, have developed into friendship and love. Prostitutes have become girlfriends and wives that have moved overseas with their western husband. Thirty-four (50.75%) could possibly consider of starting a relationship with a prostitute. For seventeen (25.37%) a relationship with a Thai prostitute is welcome. Sixteen respondents (23.88%) are not open for a relationship with a prostitute that they have bought sex from in Thailand.

Most open for relationship with a Thai prostitute were 35 to 45 years old and married. Those who were not open for relationship were of age 26-35 and single. The female respondents claim that they are open for a relationship.

5.9 Future travel plans and changes in attitudes

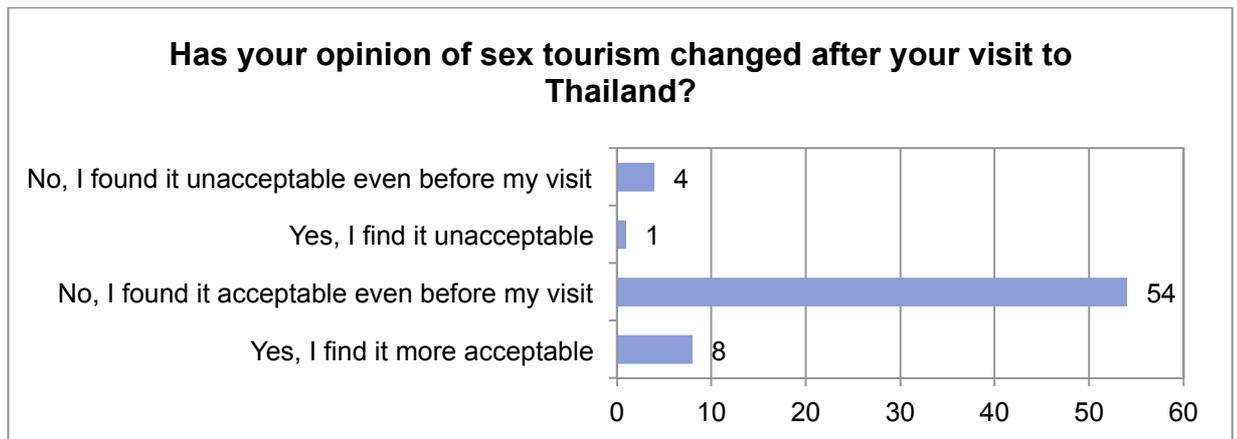


Figure 29. Change in opinion of sex tourism after visit to Thailand.

In this question it was clear that most of the respondents had accepting attitude towards sex tourism even before their visit with 54 responses (80.6%). Eight respondents (11.94%) had changed their perception and are now accepting sex tourism. Four respondents (5.97%) did not accept sex tourism even before they visited Thailand, and their opinion has not changed since. One respondent (1.49%) has changed his perception and finds it unacceptable.

Those who found sex tourism to be more acceptable were representing all different ages equally, but they were mostly singles. There were no great differences with those who accepted sex tourism even before their visit either. Only one respondent felt that his opinion has changed and he is no longer accepting sex tourism in Thailand. Only one person did not accept it even before his trip to Thailand. Rest of the respondents who did not accept sex tourism even before their visit were females. Two of the female respondents did not accept sex tourism even before their visit and do not now either.

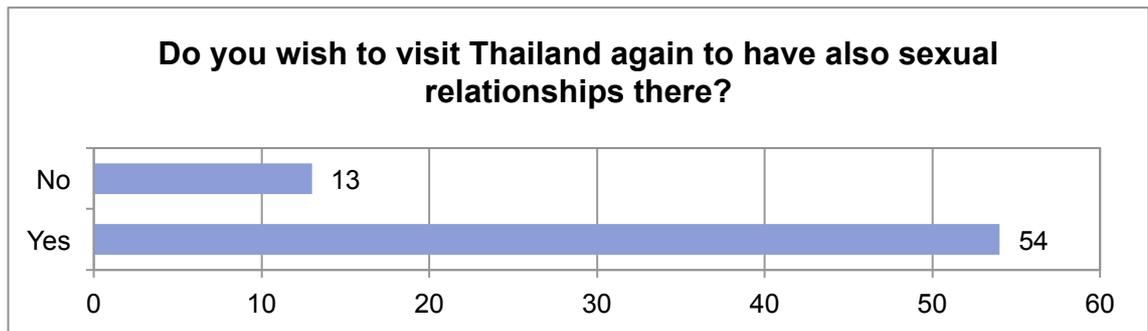


Figure 30. Future travels to Thailand for having sex there.

Majority of the respondents, 54 (80.6%) wish to visit Thailand to have also sexual relationships there, but thirteen (19.4%) do not wish to visit Thailand again at least not for sexual purposes.

Majority of those who would like to visit Thailand again to have also sexual relationships there were of age 26 to 35 and singles. Those who would not like to visit again for those purposes were 46-55 years old and married. All of the female respondents had different answers.

6 Conclusions

The questionnaire provided a brief view to the attitudes towards prostitution, exploitation, human trafficking, Thai prostitutes and responsibilities of consumer. However there was only a small sample reached which limited the possibilities of making conclusions. Still the motive of most sex tourists is the same; to travel to have sex also instead of travelling just for holiday.

6.1 Discussion of the research results

As expected and targeted, the great majority of the respondents were men. There were three female respondents that had answered the questionnaire. It seemed that all the responses by the female respondents were not credible as there was some illogicality between some questions. All of the respondents whose responses have been analysed in this study were by Finnish people.

The questionnaire included questions that could have been too sensitive for respondents, as they could have offended them. Luckily the questionnaire gen-

erated altogether 67 responses that was more than was hoped for. However it became clear soon while analysing the responses that it is very hard to make any reliable conclusions of any group with such a small amount of responses.

Respondents of all ages were reached, which indicates that there are sex tourists of all ages. Majority were over 26 years old, people that have probably already accessed working life. Division in age of the respondents was rather equal, but only few respondents represented both verge ages. That limited the possibilities of analysis, as only four respondents cannot represent the whole population, all young sex tourists. Even if all of the respondents from age group 18-25 had answered the same way, they could not represent the whole population trustworthily.

All groups of the marital statuses were represented in the results of the survey. The only group that was not represented by many respondents was widowers. The problem with the setting of this question was that it only enquired the present state, not the marital status when respondent had experienced sex tourism in Thailand. On the other hand the marital status of present day gave useful information of the morals of the respondents in some questions.

The majority had visited Thailand at least once, but there were six respondents that had not visited Thailand. It seemed a little odd why those respondents that had not visited Thailand wanted to respond to a questionnaire named 'Sex tourism in Thailand'. Reasons behind their motives could have been just simple curiosity or eagerness to either judge or defend the phenomenon and sex tourists.

Surprisingly many of the respondents had visited Thailand at least five times. This supports the addictiveness of Thailand presented by the sex tourists for example in book 'Miesten Paratiisi' by Åsvik & Åsvik. Once the men have visited Thailand, they want to do it again. This is not however necessarily the truth with everyone, as the situations are changing in life constantly. The age group of 46-55 had visited Thailand most often, which is only natural, as they have had more possibilities for travelling after stabilisation of life situation. The married and the divorced had visited Thailand the most, but here it is again impossible to know whether the respondents have married after their trips to Thailand, or

have they possibly married a Thai citizen, and are now travelling to Thailand every year to visit the family of the spouse. The divorced men might have visited Thailand the first time after their divorce, as they want to fulfil their sexual needs without committing to a relationship, and also enjoy a holiday far away surrounded by completely new environment. The singles might enjoy their freedom before relationship with a western- or Thai partner.

Responsible travelling and responsible consumption was known at some stage. The concept can be known, but practises how to act responsibly and what kind of product is actually responsible might be unknown. The divorced respondents were most unfamiliar with responsible travelling, but the marital status seems to be an irrelevant factor in level of knowledge regarding responsible travelling. The age group of 45 to 55 was also most unfamiliar with responsible travelling, which could be result of developed education. When those people have been in school, knowledge of sustainability and even different cultures has been on different level. Also the Internet has allowed sharing information and fast access to it. However age group of over 55 was still most aware of concepts of responsible travelling, so it could be only a matter of individuals how much they know about the responsibilities of travelling. To increase the awareness of responsibilities of individual traveller a travel organization or hotels in the destination could educate their customers by handing flyers or introducing their own principles to what comes to responsibility.

People have got more interested in background of the products that they are using, but it might be difficult to recognise those products from those, which are not produced responsibly. For people that are 55 or older, responsibly produced products and services were not that important, and those did not affect their consumption habits. The people of older generation might not be that aware of responsible production and responsible products and services, and then cannot differentiate products from each other. The respondents that were single were both, valuing responsibly produced products and services high and low in their consumption behaviour. The younger generation were valuing those products and services most. The marital status seems to be irrelevant for the interpretation also in this question.

Most of the respondents were sometimes pondering their own consumption choices critically; is the product necessary or is it representing the values that they believe in. There was not any correlation between any group and habit of pondering consumption behaviour. Tendency to question one's own behaviour is more likely to be matter of an individual.

Almost all had bought sex either in their home country or in a foreign country, except one female respondent. The majority of the respondents was at least affected by the easy access to sex, and some of them had even chosen their travel destination based on the availability of sex services. Some of the respondents were not affected by the availability of the sex, but still they still had sex with a prostitute in Thailand (Figure 12). Sometimes tourists travel somewhere for some other reasons, but end up having sex with someone that is actually a prostitute, so a possibility sometimes makes things happen. The young singles and married and divorced men were most affected by availability of sex. They could have wanted to travel for the warmth and sun, but possibility to have fun and have sex with someone without commitment is affecting their decision. Those who did base their decision on availability of sex were of ages 36-45 and married and divorced. For the divorced buying sex could be explained by need for intimacy but avoidance of real relationship. Those who did not base their decision on purchasable sex were of ages 45-55, but it would seem that this is also individual preference, as 36-45 year old respondents were the ones that wanted certainly to have sex while their holiday.

With question 'Would you buy sex from a prostitute if you were given a chance?' it is important to notice that the format of question indicates to the future. The 26-35 year old and the divorced men were more eager to buy sex. Here again avoidance of committing into relationship after divorce could be possible explanation for the eagerness to buy sex. The young people might not be hurrying into relationship with someone, so they would want to avoid any commitment also. However, there were only two male respondents that would not certainly buy sex if they were given a chance, so regardless of the marital status almost all of the respondents would like to buy sex if they had a chance.

Most of the respondents have had sex in Thailand during their holiday. Young respondents of age 26 to 35 and singles were the ones that had sex the most in Thailand during their holiday. Fifty-five and over years old and divorced had the least sex in Thailand. This was rather surprising as the age group of 26 to 35 and 55 and over were represented with a small number of respondents.

The compliance of the legislation regarding prostitution is very loosely monitored and regulated, so it might be surprising that the legislation is not actually accepting prostitution. Most of the respondents knew that prostitution is illegal, but also many did not care about the legislation. Those who had visited Thailand many times have surely heard of the legislation, but have noticed that nothing is actually done to stop the phenomenon. The young respondents of age 18-35 and the divorced did not care of the legislation most. Most aware were age group of 35-45, as they have probably visited Thailand already several times. Most unaware were of age 55 and over. For them knowledge of language and foreign legislation might cause problems as they might not have learned even English language at school.

Almost all of the respondents had found buying sex easy in Thailand. Those who found it hard represented all different groups, so it is clear that the reasons for difficulties in buying sex are individualistic. According to the narrations of sex tourists, a man does not need to even ask for sex as they are offered those services very often.

Most of the respondents saw prostitution acceptable at least on some level. Details of the doubts are however unknown, but most of the respondents did not accept human trafficking, so they probably accept prostitution if it is done by the service provider's own will, and nobody is making her to do it by exploitation or by violence. The age group of 46 to 55 was the most accepting towards the issue. Surprisingly for the married prostitution was also most acceptable. Just an assumption of their motives could be their relationship with a Thai girl that they have married later on. They appreciate their spouse, and understand the reasons behind the motives of the prostitutes. Still the differences in acceptance were minimal and all of the groups had similar attitude towards prostitution.

Culture, nature, local community and social structure in Thailand are rather different in comparison with Finnish culture, so also perception of right and wrong could be to some extent different. For some of the age group 35 to 45 and the divorced, prostitution was more acceptable in Thailand than in their home country (Finland). As the general atmosphere and the legislation in Finland are more judgemental, for them a place in which prostitution is so ordinary, it could seem that it is not that wrong in Thailand to buy sex. Still most of the respondents, especially the young respondents and singles thought that it is as acceptable to buy sex in Thailand as in their home country (Finland). This links to general attitude towards prostitution, it is fine for them anywhere in the world. They see Thai women as respectable as Finnish women.

For the majority prostitution is not a questionable form of income. However, some of the respondents see prostitution questionable at least on some level. Those who saw prostitution questionable represented different groups; so individual attitudes are dominating the questionability of prostitution. Ages of 36-45 and the divorced found prostitution to be least questionable the most. For the married and the age group of 26 to 35 years prostitution was most questionable. Those who are currently married are probably considering their use of prostitution services the least.

The risks of sexually transmitted diseases and undesirable pregnancies are taken by all of those who decide to purchase sex. Even if a proper protection is used, a possibility of getting infected is present. The younger generation was most aware of the risks, as they are educated of the responsible sexual behaviour and healthcare in school. The divorced were also aware of the risks, but all the other groups were also aware of the risks. It would seem that the marital status did not have proper correlation to any level of knowledge. Even if the respondents were aware of the risks, they were still willing to take the risk and buy sex. The most willing were groups of age 35 to 45, singles and divorced. Reasons presented above of relationship avoidance and intentions to only enjoy life are relevant also in this case. The group of 55 years and older was the most doubtful to take the risks. As they are getting older, they might be afraid of health-related problems, and are considering the options first.

Even if there is no human trafficking included, prostitution is seen acceptable. Especially married and age group of 35 to 45 were the most accepting of prostitution excluding human trafficking. Those who were judgemental towards prostitution despite it being human trafficking-free represented rather equally all groups. In this study the respondents had accepting attitude towards prostitution even before they responded this question, so it is clear that they are accepting prostitution that does not include exploitation. Most of the respondents could not buy sex from a prostitute that they know for sure to be victim of human trafficking. All of the respondents that would buy sex from a victim of human trafficking represent different groups, so there is no correlation to any group that would like to support exploitation and violation of the human rights. Most of the respondents decline that the prostitute that they had sex with was a victim of human trafficking. The arguments that would support their claim is however unknown. Most of them were married and of ages 35 to 45. The singles were the most willing to admit that they could not have been sure. The possibility of sleeping with a person that is not doing it by her own will is frightening, so it might be possible that some of the respondents just want to convince themselves that it just was not possible that they had sex with a victim of human trafficking. This same phenomenon could have happened with the next question of the prostitute being underage. Also in that case singles admitted most that they could not have been sure. The surest were of age 35-45. For an adult that has a normally developed sexuality, the idea of sleeping with an underage is not pleasant, so they are not probably likely to admit that they could have slept with an underage girl. In the last two questions there was uneven amount of responses that claim that the respondent has not bought sex in Thailand, so someone has chosen a wrong option, does not want to answer or is just leading the results astray.

All of the adjectives chosen for the question of Thai prostitutes characteristics had an opposite end, and surprisingly all of the options were chosen at least once. Positive adjectives of friendly, happy, polite, positive attitude, beautiful and exotic were the most chosen of all. This supports the image presented by the sex tourists in their comments. Semi-negative paced adjective of obeying was chosen also multiple times. Jealousness was also a characteristic noticed

by the respondents. All in all the Thai prostitutes were described in a positive manner, so it is clear that some of the sex tourists get hooked to Thai girls.

The most of the respondents thought that Thai prostitutes are happy with their occupation, with majority of 36-45 years old and singles. Married and age group of 26 to 35 were thinking the opposite. Married men that might be married to former Thai prostitutes may not want to think the possibility of their spouses of wanting to get back to work, and their wives might have told them that they were not happy with their job before they met their husband.

It came up in the theoretical part of this study that some of the sex tourists feel that Thai prostitutes are pleasing them more than they are expecting to, for example by doing laundry or washing dishes. By those observations they state that the Thai prostitutes cannot be unhappy with their occupation as they are doing something that they are not paid for. Married and age group of 36 to 45 felt the most that they are pleased more than they expect. Men that are married to Thai girl compare the cultural habits of Finnish and Thai people, and it could seem that Thai spouses are doing more in comparison with a western partner. In the other hand singles felt the most that they are not pleased more than they are asking for.

For majority the wages of Thai prostitutes are reasonable, but significant amount is still finding their wages unreasonable upon the services that they are selling. Those who felt that the amount that they are paid is reasonable were of age 35 to 45, singles and divorced. Married men did find their wages the least reasonable. The married men would not probably want their spouses to be paid so, and they would not most likely want their partner to pursuit prostitution at all, so they think that Thai prostitutes are not paid well enough.

As many of the relationships that start with a money exchange develop into real relationships, friendships and marriages, it is relevant to know if the sex tourists are willing to start a real relationship with a prostitute. The older respondents of ages 35 to 45 and married were the most open for relationship. People that age are willing to start a family, so if they have met an interesting girl even from a girl bar, they could consider starting a relationship with her. As the married were

most open for relationship, they are probably already in a relationship with a Thai prostitute. They have already once done it, so they are accepting it. Younger respondents of age 26 to 35 and singles were not that interested in starting a relationship with a Thai prostitute. They are not ready to commit into a relationship, or are just having fun in Thailand for now.

Most of the respondents found the sex tourism acceptable even before they visited Thailand. There was no correlation to any group, and as almost all of them are accepting prostitution and have bought sex in Thailand, it is natural that they have accepted the phenomenon even before their first visit. For some the doubts have disappeared and they find it more acceptable. Opinions of some have remained unacceptable or have changed to disapproving. The majority would like to travel back to Thailand to have also sex there, but also significant amount of respondents do not wish to visit Thailand again at least for having sex there. Young respondents of age 26-35 and singles would like to visit Thailand again. Naturally, older respondents of age 45 to 55 and married would not like to visit Thailand again, at least not for sex. They have committed into relationship and now want to remain at current state.

Generally, it seems that attitude towards prostitution and sex tourism is accepting among the sex tourists. Sex tourists do not see the possibly existing grievances of Thailand's sex business, and even if they are, they do not see them as dominating in comparison with the positive sides that they have observed. Younger generation is more eager to have carefree fun, but older people are not looking for only sex in Thailand. The attitude towards prostitution is accepting, but only if it is not exploiting the prostitutes. Thai prostitutes are seen positively, friendly, beautiful and exotic.

Sex tourism and prostitution has a long history in Thailand and it is clear that the phenomenon will continue its existence if there are no dramatic changes in the tourism business generally. Impact of sex tourists on Thailand's economy is significant, so it could be really the thing that government of Thailand does not really want to interfere with what is happening and they are just disapproving the issue without taking any serious actions to cut it down. As intimacy and contact with another person is a primal need of a human being, it is clear that

searching for sex will continue in the future. Only the ways to execute this necessity will change, but tourism and sex are certainly connected also in the future.

What can be done to decrease exploitation, poverty and injustice? Every consumer is responsible for his consumption choices and for the values that those products and services represent. By avoiding products and services that are not produced responsibly, consumer is also taking his action in fight against injustice, inequality, exploitation and also supporting sustainable future. Compassion, respect and understanding are the things that each one should remember also when travelling to new cultures. Even if there is inequality in the destination, tourist can affect the issue by supporting the local services and buying locally designed and produced souvenirs.

Even though there are many severe consequences and exploitation of less-fortunate included in this phenomenon, this study taught compassion and empathy towards the local community, but also towards sex tourists that have found their perfect match and life companion from Thailand. Even if the contact starts with trading prostitution services, it may develop into a friendship and even real love. Not necessary all the consequences following the sex tourism are negative, as thousands of sex tourists are stimulating the economy of Thailand, but what are the costs of all the good that those tourists bring? Is self-sacrifice of one individual worth of greater good?

World is changing, and people are laying their feet on every location that has not been discovered yet. The things that a tourist leaves behind are his responsibility, wether they are positive or negative. Key to durable tourism is in information sharing and interest towards the destination. When tourists are minding the local first before themselves, everybody is benefiting.

6.2 Evaluation of the research

It became clear in the analysis process that some of the respondents had not responded truthfully or at least carefully enough, as there was illogicality in answers of single respondent. This was the one concern with this study that was noticed before the surveying. There were no expectations of the number of re-

spondents, but luckily there was more than was hoped for. Even though the issue is sensitive, the respondents could have been simply just curious of an enquiry of such kind. If the international distribution had been successful, there would probably have been more responses, and another viewpoint to the issue. However the Finnish respondents gave a brief lookout to the issue and how the people that have actually experienced it see the phenomenon.

Researching this topic was extremely interesting and really broadened knowledge and understanding of the sex tourism on general level, and especially in Thailand. My own attitude towards the sex tourism and tourists did not change drastically during this process, but I found different aspects of the good and bad included in this issue. As the topic was interesting, also the process went quite fluently.

It is clear that the layout of the questions was not successful and the results did not deliver information that would have unlocked the morale of the respondents. Marital status of the respondents was the exact status that they had in the moment they responded. It could have been more useful to survey the marital status of the respondent when they had their trip to Thailand. Issue of this complexity needs to be researched in much more bigger scale to find out the actual morals and reasoning behind the attitudes.

Altogether the whole process was extremely interesting and educative. I could not have chosen any more interesting topic for my thesis, and I am really happy that I took a little risk with my choice of topic. Hopefully this work will be informative for also other students or people generally that are interested in ethicality of travelling, not only from environmental perspective.

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Appendices

Appendix 1. Questionnaire form in Finnish

Seksiturismi Thaimaassa

Hei,

Tämä tutkimuskysely on osa opintojani ja opinnäytetyötäni Saimaan Ammattikorkeakoulussa.

Opinnäytetyöni ja seuraava kysely kartoittavat Thaimaassa vierailneiden seksituristien mielipiteitä ja perusteluja seksiturismiin, prostituutioon, vastuulliseen matkailuun ja etiikkaan liittyen. Tutkimus sisältää kysymyksiä vierailuista Thaimaahan, Thaimaasta matkailumaana, vastuullisesta matkailusta, kokemuksista ja asenteista seksiturismiin, prostituutioon ja ihmiskauppaan.

Kyselyyn vastaaminen vie noin 10-15 minuuttia ja se on avoinna 14.2.2016 asti.

Vain opiskelija itse ja hänen opinnäytetyönohjaajansa käsittelevät huolellisesti anonyymit vastaukset, ja yksittäistä vastaajaa ei voida tunnistaa tutkimuksen tuloksista.

Kiitos vastauksestanne!

Taustatietokysymykset

1. Sukupuolesi? *

- Mies
- Nainen

2. Ikäsi? *

- 18-25
- 26-35
- 36-45
- 46-55
- 55 tai vanhempi

3. Kansallisuutesi? *

4. Sivilisäätysi? *

- Naimaton
- Naimisissa
- Eronnut
- Leski

5. Oletko käynyt Thaimaassa? *

- Kyllä
- En

6. Kuinka monesti olet vierailut Thaimaassa? *

- 0
- 1-2
- 3-5
- 5 tai enemmän

Vastuullinen matkailu

7. Kuinka tuttu vastuullinen matkailu on sinulle käsitteenä? *

- Tuttu
- Jokseenkin tuttu
- Tuntematon

8. Kuinka paljon arvostat vastuullisesti tuotettuja tuotteita ja palveluita omassa kulkuskäyttämismisessäsi? *

- Hyvin vähän
- Vähän
- En osaa sanoa
- Paljon
- Hyvin paljon

9. Pohditko omia kulkusvalintojasi kriittisesti? *

- En koskaan
- En yleensä
- Joskus
- Yleensä
- Aina

Seksin ostaminen kotimaassa ja ulkomailla

10. Oletko ostanut seksiä kotimaassasi tai ulkomailla? *

- Kyllä
- En

11. Valitsitko matkakohteesi maksullisen seksin saatavuuden vuoksi? *

- Kyllä
- Se vaikutti valintaani muttei perustunut siihen.
- En

12. Harrastitko seksiä prostituoidun kanssa lomallasi Thaimaassa? *

Kyllä

En

Seksiturismi Thaimaassa

13. Tiedostatko prostituution olevan laitonta Thaimaassa? *

Kyllä

Tiedostan, mutta en tunne lainsäädännön yksityiskohtia.

Tiedostan, mutta en välitä siitä.

En

14. Onko seksin ostaminen mielestäsi helppoa Thaimaassa? *

Todella helppoa

Melko helppoa

Minulla ei ole kokemusta siitä

Melko vaikeaa

Todella vaikeaa

Prostituutio ja asenteet seksin ostamista kohtaan Thaimaassa

15. Onko prostituutio mielestäsi yleisesti hyväksyttävää? *

Kyllä

Kyllä tietyissä olosuhteissa

Ei

16. Onko seksin ostaminen mielestäsi hyväksyttävämpää Thaimaassa kuin kotimaassasi? *

- Kyllä
- Kyllä jossakin määrin
- Ei

17. Onko prostituutio mielestäsi kyseenalainen toimeentulokeino? *

- Hyvin kyseenalainen
- Kyseenalainen
- Ei kyseenalainen
- Ei ollenkaan kyseenalainen

18. Ostaisitko seksiä prostituoidulta jos sinulla olisi mahdollisuus? *

- Kyllä
- Ehkä
- En

19. Oletko tietoinen seksin ostamiseen liittyvistä riskeistä? *

- Hyvin tietoinen
- Tietoinen
- En kovin tietoinen
- En ollenkaan tietoinen

20. Ostaisitko seksiä Thaimaassa riskeistä huolimatta? *

- Kyllä
- Ehkä
- En

Ihmiskauppa ja hyväksikäyttö

21. Onko seksin ostaminen mielestäsi hyväksyttävää jos siihen ei liity ihmiskauppaa? *

- Todella hyväksyttävää
- Hyväksyttävää
- Ei hyväksyttävää
- Ei ollenkaan hyväksyttävää

22. Ostaisitko seksiä ihmiskaupan uhrilta? *

- Kyllä
- En

23. Mikäli olet ollut seksuaalisessa kanssakäymisessä prostituoidun kanssa Thaimaassa, oliko mahdollista että prostituoitu olisi ollut ihmiskaupan uhri? *

- Kyllä
- Ei
- En, en ostanut seksiä Thaimaassa

24. Mikäli olet ollut seksuaalisessa kanssakäymisessä prostituoidun kanssa Thaimaassa, olitko varma että prostituoitu oli täysi-ikäinen? *

- Kyllä, olin varma
- En, en voinut olla varma
- En ostanut seksiä Thaimaassa

Thaimaan prostituoidut

25. Kuinka kuvailisit thaimaalaisia prostituoituja joiden kanssa olet ollut kontaktissa tavalla tai toisella? *

- Eksoottinen
- Kaunis
- Itsenäinen
- Positiivinen asenne
- Tottelevainen
- Viihdyttävä
- Mielenkiintoinen
- Kohtelias
- Epäkohtelias
- Mustasukkainen
- Negatiivinen asenne
- Iloinen
- Masentunut
- Leppoisa
- Varautunut
- Ystävällinen
- Epäystävällinen

26. Luuletko että thaimaalaiset prostituoidut ovat tyytyväisiä asemaansa? *

- Hyvin tyytyväisiä
- Tyytyväisiä
- Ei tyytyväisiä
- Ei ollenkaan tyytyväisiä

27. Sanoisitko että thaimaalaiset prostituoidut miellyttävät asiakkaitaan enemmän kuin heidän odotetaan, esimerkiksi siivoamalla tai pesemällä pyykkiä? *

- Aina
- Usein
- Joskus
- Ei yleensä
- Ei koskaan

28. Onko thaimaalaisten prostituoitujen työskentelystään saama palkka kohtuullinen työnkuvaan nähden? *

- Hyvin kohtuullinen
- Kohtuullinen
- Ei kohtuullinen
- Ei ollenkaan kohtuullinen

29. Oletko avoin parisuhteelle tapaamasi thaimaalaisen prostituoidun kanssa? *

- Hyvin avoin
- Ehkä
- En ole

Muutokset asenteissa ja tulevaisuuden matkasuunnitelmat Thaimaahan

30. Onko mielipiteesi seksiturismista Thaimaassa muuttunut Thaimaassa vierailusi jälkeen? *

- Kyllä, koen sen hyväksyttävämmäksi
- Ei, koin sen hyväksyttäväksi jo ennen vierailuani
- Kyllä, en koe sitä hyväksyttäväksi
- Ei, en kokenut sitä hyväksyttäväksi edes ennen vierailuani.

31. Toivotko vierailevasi uudelleen Thaimaassa myös ostaaksesi seksiä siellä? *

- Kyllä
- En

Appendix 2. Questionnaire form in English

Sex tourism in Thailand

Dear respondent,

This questionnaire is a part of author's studies and bachelor's thesis which will be done to Saimaa University of Applied Sciences.

The thesis and the following survey researches attitudes, judgements and justifications towards sex tourism, prostitutes, responsible travelling and ethics of the phenomenon of sex tourists that have visited Thailand. The questionnaire includes questions on Thailand generally, visits to Thailand, responsibilities in travelling, experiences and attitudes on sex tourism and prostitution and human trafficking.

Filling in the survey will take approximately 10-15 minutes, and will be available until 14.2.2016.

Only the author and her supervisor of this survey will handle all anonymous responses confidentially, and a single respondent cannot be identified from the results of this research.

I will be thankful for your answers.

Background questions

1. Your gender? *

Male

Female

2. Your age? *

- 18-25
- 26-35
- 36-45
- 46-55
- 55 or older

3. Your nationality? *

4. Your marital status? *

- Single
- Married
- Divorced
- Widower

5. Have you visited Thailand? *

- Yes
- No

6. How many times have you visited Thailand? *

- 0
- 1-2
- 3-5
- 5 or more

Responsible tourism

7. How familiar are you with a concept of responsible travelling? *

- Very familiar

- Somewhat familiar
- Not familiar

8. How high do you value in your consumer behaviour responsibly produced products and services? *

- Very low
- Low
- I cannot say
- High
- Very high

9. Do you ponder your consumption choices critically? *

- Never
- Not usually
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always

Using sex services in home country and abroad

10. Have you bought sex in your own country or in a foreign country? *

- Yes
- No

11. Did you choose your travel destination based on availability of paid sex? *

- Yes
- My decision was affected by the availability of sex but not based on it.
- No

12. Have you had sex with a prostitute during your holiday in Thailand? *

Yes

No

Sex tourism in Thailand

13. Are you aware of prostitution being illegal in Thailand? *

Yes

I am aware but I am not sure of the details of the legislation

I am aware but I do not care about it

No

14. Do you find buying sex easy in Thailand? *

Very easy

Relatively easy

I have no experience

Relatively hard

Very hard

Prostitution and attitudes towards buying sex services in Thailand

15. Do you see prostitution acceptable generally? *

Yes

To some extent

No

16. Is buying sex more acceptable in Thailand than in your home country? *

- Yes
- To some extent
- No

17. Do you find prostitution a questionable form of income? *

- Very questionable
- Questionable
- Not questionable
- Not questionable at all

18. Could you buy sex from a prostitute if you were given chance? *

- Yes
- Maybe
- No

19. Are you aware of the risks in your actions regarding buying sex from a prostitute? *

- Very aware
- Aware
- Not that aware
- Not aware at all

20. Are you willing to buy sex in Thailand despite the risks that might follow? *

- Yes
- To some extent
- No

Human trafficking and exploitation

21. Is using sex services justified if there is no human trafficking included? *

- Very justified
- Justified
- Not justified
- Not justified at all

22. Could you buy sex from a victim of human trafficking? *

- Yes
- No

23. If you have had sex with a prostitute in Thailand, was there a possibility that service provider was a victim of human trafficking? *

- Yes
- No
- No, I did not buy sex in Thailand

24. If you have had sex with a prostitute in Thailand, could you have been sure that the woman was an adult? *

- Yes, she certainly was
- No, I could not be
- No, I did not buy sex in Thailand

Characteristics of Thai prostitutes

25. How would you describe Thai prostitutes that you have had contact with?

You can choose multiple characteristics *

- Exotic
- Beautiful
- Independent
- Positive attitude
- Obeying
- Entertaining
- Interesting
- Polite
- Rude
- Jealous
- Negative attitude
- Happy
- Miserable
- Easy-going
- Reserved
- Unfriendly
- Friendly

26. Do you think that Thai prostitutes are pleased with their occupation? *

- Very happy
- Happy
- Not happy
- Not happy at all

27. Would you say that Thai prostitutes are pleasing their customer more than they are expected to, for example by cleaning or doing laundry? *

- Always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Not usually
- Never

28. Do you find their wages reasonable in comparison with the services that they are selling? *

- Very reasonable
- Reasonable
- Not reasonable
- Not reasonable at all

29. Are you open for a relationship with a girl that has been selling sexual services in Thailand? *

- Very open
- Maybe
- Not open at all

Changes in attitudes and future travel plans

30. Has your opinion on sex tourism changed after your visit to Thailand? *

- Yes, I find it more acceptable
- No, I found it acceptable even before my visit
- Yes, I find it unacceptable
- No, I found it unacceptable even before my visit

31. Do you wish to visit Thailand again to have also sexual relationships there?

*

- Yes
- No