

Abstract

The domain of male sex work in the Czech Republic remains significantly under-researched. In 2020, the Ministry of the Czech Republic entrusted the NGO Rozkoš bez rizika, z.s. (henceforth R-R) to extend its services to include this group. R-R, which has been actively involved in providing health and social assistance to female sex workers since 1992, faces distinctive challenges in accommodating male sex workers. This group exhibits diverse characteristics and approaches to healthcare and social services compared to their female counterparts. The limited understanding of this new group contributes to a lack of interest among potential male clients, resulting in a significantly slow increase in new user numbers. These challenges stem from insufficient methodologies in addressing this specific group and ineffective promotional strategies. Current research on male sex work often revolves around risk assessment, potentially stigmatizing men engaged in the sex industry, labelling them as deviant and undesirable.

This thesis critically examines the current approach and advocates for a novel perspective rooted in the sex-positive paradigm. This paradigm aims to shift the narrative from pathologizing sexual behaviours to embracing a comprehensive understanding of sexual experience, even within the context of commercial sex. The sex-positive approach investigates ways to enhance strategies in providing services to male sex workers in R-R. Instead of solely emphasizing risk and harm reduction, it explores the potential benefits and opportunities to harness this positive aspect.

This study delves into exploration of the sex-positive paradigm in relation to male sex work, employing an inclusive approach that acknowledges the potential positive aspects of male sex workers' experiences within the industry. The analysis aims to identify the healthcare and social service needs of male sex workers not only in R-R but also within a broader context. Additionally, this thesis proposes strategies to enhance the services provided in R-R.

Key words:

Sex industry, Male sex work, Sex-positive paradigm