



MSC in MANAGEMENT

MASTER THESIS

**The Viability of using a Social Business to
reintegrate women formerly exploited in
prostitution into society and the workforce**

submitted by

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to investigate solutions for women who have been sold into sex slavery. The problem is vast, more than 27 million people are estimated by the United Nations Organization to be trafficked. Reasons for women to enter this business vary, each story is unique but the common factor is the difficulty of getting out of the vicious, exploitative network. As these women are often immigrants in the country they are working in, frequently have documents taken, and are systematically damaged emotionally in order to force them to collaborate without resistance, the challenge of not only rescuing them but integrating them into society is complex and tedious. It is investigated whether social entrepreneurship models offer the opportunity of adding a link to the system not only to help these individuals, but to give them tools to ultimately become independent and “help themselves”. In depth interviews are conducted with social workers and other experts. These interviews quickly showed that simply starting a social business for these women is not the solution; rather, women coming out of prostitution need a chain of steps to integrate back into the workforce step-by-step, the first step being first help and the second work training of a kind. A social business could support an association financially, without employing former victims. Opinions amongst the society vary, and differences in thinking cannot be grouped only demographically. What is most needed by reintegration associations are relationships with businesses who give women coming out of prostitution a “second chance”.