

Abstract

"Traditional Masseuse : Entering the Occupation and Adaption" is the study aiming at analyzing the main conditions and process which woman becoming professional traditional masseuses and finally , prostitutes which la beling as " the World of Daviance". The study includes the socialization processes into deviant subculture and the adaptation processes which the women trying to sustain themselves with the occupatin.

Research methodology is qualitative in nature. The participant observation and in-depth interview are the techniques used for data collection aiming at securing data from the women point of view. The fieldwork takes place in a massage parlor in Bangkok. Fifteen masseuses are selected for the interviews. Symbolic Interaction is the basic frame of analysis focusing the changes in behavior of these women from socially accepted behavior to the behavior that considered as deviance.

The findings can be concluded in three stages. The first stage is the decision making period. For those who enter the occupation there are two main conditions operating in this period. The first condition is the pull factors which drawn the women into the occupation. These are the chances of interaction with in people in the occupation. The second condition is social control which act as the in effective pull-back factor unabling to deter these women from entering the job.

The second stage is the stage of entering the occupation. It is the period of changes in the way of life of these women. Via socialization with the people in the occupation these women directly and indirectly absorb the values norms, beliefs and ways of practice into themselves. These are the processes of becoming the professional masseuse.

The third stage is the period of entering into prostitution. The major attracions are the high economic rewards, the right to choose guests and the period sexual experiences. Moving from masseuses to prostitutes, these women have to learns a lot of strategies in order to survive in the "deviant world" including self-justification of taking the job to alleviate the pressure from the negative labeling from the society.