



Planning Moral and Social Hygiene: Venereal Disease and the Regulation of Prostitution in Interwar India

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This paper will examine the post-Contagious Diseases Acts measures that were adopted in interwar India in terms of urban planning and the residence of prostitutes. These displayed a shift from the disciplinary model of the 19th century, which sought to protect the health of the colonial elite and the military, to a 20th century hygiene model which sought to protect the population more broadly. This is a shift which demands explanation at a variety of scales: the League of Nations' campaign against traffic in women and children; imperial charity networks such as the Association of Moral and Social Hygiene; provincial legislation within India on the Suppression of Immoral Traffic Acts; and municipal politics which provincialised broader models in line with local needs.

KEY WORDS: Social geography, brothels, colonial India, moral and social hygiene.