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## A healthy outlook for the sex trade

Posted by [Michelle Meyers](#)
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A story is quickly spreading around the Web about a [Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation](#)-funded project that awards Indian prostitutes who get routine health checkups with smart cards for hotel and shop discounts.



Bloggers are mostly praising the project, once they get beyond the initial giggle and subsequent snarkiness (resulting in blog headlines like 'Bill is a pimp daddy'). The story was [reported in DNA India](#) and picked up by [The Inquirer](#).

Some 500 sex workers in Mysore, India own chip-embedded cards, which get them discounts and "loyalty points" that can be redeemed for discounts on later purchases. Also on the card is the worker's medical record, and the card deactivates if the holder fails to get a check up—including tests for sexually transmitted diseases—every three months.

### Blog community response:

**"See, Bill Gates isn't evil—he's trying to make the world safe for everybody, one prostitute at a time."**

--[Gizmodo](#)

**"A worthwhile initiative and an out-of-the-box thinking that is not seen that frequently in Microsoft."**

--[Asia Business Consulting](#)

**"Bill Gates—the man's name often conjures up all sorts of hostility...But if you were ever inclined to hurl imprecations and insults at the man, this story should give you pause. Odds are that he personally had nothing to do with the decision to provide Indian hookers with smart cards. But still, he's paying for it—he's paying for hookers to be healthier and happier. Doesn't that make you feel a little better about paying for the forthcoming bit of bloatware known as Windows Vista?"**

--[Pervscan](#) (not safe for sensitive workplaces)

**"Now see this is because Bill, being the 'king of the nerds,' understands that many intelligent, yet socially awkward, men may need the services of a professional woman with a clean medical record and access to discount hotel rooms. And with so many of our tech support business now being outsourced to India there must be tons of new nerds with a steady paycheck who need a little lovin'. Bill Gates is a caring, caring man."**

--[The Immoral Minority](#)

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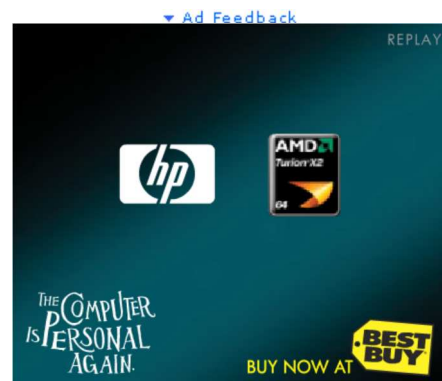
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