

Student's name

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Course

Date

Human Trafficking in the 21st Century

According to statistics, around 20.9 million people are currently trapped in human trafficking or forced labor (Zimmerman 2017). What is more, the selling of people is considered to be one of the biggest sources of organized criminal income.

The main reasons why people become victims of human trafficking are as follows:

- poverty
- lack of prospects
- absence of access to education

The most common areas in which victims of human trafficking are exploited include slavery, sexual exploitation, and forced labor. Among other reasons which lead to becoming involved in human trafficking are political persecution, corruption, discrimination, and insufficient implementation of laws. What is more, a lot of people get kidnapped before they are being sold. There is no need to highlight the fact that human trafficking is a direct violation of basic human rights, such as the right of a person for freedom, safety, dignity, non-discrimination, as well as the right to life.

Another vital aspect to mention is that more than 18.7 million people work as slaves within various fields of private economies. Two thirds of the profits received from human trafficking flow from sexual exploitation. The remaining part comes from slaves working in the fields of agriculture and private duties. Half of the victims who have been involved in human trafficking become engaged in sexual exploitation.

Here is a very typical scenario in which a woman can become a victim of sexual exploitation: an agent finds a woman from a very poor family. She is promised to get married to a very wealthy husband who will solve all of her problems. What actually happens is that she is sold into the sex industry, getting out of which is one of the hardest things to do, as such women are constantly watched. They are very scared, not to mention the fact that they are told to keep their mouths shut, otherwise there might be severe consequences (even physical).

In terms of regions that are the most involved in human trafficking, over half of all forced laborers are located in the Asia-Pacific region. Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand are among the countries that are most affected by human trafficking.

What should also be highlighted in regards to the topic in question is that a lot of people are unaware that they are indirectly involved in spreading the problem of human trafficking. The thing is that some people visit Asian countries in order to participate in sex tourism, while others may purchase products that have been made by slaves in some of the poorest countries on the planet. Such products are quite often made by children who either get very little pay or no pay at all, not to mention the horrible conditions they have to live in. That is the reason why it is so important to do research before you decide to buy something to not contribute to the child labor or human trafficking industry.

Work Cited

Zimmerman, Cathy, and Ligia Kiss. "Human Trafficking and Exploitation: A Global Health Concern."

PLOS Medicine, vol. 14, no. 11, 22 Nov. 2017, doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1002437.