

Contributing Factors to Human Trafficking

Rebekah Gosyne, Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, HREQ 4600: Research Seminar, York University

Thesis

Globalization, the business of human trafficking, corruption and culture contribute to the existence of human trafficking. Each of these factors consist of both a structural component and a component based upon individual agency that interact to encourage global human trafficking. My research seeks to unpack these interactions and increase the understanding we have of the reasons behind the occurrence of human trafficking specifically in the domains of sexual exploitation and forced labour.

Method

- Qualitative approach
- Critical theorist design
- Secondary research in the form of case studies, books, scholarly articles, and documentaries
- Heavy focus on case studies
- Ethnographic content analysis to analyze data

Industries that Trafficked People Work in

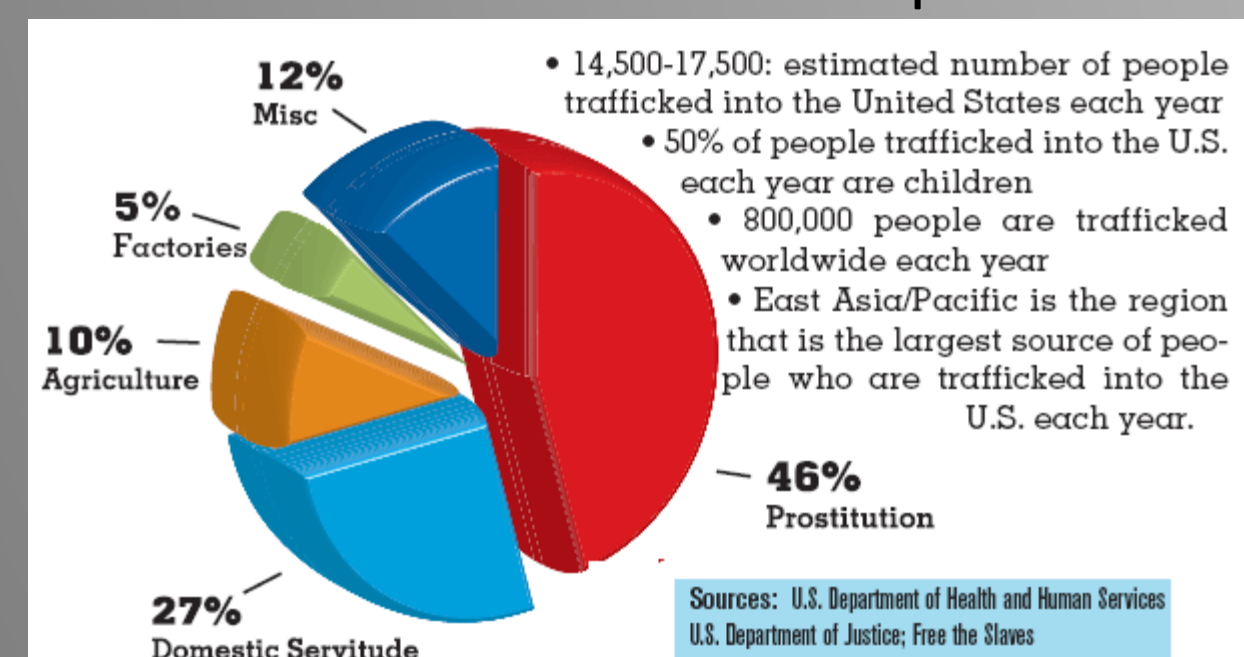


Chart taken from <http://becher4173.weebly.com/statistics.html>

Results and Discussion

The Effects of Globalization

- The goal of globalization is to create a single unified field in which global capital can operate unhindered across national borders
- This privilege of transnational capital over the state

and society results in inequalities that can lead to human trafficking. These include the deepening of rural poverty, increased economic disadvantage of the poor, and the net extraction of wealth and resources from poor economies into richer ones

- Specific elements of globalization that contribute to human trafficking are decreased border control, cheaper international travel, increased demand for the cheapest products, lack of regulation, and increased travel and tourism

Human Trafficking as a Business

- There is a high demand for cheap labour and cheap sex
- Human trafficking businesses supply this demand through enslaving people who have been disenfranchised by poverty, economic breakdown, etc.
- Use of slave labour minimizes costs and increases profits



Image on left taken from mindthis.ca. Image on right taken from The CNN Freedom Project.

- Like legitimate businesses, traffickers look at market forces and adapt their methods to suit it. Specialization is also present with specific people designated to recruit, transport, and supply false documents
- Traffickers run their businesses by establishing complete control over their victims through physical violence, psychological terror, and dehumanization tactics

Corruption of Authorities

- Corruption of authorities is vital to the operation of human trafficking
- Corrupt government officials will cover traffickers and help them exploit laws in their country to achieve easy entry into

the country

- When authorities are corrupt, it traps the victims because they have no one to go to for help

Cultural Influences on Society

- Our culture has taught us that certain groups of people are not as valuable as others. This kind of thinking has made it easy to enslave these groups of people.
- Enslavement usually occurs through two main vehicles:
 1. Class discrimination based on ethnic, racial and caste divides
 2. Patriarchy based on discrimination against women and children
- Over sexed images of women in media and pornography promotes the male demand for commercial sex and normalizes rape in our culture



Image on left taken from www.pinterest.com/pin/180495897536387195/. Image on right taken from www.cathnewsusa.com.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- The way society is organized (through globalization, business, corruption, and culture) encourages the existence of human trafficking
- In order to change this reality, two things need to change:
 1. The current conduct of economic globalization
 2. The hearts and minds of people
- A solution would require people to get rid of ideas of competition and domination and to adopt a discourse of equity and equality. Only then will we be able to move forward successfully in justice