Research exercise: Human Trafficking: An Explanation of Bonded Labor

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/stander_posters

Recommended Citation
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/stander_posters/111
**What is Bonded Labor?**

- Also known as “debt bondage” or indentured servitude
- One form of force or coercion in the use of a bond or debt
- Prohibited under U.S. law by its Spanish name *peonage*
- Traffickers or recruiters unlawfully exploit an initial debt the worker assumed as part of the terms of employment

**Is Bonded Labor New?**

- Has existed for hundreds of years
- In South Asia it is rooted in the caste system
- Debt bondage was also used as a means of trapping indentured laborers into working on plantations in Africa, the Caribbean and South-East Asia, following the abolition of the slave trade.

**What is Modern Day Slavery?**

A slave is someone who is:
- Forced to work
- Owned or controlled by an employer
- Dehumanized, treated as a commodity, bought and sold like property
- Physically constrained or restrictions on freedom of movement

**How Many Are Affected?**

- Estimated number of child workers
  - 215 Million
- Estimated number of people in forced labor in the Asian-Pacific region, majority are in debt bondage
  - 9.3 Million

**Who are the Bonded Laborers?**

- Entire families kept like cattle on farms in India, Pakistan and Nepal; migrant agricultural workers forced to remain on ranches in Brazil; and the organized export of women into domestic and sexual slavery in Europe.
- Bonded labor is expanding due to poverty and the global demand for sources of cheap, expendable labor.

**What Does Slavery Exist?**

- Poverty
- Lack of education
- Lack of law enforcement

**Direct vs. Intergenerational Bonded Labor**

Direct:
- Child’s labor is directly pledged as a security for a loan

Intergenerational:
- Transmitted after death of a parent

**Indications of Bonded Labor**

- Child is in custody of a non-family member
- Child performs work that financially benefits someone outside the child’s family
- No option of leaving

**Strategies to Combat Bonded Labor**

A multidimensional approach is needed:
- Eliminate starting from grassroots
- More action from government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Education and vocational training
- Provide poor families with alternative sources for small consumption loans

---

*Bonded Labor*
*Jane Littlefield & Lauren Hirsch*
*Advisor: Anthony Talbott*