Matthew Austin

Business Ethics

Wennemann

2017

33.) Slavery in the Chocolate Industry

In the article “Slavery in the Chocolate Industry”, the case of corrupt organizations that use unethical and immoral practices and how they are still able to evade their consequences till this day. According to the article, forty-five percent of the cache we consume the United states and in the rest of the world is made from cocoa beans grown at harvest on farms in the Ivory Coast, a small nation on the western coast of Africa. The people that harvest the beans are boys between the ages of 12-16 whom are being enslaved as they are kidnapped from villages in surrounding nations. Many of the children attempt to escape but they are either severely beaten or killed. In 2000, the plague of the children was first publicized, at the moment it marked a change , but unfortunately 10 years later there are still signs that the chocolate industry is still using slaves from the Ivory Coast. Even though slaves are illegal in that nation, the law is rarely enforced. The article states, that chocolate is over a $13 billion dollar industry, and the United States consumes over 3.1 billion pounds each year. Within those 10 years between 2000 and 2010, there were series of legislation and initiatives to eliminate child slavery in the cocoa farms. In 2000, a bill was presented to help customers know which chocolate was made from child slaves though a label system. Over the next eight years the label system fell through as no chocolate company wanted to label their chocolate as being created by child slaves. Any other effort to expose the chocolate companies and prevent further purchase other those produces fell through, sadly till this day there are reports of chocolate being made from beans harvest by enslaved children in the Ivory Coast and Ghana.