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Slavery in the Chocolate Factory Case

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**Introduction**

The key problems and issues presented in the “Slavery in the Chocolate Industry” is the matter of ethics and morality within a company. Unfortunately with large business and corporations there can be shady tactics that go unnoticed. When those unethical actions are noticed, there is an even lower chance that the issue gets resolved due to the evasiveness of the blame within a large infrastructure. Through legislation governments have lowers discrimination through in the workforce. Unfortunately, in cocoa farms in the Ivory Coast the people harvest have no choice as they are child slaves. Even though the chocolate industry has been previously evasive in its reform, through proper and consistent legislation, the enslavement of child in the Ivory Coast and Ghana will be eradicated.

**Background**

To set the scene for the case, the small nation called the Ivory Coast on the western coast of Africa produces of forty-five percent of the chocolate that the United States and the rest of the world consumes (Raghavan and Chatterjee). The catch is that the portion of the Ivory Coast cocoa beans that goes into the chocolate that is eat around the world was grown and harvested by the slave children. These slaved children are between the 12 and 16, who were kidnapped from surround nations and sold to the cocoa farmers by traffickers (LaFraniere). The conditions are horrible are the children are beaten and starved while working in the hot climate clearing the field . The children that try to escape are beaten and some are even killed. After a long the children's enslavement was getting attention from Britain. In 2000, a documentary depicting the suffering of the children was broadcasted to the United States and other parts of the world. Over a decade the suffering the child in the Ivory Coast was getting publicized. Attempts to eradicate the enslavement of the children fell short as sadly young slave children are still being used on the cocoa farms of the Ivory Coast. The chocolate corporations such as Hershey, Mars and Nestle knew from the start that their cocoa beans were being harvested by slaves. After the media questions their actions, they attempted to brush off the negative attention by stating that they will start a fund to “study” the situation. In response U.S representative Eliot Engel sponsored a bill aimed at setting up a labeling system that would inform consumers where the chocolate that they purchase was “slave free” (Parenti). Again the brush of the negative attention the Chocolate Manufacturers Association (CMA) promised that they would place a system to eliminate the “worse forms of child labor”, but never specified the labor in the Ivory Coast or Ghana. Bt 2008 the CMA never started on their “plan”. In 2009, the international police organization carried out a series of readers and only managed to free 54 children (LaFraniere). Till this day the issue of children labors remains unsolved and the large chocolate companies have yet to face consequences of their continued deal with the farms that enslaved children for cocoa bean harvestment.

**Alternatives**

Here are some of the alternatives that were presented in the article and explain why those did no work.

* **Bill: Labeling System**
  + *Description:* The labeling system bill presented by U.S representative Eliot Engel entailed that the chocolate manufacturers that use the cocoa beans harvested by child slaves would have to be labeled as so.
  + *Why the Alternative was rejected/Didn’t work:* The bill was a great attempted, the only flaw was that i required the chocolate manufacturers to label their own products as child slave produced. Of course, in order to not lose consumers and money they sly evaded the bill by not cooperating with it and presenting alternatives that they did even follow through with.
* **INTERPOL Raids**
  + *Description:* The international police organization carried out series of raids on survivals of the farms believed to harbor slave children and only managed to rescues 54 children out of the thousands that were reported to be slaves.
  + *Why the Alternative was rejected/Didn’t work:* This attempted was also great, the only downfall was that they international police only did one campaign of raids that that was it. Only saving 54 children out of thousands, is very sad and perplexing though.

**Proposed Solution/Recommendations**

* The one solution that can be presented to solve this issue once and for all is by combining the two attempts stated in the Alternative.
  + *Why the solution was chosen:* This solution was chosen because they both form the perfect combination of politics and actual action to eradicate the issue.
  + *Evidence this will work:* These two forms of attempts would have been successful if the manufacturer would have been constantly talked about and egged on with the legislation and media. Through all the pressure the manuffarotsu wouldve had no choice but to stop using the cocoa beans harvest from slaves thus destroying the enslavement infrastructure from within.
  + *Concepts from class:* From the Business Ethics and Applied Professional Ethics, through legislation the act of discrimination in the workplace was solved along with employees suing their companies to further along the revolution that lead to affirmative action and equal pay. By transferring those same actions into this situation with legislation with label and the raids, the manufacturer will finally be held accountable for their unethical and immoral practices, thus saving the enslaved children.
  + *Anecdote:* From by personal experience through constant attention to an issue the people that are causing the problem will be pressured to make a change

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