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# The Exploitation and Trafficking of African Youth Soccer Players In Their Pursuit for Soccer Stardom

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# The Exploitation and Trafficking of African Youth Soccer Players In Their Pursuit for Soccer Stardom

## Abstract

My topic will look at the issue of unlicensed soccer academies in Africa and how they exploit the families of kids with dreams of traveling to Europe and playing for major soccer clubs like Manchester United and Real Madrid. Before looking at this specific issue, the larger picture of human trafficking must be looked at as to why it happens in the first place. Looking at current laws and looking at their effectiveness of decreasing trafficking. Human trafficking awareness is the underlying goal because if people don't know about the issue, no one will do anything about it.

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The Exploitation and Trafficking of African Youth Soccer Players  
In Their Pursuit for Soccer Stardom

Christopher J. Guido

St. John Fisher College

### **Abstract**

My topic will look at the issue of unlicensed soccer academies in Africa and how they exploit the families of kids with dreams of traveling to Europe and playing for major soccer clubs like Manchester United and Real Madrid. Before looking at this specific issue, the larger picture of human trafficking must be looked at as to why it happens in the first place. Looking at current laws and looking at their effectiveness of decreasing trafficking. Human trafficking awareness is the underlying goal because if people don't know about the issue, no one will do anything about it.

## Introduction

### The Exploitation and Trafficking of African Youth Soccer Players In Their Pursuit for Soccer Stardom

My topic of study is on soccer academies that are unlicensed and are run by misleading soccer agents. These agents have no interest in the kids or the families that pay them hundreds if not thousands of dollars to train their kids and send them off to Europe to try out for a professional soccer club. Most of the time these kids are shipped off to Europe with the belief they will get an actual try out and it turns out they were set up and exploited by criminals who are just out for money. This type of exploitation is awful, but it is necessary to look at the bigger picture of human trafficking to gain true insight as to why this modern day slavery exists in the first place.

This type of exploitation of kids and soccer in Africa does have historical roots. Africa has been conquered countless times by countries looking to use it for the natural resources it provides as well as for the human labor found there Kara (2010) points out that in 1502 the Portuguese built one of the first slave trading posts in Africa. Kara (2010) in addition also points out that over 12 to 13 million West Africans were transported to the Americas. Just looking in our own back yard, the United States having slaves was legal at one point. Now these unlicensed soccer academies are not the only academies found in Africa, there are licensed ones and they do produce very good talent. Looking at Africa in modern days Darby, Akindes, and Kirwin (2007) view that European clubs

essential drain Africa of its soccer talent, this can be compared to a form of neocolonialism, instead of using Africa for its natural resources, it is used for its human soccer talent. From Darby et al. (2007) quotes Sepp Blatter who is the president of FIFA the highest soccer governing body talks about his view of European clubs and neocolonialism “neocolonialists who don’t give a damn about heritage and culture, but engage in social and economic rape by robbing the developing world of its best players” and described their recruitment of young Africans as “unhealthy if not despicable” (Homewood, 2000). When it comes to this issue there are laws against it but the laws are never actually used or excuses are always made as to why a government can not deal with a certain issue. Everyone deserves freedom and these people that get trafficked lose their freedom, this is something that needs powerful world leaders and organizations to use their power and unify nations and groups to help stop all kinds of trafficking and exploitation in Africa, but in every country in the world.

The purpose of this research is to bring exposure directly to this issue of unlicensed academies in Africa, but to show how human trafficking is a major world problem and not much is being done to stop it. My research topic is looking at unlicensed soccer academies and human trafficking, and focusing on how aware people are of human trafficking as a global problem. My research question is how aware are Americans of sport related human trafficking across the world, and what is their perception of human trafficking as a global problem. In terms of the significance of this research, these findings will show the knowledge Americans have of sport related type trafficking. Another aspect that will be found because of this research will be how people

view trafficking. It will find out if people even care about the issue, and if they do care, do they perceive it to be a big issue or a small issue. One of the problems as pointed out by Laczko and Gramegna (2003) is that there is very limited knowledge on human trafficking. Now this research is not going to find data on who gets trafficked. But what this information could be useful is government purposes. If the results I get show that people in America generally don't care or perceive human trafficking to be a problem then that's a problem in its self. It could show how more awareness needs to be shown to people in America of human trafficking as a global problem that needs to be stopped.

### Literature Review

#### **Defining Human Trafficking**

Denton (2010) gives the reasoning behind why human trafficking needs be clearly defined. His reasoning is because court cases could be viewed as a human trafficking case but it really should be charged as a human smuggling or illegal immigration cases. This would create inaccuracies in human trafficking convictions and thus law makers would create laws against human trafficking when they really should have been creating laws against human smuggling or illegal immigration. The US has an act the defines what actually human trafficking is "(a) the recruitment, harboring, transporting, supplying, or obtaining a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of involuntary servitude or slavery; or (b) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform sex acts is under 18 years of age (Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act,

2000) This act is good because it gives the courts guidelines to go by to punish criminals who violate this act.

It's good that the US has a clear definition but sometimes human trafficking cases are actually human smuggling cases and get charged as human trafficking. Human smuggling is defined by the US government as "the facilitation, transportation, attempted transportation or illegal entry of a person(s) across an international border, in violation of one or more countries laws, either clandestinely or through deception, such as the use of fraudulent documents" (Distinctions Between Human Smuggling and Human Trafficking, 2006) The main idea of smuggling is that people are complicate in this "Human smuggling is generally with the consent of the person(s) being smuggled, who often pay large sums of money" (Distinctions Between Human Smuggling and Human Trafficking, 2006) Even though we have distinct definitions for both crimes, trying to figure out the facts of the crime and lead to some confusion. Many times people think they are going to get smuggled across the border when in reality they get mislead "In some cases the victim may believe they are being smuggled, but are really being trafficked, as they are unaware of their fate." (Distinctions Between Human Smuggling and Human Trafficking, 2006). From the research I have looked at, smuggling is mostly dealing with people who pay people to help them get out of a country. Trafficking is when people get kidnapped or taken hostage and are forced into basically being a slave and owned by people who captured them.

#### *Examples of Human Trafficking*

Going more in depth with this issue, many people world wide are affected by human trafficking. Globally there are approximately 2.45 million people are in forced



labor because they were trafficked (Belser, Cock & Mehran, 2005, p.11). Giving an example of trafficking is Hepburn and Simon (2010) describes a case in which women as young as 14 from Mexico trafficked to the US on a false promise they would get jobs. As soon as they got to the US their travel documents got taken away and they were forced into prostitution. Another example comes from Wong (2005) who wrote about a South Korean business man who lured 300 Chinese and Vietnamese workers to U.S. archipelago where they were told they were going to be factory workers and work in human conditions. What ended up happening was they were abused, were not given sufficient food, little pay, were abused and were forced to live in unsanitary hot dorms. Nagle (2008) gives a sport example of trafficking, stating of 34 teenagers were smuggled from the Ivory Coast to Mali with the fake promise of them becoming soccer superstars. What ended up happening is the agent deserted the kids once they got to Mali and had made 600 US dollars of each kid. Doing the math the agent made out with 20,400 profits in deceiving these kids.

### **Media Frames of Human Trafficking**

From the many articles I have read including Denton (2010) who points out that the media has a slanted view towards reporting only on the sexual exploitation side of trafficking. If the media is only reporting on sexual exploitation then people will only think that is the only kind of human trafficking going on. This topic of over reporting does touch on how a clear definition of human trafficking is needed in order to create effective polices. Here in the United States the framing of trafficking has evolved.

According to Farrell and Fahy (2009) human trafficking was an international social problem and how it violated women's rights, then over time human trafficking definition changed and started to be defined more as criminal problem. Then because of increased fears of terrorism, the definition was re defined to act on growing fears of security threats and how to protect our border (Farrell & Fahy, 2009).

These frames do focus on how the United States media frames human trafficking, but this is important because the United States is a very well developed nation and does have significant world influence when it comes to addressing issues going on in certain parts of the world. Farrell and Fahy (2009) in their article discuss how sociologists Spector and Kitsuse developed a four stage process on how the world reacts to social issues, “ (1) groups claim and publicize problem, (2) officials respond to problem, (3) new claims emerge in response to dissatisfaction with official responses, and (4) new institutions are established (Spector & Kitsuse, 1973, p.147) This is exactly how framing works, you get people of a country mad about a social injustice problem that is occurring , law makers make a law to stop it and say how this law will stop what ever social injustice is going on. Then after a few months or years people get mad because they don't like the law so then officials re focus on what part people don't like and try to fix that.

#### *Media framing and connection to prostitution*

This topic a framing, this connects to my research. Due to the fact that only certain types of trafficking such as sex exploitation are being presented in the media, the media leaves other kinds of trafficking. Other type of trafficking such as these African soccer kids that are trafficked and mislead is not presented in the media. This is part of

the reason as to why I want to do my research and see how aware people are of human trafficking but in more detail how aware are they of trafficking in regards to it dealing with sports and not sex trafficking.

One of the major points of this framing of human trafficking is the focus on one specific type of trafficking. Feingold cites that what is reported about how people are used in trafficking is not correct because those statistics over represent the sex trade (Feingold, 2005, p. 26) This is not good because the media that end up getting these statistics will then in return report on them and showcase the sex trade being a problem when that data is actually inaccurate. A study done by a team of UN International Labor Organization members backs up Feingold's statement about how sex labor is over represented that of the 9.5 millions victims of forced labor in Asia, fewer then 10% where trafficked for prostitution or sex labor (Belser, Cock & Mehran, 2005, p. 10). There are reasons as to why forced sexual labor is focused upon instead of other types. As cited from Shapiro in Marchionni (2010) say that forced prostitution is the most common form of trafficking is controversial, people who say that prostitution is the most common trafficking is because the focus is based on their 'ideological reasons'. For explaining ideological reasons, these people that report these numbers ideologically think prostitution goes against their ideals so they focus on over reporting those numbers rather than other forms of trafficking. Just going from that quote, if people that are supplying statistics, are creating overrepresentations of certain types of the data because of there 'ideological reasons' this is a major problem.

Prostitution is a touchy subject as well because there are countries that allow it. The Netherlands, Germany, New Zealand, Victoria in Australia, as well as ten counties in Nevada, United States, have adopted versions of this approach (MacKinnon, 2012, p.4). These countries goals are to change the idea of prostitution and make it a viable job for people. Mackinnon gives reason as to why these countries have done this stating “its goal is to remove criminal sanctions from all actors in the sex industry so that prostitution becomes as legitimate as any other mode of livelihood” (Mackinnon, 2012, p.4) the only problem with this is that prostitution is not a job that will bring financial support. Mackinnon states prostituted people are overwhelmingly poor, indeed normally destitute (Mackinnon, 2012, p.4).

Now how this whole section on prostitution, it relates back to my topic because prostitution regardless if it is legal or illegal is considered to by some people to be a contributing reason for human trafficking. Hughes (2002) is one of those believes in position leads to increased human trafficking “evidence seems to show that legalized sex industries actually result in increased trafficking to meet the demand for women to be used in the legal sex industries” (Hughes, 2002, p. 651) There is also an opposing side that would say prostitution has no affect on trafficking. These people view that the legalization of prostitution may reduce trafficking is typically held by those who believe that the choice to sell one’s sexual services for money need not always be forced (Cho, 2013, p. 67) It is a very difficult question to answer in regards to if legalizing prostitution would increase or decrease human trafficking. Reason for that being one of the biggest

challenges of doing research on human trafficking is the scarcity of reliable and comparable data (Cho, 2013, p. 69).

This whole debate about if prostitution would increase or decrease human trafficking does relate back to my overall topic of human trafficking and how it affects sports. Prostitution is one of many end results for people that get trafficked. Earlier it was quoted that one of the major problems with human trafficking is finding reliable data to use. There is no reliable data because trafficking for one is a hard issue to track. Another reason could be that there are not enough people aware of it and that is the goal of my paper is to show if Americans are aware or not aware.

Going over some end results one that has been uncovered is children being trafficked and harvested for their organs. Fasting, Christensen & Glending, (1998) state that people have been to suspected countries of this trafficking is well know, but is too hard and very dangerous to find who's responsible for it. As for trafficking found in the U.S. Logan, Walker & Hunt, (2009) has a chart in their paper that has is complied of other research done and found multiple end results of people who have been trafficked. Logan, Walker & Hunt, (2009) listed sex work, and sex work includes prostitution, sex laboring which includes work like pornography, exotic dancing, personal service which includes servitude and servile marriage, domestic/agricultural labor which includes coal mining and general construction, factory/sweatshop labor, restaurant labor. The previously listed are a very wide spanning area of what happens to people that get end of getting trafficked.

The media as an outlet do at times seem to always carry some biased in what they report. From Marchionni (2010) states that the media does not try to control what they want to people to think, rather they report to them what they want to think about. This is disturbing because people get news via media outlets and if the media is picking and choosing what is most important that would be inaccurate. This framing the media connects because this issue of human trafficking is reported as being that forced sex labor is the only one that exists for the most part. When looking for academic research and even case news articles on unlicensed soccer academies and how they exploit children of Africa specifically, I could not find much and that also could be due to such factors as framing of certain issues. As mentioned earlier some people have there reasons for not wanting to display the whole picture but rather see one as being more important then another. This hinders people knowing about issues and being able to get information out to help stop the issue. What I hypothesis is that the American sample I take will not know much about this issue. This will provide for further research as to why Americans don't know a lot and what can be done to inform them.

## **Methods**

### **Research Tradition**

This research starts from an interpretivist research tradition. It would be this tradition because I will be interpreting the results “Interpretive approaches also allow the research to explore and uncover explanations, rather than deduce them from measurements” (Gratton & Jones, 2010, pg. 28). “They are ‘measured’ using words, statements and other non-numerical measures, collecting data from the viewpoint of the

participant” (Gratton & Jones, 2010, pg. 28). For this I will be using a mix methods approach of quantitative in the fact I have a survey, but qualitative in the idea I will be interpreting those results. People will be rating themselves on how aware they are of human trafficking in sport, and human trafficking as a global problem. That is the quantitative part. The qualitative part being that I will be taking the results of the surveys and how people rate themselves and generate a conclusion as to the Americans for my sample, are or not aware of human trafficking in sports, and as a global problem. There are some strengths and negatives with using interpretivism as my research tradition “The strengths are that such an approach allows the researcher to gain an insider’s perspective, to try to understand the subjects with in” (Gratton & Jones, 2010, pg. 28).

My research is based on is gathering data, then taking the descriptive statistics gathered and develop a deeper understanding as to what those descriptive statistics mean. Figuring out what the responses say about Americans and there awareness of human trafficking. “The subjective nature of interpreting people’s thoughts and feelings leads to questions over reliability and validity, as well trustworthiness, credibility and authenticity” (Gratton & Jones, 2010, pg.28). For any type or research biases are impossible to eliminate, but a way to control for this is by doing a piloting run of my survey to help in making my survey as sound as could be. One step I will perform is having students and professors take survey and provide any suggestions to improve survey. Some of the suggestions could include people from the pilot test providing feedback as to if the questions where understandable, did the person understand what that question was asking. Another potential question to ask the pilot sample is did the

questions flow in the survey, and did not jump around from topic to topic. With the use of a piloting run of my survey I will lower the chance of people giving up on the survey because they didn't understand what was being asked. As they are taking the survey I will be looking at factors like how long it takes to complete survey, and use whatever data is gathered from the pilot run and try to make an explanation out of it before trying to develop an understanding out a large amount of data when I administer my actual survey to my desired sample. Also when writing about what results are found, make sure I have sufficient explanation and data from the results to back up my interpretations. Again having people read over my reasoning for what I believe is important and help make sure I have sound explanations and reduces the chance of having any personal bias.

### **Conceptual Framework**

**Human Trafficking** could have many meanings and interpretations. The United States defines it as “the recruitment, harboring, transporting, supplying, or obtaining a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of involuntary servitude or slavery; or (b) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform sex acts is under 18 years of age” (Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, 2000).

One of the problems is people's lack of awareness of human trafficking and not even understanding what kinds of crimes are categorized as human trafficking crimes.

**Framing** is another idea that is hard to define. In my paper I look at how framing is used in the media. “ Framing is a process of how politicians, policymakers relay their messages to attract media attention and put the best face on the events, how journalists construct messages under organizational guidelines and professional values and how



audience members interpret, think, and reassess those media messages “(Zhang, 2000: 5). Framing in a simple sense is whoever has the power to control what news is covered or published, only cover or publish what they view is most important. Someone else might think human trafficking in sports is important, compared to most media producers who seek sex trafficking is the most important. The biases in media are shown in my literature review because it is quoted as some people believe that the sex trafficking is ideologically viewed as being very wrong compared to other forms of trafficking, thus they construe the numbers so that people will pay more attention and put more effort into stopping sex trafficking.

### **Theoretical Framework**

In explaining anything, one must always have something to back up what you are talking about to make it accurate. Gratton and Jones (2010) explain it simply as “Only when the data is related to existing theory can we explain the findings, and take our understanding beyond the basic descriptive level.” (Gratton & Jones, 2010, pg. 78). For my case in understand people’s awareness of human trafficking, I will understand why people know what they do, and what are some theories that could support it. An example of this comes from sociologists Spector and Kitsuse (1973) developed a four stage process on how the world reacts to social issues, “(1) groups claim and publicize problem, (2) officials respond to problem, (3) new claims emerge in response to dissatisfaction with official responses, and (4) new institutions are established (p.147). This a small theory as to how people react to social problems. I have not gather data yet, but my hypothesis is that not many people know about human trafficking in sports. I would use this theory from Spector and Kitsuse (1973) because the issue has not reached

step one fully, and that could explain the lack of knowledge people have on human trafficking in sports. To back up my hypothesis the According to the Free the Slaves foundation and the Human Rights Center (2004), the public's awareness of forced labor is almost nonexistent.

### **Design**

I am conducting a qualitative analysis with the use of a survey. See appendence A for copy. I will find out the mean rating for each question being beneficial in my research in the explaining of American awareness of human trafficking in sport, and as a global problem. I would conduct my research by going out and doing surveys in person. These surveys would provide information to how Americans in particular are aware of human trafficking as a global problem and what their perceptions of it. In terms of people I will be focusing on to do this survey, I will keep it as random and unbiased.

In terms of displaying what results I get, I will create a chart or graph that will show how my sample rated their own awareness of what my research question entails and asks. For example I expect people to not be very aware of human trafficking in sport, so I would assume that many people would rate themselves as a 0 has to having no awareness of human trafficking in sports. I would list how many people circled 0 or 1 or 2 as their awareness of my research question. The benefit to doing a survey is that it can allow a reader to cross examine data, how male or females answered certain questions "Relationships are then identified from this data, and casual relationships may be suggested, which can then be generalized back to the population" (Gratton & Jones, 2010, pg.104). With my research doing a national survey is not realistic, so being able to

take the most accurate and while diverse sample is my key when getting my results. With that comes getting demographics to see the range of people that take a survey. I will include age, level of education, and gender as my three main demographics that I will ask people to fill out. As mentioned earlier I will ask participants for their gender so I can cross analyze how men and women differ in their responses, same can be done for age as well as education. As for the type of statistical test that will be used to analyze the data, a ANOVA will be used, as well as basic descriptive statistics. Reason for the ANOVA test is “allows you to ascertain difference between more than two groups” (Gratton & Jones, 2010, pg.231). I will be able to take two or more groups and compare responses among groups.

### **Sampling**

The term general as possible is referring to gathering responses from wide range of demographics with in the Rochester community which will be a small sampling of Americans. Sampling of the general public here in Rochester will be my ideal sample. This is all a convenience sampling due to time constraints and resources at hand. I could never do a survey sampling of each state and see what Americans as whole feel about human trafficking. The goal for my sampling would be to get an unbiased sampling and not have any group overrepresented when taking these surveys. What my first idea of how I would get my survey is by doing it inside malls in Rochester. With this idea I will email someone of those specific malls to have them give me permissions to do a survey with in that property. I will email the head of security for Wilmorite properties, who is the owner of both malls, see appendence B for email. The reason for picking two malls instead of one is that it controls variables. East view is seen as more of an upscale mall

and draw a certain demographic, compared to marketplace which is not as upscale of a mall. This is gone to gain perspective of as much of Rochester as possible that way I getting a more diverse demographic sampling. In terms of data needs, I see getting 100 people to respond to my survey as being successful and will provide a good enough sampling of the general public to allow me to interpret the data. Realistically though I will take what ever responses I get and make the most of them.

### **Expected Results**

For expected results, I see the chances of a low response rate might be a problem depending on the group of participants I pick. But with what ever data I do end up gathering I would look to see how the sample I picked responded to the questions I asked them regarding human trafficking. With surveys it is hard to get very accurate responses. Making the survey all multiple choices might lead people to just circle answers and not generally put any thought into them. With looking at the questions, I expect people to respond saying they don't know much at all about sport related trafficking, and as for people answering the question about rating their knowledge of human trafficking. I see that being low to a average amount of knowledge.

### **Implications for the field**

This research could end up being used by the government. This is a stretch but as I mentioned in my expected results, most people have never ever heard of human trafficking in sports. This could be a call for a government in places where this occurs to take action and even try to develop statistics to gain an understanding of how wide spread

it is. For the sports field I can be a topic that can be looked at why sports play a role in this. I know in Africa and in other poverty stricken nation's sports seen as a way out. This idea of sports as an escape can be looked at, primarily looking at soccer in Africa. In terms of the human trafficking of field, this provides some basis as to media framing being an issue in human trafficking. Other research that could be look at is what other large social issues like human trafficking. Further research that can be done is why do Americans not know about human trafficking in sports. If it is found that Americans do not perceive human trafficking as large world problem, research can be done as to why they feel that way. Mine as just gaining and understanding of there awareness.

### **Timeline**

For my time line I see in early September I will email the two malls I plan to use, East view and Marketplace mall to see if I can get permission to do these surveys on the properties. Then also in the same time range, work on developing questions and creating a actual survey that I will had out. By mid October I hope to be able to go and give these surveys out and gather enough data and responses. Then by end of October and into the beginning I hope to have the data analyzed and starting to incorporate it into my paper. Also part of this would be developing assumptions as to what I found out from this data. I believe this will be the longest process and require the most time to make sure everything sounds good. Then by end of November I hope to have it all ready and if not be at the point I'm just putting on the final touches. Come finals week I will present my findings.

### **Results**

As the results show, the majority of people rated themselves as having limited knowledge, no knowledge or average knowledge. This would indicate to me that most Americans have a limited knowledge of human trafficking. This implies Americans don't care that much about the issue due to their lack of knowledge. In terms of the samples knowledge of human trafficking with in sports, the knowledge level people rated themselves was even less. As the majority of responses to the question "How would you rate your knowledge of Human Trafficking within sports?" resulted in 82.1 percent of respondents rating themselves as having no knowledge of trafficking with in sports. This number of 82.1 percent implies that very few have even heard of trafficking with in sports. This could be due to the lack of news reports that have published stories on this type of trafficking. It turned out online was the major preferred media out let of the respondents, as 50 percent of respondents put that as there preferred news source medium over newspapers which was the second most with 32 percent and then newspapers with only 10 percent. With social media and peoples need for quick information, it is not surprising that online is the preferred media choice that people selected. Of the two types of human trafficking listed "labor trafficking" and "sex trafficking" respondents viewed sex trafficking as the one to be most prevalent with eighteen out of the twenty eight or 64.3 percent of respondents viewing that as the most common trafficking. As for why people most people picked sex trafficking as the more common trafficking form could be due to where they get there news. Sex trafficking is a commonly reported story and even if people have never read a story, people might just assume that sex trafficking would be the more common one. People who report the news might see a sex trafficking story as being more news worthy and reader attractive then a labor trafficking story, the framing

the media does of trafficking occurrences would influence what type of trafficking they would see as most prevalent. As for the country that was believed to have the most amount of trafficking occurs, Asia was the respondent’s top view with eleven out of twenty eight or 39.3 percent of all respondents picked Asia. Europe was next with nine out of twenty eight or 32.1 percent of all respondents picked Europe. A possible reason as for why Asia and Europe where the most picked countries could be due to the perceived prostitution that occurs in those regional areas. People might view those places as hot beds for prostitution and assume that trafficking would occur there as well because of the prostitution. “do you think human trafficking is an important global issue” the majority of respondents said yes as eleven out of the twenty eight picked that as their response as well as 9 saying somewhat. Americans view human trafficking as a global issue. This could be partly due to the education of people in being aware of various social issues around the world.

**Knowledgeofhumantrafficking**

	Fre quency	Pe rcent	Valid Percent	Cumul ative Percent
Good amount of Knowledge	5	17.9	17.9	17.9
Average Knowledge	7	25.0	25.0	42.9
Limited Knowledge	9	32.1	32.1	75.0

No Knowledge	7	25	25.0	100.0
Total	28	10	100.0	

**Knowledge of sport trafficking**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Average Amount of Knowledge	1	3.6	3.6	3.6
Limited Knowledge	4	14.3	14.3	17.9
No Knowledge	23	82.1	82.1	100.0
Total	28	100.0	100.0	



**Perferedmediaoutlet**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
TV	9	32.1	32.1	32.1
Online(Social media,blogs,ect.)	14	50.0	50.0	82.1
Newspapers	3	10.7	10.7	92.9
Other	2	7.1	7.1	100.0
Total	28	100.0	100.0	

Valid

**Twomajorformsoftrafficking**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Sex	18	64.3	64.3	64.3
Trafficking		.3		
Labor	10	35.7	35.7	100.0
Valid    Trafficking		.7		
Total	28	100.0	100.0	

**Countrywithmostbelievedtrafficking**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Africa	4	14.3	14.3	14.3
United States	3	10.7	10.7	25.0
South America	1	3.6	3.6	28.6
Europe	9	32.1	32.1	60.7

Asia	11	39	39.3	100.0
Total	28	10	100.0	

**TraffickingGlobalissue**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	11	39.3	39.3	39.3
So mewhat	9	32.1	32.1	71.4
und ecided	4	14.3	14.3	85.7
Not Really	4	14.3	14.3	100.0
Tot al	28	100.0	100.0	

### Discussion

Relating my results back to my overall research question was trying to measure how many Americans viewed human trafficking as a global problem. Also my research question was trying to figure out if Americans knew of human trafficking that occurs within the sports realm. Of the two major questions being asked it was very apparent based on the descriptive statistics in the tables about that of the 28 people only one person said that had an “average amount of knowledge” on trafficking with in sport and the rest of the respondents predominantly had no knowledge with a few having limited knowledge. One of the reasons for this could be the lack of academic research done on this topic. I found a small pool of articles that listed examples of trafficking with in sports, as well as small articles online of similar trafficking with in sports. Nagle (2008) was the most reliable source of information in terms of providing an example of sport trafficking. In terms of the other part of the question regarding how Americans view human trafficking as a global issue, predominately people tend to agree that it is a big issue. 71.4 percent of the respondents or twenty of the twenty eight responded as saying yes or somewhat to the view of trafficking being a major global issue. Trafficking is a topic that is heavily covered in the news and could be reason why people think it’s a big issue, due to the number of times they see it in the news.

As for new knowledge it created due to the survey, it can be confirmed that the sample I obtained, most had little to no knowledge for human trafficking with in sport. Based upon the sample that took my survey, it can be assumed that Americans at least somewhat agree that human trafficking is a major global issue.

## Results

As the results show, the majority of people rated themselves as having limited knowledge, no knowledge or average knowledge. This would indicate to me that most Americans have a limited knowledge of human trafficking. This implies Americans don't care that much about the issue due to their lack of knowledge. In terms of the samples knowledge of human trafficking with in sports, the knowledge level people rated themselves was even less. As the majority of responses to the question "How would you rate your knowledge of Human Trafficking within sports?" resulted in 82.1 percent of respondents rating themselves as having no knowledge of trafficking with in sports. This number of 82.1 percent implies that very few have even heard of trafficking with in sports. This could be due to the lack of news reports that have published stories on this type of trafficking. It turned out online was the major preferred media out let of the respondents, as 50 percent of respondents put that as there preferred news source medium over newspapers which was the second most with 32 percent and then newspapers with only 10 percent. With social media and peoples need for quick information, it is not surprising that online is the preferred media choice that people selected. Of the two types of human trafficking listed "labor trafficking" and "sex trafficking" respondents viewed sex trafficking as the one to be most prevalent with eighteen out of the twenty eight or 64.3 percent of respondents viewing that as the most common trafficking. As for why people most people picked sex trafficking as the more common trafficking form could be due to where they get there news. Sex trafficking is a commonly reported story and even if people have never read a story, people might just assume that sex trafficking would be the more common one. People who report the news might see a sex trafficking story as being more news worthy and reader attractive then a labor trafficking story, the framing the media does of trafficking occurrences would influence what type of trafficking they would see as most prevalent. As for the country

that was believed to have the most amount of trafficking occurs, Asia was the respondent’s top view with eleven out of twenty eight or 39.3 percent of all respondents picked Asia. Europe was next with nine out of twenty eight or 32.1 percent of all respondents picked Europe. A possible reason as for why Asia and Europe where the most picked countries could be due to the perceived prostitution that occurs in those regional areas. People might view those places as hot beds for prostitution and assume that trafficking would occur there as well because of the prostitution. “do you think human trafficking is an important global issue” the majority of respondents said yes as eleven out of the twenty eight picked that as their response as well as 9 saying somewhat. Americans view human trafficking as a global issue. This could be partly due to the education of people in being aware of various social issues around the world.

**Knowledge of human trafficking**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Good amount of Knowledge	5	17.9	17.9	17.9
Average Knowledge	7	25.0	25.0	42.9
Valid Limited Knowledge	9	32.1	32.1	75.0
No Knowledge	7	25.0	25.0	100.0
Total	28	100.0	100.0	

**Knowledge of sport trafficking**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Average Amount of Knowledge	1	3.6	3.6	3.6
Valid Limited Knowledge	4	14.3	14.3	17.9
No Knowledge	23	82.1	82.1	100.0
Total	28	100.0	100.0	

**Preferred media outlet**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid TV	9	32.1	32.1	32.1
Online(Social media,blogs,ect.)	14	50.0	50.0	82.1
Newspapers	3	10.7	10.7	92.9
Other	2	7.1	7.1	100.0
Total	28	100.0	100.0	

**View of the most prevalent form of trafficking**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Sex Trafficking	18	64.3	64.3	64.3
Labor Trafficking	10	35.7	35.7	100.0
Total	28	100.0	100.0	

**Country with most believed trafficking**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Africa	4	14.3	14.3	14.3
United States	3	10.7	10.7	25.0
South America	1	3.6	3.6	28.6
Europe	9	32.1	32.1	60.7
Asia	11	39.3	39.3	100.0
Total	28	100.0	100.0	

**View of Trafficking as a Global issue**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	11	39.3	39.3	39.3
Somewhat	9	32.1	32.1	71.4
Valid undecided	4	14.3	14.3	85.7
Not Really	4	14.3	14.3	100.0
Total	28	100.0	100.0	

### Discussion

Relating my results back to my overall research question was trying to measure how many Americans viewed human trafficking as a global problem. Also my research question was trying to figure out if Americans knew of human trafficking that occurs within the sports realm. Of the two major questions being asked it was very apparent based on the descriptive statistics in the tables about that of the 28 people only one person said that had an “average amount of knowledge” on trafficking with in sport and the rest of the respondents predominantly had no knowledge with a few having limited knowledge. One of the reasons for this could be the lack of academic research done on this topic. I found a small pool of articles that listed examples of trafficking with in sports, as well as small articles online of similar trafficking with in sports. Nagle (2008) was the most reliable source of information in terms of providing an example of sport trafficking. In terms of the other part of the question regarding how Americans view human trafficking as a global issue, predominately people tend to agree that it is a big issue. 71.4 percent of the respondents or twenty of the twenty eight responded as saying yes or somewhat to the view of trafficking being a major global issue. Trafficking is a topic that is



heavily covered in the news and could be reason why people think it's a big issue, due to the number of times they see it in the news.

As for new knowledge it created due to the survey, it can be confirmed that the sample I obtained, most had little to no knowledge for human trafficking with in sport. Based upon the sample that took my survey, it can be assumed that Americans at least somewhat agree that human trafficking is a major global issue.

Time was a big limitation, only having this three month semester is a limitation. Having more time would allow for a better survey to be created and more time get a better representation of Americas view on human trafficking. In terms of future recommendations a better survey could be developed and used. Asking more questions to go more in depth as to why people think they don't know anything about human trafficking or why they haven't seen anything in the news about it. Also in terms getting a more reliable sample, making a survey like this a nationwide survey to get a wider range of respondents. A nationwide survey would better reflect the views Americans have on trafficking rather than a survey taken by twenty eight random people done in front of malls in Rochester, NY.

Time was a big limitation, only having this three month semester is a limitation. Having more time would allow for a better survey to be created and more time get a better representation of Americas view on human trafficking. In terms of future recommendations a better survey could be developed and used. Asking more questions to go more in depth as to why people think they don't know anything about human trafficking or why they haven't seen anything in the news about it. Also in terms getting a more reliable sample, making a survey like this a nationwide survey to get a wider range

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**Appendix A**

Dear Mr. Swetman,

My name is Chris Guido I am a senior at St. John Fisher College. I am currently in the process of completing my senior thesis research project. The topic of which is about assessing the awareness Americans have of human trafficking as a global issue. I am writing to you today to ask you about if I would be allowed to administer surveys for academic purposes relating to my research project on your premises, in particular Eastview and Marketplace malls. If there is a more appropriate person that I with whom I should communicate about obtaining this permission, please let me know and I would be happy to contact him/her

The surveys will ask basic questions such as "Do you think human trafficking is an important global issue?" and "How would you rate your knowledge of human trafficking as a global issue?". I will be the only individual asking for participants. Potential participants will have the opportunity to refuse and end participation at any point in time. Participants will not be target for sale of any items and solicitations for donations will not occur at any point in time. I am purely interested in asking participants about their knowledge on this topic.

I look forward to your response and/or recommendations for progressing with this project. I'd be happy to address any questions or concerns you may have, as would my advisor, Dr. Katharine Burakowski at St. John Fisher College. Please feel free to call me if you would like to speak directly, but would appreciate having permission to administer my surveys in writing. Dr. Burakowski is also available at kburakowski@sjfc.edu or 585-385-7389.

Thank You,

Christopher Guido

## **Appendix B**

### Senior Thesis

Consent Form Researcher: Chris Guido Advisor: Dr. Katharine A. Burakowski Email: [cjg02640@sjfc.edu](mailto:cjg02640@sjfc.edu) Email: [kburakowski@sjfc.edu](mailto:kburakowski@sjfc.edu) Purpose and Description: The purpose of this study is to assess the awareness that Americans have of human trafficking as a global problem, as well as trafficking in sports. As a participant in this research, you are being asked to complete a survey that will examine your judgment of how much you know about trafficking as well as the type of media outlets you use that might affect your awareness. For example, you will be asked to rate how important is human trafficking as a global issue. This survey will take approximately 5-10 minutes. The information you provide will assist in generating a understanding of the knowledge Americans have of trafficking, and how the responses that are given correlate to the demographics of the participant like age, education, or level of income of the participant. Responses to this survey will be kept confidential and results will be presented in an aggregate form. Names or contact information will not be included in the presentation of the results. You may decide not to participate in this study and if you begin participating you may still decide to stop and withdraw at any time. Your decision will be respected and will not result in loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. Having read the above and having had an opportunity to ask any questions please complete the survey if you would like to participate in this research. By completing the questionnaire, you will give me permission for your participation. You may print this form for future reference. If you have any concerns about your selection or treatment as a research participant, please contact my research advisor or me. Please indicate your agreement to voluntarily participate in this survey:

- Agree
- Disagree

Q2 Do you think human trafficking is an important global issue?

- Yes
- Some what
- Undecided
- Not Really
- No (5)

Q3 How would you rate your knowledge of Human Trafficking as a Global issue?

- Very Knowledgeable
- Good amount of Knowledge
- Average Knowledge
- Limited Knowledge
- No Knowledge

Q4 In what part of the world would you think the most human trafficking activity occurs?

- Africa
- United States
- South America
- Europe
- Asia (5)

Q16 Of the two major forms of trafficking listed. In your opinion, what form do you think is most prevalent?

- Sex Trafficking (1)
- Labor Trafficking (2)

Q5 How would you rate your knowledge of Human Trafficking within sports?

- Very Knowledgeable (1)
- Good Amount of Knowledge (2)
- Average Knowledge (3)
- Limited Knowledge (4)
- No Knowledge (5)

Q6 Where would you say you get most of your news?

- TV (1)
- Online (Social media,blogs,ect.) (2)
- Newspapers (3)
- Other (4)

Q7 This part of the survey will ask you some information about your age, gender, race and education level. The purpose of this is to compare the demographics profiles of the respondents along with the answers they pick. You are not required to answer these questions. Thank you.

Q8 What is your gender?

- Female (1)
- Male (2)
- Other (3)

Q9 What is your age?

- 18-21
- 22-25
- 26-29
- 30-33
- 34-37
- 38-41
- 42-45
- 46-49
- 50-53
- 54-57
- 58-61
- 62 or older

Q10 What is your race or ethnicity?

- White
- Black
- Latino/a Or Hispanic
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Native American or Alaskan Native
- Other

Q11 What is your Education Level?

- Some High school
- High school Diploma
- Some College
- Associates Degree
- Bachelors Degree
- Masters Degree
- Doctoral Degree

Q12 Do you have any comments or suggestions?



