**Internal Assessment Resource**

**Geography Level 2**

**Achievement Standard 91246**

**Human Trafficking**

There are several spatial patterns relating to human trafficking on a global scale. Patterns showing source, destinations and trafficking flows all show the global extent of this topic, overall forming a dispersed global pattern. The hundreds of distinct trafficking flows also clearly show a dispersed pattern on the map.

It is difficult to separate the source and destination countries because about half of the trafficking victims globally are trafficked within the same region, therefore most of the countries I will focus on are a mixture of both.

The overall dispersed spatial pattern shows clusters in most continents. The main clusters are in South and East Asia, with concentrations around the Mekong river basin… Africa with a large concentration in Niger, Chad, Sudan region, and in Eastern Europe with a concentrations around the Balkan states and former Soviet Union nations…

In Africa the spatial arrangement of human trafficking countries shows clear concentrations in Sub Saharan regions, and  These countries are both source and destination areas which is common when countries with high rates of human trafficking are also border countries in Southeast Asia the clustered pattern also shows core areas or concentrations in Burma/Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Cambodia.

In Eastern Europe there is a concentration around the Balkan states… and one including the former Soviet Union nations. A difference with this concentration is evidence that these victims are often trafficked further from the source… Many of the concentrations relate to similar patterns of development e.g. and others reflect areas of extreme environments e.g. desert conditions for the African concentration shown on the map above, and there is a system that categorises countries into Tier 1, 2 and 3 nations based on their government’s attempts to combat trafficking and these groupings also reflect the general dispersed pattern and some of the clusters described.

Causes that contribute to the spatial pattern.

There are many economic causes that have contributed to the clustered and concentrated spatial patterns of this global topic. The source areas of human trafficking form clusters in Asia focusing on the less developed countries of Burma, Bangladesh.

Poverty is a significant factor in the cluster pattern of source countries. People who are trafficked mainly come from countries with a low GDP per capita, very low standard of living and low ranking on the HDI e.g... They would be considered to be living below the poverty line and almost definitely within the cycle of poverty.Families are often forced into bonded-labour situations to pay off debts. Bonded labour is like renting out a person’s labour to pay off a debt or a loan and this is very common in India and other countries in the Asian clusters. Ada was forced to migrate from Nepal to work as bonded labour in India. This effectively means that Ada will work for five years to pay off a loan that he took out to buy a house in his village for his family. This example shows the short range and cross border pattern of trafficking flows identified in the UNODC report. A second example. These groups show how “socioeconomic conditions of the victims and their hope of improving their lives abroad are among the factors of vulnerability that traffickers leverage to exploit them”

Poverty must be considered one of the primary causes contributing to the dispersed global spatial pattern and widespread nature of this topic… However, the final destination countries form a more dispersed pattern tending to be dominated by small clusters and nuclei which are mainly distributed in the northern hemisphere. Regions included in this pattern are Western Europe, Middle East, North America … This is generally because these are the areas in the world that can afford to pay for people who are trafficked.

Significance of Human Trafficking

The impact of trafficking needs to be considered on both an individual as well as on society. Trafficking weakens economies, breaks up families, fuels violence, threatens public health and safety, and stops progress in developing countries. Human trafficking is a major infringement of basic human rights and it devalues a human life.  Each of these ideas will be discussed. Individuals may suffer from: physical, psychological and emotional harm, including disease. Human trafficking includes threats to human health, through the spread of HIV/AIDS and other STDs to the victims, their clients forced substance abuse extreme violence

It is estimated that 50,000 people are trafficked into the United States every year, most of whom are sold into prostitution… obviously mental, physical and emotional effects of this crime… Another effect of human trafficking is the lack of security of a country's border. This threatens the whole strength and integrity of a country, as millions of people are transported illegally and with false or no documents across national borders. These activities are usually carried out by organised crime groups

Some African and Asian countries in particular have long borders and can border several different countries which make it nearly impossible to police the area. For example Niger borders eight countries and is a Tier 3 country. There are also effects on the society and communities that the people are taken from.

Trafficking, separates children from their parents and families- they have nobody to love and guide them in life. Some women and children will go into hiding to avoid being captured. This means the children have no schooling and the women cannot find work to support their families. It is just a big downward spiral and it destroys people's lives