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## GLOBAL ESTIMATES OF MODERN SLAVERY – FORCED LABOUR AND FORCED MARRIAGE

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### Estimates of Modern Slavery

- The 2021 Global Estimates show that millions more of people have been forced to work or marry in the period since the previous estimates of 2017. 49. Million people are in modern slavery on any given day. Crises such as COVID-19 pandemic, armed conflicts and climate change have led to mass unemployment and increased risk of modern slavery.
- Ending modern slavery requires all of society – governments, social partners, businesses, investor groups, UN agencies, multilateral and bilateral organizations to participate.
- There are 27.6 million people in situations of forced labor on any given day, with women and girls constituting 11.8 million of the overall number. There is an increase of 2.7 million people in forced labor between 2016 and 2021.
- Forced labor is highest in low-income countries and most forced labor (86%) happens in the private economy in all sectors from agriculture to manufacturing/construction. 63% is in private economy sectors while 23% is in forced commercial sexual exploitation.
- The share of migrants in the forced labor group is much higher than the share of migrants as part of the total labor force.

### Exploitation in Forced Labor

- People in forced labor experience multiple forms of exploitation – withholding of wages, sexual violence, forced confinement, deprivation of basic needs, etc.
- Women in forced labor are much more likely than their male counterparts to be in domestic work, while men in forced labor are much more likely to be in the construction sector.
- An estimated 6.3 million people are in situations of forced commercial sexual exploitation at any point in time, with nearly four out of every five such people are girls or women.
- A total of 3.3 million children are in situations of forced labour, accounting for about 12 per cent of all those in forced labor, with over half of them in commercial sexual exploitation. They are often subject to severe forms of abuse, including abduction, drugging, being held in captivity, etc.
- 3.9 million people are in state-imposed forced labour at any point in time. Males make up more than three of every four of those in forced labour imposed while 8 per cent are children

### Policy Suggestions

- Some key policies have to be undertaken to end forced labor. Extending social protection to all workers and families to mitigate economic difficulties that coerce people into forced labor, increasing the reach of inspections into informal economies, promoting fair recruitment practices from employers, rehabilitation for people freed from forced labor, increase safety nets especially during crises like conflict or pandemics, etc. are all policies that states have to undertake.

### Forced Marriages

- An estimated 22 million people were living in situations of forced marriage on any given day in 2021, a 6.6 million increase between 2016 and 2021. Nearly two-thirds of all forced marriages, are in Asia and the Pacific. Over two-thirds of those forced to marry are female.
- Family members were responsible for the vast majority of forced marriages, with half of the people coerced using emotional threats or verbal abuse. People forced to marry face a higher risk of sexual exploitation, violence, and domestic servitude and other forms of forced labor both inside and outside the home.

## **Policy Suggestions**

- There should be adequate civil/criminal protections against forced marriage, changing attitudes on women and increasing access to educational and employment opportunities for women in these regions is critical. Coordinating with humanitarian agencies for people leaving conflict regions and increasing capabilities to identify vulnerable populations (like migrant children) is also important.

**Read More:** [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms\\_854733.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms_854733.pdf)

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