

Human Trafficking and Occupational Justice

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Presentation Outline:

- What is Human Trafficking?
- Why do we need an occupational perspective?
- 'Trafficking in Persons Report' Case Study
- Practice Implications



What is human trafficking?



40.3 million people in slavery

Push and Pull factors

Long term health impacts

An occupational perspective

We are occupational beings with **Coercion** to occupation.

Occupational rights: “the right of all people to engage in meaningful occupations that contribute positively to their own well-being and the well-being of their communities” (Hammell 2007, p.62).



“the immediate and intergenerational suffering associated with occupational injustice is brought to life, made immediate and understandable, when viewed from an occupational perspective” (Hocking 2017, p.13).

Occupational Injustice

Coercion

Movement

Exploitation

Marginalisation

- Lack of opportunities
- Lack of choice
- Limited decision making
- Discrimination

Deprivation

- Limited range of occupation
- Prevented from Doing, Being, Becoming, and Belonging

Imbalance

- Over-occupied
- Under-occupied
- Un-occupied
- Meaningless occupation

Alienation

- Disconnected and isolated
- Loss of identity
- Meaningless occupation
- Forced occupation

Push and Pull factors

Long term health impacts

Case Study

Coercion

Movement

Exploitation

Marginalisation

Deprivation

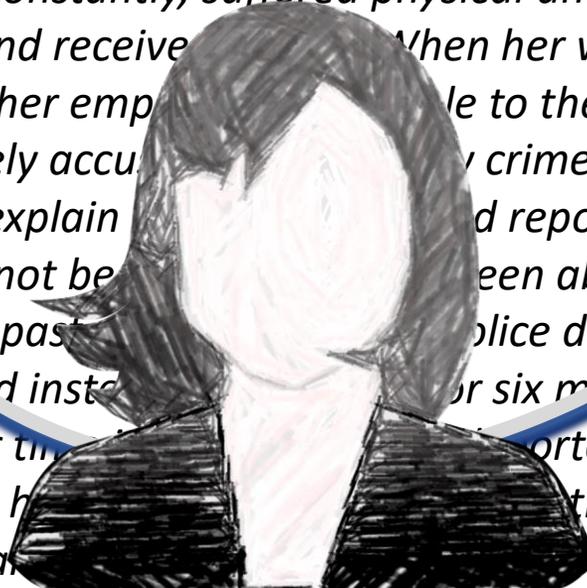
Imbalance

Alienation

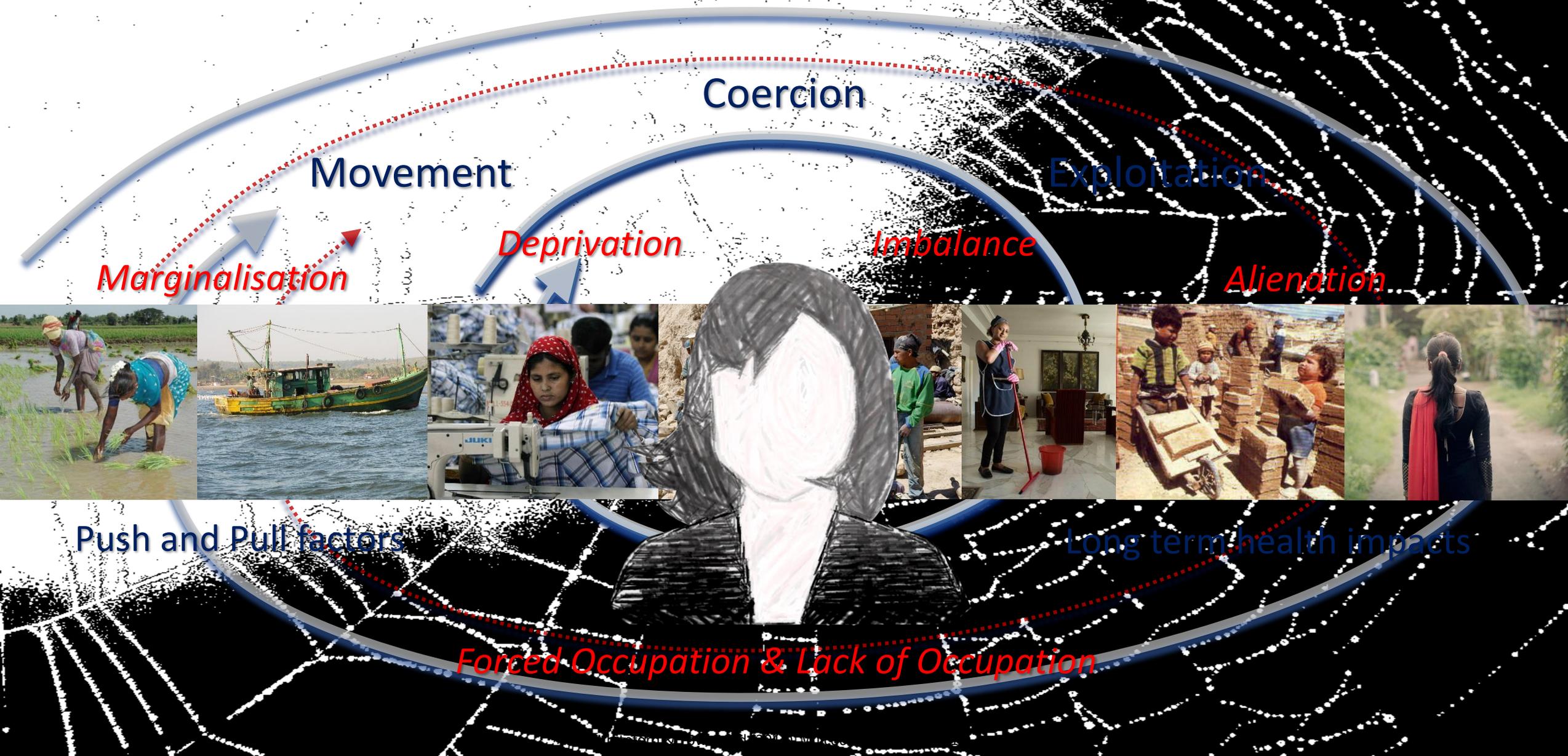
Push and Pull factors

Long term health impacts

“Nicole left her impoverished family to work as a maid in Kuwait with the intention of sending her earnings back home. For nine months she worked constantly, suffered physical and verbal abuse and received no pay. When her work visa expired, her employer took her to the police and falsely accused her of a crime. Nicole tried to explain but was told she had not been abused over the past six months. The police did not listen and instead kept her for six months. After her time in prison, she was deported and returned home with a broken spirit” (US Department of State)



Human Trafficking and Occupational Health



Marginalisation

Movement

Coercion

Exploitation

Deprivation

Imbalance

Alienation



Push and Pull factors

Long term health impacts

Forced Occupation & Lack of Occupation

Practice implications



Occupational Science

The occupational injustices of human trafficking: marginalisation, deprivation, imbalance and alienation.

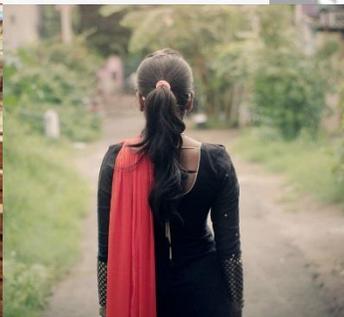
- Occupation can have a positive and negative influence of health and well-being
- Forced occupation is damaging to health and well-being



Occupational Therapy

Working with people who are at risk of trafficking, are being exploited, and in recovery and reintegration.

- Identifying people at risk & people being exploited
- Recovery through the power of occupation
- Prevention of slavery



“Positioned for impact”



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