

IB TERMS

1.Sweatshop

A sweatshop refers to a workplace, often in the manufacturing sector, that has very poor, socially unacceptable working conditions. The term "sweatshop" is usually associated with the exploitation of workers, including the use of child labor, extremely long hours, very low pay, and lack of worker rights and safety measures. These conditions are often found in the garment industry, but can exist in any sector where goods are produced, including electronics, toys, and footwear.

Sweatshops are a global issue, with many located in developing countries where labor laws are less strict or less enforced. However, the demand for cheap labor and products also ties back to consumers and corporations in developed countries seeking to minimize production costs and maximize profits. The controversy surrounding sweatshops involves debates over economic development, workers' rights, and global ethics.

Consumers can play a significant role in combating sweatshops by making informed and ethical choices when shopping. Here are several actions consumers can take to avoid supporting sweatshops:

Research Brands: Before making a purchase, research to find out if the brand is committed to ethical labor practices and transparency in their supply chain. Many organizations and websites provide information on companies' labor practices.

Support Ethical Brands: Look for brands that are certified by reputable organizations for their fair labor practices. Certifications to look out for include Fair Trade, B Corp, and others that ensure ethical treatment of workers.

Demand Transparency: Encourage your favorite brands to be transparent about their manufacturing processes and to ensure fair labor practices throughout their supply chain. This can be done through social media, direct communication, or supporting campaigns.

Educate Others: Spread awareness about the importance of ethical consumption and how sweatshops can be avoided. The more people know, the greater the collective impact on changing company practices.

Support Legislation: Advocate for and support legislation that promotes fair labor practices worldwide. This includes laws that require companies to disclose their manufacturing locations and conditions or that ban the import of goods produced under inhumane conditions.

Buy Less, Choose Well: Reduce overall consumption and make thoughtful purchases. High-quality, sustainable products may cost more upfront but often last longer, reducing the need for frequent replacements and decreasing demand for cheaply produced goods.

By taking these steps, consumers can contribute to the demand for ethically produced goods and help improve working conditions for workers around the world.

2.ISO certification refers to a seal of approval from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) that a company, organization, or product meets one of its internationally recognized standards. ISO is an independent, non-governmental international organization that develops standards to ensure the quality, safety, and efficiency of products, services, and systems.

3.An ethical dilemma is a situation where someone has to choose between two options, both of which are morally correct but in conflict with each other. It's like being stuck between doing one thing that seems right and another thing that also seems right, but you can't choose both.

Businesses can avoid ethical dilemmas by:

Creating clear rules: Having strong guidelines about what is right and wrong helps everyone understand what they should do in different situations.

Training: Teaching employees about ethical behavior and decision-making can prepare them for tricky situations.

Open communication: Encouraging people to talk openly about their concerns and questions can help prevent problems before they start.

Leading by example: When leaders in a business act ethically and make decisions based on what is right, it encourages everyone else to do the same.

Having a plan: Sometimes, despite the best efforts, dilemmas happen. Having a plan on how to deal with them, like a committee to review and decide on tough issues, can help solve them in a fair way.