*Half the Sky*

**Summary**

*Half the Sky* was an eye-opening documentary which takes a deep look into the tragedy that women are facing on the other side of the world. The woman who introduces this topic states, “In the last century more women have been discriminated to death than all the men who died in all the battlefields in the 20th century.” When she states this statistic, the tragedy it is describing is young girls being sold into sex trafficking in Third World Countries. It is the hope that bringing this topic to light will lead not to compassionate people but to people who want to take action to make this stop because it is unacceptable. In this documentary, the film makers found specific children or families to interview and describe their experiences when they were forced into this lifestyle.

The point of this film was to be able to point out this tragic situation to help raise awareness because something needs to be done for these women. Women hold half the population which holds “half the sky” and if we are killing and abusing them how can our world be a safe or successful place when women aren’t valued or respected? Education is not an option for the women in these countries (India, Cambodia, Middle East, etc.) Education is one of the most powerful things a person can own and the people who are deep into these organizations profiting from the exploitation of women do not want any of these women to gain that power by having them be educated in any sort of way.

One of the young girl’s stories that stood out was the one about the thirteen year old who was taken to someone’s aunt’s house and locked in the basement then forced to take “clients.” The same young girl stated, “I was sold into a brothel by age thirteen.” This entailed having sex with ten, twenty or thirty men a day who did not use condoms which led to this young girl eventually getting pregnant and was then forced to get an abortion. She only had one eye because she was stabbed by a man when she tried to refuse to take clients. This is only one example of the thousands of women being forced into this lifestyle. Hilary Clinton discusses one of the ways that we can help which is for women to get involved in their societies economies because there is proof that shows this helps the economy grow. One thing that this film does not discuss is the exact steps to help fix the problem because people need direction to take action; unfortunately, people aren’t born knowing which path to take to find success in whatever their attempting. The film concludes by trying to push the idea that we are able to help take a stand but it takes action; sitting around and feeling sorry for these women who have faced these kinds of tragedies does not help or save the current or future generations from going through the same problems.

**Reflection**

I was not aware of the extent of the sex trafficking for women in other countries. I knew about the lack of education but I was not able to visualize it until seeing this video. I was unaware of the horrible things that some children had to deal with when they were so young. I also thought it was horrifying that in 2013, children who were only two years old were sold in the sex slave industry even by their parents. I think all this information is so valuable because it gives people a chance to be able to step up and take a stand to help these women. Unfortunately, most of the time people are too scared to take a stand and if we are too scared to take a stand, how can we expect these women to take a stand and fight for their lives? It’s all about action and in order for anything to change; we need to be able to fight when these women are too scared to. Education is the best gift in my life and I believe we should pay it forward to help these girls have an opportunity to have such as most Americans get to have and let them have their own education. Knowledge is power and these girls need to gain power in order to save their lives.