



aCtioN

# GSL 2021

**Amaya Mahajan**

**Targeting a range  
of sustainable  
development goals**

# 1

A website:

[www.armaanm1jcd.wixsite.com/my-site](http://www.armaanm1jcd.wixsite.com/my-site)

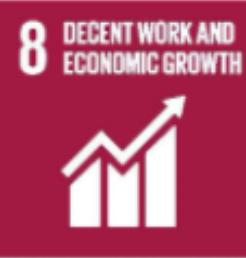
(If you just copy and paste this link into a browser it should work)

I worked with my passionate younger brother to create a website depicts the dangers of poverty as an attempt to spread awareness of people in delicate situations around the globe – especially since we live in an area where people tend to get so caught up in their own lives and steer towards taking things for granted.

The website was shared with my brothers class and year at school as well as my own peers ☺



# 2



Consequentially, as part of a school externally assessed project I was given the task to conduct a speech on virtually any topic I was passionate about. The subject I chose to base my speech on is what I believe is a highly crucial topic yet not talked about enough – The prison system.

Prison is a place used for confinement of convicted criminals. Prisons are constructed to have four major purposes; retribution, incapacitation, deterrence and rehabilitation. Can it really be true? I am here today to apprise you on the injustice and disheartening situation in America leading to their decay in economic welfare. The United States has the largest prison population in the world. In the past few years the incarceration rate in the US is roughly 700 people per 100,000 of the population. 2.3 million people locked up. There are Defendants in there being sentenced to decades of their lives for nonviolent and first-time offenses. And many being held up to 2 years before a trial. Are they really rehabilitating these people? Are they really disciplining them? Or doing more harm than good? In short terms, the prison system is not effective. It does not reduce crime and it does not act as a deterrent.

And of course we have our murders, gang leaders, armed robbers and child molesters that must pay a debt to society for their crimes, but the majority of the prison population, 53%, are non-violent offenders. They are overwhelmingly poor substance abusers and rates of illiteracy are incredible. All of this happens from a small ripple effect causing more poverty and more incarceration.

After contact with the criminal justice system millions of Americans are denied jobs, housing, families and education. Leaving the only door open to prison. Even just being accused, places a barrier to the individual - especially the poor and people of colour that now face another obstacle to undermine. Simple low-level crimes and mis endeavours of one individual cause a rippling effect on their families, neighbourhoods and generations to come. And just like that families are broken up and former convicts become unemployed. And the result of this? More poverty, more crime and more incarceration.

You may be asking yourself how common this is. Let me give you some examples of only a few out of the millions of Americans that cannot rebuild a life. Malik, convicted for gun possession. He cannot find an affordable shelter or even visit his family and you can see where he will end up on the street sides and wonder how long it will be till he is back behind bars. Or here we have Elijah, a 26 year old father who is rejected from furthering his education, wondering how he will raise his daughter just due to his mistakes of the past. Each extra year in prison raises the risk of reoffending by 6%. What other choice do these non-violent and simple so-called offenders have to survive when they are rejected from all their needs. However, racial profiling also comes into play. When people like Malik and Elijah struggle to rebuild their lives from simple mis endeavours whereas people such as Brian Peck, a Hollywood director, was convicted of several lewd acts towards the children he was working with he was sentenced to only 16 months in prison. Then simply released and given back his job. It is unjustifiable that  $\frac{2}{3}$  of America's jails and prison are Latino or African American

30 years ago, America's innovators built low income housing to provide for the less fortunate and now they're building larger and exhaustive prisons as a form of low-income housing. Almost a warehouse for economically excluded people. It is unfair

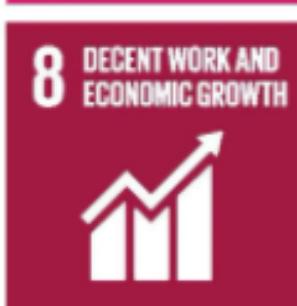
Not to mention, 2 top companies GEO & CCA generated \$3 billion of revenue in 2010. They have an interest in making sure the incarceration rate continues to grow. In criminal justice, there are many people that make money and fancy the large scale of incarceration to keep growing. The private prisons, or the contractors of the building or agencies that make money from phone calls for people serving time. Now don't you think profiting from incarceration is a morally questionable concept?

In all the local jails, juveniles, state and federal prisons, correctional facilities and detention facilities, inmates suffer much physical mistreatment, they are severely overcrowded and have overall inhumane living conditions that pose a threat to health and safety. And for what? To keep their costs low and profits high. A whole masked system for the money-makers and shadowers of the less fortunate. It is unfair

Eric Schlosser said if you really want to understand a society, look at how they treat the people at the very bottom, and that's who you'll find in America's prison systems.

Thank you  
Amaya Mahajan

# 3



An article on the unethicallity of being disgustingly rich – shared with school magazine

## Ethical billionaires do not exist

Majority of people fail to realise just how massive of a number 1 billion is. For some perspective; one million seconds depicts around 11 days. A good, solid week and half. Well, one billion seconds equals 31.5 years! It is a thousand million bucks. It would take an individual 274 years to spend 10,000 dollars a day in order to spend a billion dollars. Not to mention that the greater proportion of billionaires such the beloved Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates, Warren Buffet have net worth's well over 'just' one billion. Although the figures below tend to vary over the internet, this is an average of a selection of billionaires' net worth.

(in dollars)

Jeff Bezos.....180.6B

Elon Musk.....162.4B

Bernard Arnault and family.... 160.1B

Bill Gates.....126B

Mark Zuckerberg....105.8B

Mukesh Ambani....98.1B

Now by writing this article I am not discrediting any of these people's success – for these people are some of the most innovative in the world and do participate in philanthropy. However, the means by which their money has extended, through exploitation of under-paid and over-worked labour, is not rewardable.

Amazon has a history for exploiting workers, unfair competition, disregarding environmental responsibility and violating user privacy, "Amazon is a notoriously bad employer," says Ron Knox, a senior researcher at the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, a US advocacy group. His simple words depict the large scale of disturbing incidents retrieved from the company. Furthermore, Apple Inc, a company notorious for its expensive, stylish products has been sued on multiple occasions and is responsible for the alleged human right violation in the workplace, including violation in the supply chain department such as underage harassment , labour violation and forgery of working hours. All of this stems from the highly inequitable and exploited workers while the CEO's bask in their high street mansions and supercars with much cash to spare. In fact, in 2017, across mountainous areas and on top of buildings near apple manufacturing sweatshops (apple does not fully disclose where exactly their products are made however it includes places such as Vietnam and Thailand), the government has implemented nets, Plastic woven nets placed there to catch any persons who attempts suicide.

The suicide rate of workers in the area is so high that the government has gone out of its way to prevent it. Isn't the thought dreadful? Working in such dreadful conditions for an ultra-famous company that it makes one want to end their life?

The fact remains that Apple, and millions of other businesses, choose not to improve working conditions - in order to lower costs of production. They easily have the means and the revenue to do so, but choose not to; solely for the purpose of generating more profit.

Unfortunately the world today revolves around money and it is unjustifiable that one individual possess the ability to spend even 1 million dollars every single day for a year and it barely make a hole in their wallet. 1 million dollars can feed a whole impoverished country, 1 million dollars can build multiple schools across a continent. 1 million dollars can buy a house to home several dozen homeless people with no opportunities and give them a place to start. 1 million dollars every day for a year equals \$365 million dollars. Approximately 40/100<sup>th</sup> of a billion dollars, and a tiny tiny fraction of a billionaire's net worth.

Thank you  
Amaya Mahajan

# 4

Visual art and photography is a passion of mine so I made a poster collage to spread awareness of the lovely life on our planet ❤️

All the pictures included are taken and edited by me throughout the past few years and during the independent challenge!

