

Modern slavery in global supply chain management: literature synthesis, theoretical framework and future research opportunities

LBS Journal of
Management &
Research

Sudhanshu Joshi and Tanuja Joshi

*PM Gati Shakti Centre of Excellence in Logistics and Supply Chain Management,
Doon University, Dehradun, India, and*

Manu Sharma and Janmejai Kumar Shah

*Department of Management Studies, Graphic Era Deemed to be University,
Dehradun, India*

Received 10 January 2026

Revised 12 February 2026

25 March 2026

13 May 2026

Accepted 20 May 2026

Abstract

Purpose – This study aims to systematically map and synthesize the evolution of modern slavery research. It focuses on identifying dominant theories, high-risk sectors, policy responses and emerging technological interventions within global supply chains (GSCs). By integrating bibliometric analysis with the TCCM framework, the research seeks to clarify how scholarly discourse has responded to persistent enforcement gaps, corporate greenwashing and the structural conditions that sustain modern slavery in private-sector value chains.

Design/methodology/approach – The study conducts a systematic literature review of 539 peer-reviewed journal articles published between 2010 and 2025. Bibliometric techniques are employed to identify publication trends, influential authors and thematic clusters. The TCCM (Theory, Context, Characteristics, Methodology) framework is then applied to qualitatively analyze theoretical foundations, sectoral contexts, methodological approaches and policy orientations, enabling a comprehensive and structured synthesis of the modern slavery research landscape.

Findings – The findings reveal agriculture, textiles and mining as the most vulnerable sectors due to informal labor practices and weak governance. Institutional and Stakeholder Theories dominate the literature, while Global Value Chain and Critical Theory expose deeper systemic exploitation. Policy responses rely heavily on non-binding CSR mechanisms with limited enforcement. Blockchain and AI show potential for supply-chain transparency but remain unevenly adopted. COVID-19 has significantly heightened risks for migrant and gig-economy workers.

Research limitations/implications – The review is limited by reliance on published academic literature and self-reported corporate disclosures, which may understate the true scale of exploitation. Western-centric policy perspectives dominate the dataset, constraining global generalizability. Future research should prioritize comparative policy studies across jurisdictions, intersectional analyses of worker vulnerability and empirical validation of digital traceability tools. These directions are essential to strengthen theory development and inform more effective regulatory interventions.

Practical implications – The study underscores the need for mandatory human-rights due diligence legislation with robust enforcement mechanisms. Firms should move beyond symbolic compliance toward verifiable transparency across supply chains. Cross-sector collaboration among governments, corporations, NGOs and technology providers is critical. Scalable deployment of blockchain and AI systems can enhance traceability, but only when paired with governance reforms, worker protections and independent auditing mechanisms.

Social implications – Addressing modern slavery in GSCs has significant implications for protecting vulnerable populations, particularly migrant, informal and gig workers. Stronger regulation and transparency can reduce exploitation, improve labor conditions and promote social justice. The study highlights the social costs of weak enforcement and corporate greenwashing, emphasizing the moral and societal urgency of dismantling exploitative structures embedded in global production networks.

© Sudhanshu Joshi, Tanuja Joshi, Manu Sharma and Janmejai Kumar Shah. Published in *LBS Journal of Management & Research*. Published by Emerald Publishing Limited. This article is published under the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY 4.0) licence. Anyone may reproduce, distribute, translate and create derivative works of this article (for both commercial and non-commercial purposes), subject to full attribution to the original publication and authors. The full terms of this licence may be seen at <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



LBS Journal of Management & Research
Emerald Publishing Limited

e-ISSN: 0974-1852

p-ISSN: 0972-8031

DOI 10.1108/LBSJMR-01-2026-0001

Originality/value – This study offers one of the most comprehensive reviews of modern slavery research to date by combining bibliometric analysis with the TCCM framework. It advances literature by integrating theoretical, sectoral, technological and policy perspectives over a 15-year period. The research provides a structured agenda for scholars and policymakers while critically challenging voluntary CSR approaches, contributing original insights into systemic exploitation within GSCs.

Keywords Modern slavery, Global supply chains, TCCM framework, Institutional theory, Ethical sourcing, Forced labor

Paper type Literature review

1. Introduction

Despite rising awareness of regulatory and governance issues, corporate sustainability pledges and international human rights efforts, modern slavery continues to be one of the most pervasive ethical and governance issues in global supply chains (GSCs). The International Labor Organization (ILO, 2022) reports that 49.7 million people are still living with forms of modern slavery, such as forced labor, debt bondage, child labor and human trafficking. Many of these cases are in so-called private sector chains, in agriculture, manufacturing, construction, mining and domestic work and are substantial in proportion. Ethical sourcing, corporate accountability and supply chain governance are increasingly concerns of policy makers, companies, civil society and researchers due to the prevalence of labor exploitation along production networks spread across the world. Companies are increasingly faced with the challenge of identifying and reducing the risk of modern slavery in complex GSCs. Visibility and accountability are often diminished along supply chain networks through multi-tiered subcontracting, informality, outsourcing and geographically dispersed production systems. This is especially evident in developing economies where low levels of labor enforcement, institutional fragility and cost competition make workers easily vulnerable. Globalization has helped to make them more efficient and facilitated a reduction in production costs, but it has also exacerbated governance disparities and created situations where exploitative working practices can continue to occur in operations of the supply chain. In response to the public and institutional demand for transparency, governments around developed economies have enacted regulatory frameworks that call for disclosure of information, including the California Transparency in Supply Chains Act, the UK Modern Slavery Act and mandatory due diligence programs in Europe and Australia. These measures have spurred businesses to implement supplier audits, reporting on transparency, ethical purchasing initiatives and digital traceability systems. However, over time, there has been a growing body of research that casts doubt on the substantive impact of disclosure-driven governance strategies, given that compliance-based reporting is unlikely to be of any benefit to address the more structural causes of labor exploitation in global production systems. The current governance structures are thus often seen as lacking in effectiveness for remediation and in protecting workers, in favor of maintaining a symbolic and reputational legitimacy. The pace of modern slavery scholarship over the last decade mirrors the increasing academic attention to ethical governance and labor exploitation in GSCs. Disclosure regulation, corporate social responsibility (CSR), ethical sourcing, supplier auditing, traceability technologies, labor vulnerability and sector-specific governance issues are some areas that have already been explored. Further, in recent years, there have been a number of systematic reviews that have helped in the mapping of thematic developments and governance mechanisms related to modern slavery in supply chains. However, current literature is largely descriptive and fragmented, concentrating mainly on disclosure practices or regulatory reactions or sector-specific risks. There has been little focus on bringing together competing theories or on the reasons why slavery can still be seen today in the face of so much regulation and corporate interest. In response to this, the current study takes a theory-integrative viewpoint to explore the study of modern slavery in GSCM. In particular, this review draws on the Institutional Theory, Stakeholder Theory, Global Value Chain (GVC) Theory and Critical Political Economy (CPE) to establish a multi-level explanatory

framework of institutional pressures, firm-level governance capabilities, structural asymmetries and outcomes of the supply chain. The study aims to go beyond thematic categorization and explore the interactions and dynamics between institutional constraints, governance practices, technological interventions and global production systems in order to better understand how they influence risks and responses to modern slavery within supply chains.

The following research questions will be used to guide this study.

- RQ1. What is the nature of the publications and content of the research on modern slavery in GSCs?
- RQ2. What has happened to scholarly knowledge of modern slavery in GSCs in the literature?
- RQ3. What are the opportunities for future research based on the existing research on modern slavery in GSCs?

To address these questions, the study adopts the SPAR-4-SLR approach to conduct a systematic review of relevant studies published from 2010 to 2024, with bibliometric analysis and the TCCM (Theory–Context–Characteristics–Methodology) framework. The review emphasizes the prevailing theories, methods, context and patterns and new research directions, and pinpoints major structural and conceptual lacunas in the literature. The four main points of contribution to modern slavery and supply chain scholarship this study makes are: Firstly, it offers a systematic and replicable synthesis of the contemporary research on modern slavery based on the SPAR-4-SLR protocol and TCCM framework. Second, it is an explanatory framework that brings together different levels, namely institutional, stakeholder, GVC and CPE and is theory-integrative. Third, it uncovers large-scale weaknesses in the current literature, such as a focus on disclosure-based governance mechanisms, under-inclusion of Global South contexts and under-resourcing of the multi-tiered complexity of supply chains. Finally, the research agenda is focused on future research that connects governance mechanisms, technological traceability, firm-level capabilities and accountability outcomes in GSCs. The rest of the paper discusses the review methodology, bibliometric analysis and thematic analysis, conceptual framework, implications and directions for future research.

2. Literature review framework: TCCM (theory, context, characteristics, methodology)

2.1 Prior reviews and research positioning

In recent years, there has been growing academic interest in modern slavery in GSCs in the fields of business ethics, sustainability, international business and supply chain management. Governance mechanisms and disclosure practices (Han, Jia, Jiang, & Chen, 2024; Caruana, Crane, Gold, & LeBaron, 2021), sustainability indicators, labor exploitation and sector-specific vulnerabilities (Bodendorf, Wonn, Simon, & Franke, 2023) have all been reviewed on a systematic basis recently. These studies have helped to shape the landscape of regulatory evolution, ethical sourcing models and corporate accountability frameworks. But most of the existing review literature, however, is descriptive and governance-focused. Many of the existing studies have largely concentrated on thematic categorization, disclosure obligations and sustainability reporting, with fewer compared to the volume of studies given to incorporating competing theoretical perspectives or to explaining the structural persistence of modern slavery in global production systems. Limited discussions on the interaction between institutional pressures, firm-level governance capacities, technological mechanisms and GVC asymmetries and their impact on labor vulnerabilities and remediation outcomes are also provided in the existing reviews. This study aims to overcome the above-mentioned limitations, viewing it from a theory-integrative and explanatory perspective. In particular, the review integrates the Institutional Theory, Stakeholder Theory, GVC Theory and CPE to create a multi-level conceptualization of how institutional pressures, governance mechanisms,

firm capabilities and outcomes of supply chains are interconnected. Besides, the study highlights key gaps in the current literature, such as too much focus on disclosure-based governance, too little account of contexts in the Global South and too little focus on multi-tier supply chains.

Table 1 lists the main differences between the previous systematic reviews and the current review.

2.2 TCCM framework

The structure of this study follows that of the TCCM model suggested by Paul and Rosado-Serrano (2019) for systematically organizing and synthesizing previous literature on modern slavery in GSCs. The TCCM framework has been widely used in the systematic review of the literature in international business, strategy, sustainability and supply chain management research due to its capability of constructing a structured, theory-oriented overview of fragmented streams of literature. The four dimensions of current scholarship examined in the review are outlined in the framework. The Theory dimension indicates the key and developing theories used in contemporary research on modern slavery. The Context dimension explores the studies of the industries, sectors and geographical regions that have been studied previously. The Characteristics dimension focuses on the key concepts, ideas and decision-making processes that have been covered in the literature. Lastly, the Methodology dimension considers the research designs, analytical methods and empirical approaches used in earlier studies. In organizing the literature in this way, the present study breaks the cycle of descriptive categorization and makes it easier to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the theoretical, contextual and methodological developments in the scholarship on modern slavery in supply chains. The stepwise execution of SPAR-4-SLR in alignment with TCCM is summarized in Figure 1.

2.3 Review methodology

For methodological rigor, transparency and reproducibility, this study is conducted in line with the Scientific Procedures and Rationales for Systematic Literature Reviews (SPAR-4-SLR) protocol proposed by Paul, Lim, O’Cass, Hao, and Bresciani (2021). The SPAR-4-SLR framework is a structure for the identification, organization and evaluation of literature in systematic review studies. Scopus was chosen as the literature search platform because it provides a wide coverage of peer-reviewed publications on business, management, sustainability and supply chain research. The following terms were used to generate relevant studies published between 2010 and 2024: Boolean combinations of modern slavery-related keywords (modern slavery, forced labor, human trafficking and child labor) and supply chain-related terms (GSC, value chain, outsourcing, procurement). The first search yielded 539 documents. After the removal of non-English publications and non-peer-reviewed types

Table 1. Comparison of prior reviews on modern slavery in supply chains

Study	Focus	Method	Contribution	Limitation
Han et al. (2024)	Governance and technology	Systematic literature review	Mapping governance mechanisms	Limited theoretical integration
Bodendorf et al. (2023)	Social sustainability indicators	Conceptual review	Sustainability-oriented indicators	Sector-specific emphasis
Present study	Theory integration and multi-level framework	SPAR-4-SLR + TCCM	Integrative explanatory framework	–
Source(s): Authors				

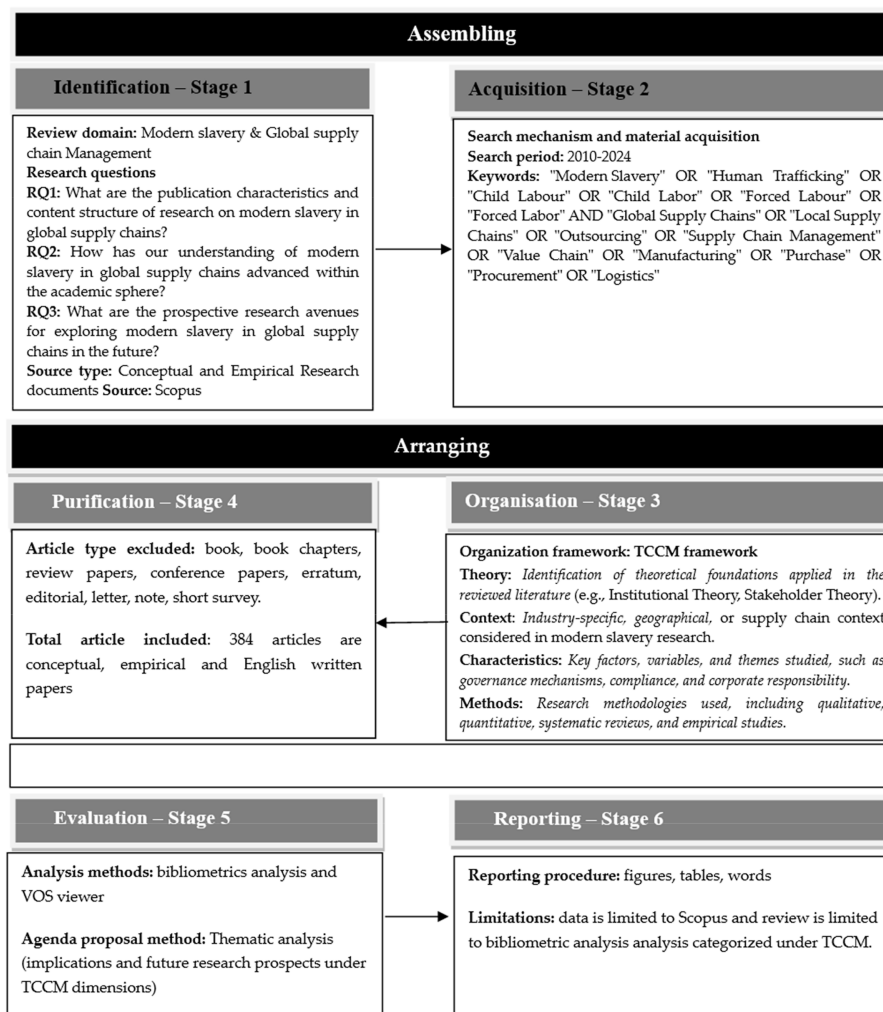


Figure 1. Research methodology. Source: Authors

of documents (books, conference proceedings, editorials, short surveys), 384 records were left. After relevance and conceptual screening, 275 articles were selected for bibliometric and thematic analysis. Systematic coding was used to code the selected studies in terms of the dimensions of TCCM. The coding process was carried out in an iterative review process with repeated coding cycles and cross-checking of classifications to ensure consistency in analysis and minimize subjectivity. R software and VOSviewer were used to perform bibliometric analysis to explore the publication trend, citation structure, thematic cluster and collaboration network. We included peer-reviewed, English-language articles in journals that were published from 2010 to 2024. To compare the rigor of methodologies and their comparability across studies, the review excluded books, book chapters, conference papers, editorials, reviews, letters and non-English publications. The use of Scopus database could restrict the scholarship coverage to regional and non-English publications; however with its wide coverage of indexing, it was chosen for bibliometric analysis owing to its suitability. The

overall review process was in line with three stages of the SPAR-4-SLR framework: assembling, arranging and assessing. The preparation of data for the assembling stage was the identification and acquisition of relevant literature. The arranging stage emphasized organization and purification of the records through the framework of TCCM and inclusion/exclusion criteria. The assessment stage comprised bibliometric evaluation, thematic synthesis and trend and gap analysis of the studies. [Figure 2](#) illustrates TCCM framework.

2.4 Theoretical complementarities

Modern slavery in GSCs is studied from multiple theoretical viewpoints that contribute to an understanding of how governance pressures, vulnerabilities to labor exploitation and supply chains work together to help drive modern slavery. Nevertheless, there is a theoretical and fragmented literature that highlights various aspects of governance for modern slavery.

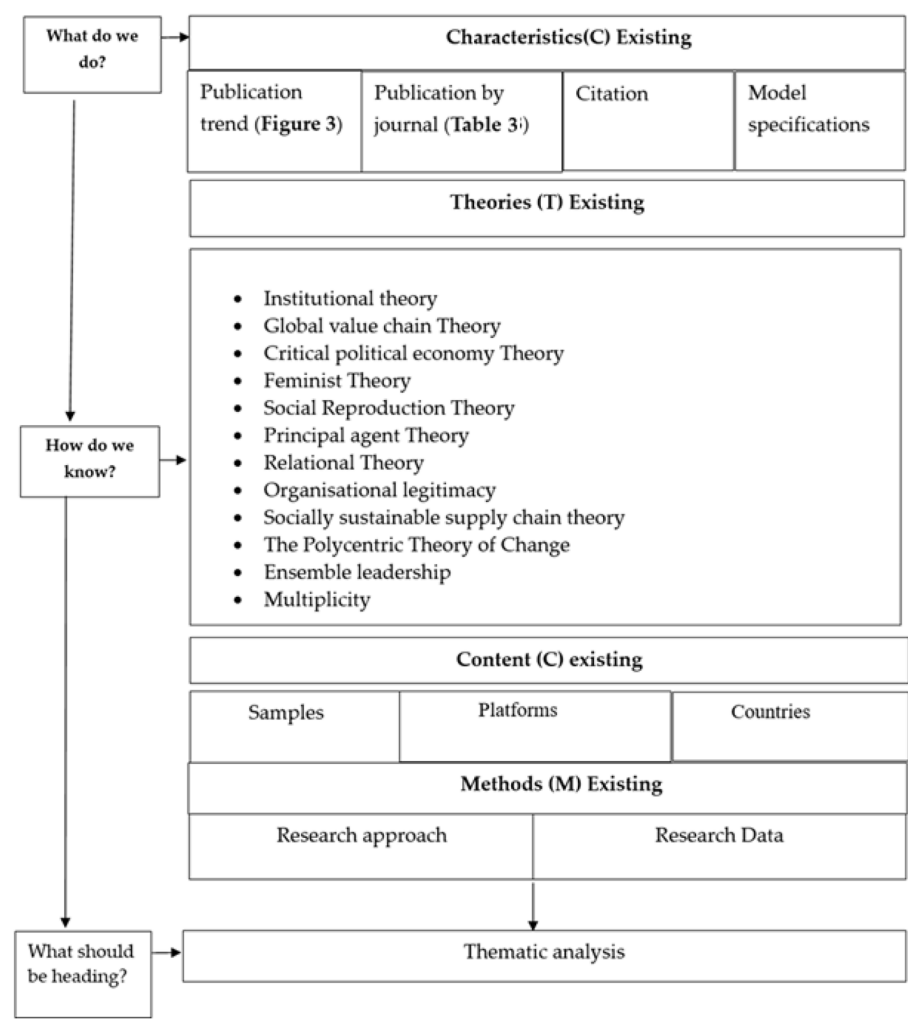


Figure 2. TCCM framework. Adopted from [Paul and Rosado-Serrano \(2019\)](#)

Institutional Theory describes the firm's reactions to the coercive, normative and mimetic forces of governments, regulations, industry standards and the expectations of stakeholders. From this viewpoint, the use of disclosure statements, audits of suppliers and due diligence arises. However, institutional responses tend to focus on compliance and offer little explanation of the outcomes of substantive remediation. This view is complemented by Stakeholder Theory, which focuses on negotiations over the legitimacy and accountability between firms and governments, NGOs, investors, consumers and civil society actors. The theory emphasizes the importance of multi-stakeholder governance and ethical sourcing pressures in driving corporate responses to labor exploitation. Stakeholder-based approaches, however, might not be sufficient to tackle structural power imbalances in global production systems. Resource-based and capability-based approaches highlight the importance of dynamic capabilities, managerial skills, supplier development and technological investments to explain variation in organizational responses to the risks of modern slavery at the firm level. These strategies provide an explanation for why some companies implement complex traceability systems and other governance structures for collaboration, while other companies implement mostly symbolic compliance. Capability-based approaches can, however, miss the scale of other institutional and structural factors influencing GSCs. Theories such as the GVC and CPE at the macro-structural level show how subcontracting systems, cost pressures, unequal bargaining power and fragmented production structures lead to labor exploitation and supply chain opacity. The perspectives focus on the fact that risks of modern slavery are part of wider structural inequalities that characterize global capitalism and international production networks. The sum of these theoretical frameworks shows an important tension between compliance-based governance approaches and capability-based or structural remediation strategies. The interlinkages between institutional pressures, governance structures, technological interventions, firm capacities and global production asymmetries in influencing modern slavery risks and outcomes cannot be fully captured by a single lens. For this reason, the present study takes an integrative theoretical perspective to establish a multi-level explanation between GSC macro institutional pressures, firm governance reactions, mechanisms in the supply chain and accountability outcomes.

RQ1. What are the characteristics, content structure, and publication of modern slavery in the GSC?

Table 2 discuss the analysis period from 2010 to 2024 comprises 539 documents sourced from 399 publications, showing a 13.19% yearly growth. The research contains 1,424 distinct authors who work on average with 2.96 colleagues per publication while showcasing 26.16% international research partnerships. There are more articles (393) in the dataset than citations, which have an average of 13.58 for each document. Temporal growth pattern shows that research on Modern slavery in supply chains has grown faster with the development of transparency laws in developed economies (Han *et al.*, 2024; Islam *et al.*, 2022; Pinnington, Benstead, & Meehan, 2023). This implies that it has been the regulatory milestones and not changes in labor prevalence alone that have influenced research attention. These patterns of increase in concentrations of publications after legislative interventions illustrate the sensitivity of the field to reforms in governance, with a focus on the regulatory-motivated research path and not vulnerability-driven research.

According to Figure 3, the trend in research publications (2010–2024) shows steady growth, peaking at 73 in 2022. Initial slow growth accelerated post-2016, reaching 40+ annual publications. This is followed by a decrease until 2022, when it will be at 51. The dataset indicates the growing academic focus and research output has been fluctuating at times as time progressed. The distribution patterns suggest that anti-modern slavery measures have evolved in response to regulatory compliance rather than shifts in labor prevalence alone. Research attention appears driven by governance reforms and disclosure mandates, indicating a regulation-centric trajectory in the development of the field.

Table 2. Main information about data

Description	Results
<i>Main information about data</i>	
Timespan	2010:2024
Sources (Journals, Books, etc)	399
Documents	539
Annual Growth Rate %	13.19
Document Average Age	5.95
Average citations per doc	13.58
References	25,803
<i>Document contents</i>	
Keywords Plus (ID)	2,032
Author's Keywords (DE)	1,483
<i>Authors</i>	
Authors	1,424
Authors of single-authored docs	135
<i>Authors collaboration</i>	
Single-authored docs	144
Co-Authors per Doc	2.96
International co-authorships %	26.16
<i>Document types</i>	
Article	393
Others (Book, Book Chapters, Conference Papers, Conference Review, Editorial, Letter, Notes, Review, Short Survey)	146
Source(s): Scopus	

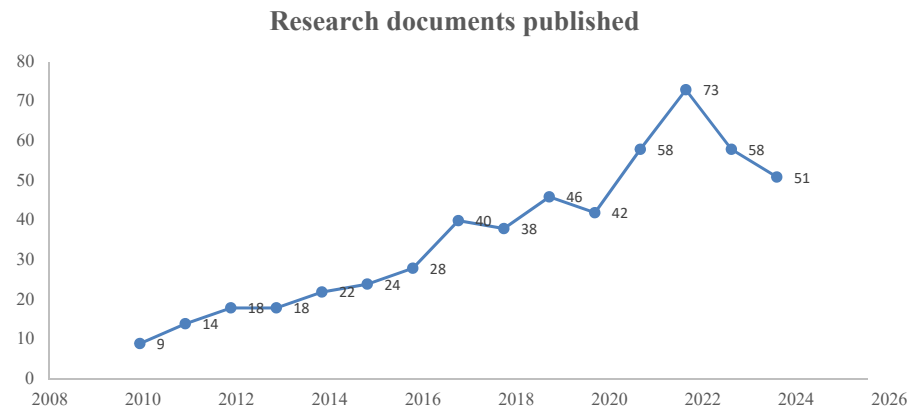


Figure 3. Research documents published (2010–2024)

The analysis shows that the number of publications has typically increased, especially since the year 2016, the period when major regulatory frameworks were introduced. This implies that the focus of scholarly attention is led by governance reforms rather than by changes in labor prevalence, suggesting that the field evolved regulation-centrally.

The analysis of sources as indicated in Table 3 depicts that articles are distributed differently among the different journals, with PLOS ONE having 10 articles, then Sustainability (Switzerland) with 9 articles. Each of the *Journal of Cleaner Production* and

Table 3. Most relevant

Sources	Articles
<i>Plos One</i>	10
<i>Sustainability (Switzerland)</i>	9
<i>Journal of Cleaner Production</i>	8
<i>Journal of Human Trafficking</i>	8
<i>Child Abuse and Neglect</i>	7
<i>Critical Perspectives of International Business</i>	6
<i>Journal of Industrial Relations</i>	6
<i>CSR, Sustainability, Ethics, and Governance</i>	5
<i>Journal of Business Ethics</i>	5
<i>Supply Chain Management</i>	5
<i>Business and Human Rights Journal</i>	4
<i>Child Indicators Research</i>	4
<i>Children and Youth Services Review</i>	4
<i>International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment</i>	4
<i>Journal of Interpersonal Violence</i>	4
<i>Transplantation</i>	4
<i>Advances in Environmental Accounting and Management</i>	3
<i>Australian Journal of Human Rights</i>	3
<i>Business Strategy and Development</i>	3

Table 4. Most cited documents

Author	Total citations	Total citation per year
Hollos <i>et al.</i> (2012)	330	28
Gold <i>et al.</i> (2015)	244	27
Kiss <i>et al.</i> (2015)	161	18
Marschke and Vandergeest (2016)	144	18
Stevenson and Cole (2018)	141	24
LeBaron (2014)	130	19
LeBaron and Rühmkorf (2017)	115	16
Trautrimis <i>et al.</i> (2020)	94	24
Stringer and Michailova (2018)	72	12
LeBaron and Ayers (2013)	70	6

Source(s): Scopus

the *Journal of Human Trafficking* makes 8 contributions. The dataset is interdisciplinary, as it encompasses sustainability, ethics, human rights and industrial relations.

Citation analysis helps researchers and scholars identify the most cited papers and authors. Scopus citations are the number of times an article is mentioned in other works across databases (Martín-Martín, Orduna-Malea, Thelwall, & López-Cózar, 2018). Taking Scopus as the source, Table 4 describes the top 10 highly cited papers by Scopus citation in this field. According to Table 4, the highly cited documents highlight influential research in the field, with Hollos, Blome, and Foerstl (2012) leading at 330 citations (28 per year), followed by Gold, Trautrimis, and Trodd (2015) with 244 (27 per year). Recent works, such as Trautrimis, Schleper, Cakir, and Gold (2020) with 94 citations (24 per year), indicate sustained academic impact.

Building on these identified complementarities, the conceptual framework (Figure 4) integrates institutional drivers, firm-level capabilities and structural asymmetries into a unified explanatory model.

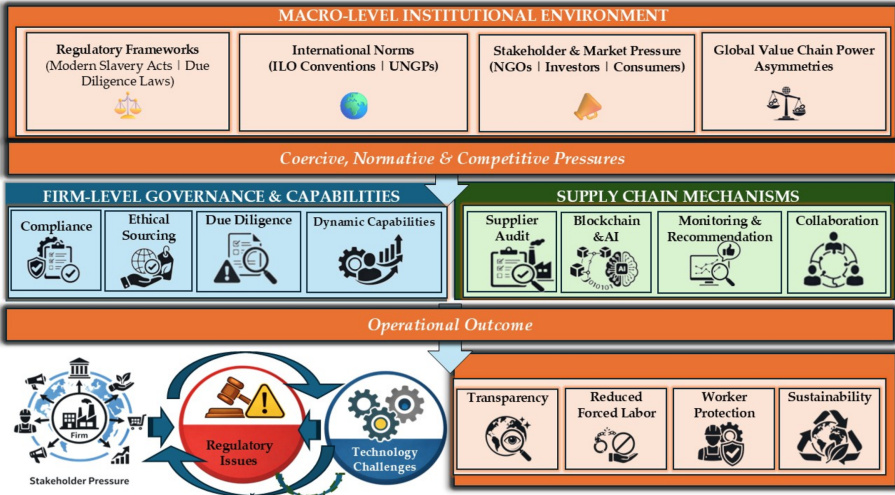


Figure 4. Integrated conceptual framework

As Figure 4 demonstrates, the integrated conceptual framework combines current research into multi-level explanatory model that connects macro-institutional pressures, firm-level governance responses, operational supply chain processes and downstream accountability implications. On the macro level, external forces that influence corporate conduct are exerted through coercive regulatory systems and the existence of international norms, stakeholder activism and the asymmetry of power in the GVC. Based on prominent theories, this layer highlights that the modern slavery risks are entrenched in structural governance ambiguity and asymmetrical networks of trading in global production networks. At the firm level, organizations experience these pressures and react to them based on choices of governance such as compliance orientation, ethical sourcing policies, human rights due diligence and the creation of dynamic capabilities. In line with Stakeholder Theory and the Resource-Based View, the firm-level responses differ according to resource endowments, managerial sensemaking and strategic focus on the legitimacy and cost efficiency. These governance orientations are implemented in the form of supply chain mechanisms such as supplier audits, multi-tier visibility initiatives, collaborative governance platforms and digital traceability technologies (including blockchain and AI). Nevertheless, the framework acknowledges the fact that technology is an act of mediation and not a stand-alone solution because its efficacy relies on the strength of enforcement, cost canopy, as well as the complexity of the supply chain. Lastly, the supply chain outcomes, such as transparency, risk reduction, effectiveness of remediation, protection of workers and long-term sustainability, are affected by these mechanisms. Notably, the model has feedback loops, transparency results increase the pressure of stakeholders, regulatory enforcement elimination improves compliance and technological adoption is limited by barriers to implementation. The framework balances complementary and competing theoretical perspectives and avoids descriptive categorization by stating reasons as to why disclosure-based governance is inadequate and why multi-level alignment is required to mitigate risks of modern slavery in GSCs.

Furthermore, the framework combines macro-level institutional constraints, firm-specific governance role and monitoring systems in the supply chain to interpret differences in the results of modern slavery reduction. Regulatory and institutional factors influence the responses of corporate compliance, but the success of the responses is determined by the capabilities of firms and their technological visibility in multi-tier networks. The

framework proposes that disclosure-based mechanisms are not sufficient unless they are supported by the strength of implementation and functioning capacity. The research gaps in these interconnections presented in the identified future research themes concern especially issues of structural gaps in enforcement asymmetries in the Global South, multi-tier complexity and capability-based remediation strategies.

RQ2. How is our understanding of modern slavery in the GSC advanced within the academic sphere?

In this paper, the TCCM framework is deployed for the review and divided into four parts. The first part highlights the “Theories” that are commonly used. The second part is “Context,” and it highlights the industry and nations studied in the past. The third part is “Characteristics” that highlights the variables or components studied in the past. The fourth section is “Methodology” that highlights the research procedure of the past studies.

Recent influential studies have significantly shaped the modern slavery and supply chain discourse by emphasizing regulatory disclosure, corporate due diligence and transparency mechanisms. However, past research has treated governance primarily through a compliance or reporting lens, often evaluating the presence of disclosure rather than its substantive impact on labor outcomes. Additionally, sector-specific and technology-focused analyses have tended to examine governance instruments in isolation, without fully integrating structural power asymmetries or firm-level capability constraints. By synthesizing these streams through a multi-level theoretical framework, the present review advances existing debates by connecting institutional pressure, firm capabilities and GVC structures into a unified explanatory model. This integrative approach clarifies why transparency mechanisms may coexist with persistent labor vulnerabilities and highlights unresolved tensions within the field.

As depicted in [Table 5](#), the TCCM framework analysis highlights frequent use of theories like GVC and Stakeholder Theory, with gaps in Social Network and Complexity Theories. Research is concentrated on manufacturing and agriculture, neglecting technology and services. Common themes include labor exploitation and compliance, but gender impacts remain understudied. Qualitative approaches are predominant methodologically, with no longitudinal or mixed-method studies. Subsequent studies are advised to combine different theories, investigate unexplored industries and use sophisticated data analysis. Following the research gaps identified, future research could fill in the gaps on little-explored theories such as the Social Network Theory and the Complexity Theory as a way of learning more about the network dynamics and institutional pressure with respect to ethical supply chains and extending the existing CSR frameworks through Ethical Trade Theory and Sustainable Supply Chain Theory.

Contextually, the literature review shows that the manufacturing, agricultural, mining, construction and fashion industries are mostly covered, with the technology, service industries and developed economies being underrepresented in the literature, and the role played by SMEs in ethical trade has not been extensively discussed. Furthermore, Adequate longitudinal and comparison studies would assist in shaping the future policies on regulatory efficacy and gender-specific effects and their consequent psychological effect on the employees. Methodologically, the excessive use of qualitative case studies and corporate self-reported data ought to be counter-balanced using mixed-method methodologies and capitalizing on big data analytics, AI-powered monitoring, third-party auditing and satellite monitoring to make GSCs more transparent and accountable.

2.4.1 Dimension: theories. Refer [Table 6](#), the five most commonly used theories in modern slavery research are Institutional Theory, which looks at how organizations react to outside forces such as laws and norms (12+ studies); Stakeholder Theory, which looks at how businesses, governments and NGOs control the ethical conduct of firms (15+ studies); GVC Theory, which looks at how power influences the supply chain and causes labor exploitation (7+ studies); Critical Theory, which looks at how the system encourages inequalities that perpetuate modern slavery (5+ studies).

Table 5. Organization of selected paper in TCCM Framework

Dimension	Trends	Research gaps	Opportunities for future research
Theory	<i>Common theories used:</i> GVC theory (Stringer & Michailova, 2018; Crane, LeBaron, Allain, & Behbahani, 2019; Hughes <i>et al.</i>, 2023), Social Responsibility Theory (Johansson, 2023), Stakeholder Theory (Burritt & Christ, 2023), Human Rights Theory (Arifin, 2012), Institutional Theory (Flynn, 2020; Flynn & Walker, 2020), Critical political economy Theory (LeBaron & Ayers, 2013), Feminist Theory (Andrijasevic, 2021), Social Reproduction Theory (Gore & LeBaron, 2019), The Polycentric Theory of Change (Hampton, 2019), The relational view (Benstead, Hendry, & Stevenson, 2018), Multiplicity (Rosile, Boje, Herder, & Sanchez, 2021), Feminist Theory (Verlasevic, 2023), Principal agent Theory (Yan & Hyman, 2024), Organizational legitimacy (Boersma, 2019) <i>Emerging theories:</i> Ethical Trade Theory, Sustainable Supply Chain Theory (Bodendorf <i>et al.</i>, 2023)	<i>Underexplored theories:</i> Social Network Theory, Complexity Theory	Apply newer theories related to network dynamics and institutional pressures
Context	<i>Frequently studied contexts:</i> Manufacturing (Caspersz <i>et al.</i>, 2022; Giri & Singh, 2016), agriculture (Scaturro, 2021), mining sector, hotel industry (Bullock, Di Domenico, Miller, Shirgholami, & Wong, 2024), fashion and textile industry (Fan & Lo, 2012; Cole & Shirgholami, 2022; García-Alaminos, Zafrilla, & Monsalve, 2024), Construction industry (Gogl, 2023) in developing countries <i>Shifts in focus:</i> Increasing attention on supply chains in Bangladesh, India (Das, 2022; Gómez-Paredes <i>et al.</i>, 2016), Germany (Gogl, 2023) and Africa	<i>Underrepresented contexts:</i> Technology, service industries, developed countries	Develop integrative models combining ethical trade and sustainability Expand research to include diverse contexts like tech and services
	<i>Shifts in focus:</i> Increasing attention on supply chains in Bangladesh, India (Das, 2022; Gómez-Paredes <i>et al.</i>, 2016), Germany (Gogl, 2023) and Africa	Limited research on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and their supply chains	Conduct studies on SMEs and their role in GSCs

(continued)

Table 5. Continued

Dimension	Trends	Research gaps	Opportunities for future research
Characteristics	<i>Common characteristics/variables:</i> Child labor practices (Afriyie, Saeed, & Alhassan, 2019; Cho, Fang, Tayur, & Xu, 2019; Akram, Hassan, & Shahzad, 2024), human rights violations (Green, 2021), compliance efforts (Hampton, 2019; Islam & Van Staden, 2022), Socio economic factors (Ariyanti, 2016), labor exploitation (Davies & Ollus, 2019; Boersma & Bedford, 2023; Bullock <i>et al.</i> , 2024), occupational health and safety (Fan & Lo, 2012; Das, 2019)	<i>Neglected characteristics/variables:</i> Gender-specific impacts, psychological effects on workers	Investigate gender-specific impacts and psychological effects on victims
Methodology	Consistent findings on the prevalence of forced labor in certain industries	Inconsistent or conflicting findings on the effectiveness of regulations	Address inconsistencies with longitudinal and comparative studies
	<i>Predominant methods:</i> Case studies, surveys, interviews, document analysis <i>Trends in methodological innovation:</i> Increased use of big data and analytics to track supply chains	<i>Methodological weaknesses:</i> Over-reliance on qualitative data, lack of longitudinal studies Overreliance on self-reported data from companies	Introduce mixed-method approaches and longitudinal research Use advanced data analysis techniques and third-party audits

Understanding modern slavery in GSCs requires applying diverse theoretical frameworks, each offering distinct insights. Theories, structured sets of concepts, help explain or predict phenomena by identifying relationships among variables. Prior research categorizes theories based on similarities and applies them across industries and nations. Various methodologies analyze independent, mediating and moderating variables' impacts. Frameworks provide structured evaluations, with the TCCM framework emerging as a common approach. Frequently used theories include Institutional Theory, Global Value Chain Theory, Critical Political Economy, Feminist Theory, Social Reproduction, Principal-Agent Theory, Relational Theory, Organizational Legitimacy, Socially Sustainable Supply Chain Theory and Polycentric Change.

2.4.2 Dimension: context. The context outlines the insights on modern slavery studies conducted in different nations. The overall study of modern slavery is conducted in 51 countries. Based on the analysis using R software, the top 10 countries most cited countries based on total citations and average article citations are shown in Table 7.

The strong presence of research in developed economies, especially the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany and Australia, can be learned by the country-wise citation analysis. This trend is indicative of the regulatory sources of the modern slavery laws that have mostly been created by Western jurisdictions. Nevertheless, the presence of geographic concentration brings up significant questions of Global South representation, especially since empirical estimates suggest that forced labor risks are more prevalent in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The imbalance indicates a research asymmetry in the structure that regulatory discourse and disclosure-based governance in developed economies have received more academic focus

Table 6. Theories applied in modern slavery and supply chain literature

#	Citation	Underpinning theories	Research implications	Policy implications	Key limitations
1	Savill and Hoff (2024)	Human Rights; Conflict; GVC	Reveals how conflict amplifies labor vulnerability and exposes gaps in rights enforcement across supply chains	Strengthen cross-border labor protections and mandatory due diligence in conflict-affected supply chains	Limited insight into cultural variation in norm enforcement
2	Jiang, Chen, Blome, and Jia (2023) and Richards (2022)	Institutional; GVC	Shows how coercive and normative pressures shape digital anti-slavery tools in supply chains	Align digital governance with regulatory and ethical standards	Long-term effectiveness of digital tools remains unclear
3	Han et al. (2024) and Such et al. (2023)	Stakeholder; Technology; Critical	Demonstrates that multi-stakeholder engagement and technology are necessary but insufficient alone	Promote public–private–NGO collaboration with accountability mechanisms	Weak evidence on barriers to stakeholder engagement across regions
4	Stevenson and Cole (2018)	Institutional; Stakeholder; RBV; Social Network	Explains how institutional pressure and firm capabilities jointly shape remediation strategies	Encourage capability-building incentives rather than compliance-only regulation	Limited assessment of remediation outcomes
5	Benstead, Hendry, and Stevenson (2021)	Institutional; Stakeholder; RBV	Highlights audits as institutionally driven but resource-dependent practices	Mandate audit depth and frequency standards	Effectiveness of audits in detecting slavery is underexplored
6	Pinnington and Meehan (2023)	Sensemaking; Paradox; Institutional	Shows managers struggle to interpret slavery signals amid cost–ethics tensions	Develop interpretive guidance and training for supply chain managers	Limited cross-cultural validation
7	Benstead et al. (2018)	Collaboration; Institutional; Critical	Demonstrates horizontal collaboration as a governance mechanism against slavery	Support industry-wide collaborative platforms	Evidence limited to project-based contexts
8	Lotfi and Pisa (2024)	Stakeholder; GVC; Ethical; Systems	Reveals systemic and ethical failures enabling child slavery in projects	Target value-chain leverage points with child-labor-specific interventions	Ethical models lack operational realism
9	Bodendorf et al. (2023)	Social Sustainability; Systems; Theory of Change	Positions slavery eradication as a long-term social sustainability outcome	Embed anti-slavery goals in sustainability metrics	Limited empirical validation of impact pathways

(continued)

Table 6. Continued

#	Citation	Underpinning theories	Research implications	Policy implications	Key limitations
10	Ishaya, Paraskevadakis, Bury, and Bryde (2024)	Complexity; Critical; Stakeholder; GVC	Shows slavery persists due to complex, opaque value chain structures	System-level regulatory coordination needed	Limited guidance on operational leverage points
11	Mora, Malik, and Murray (2024)	Social Determinants of Health; Systems	Links modern slavery directly to health degradation in supply chains	Integrate labor and public health policies	Causal health impacts not fully quantified
12	Pinheiro, Emberson, and Trautrimis (2019)	Institutional; Regulatory; Critical	Reveals gap between formal compliance and substantive change	Shift from disclosure to enforcement-based regulation	Cross-country enforcement variation underexplored
13	Islam <i>et al.</i> (2022)	Justice; Resource Dependency; Ethics	Highlights inequities in due diligence cost distribution	Introduce proportional cost-sharing mechanisms	SME impacts insufficiently examined
14	Yu, Wong, Jacobs, and Chavez (2025)	Gender; Feminist; Institutional; GVC	Shows gender inequality intersects with modern slavery risk	Embed gender-responsive supply chain policies	Limited intersectional empirical evidence
15	Koekkoek, Marx, and Wouters (2017)	Institutional; Social Contract	Demonstrates limits of transparency laws without enforcement	Reinforce legal accountability beyond disclosure	Long-term impacts remain uncertain
16	McLaren, Salampasis, Busulwa, Baldegger, and Wild (2024) and Jamali, Lund-Thomsen, and Khara (2017)	Ethics; CSR; Systems	Positions healthcare supply chains as overlooked trafficking sites	Mandate ethical sourcing in healthcare procurement	Context-specific to healthcare sector
17	Ahmad, Haque, and Islam (2024)	World-Systems; Critical; Institutional	Shows global power asymmetries shape disclosure quality	Harmonize disclosure standards across economies	Limited firm-level behavioral insight
18	Brandão, Rausch, Munger, Naughton-Treves, and Gibbs (2024)	Supply Chain Transparency; GVC	Links deforestation governance to slave labor persistence	Strengthen traceability and public-private monitoring	Sector-specific (Brazilian cattle)
19	Flynn and Walker (2021)	Institutional	Identifies reliance on reputational pressure under Modern Slavery Acts	Expand enforcement beyond high-visibility firms	Focus limited to FTSE companies
20	Crane <i>et al.</i> (2019)	Global Value Chain	Reveals governance gaps enabling forced labor in developed economies	Shift from audit-centric to enforcement-based governance	Narrow focus on forced labor only

Table 7. Country-wise publication

Most cited countries	Total citation	Average article citations
United Kingdom	1,671	30.40
USA	587	8.40
Germany	505	42.10
Australia	348	12.90
Canada	197	49.20
Denmark	197	65.70
Finland	188	37.60
Lebanon	186	37.20
New Zealand	184	30.70
Jordan	172	57.30
Source(s): Scopus		

than informal labor relations and enforcement issues in developing territories. This unbalanced state of affairs needs to be elaborated further through contextually sensitive empirical studies based on the Global South supply chain context.

The dominance of the United Kingdom reflects the catalytic role of the UK Modern Slavery Act (2015), which institutionalized supply chain transparency and stimulated academic inquiry. Legislative innovation appears to have shaped research intensity, positioning the UK as a focal jurisdiction for governance-oriented scholarship.

Table 7 describes the studies conducted in different nations. The most cited nations are United Kingdom and the USA, followed by Germany, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Lebanon, New Zealand and Jordan. The study is also frequently conducted in different industries: Manufacturing (Caspersz *et al.*, 2022; Giri & Singh, 2016), Agriculture (Scaturro, 2021), Mining sector (Cole & Shirgholami, 2022; García-Alaminos *et al.*, 2024), Hotel industry (Bullock *et al.*, 2024), Fashion and textile industry (Fan & Lo, 2012) and Construction industry (Gogl, 2023). All the studies conducted in different nations are vital for identifying gaps for further research.

2.4.3 Dimension: characteristics. This part of the article outlines the components studied in several past research. The components are defined in the form of independent, mediating, moderating and the outcome (dependent variable) that influence modern slavery in GSC. The different variable studied in the past studies that pertains modern slavery are as follows child labor practices (Afriyie *et al.*, 2019; Cho *et al.*, 2019; Akram *et al.*, 2024), human rights violations (Green, 2021), compliance efforts (Hampton, 2019; Islam & Van Staden, 2022), Socio economic factors (Ariyanti, 2016), labor exploitation (Davies & Ollus, 2019; Boersma & Bedford, 2023; Bullock *et al.*, 2024) and occupational health and safety (Fan & Lo, 2012; Das, 2019).

2.4.4 Dimension: methodology. The analysis of the selected 275 publications to understand the approaches and methods adopted for investigating the relations are presented in the table. Out of the total, 136 studies are of qualitative nature, 94 studies were of quantitative nature and 45 studies used mixed methods, as shown in Table 8.

To enhance analytical rigor, the coding process followed a structured protocol aligned with the TCCM framework. Each article was systematically coded across the dimensions of Theory, Context, Characteristics and Methodology. The coding was conducted iteratively, with multiple rounds of review to ensure consistency and accuracy. Although a single-coder approach was adopted, internal validation was performed through repeated coding cycles and cross-checking of classifications to minimize subjectivity.

Table 8. Methodology identified

Research approach	Number of studies
Qualitative	136
Quantitative	94
Mixed methods	45
	275

2.4.5 Inclusion and exclusion criteria. To achieve conceptual order and analytical rigor, explicit inclusion and exclusion criteria were used. Peer-reviewed journal articles published in English between 2010 and 2024 were included in the review. The year 2010 was chosen to reflect scholarship since it has developed since the spread of global supply chain transparency programs and initial disclosure statutes. To make sure of academic quality and methodological soundness, peer-reviewed journal articles were prioritized. The review did not include books, book chapters, conference proceedings and editorials, as well as short surveys and non-English publications. These document types were not included to ensure that there is consistency in methodological rigor and comparability of studies. Although this omission reduces the geographic variety, the omission of non-English sources was to guarantee consistency in interpretation and reliability in coding. These criteria were formulated to accompany the aim of the study, which is to offer a systematic, theory-combined synthesis of contemporary slavery studies in the framework of supply chain management research.

RQ3. What are the prospective research avenues for exploring modern slavery in global supply in the future?

SLR is a systematic procedure to identify, select and investigate relevant research problems (Kumar & Rani, 2025). Whereas Bibliometric analysis involved analysis of the overall impact of a field, group of academics or an individual work (Kumar, 2025).

Table 2 discussed 384 documents acquired from the initial search, out of which 275 documents were finalized after removal of non-English documents. For this review, the TCCM framework (Bhardwaj & Kalro, 2024) is deployed to explain consumer behavior and supply chain dynamics. Theories commonly applied with support of evidence include Global Value Chain Theory, Social Responsibility Theory, Stakeholder Theory, Human Rights Theory, Institutional Theory, Critical Political Economy Theory, Feminist Theory, Social Reproduction Theory, Polycentric Theory of Change, Principal-Agent Theory, Organizational Legitimacy, and recent ones, namely Ethical Trade Theory and Sustainable Supply Chain Theory. However, past research has mainly been conducted in manufacturing, agriculture, mineral mining, hospitality, fashion, textiles and construction industries, with a special focus on developing countries (Bangladesh, India and Africa) as well as Germany. Child labor practices, human rights violations, labor exploitation, occupational health and safety and compliance efforts are examined as important characteristics related to ethical and legal concerns in the supply chain. In methodological terms, studies have used case studies, surveys, document analysis, etc., with increased reliance on big data and analytics to increase supply chain transparency and accountability. TCCM framework was developed based on thematic analysis for the purposes of further research directions. As shown in Figure 5, the thematic analysis is broadly categorized into 7 themes, whereas Table 9 summarizes the developed propositions.

Future studies can be planned based on seven thematic areas that appear in the integrative framework to facilitate the presentation of a coherent and structured research agenda. The Sectoral Effects of Modern Slavery need to be analyzed further in comparison to high-risk sectors of agriculture, textiles, mining, construction and domestic work, with a special

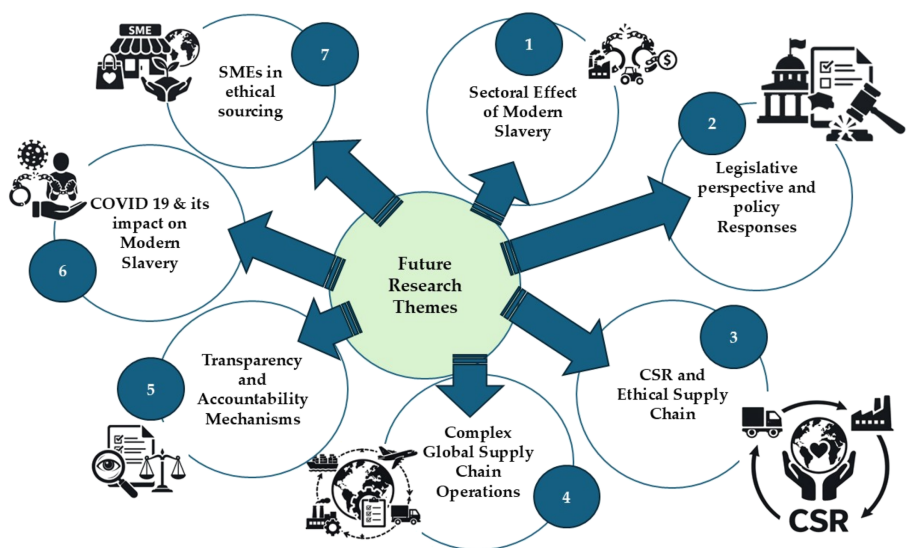


Figure 5. Future research themes. Source: Authors

Table 9. Themes identified for future research

Themes	Description
Sectoral effect of Modern Slavery	At present, there are 49.7 million affected globally, 86% are within the private sector. Some of the high-risk sectors embrace; agriculture, construction, factory and production, cleaning services such as housemaids and mining
Legislative perspective and Policy Responses	The enforcement of Modern Slavery Acts passed by governments in the UK, Australia and the US has proved ineffective, which results in formal compliance without actual progress
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Ethical Supply Chains	Employers are mandated to adhere to labor practice and again most of the CSR projects are not enforced thus promoting unscrupulous actions
Complex Global Supply Chain Operations	High modularity or complex hierarchy of supply chains makes it difficult to track the forced labor. Outsourcing and subcontracting help cover the underlying problems and let exploitation to happen
Transparency and Accountability Mechanisms	Today, there is a certain amount of pressure on businesses to get supplier audits, certifications and even blockchain tracking. But the audits are frequently misleading, which reduces their reliability
COVID-19 and Its Impact on Modern Slavery	COVID deepened the exploitation of the labor force with the disruption of supply chain and heightened susceptibility of the workers but also brought awareness to ethical sourcing
Role of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Ethical Sourcing	Small and medium enterprises are usually excluded from such studies; however, they also struggle to address the problem because of the lack of resources
Source(s): Authors	

emphasis on industry-specific vulnerabilities to labor and enforcement asymmetries. Second, Legislative Perspectives and Policy Responses should be looked at cross-national effectiveness of regulation, enforcement capability, mechanisms of liability and the move

towards disclosure-based compliance to a substantive model of remediation. Third, studies on CSR and Ethical Supply Chains must critically examine the shortcomings of voluntary corporate governance systems and discuss the way ethical sourcing activity can be converted into quantifiable labor results. Fourth, the increasing complexity of Global Supply Chain Operations, especially multi-tier subcontracting, informal labor markets and power asymmetries in global value chains, suggests the need for an empirical study of structural opacity and monitoring problems. Fifth, Digital Traceability Tools, blockchain and artificial intelligence and Data-driven auditing systems are Transparency and Accountability Mechanisms that need to be evaluated in terms of scalability, cost implications and effectiveness in the real world. Sixth, the long-term effects of COVID-19 and Systemic Disruptions emphasize the necessity to study the role of economic shocks, making labor more vulnerable, especially to migrant and gig employees. Lastly, SME Engagement in Ethical Sourcing is an area that has not been fully explored, particularly in the context of ability constraint, collaborative governance systems and even resource-sharing agreements that allow small companies to meet expected standards of due diligence. Together, these areas of concern represent serious structural gaps within the literature and present an interdisciplinarity-informed guide on how to develop successful research on contemporary slavery in the global supply chain. The identified themes are as.

3. Sectoral effect of modern slavery

Modern slavery is a cross-cutting issue, which continues to be prevalent in Agricultural and Forestry domain as most workers have been subjected to forced labor and children are hired informally during the peak seasons. In industries such as garment, electronics and automobile industries, there is a lot of exploitation like forcing workers to work overtime and withholding their wages because of concerns about supply chain systems. Construction is usually a sector that relies on migrant workers, who may be trafficked or subject to forced labor because of paid debts. Mining and extractive industries have poor governing policies that make workers endure various unsafe working conditions, including slave labor. Combating modern slavery thus needs policies such as strong labor laws, supply chain, labor rights and responsible consumerism to ensure that exploitation in various industries is contained. As demonstrated in the SLR, it permeates across several sectors and in dissimilar manners and extents consistently. Similarly, the research studies including [LeBaron, Lister, and Dauvergne \(2017\)](#) state that seasons and informal labor markets strain foster forced labor and child exploitation. Writing about manufacturing and global supply chains, [Crane et al. \(2019\)](#) highlighted that even the largest multinational firms face challenges in avoiding wage withholding and forced overtime due to outsourcing. Literature on construction and infrastructure ([ILO et al., 2019, 2018, 2022](#)) points to deceptive recruitment and debt bondage, particularly among migrant laborers in large-scale projects. Hospitality and domestic work literature ([Lewis, Dwyer, Hodkinson, & Waite, 2015](#)) shows that domestic employees experience isolation, non-payment of wages or being locked up. The mining and extractive industries ([Kara & Kara, 2023](#)) are, however, well documented as amongst those industries that force and compound employees into accepting forced labor hazardous working conditions because of laxity in regulation. Similarly, other papers on fisheries and maritime work ([Edmonds, 2022](#)) analyzes forced labor and human trafficking on the distant fishery vessels where surveillance is weak. The literature therefore urges policy improvement, clarity of supply chains, protection policies concerning the workers and ethical consumption as possible interventions. Such studies support the theme that has been developed to emphasize slavery in present-day society, continuing to affect various economic segments, and to get rid of this phenomenon, efforts from all stakeholders are necessary.

Research Propositions on the Sectoral Effect of Modern Slavery.

- P1. Modern slavery exists and is present to different extents in different sectors due to aspects of regulation, supply chain complexity, as well as the labor market structure.

Previous literature, including [LeBaron et al. \(2017\)](#) and [Crane et al. \(2019\)](#), reveals that a higher rate of forced labor is observed in sectors with complex supply chains such as manufacturing and agriculture industries, and industries that do not offer strong protection to vulnerable workers such as domestic workers and the fishery industries. In this regard, it is the purpose of this proposition to comparatively examine the sectors to attempt to identify such structural weaknesses linked to modern slavery.

-
- P2. Increasing supply chain transparency and implementing corporate responsibility measures presents a much higher effect on eradicating modern slavery in leading industries involving manufacturing, in contrast to other sectors such as agriculture and domestic work.

Justification: Previous studies ([Tickler et al., 2018](#)) show that the regulatory initiatives and the due diligence activities have been more successful in the formal sectors as compared to the informal employment sectors, where there is less regulation. This proposition focuses on what has been done and could be done in terms of regulatory and corporate governance in addressing modern slavery in various industries.

4. Legislative perspective and policy responses

Legal and policy measures concerning modern slavery also differ across countries, which are based on the international standards, including ILO Forced Labor Convention, Palermo Protocol, as well as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The UK, Australia and France have already passed Modern Slavery and Due Diligence acts that make companies responsible for the laws, while the USA and Canada have banned products related to forced labor in trade. Understanding this EU proposal requires explaining the concept of Mandatory human rights due diligence (mHRDD) and the context in which Germany's Supply Chain Due Diligence Act operates. Nevertheless, there have been major challenges in the enforcement of the laws, mainly due to issues of jurisdiction, poor governance and lack of complied corporate sector. The measures in response to policies that have come up are centered on making the supply chain more transparent, increasing penalties and the use of technology in the monitoring of labor. Further, it stresses the importance of future policies based on international cooperation, ethical incentives and cooperation of sectors to guarantee the regulation enforcement and the corporate responsibility level.

[Crane et al. \(2019\)](#) and [LeBaron and Rühmkorf \(2019\)](#) on corporate accountability legislation cover the ways the UK Modern Slavery Act (2015) and the French Duty of Vigilance Law (2017) might require corporations to disclose human rights risks while the trade restrictions such as the US Tariff Act (1930) and [Karp \(2023\)](#) reveal that attempts to ban forced labor on certain products affects the continuation of the vices. The literature elaborates on the issues of enforcement ([Landman, 2020](#)) as one of the major concerns due to such factors as limited jurisdictions, governance failures, as well as nonadherence to policy as key contributory factors. [Smit, Holly, McCorquodale, and Neely \(2021\)](#) have provided evidence for mHRDD, with Germany's Supply Chain Act (2021) that emerged as the call for stringent liability measures. Research emphasizes advanced technology in terms of monitoring workers ([Athreya, 2020](#)) and for cross-sectoral coordination ([Martins Junior et al., 2022](#)) to make the regulation effective. Hence, from this study, the thesis to be supported is that while modern slavery legislative and policy-type interventions are developing, they remain weak in implementation, supply chain reforms and require better enforcement and international cooperation.

Research Propositions on Legislative Perspective and Policy Responses to Modern Slavery.

- P1. The strength of enforcement mechanism determines the effective implementation of the modern slavery legislation.

Justification: As discussed in the literature, [LeBaron \(2014\)](#), [LeBaron and Ayers \(2013\)](#), [LeBaron and Rühmkorf \(2017\)](#) and [Landman \(2020\)](#), it has been seen that though most nations have passed anti-slavery laws, the implementation is still a big issue due to a lack of jurisdiction as well as non-compliance with the laws. This proposition aims at comparing the theory and the real world by studying enforcement, corporation's behaviors and labor rights after regulation from different jurisdictions.

5. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) and ethical Supply chains in combating modern slavery

CSR and ethical supply Chains play a vital role in fighting against modern slavery because they make organizations adopt good employment practices and make themselves accountable to their customers. However, studies show that these CSR practices lead to the adoption of responsible labor standards and ethical sourcing practices ([Lund-Thomsen & Nadvi, 2010](#)). In contrast, the past research also shows that such attempts have failed to curb forced labor, debt-bonded labor and exploitative working conditions in the context of GSC activities. The key reasons are compliance leniency and complexity due to multi-tiered supply chains. The continued prominence of CSR-based governance mechanisms suggests that reputational legitimacy pressures sustain disclosure practices even when remediation outcomes remain uncertain. Compliance-driven transparency appears institutionally embedded, reinforcing reporting norms despite limited evidence of structural labor improvement.

- P1. Voluntary Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts do not work as well on modern slavery prevention as legally enforceable ethical supply chain policies.

Justification: CSR initiatives are mostly voluntary undertakings that are motivated by reputational concerns rather than legal requirements. The objective of these initiatives is to encourage ethical business practices, they often lack adequate compliance measures that are required to deal with modern slavery. On the other hand, prescriptive rules, which are legal in nature, like the recent German law Supply Chain Due Diligence Act have lesser dependence on reliance on certification due to more stringent accountability, resulting in the absence of forced labor in supply chains.

- P2. Supply chain transparency and traceability technologies significantly enhance corporate accountability in ethical sourcing and help mitigate modern slavery risks.

Justification: Based on the concept of ethical supply chain, [Mezzadri and Majumder \(2022\)](#) have proved that new solutions such as the use of blockchain technology, AI-based supplier tracking and digital traceability tools make it possible to have improved tracking of operations and realize the exploitation practices within the supply chain. Detection of hidden modern slavery during supplier audits as well as third-party verifications reduces the risk of such problems, and thus, it can be implied that the application of advanced technologies for information transparency is a decisive factor for enhanced corporate responsibility and compliance with ethical standards in supply networks.

6. Complex global Supply chain operations

Global supply chain systems are unilateral and include several interrelated networks in different countries. Hence, they are vulnerable to logistic problems, legal restraints and ethical issues such as the modern slavery risks. Industries including manufacturing, agriculture and technology subcontract heavily, relying on low-cost labor markets where poor regulation results in situations such as forced labor, negative impacts on the environment and delivery shock. Literature review shows that the supply chain is a significant source of uncertainty that hinders the timely identification of supply chain and corporate risks associated with unethical procurement and geopolitical risks. With technological advancements that offer a plethora of

opportunities for automation of operations and more efficiency through big data decisions, firms will still struggle in the approach to ethical supply chain management. Earthly progression must investigate the implementation of stronger legal structures, involvement of all the actors in the supply chain and establishment of digitalization of supply chains to have higher visibility, management and reduction of risks affecting the global flow of products. From the previous literature on globalization of operations, complexity and the dynamics in supply chain operation put into contention, parameters such as transparency, compliance and ethical accountability in a multi-tiered supply chain. As it is identified in the literature of supply chain management (Gereffi and Lee, 2012; Christopher, 2022), the risk of supplier oversight is one of the critical issues in the supply chain, which originates in the gaps in organization, integration and centralization in supply chain networks and geographic dispersion of suppliers and production. Musa (2012) and Sodhi, Tang, and Willenson (2023) have shown in their study on supply chain risk management that extended supply chain embeddedness can be threatening geopolitical risks, regulation disparities, labor standards abuse, mainly in industries depending on cheap labor. Consequently, the effect of digitization is argued to address these challenges as numerous studies in the area of blockchain, artificial intelligence and analytics indicate how better supply chain transparency and ethics are achieved (Saber, Kouhizadeh, Sarkis, & Shen, 2019; Bai and Sarkis, 2020). But the study also reveals that there are quite a few barriers to implementation, which include expensive, data privacy and inconsistent enforcement of the law (Kshetri, 2025). The literature altogether confirms the general theme that while technological advancement and governmental and regulatory reforms in a number of ways improve the functioning of the supply chain at a global level, more stringent legal compliance and regulatory measures, unified structures for compliance and improvement of disclosures, and more encouraging co-operation from industries can be a way forward to make the supply chain efficient and sustainable.

Research Propositions on Complex Global Supply Chain Operations.

- P1. Global multi-tiered Supply Chains involve subcontracting companies that significantly increase the risk of ethical breaches, specifically, instances of modern slavery; at the same time, the long supply chains result in decreased visibility of the operations.

Justification: As suggested by Gereffi and Lee (2016) and Tang and Musa (2011), the longer the supply chain becomes and the more dispersed it is, the more challenging it becomes to monitor and manage it, thus putting into practice vices such as forced labor and environmental pollution, besides contracting out secretly.

- P2. Digital technologies integration increases supply chain visibility and decreases the inefficiencies of global supply chains that are highly complex.

Justification: Saber *et al.* (2019) and Bai and Sarkis (2020) assume that the application of technologies like blockchain, artificial intelligence and predictive analytics optimize supply chain such as visibility, traceability and compliance. This proposal indicates that the said technologies are important in increasing the degree of transparency, alleviating ethical misfortunes like modern slavery and managing the issues surrounding the global supply chain.

7. Mechanisms of transparency and accountability

Enforcement of transparency and accountability prevents modern slavery in the global supply chains because the labor practices must be visible and companies must be accountable for the efficient sourcing of its products. Due to the growing complexity and multi-tiered nature of supply chains, transparency is difficult to achieve, yet strategies, such as supplier audit, certification and traceability solutions such as blockchain and AI-driven monitoring, can help increase the visibility of labor conditions. Even after the introduction of these tools, modern slavery remains active in the agricultural sector, textile and mining sectors, where cheap labor

is usually available. Voluntary programs such as Fair-Trade Certification have not been effective as a result of greenwashing, laxity and lack of third-party verification. Studies reveal that compulsory laws, including the *German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act* (CSR, 2025) and the Duty of Vigilance Law (2017) in France, are stronger in accountability by asking companies to respond to the harm of human rights in their supply chains (Reinsberg & Steiwert, 2025). But they are hampered by such problems as regulatory inconsistencies, supplier pressures on costs and jurisdictional constraints. To make these mechanisms more efficient in eliminating modern slavery, there is a severe need to strengthen legal enforcement, supply chain accountability and technological solutions to gain real-time control and keep corporations accountable towards labor rights.

The research theme of transparency and accountability mechanisms in solving modern slavery in GSCs has a solid evidence base to support the theme. The supply chain management studied (LeBaron and Rühmkorf, 2019) emphasizes that greater transparency is also essential to mitigating the exploitative labor practices, such as modern slavery, by enhancing visibility of the labor conditions on both ends of the supply chain. The application of blockchain and AI-based monitoring to traceability technologies in ethical sourcing and supply chains (Bai & Sarkis, 2020; Mezzadri & Majumder, 2022) makes the difference in stimulating real-time information and accountability. Nevertheless, regardless of these developments, researchers state that such voluntary standards as Fair Trade Certification and supplier audits do not always work because of greenwashing, inconsistency and the absence of third-party checks (Crane et al., 2019). Moreover, the sources reveal that in spite of the positive effects of the mandatory regulations, such as the German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act (2021) and the Duty of Vigilance Law (2017) of France, combined with the gaps in the regulations and the pressure exerted by suppliers on the companies due to the cost factor, the laws have not been fully effective. This literature supports the theme since different transparency and accountability practices are available, but their ability to eradicate modern slavery remains limited to the tightening of regulations and technological advances that could be used to improve on real-time monitoring and responsibility in supply chains across the globe.

Research Propositions on Transparency and Accountability Mechanisms in Addressing Modern Slavery.

- P1. The introduction of mandatory transparency and accountability frameworks like blockchain and AI-based traceability tools has a substantial positive effect on corporate accountability and the incidence of contemporary slavery in the global supply chain.

Rationale: According to the studies on supply chain transparency (Bai & Sarkis, 2020; Mezzadri & Majumder, 2022), digital technologies, such as blockchain and artificial intelligence, can provide a more transparent view of labor conditions throughout the supply chain, which allows one to identify and avoid exploitative behavior more easily. These technologies can make real-time monitoring and verification possible, making companies responsible towards the violation of the labor rights. This proposal investigates how these new sophisticated technologies can be used to enhance supply chain responsibility and curb modern slavery.

- P2. Voluntary corporate transparency initiatives are less effective in preventing modern slavery than legally binding regulations that mandate corporate responsibility for labor practices throughout the supply chain.

Rationale: It is argued in the literature on CSR and ethical sourcing (LeBaron et al., 2017; Crane et al., 2019) that voluntary transparent activities such as supplier audits and certifications may aid in reinforcing ethical behavior, but they do not usually have strict enforcement mechanisms, which is why they cannot do everything to stop modern slavery. Stricter rules, like the German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act (2021), are more useful in

8. COVID-19 and its impact on modern slavery

Modern slavery risks have also been highly accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, as it has heightened vulnerabilities in the global labor markets, especially in the high-risk sectors in the agricultural, manufacturing, domestic and construction sectors. Layoffs, supply chain failures and economic disruptions through lockdowns are leaving millions of workers vulnerable to exploitation with a resultant increase in forced labor, debt bondage and unsafe working environments. The crisis has augmented existing vulnerabilities, particularly migrant workers and those in the informal economy, who in most cases experience feeble legal security and mobility. Also, the pandemic has shown the loopholes in the corporate social responsibility initiatives, as most companies have not been able to sustain ethical labor practices during the global turmoil. Although there have been attempts to track labor conditions remotely, including the use of AI and data analytics, the pandemic has highlighted the necessity to enforce more, have a supply chain that is more traceable and collaborate more closely across international borders to fight modern slavery and create more resilient and ethical labor frameworks capable of withstanding future emergencies. Existing literature is a strong support of the theme of COVID-19 and its effect on modern slavery, as it emphasizes the fact that the pandemic has intensified the vulnerability of workers in the global supply chains and increased the risks of forced labor and exploitation. The studies show that the economic impacts of COVID-19, such as loss of jobs, decreased economic activity and disrupted supply chains, have also increased the risk of modern slavery, especially in high-risk sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing and domestic work (LeBaron, 2014). Research indicates that the shutdown of businesses and the frailty of labor legislation at the time of the pandemic provided traffickers with an opportunity to take advantage of workers in the informal sector, as well as among migrant workers. The literature also discloses that diminished corporate social responsibility initiatives coupled with the decrease in the supply chain visibility rendered moral working practices challenging for businesses (Boyd *et al.*, 2007; Antonini *et al.*, 2020). What has also been mentioned in research is the emergence of new types of exploitation, including digital surveillance and remote employment, in areas such as domestic work and gig economies. Altogether, the literature body serves the theme by demonstrating the way in which the COVID-19 pandemic propagated the risks of modern slavery and the necessity to develop more effective regulations, enforcement and international cooperation to secure the worker population, especially during the crisis.

COVID-19 and the effects on modern slavery research propositions

- P1. The COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to the growth of cases of modern slavery by intensifying the vulnerability of global supply chains, especially in high-risk sectors like agriculture, construction and domestic work.

Justification: It has been found that the pandemic has exposed workers to being more vulnerable to exploitation due to the economic disruptions it has caused, such as job losses, supply chain dysfunction and laxity in executing labor laws. Due to the shutdowns and lack of movement during the pandemic, traffickers obtained new opportunities to exploit the workers in an industry where the labor conditions are already approaching precarity. This is a proposal to explore the ways the pandemic increased the exposure of vulnerable sectors to forced labor, debt bondage and human trafficking.

- P2. The shift to remote work and the increasing reliance on digital surveillance during the COVID-19 pandemic have led to new forms of exploitation, particularly in the gig economy and domestic labor.

Justification: According to the literature, the pandemic hastened the implementation of remote work and digital surveillance, which resulted in new types of labor exploitation, particularly those against workers in the gig economy and domestic workers. Remote work is also likely to have exposed workers to more risks of digital monitoring and workplace exploitation with no control in place. This suggestion examines how remote and digital labor practices have contributed to the development of new vulnerabilities and modern slavery.

Research Propositions on the Role of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Ethical Sourcing.

- P1. SMEs that engage in ethical sourcing practices enjoy a better brand image, consumer retention and competitiveness in the market, although they have limited resources.

Justification: According to the literature, the ability of SMEs to incorporate ethical sourcing in their operations provides chances to diversify in the marketplace, attaining consumer confidence and trust, which results in a long-term competitive advantage. Although SMEs have limited resources and expertise, they have a chance to build personal relations with suppliers and react to consumer demands of sustainable products that might improve their market performance and brand image. In this suggestion, the researcher examines the role that SMEs can use ethical sourcing as a strategic advantage.

- P2. The introduction of collaborative networks and SMEs training programs on ethical sourcing processes can help in a significant increase in the capacity of the SMEs to adopt and maintain ethical sourcing practices despite the financial and technical barriers.

Justification: SMEs face the negative challenge of being not only very expensive and overly complicated to engage in ethical sourcing, but also, in collaborative networks, industry partnerships and training opportunities, may receive much-needed assistance. Through resource pooling and sharing of best practices, SMEs could minimize the impediments to ethical sourcing and enhance transparency as well as offer better labor and environmental practices within their supply chain. The given proposition is going to explore how external support mechanisms could be utilized to facilitate the adoption of ethical sourcing practices by SMEs.

9. Research implications

The practical and research implications are derived from the structural patterns identified in the review. The modern slavery research has valuable implications for policymakers, businesses and civil society, and it is important that legislative enforcement, corporate responsibility and technological advancement be enhanced to help in fighting forced labor in high-risk industries such as the agricultural, manufacturing and construction industries. Policymakers have to strengthen anti-slavery legislation and include tougher penalties and international cooperation to seal the gaps in regulations and companies should go beyond voluntary CSR, establish binding policies on ethical sourcing, use blockchain and AI to track the supply chain and auditing subcontractors. Interventions specific to the sector, including controlling migrant labor in the construction industry, prohibiting child labor in agriculture and expanding the benefits of gig workers, are essential, as well as recovery actions in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic to deal with wage theft and hazardous work. It can be further reduced by using technological tools, such as digital traceability and whistleblower protection and can be changed by corporate demand by ethical products. The next-generation study would focus on the comparison of global legislation strategies, the evaluation of the influence of new technologies and the study of the long-term effects of the pandemic on labor exploitation. Finally, modern slavery must be eliminated through systematic measures: through effective enforcement, cooperation among multiple actors and a desire to maintain transparency throughout the global supply chains.

The implications outlined below are grounded in the structural patterns and theoretical tensions identified through the review. Rather than offering generic recommendations, these implications reflect evidence-based gaps in governance effectiveness, enforcement asymmetry and capability constraints across global supply chains.

9.1 Future research directions

The study highlights the need for context-specific empirical studies examining institutional capacity and labor enforcement dynamics in Global South supply chains. Based on the integrative framework that had been formulated in the present study, the future research directions appear based on several structural gaps that have been observed at institutional, organizational and supply chain levels. On the institutional level, considerable enforcement gaps exist amid increasing modern slavery laws, which seem to suggest the requirement of cross-national comparative analysis regarding differences in regulatory design, enforcement capabilities, liability regimes and the efficacy of the sanction to gain a better insight into the extent to which institutional power influences corporate behavior and labor performance. On an organizational level, the literature shows that there is a conflict between compliance-based governance and ability-based remediation, meaning that firm-level research on how dynamic capabilities, resource allocation, internal governance structures and collaborative processes can help companies transition beyond symbolic CSR in a way that would substantially reduce labor risk. Multi-tier visibility at the supply chain level is still minimal, especially in subcontracted and informal networks of labor, underlining the need to conduct empirical research on digital traceability systems, blockchain and AI-based monitoring technology and data-sharing infrastructure, paying close attention to scalability, cost and unintended consequences. Lastly, the current imbalance in the context of literature, which is mainly developed economies, dictates the need to focus the empirical research in Global South areas and comparative research that empirically scrutinizes the role of institutional frailty, informality of labor markets and socio-economic realities in shaping contemporary slavery suppression practices. Together, these gaps, based on the framework, would facilitate integration and the practical efficacy of the global chain governance. Future research would focus on location-specific research in places where informal labor markets are very high and the application of the law is poor. Comparative studies of the institutional capacity difference or difference in the strength of enforcement and supply chain governance systems between developed and developing economies would be very useful in theoretical and policy understanding.

10. Discussion

This study systematically addresses all three research questions through an integrated analytical approach. [RQ1](#), which examines the structural characteristics and thematic evolution of modern slavery research in global supply chains, is addressed through bibliometric mapping and TCCM-based categorization, revealing publication trends, dominant theoretical lenses, geographic concentration and methodological patterns. [RQ2](#), which explores how scholarly understanding has advanced over time, is addressed through critical synthesis of institutional, stakeholder, capability-based and structural perspectives, culminating in the identification of complementarities and tensions across theoretical lenses. Finally, [RQ3](#) is addressed through the development of a structured and theoretically grounded future research agenda organized around governance, technological mechanisms, multi-tier complexity, sectoral vulnerabilities, Global South representation and SME engagement. Together, these components ensure that the manuscript moves from descriptive mapping to integrative synthesis and forward-looking conceptual advancement.

11. Conclusion and research limitations

11.1 Conclusion

By taking a step beyond descriptive mapping, this review contributes to the current body of literature on modern slavery and supply chain by synthesizing the governance, capability and structural power relations along with their integrated theoretical foundation. The multi-level explanatory framework created by integrating the perspectives of Institutional Theory, Stakeholder Theory, Global Value Chain Theory and the Critical Political Economy connects macro-level issues of regulation to the firm-level processes of governance and the final results of the supply chain. The results demonstrate that despite the heightened visibility brought about by the disclosure-based regulations, the substantive redressing is limited in terms of the gaps in enforcement, multi-tier arrangement and the capability threshold. Methodologically, the research enhances transparency of review with the use of SPAR-4-SLR protocol, coordinated screening and systematic coding within the framework of TCCM. Bibliometric mapping and thematic synthesis can be used together to provide structural and interpretive information. In practice, the results indicate that reporting mechanisms that are based on compliance are not sufficient. To successfully mitigate the contemporary risks of slavery, regulation through enforcement, investment in visibility technologies in the supply chains and capacity building through multi-tier networks are necessary. Focus is especially necessary in the areas of high risk and underrepresented Global South. Future research directions should focus on cross-national comparative enforcement research, capability-based remedial research and empirical research on technological accountability systems in multi-level supply chains. Despite higher vulnerability rates in developing regions, Global South contexts remain underrepresented in the literature. This imbalance likely reflects publication access barriers, regulatory visibility asymmetries and the concentration of academic institutions in developed economies rather than the actual distribution of labor risk.

11.2 Research limitations

Although the study provides an extensive and theory-encompassing generalization of the current research on slavery in the world supply chains, several limitations cannot be ignored. First, the review is derived solely from publications included in the Scopus database and restricted to peer-reviewed journal articles written in English and published between 2010 and 2024. While this method has the advantage of augmenting methodological consistency and quality control, it could also filter out pertinent scholarship in the other databases, non-English sources, books or policy reports, which potentially restricts both geographic and contextual diversity. Second, although the method of using a transparent screening protocol was employed, systematic reviews are always predetermined by search string construction and inclusion criteria, which can affect the final sample structure. Third, the bibliometric methods used mainly reach citation trends and structural interconnections in the literature; they can be supplemented by thematic synthesis, but they might not adequately represent the qualitative nature of individual empirical studies. Fourth, the review demonstrates a strong concentration of literature in developed economies, which is representative of larger academic and regulatory tendencies. Despite the analytic discussion of this imbalance, this study is limited by the current allocation of published studies. Lastly, like any integrative review, the suggested conceptual framework is an interpretive rather than an empirically tested model. It is justified to have future empirical validation of concepts in a variety of geographic and sectoral contexts.

References

- Afriyie, L. T., Saeed, B. I., & Alhassan, A. (2019). Determinants of child labour practices in Ghana. *Journal of Public Health*, 27(2), 211–217. doi: [10.1007/s10389-018-0935-3](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10389-018-0935-3).
- Ahmad, N., Haque, S., & Islam, M. A. (2024). Modern slavery disclosure regulations in the global supply chain: A world-systems perspective. *Critical Perspectives on Accounting*, 99, 102677. doi: [10.1016/j.cpa.2023.102677](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cpa.2023.102677).

- Akram, S., Hassan, M. U., & Shahzad, M. F. (2024). Factors fuelling the persistence of child labour: Evidence from Pakistan. *Child Indicators Research*, 17(4), 1–20. doi: [10.1007/s12187-024-10141-6](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12187-024-10141-6).
- Andrijasevic, R. (2021). Forced labour in supply chains: Rolling back the debate on gender, migration and sexual commerce. *European Journal of Women's Studies*, 28(4), 410–424. doi: [10.1177/13505068211020791](https://doi.org/10.1177/13505068211020791).
- Antonini, C., Beck, C., & Larrinaga, C. (2020). Subpolitics and sustainability reporting boundaries. The case of working conditions in global supply chains. *Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal*, 33(7), 1535–1567. doi:[10.1108/AAAJ-09-2019-4167](https://doi.org/10.1108/AAAJ-09-2019-4167).
- Arifin, B. (2012). Critical analysis of domestic worker condition in Malaysia and Singapore. *Ameliorated economic condition vs. gateway to modern slavery or servitude*.
- Ariyanti, I. (2016). Socio economic factors affecting the child labour in Palembang City Indonesia. *Journal of Internet Banking and Commerce*, 21(2), 1.
- Athreya, B. (2020). Slaves to technology: Worker control in the surveillance economy. *Anti-Trafficking Review*, 15, 82–101. doi: [10.14197/atr.201220155](https://doi.org/10.14197/atr.201220155).
- Bai, C., & Sarkis, J. (2020). A supply chain transparency and sustainability technology appraisal model for blockchain technology. *International Journal of Production Research*, 58(7), 2142–2162. doi: [10.1080/00207543.2019.1708989](https://doi.org/10.1080/00207543.2019.1708989).
- Benstead, A. V., Hendry, L. C., & Stevenson, M. (2018). Horizontal collaboration in response to modern slavery legislation: An action research project. *International Journal of Operations & Production Management*, 38(12), 2286–2312. doi: [10.1108/IJOPM-10-2017-0611](https://doi.org/10.1108/IJOPM-10-2017-0611).
- Benstead, A. V., Hendry, L. C., & Stevenson, M. (2021). Detecting and remediating modern slavery in supply chains: A targeted audit approach. *Production Planning & Control*, 32(13), 1136–1157. doi: [10.1080/09537287.2020.1795290](https://doi.org/10.1080/09537287.2020.1795290).
- Bhardwaj, P., & Kalro, A. D. (2024). Consumer well-being—a systematic literature review and research agenda using TCCM framework. *International Journal of Consumer Studies*, 48(1), e12991. doi: [10.1111/ijcs.12991](https://doi.org/10.1111/ijcs.12991).
- Bodendorf, F., Wonn, F., Simon, K., & Franke, J. (2023). Indicators and countermeasures of modern slavery in global supply chains: Pathway to a social supply chain management framework. *Business Strategy and the Environment*, 32(4), 2049–2077. doi: [10.1002/bse.3236](https://doi.org/10.1002/bse.3236).
- Boersma, M. (2019). Exploring legitimacy and exposing legitimising myths: A critical analysis of corporate social responsibility in global supply chains. Doctoral dissertation.
- Boersma, M., & Bedford, D. S. (2023). The role of market devices in addressing labour exploitation: An analysis of the Australian cleaning industry. *The British Accounting Review*, 55(3), 101129. doi: [10.1016/j.bar.2022.101129](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bar.2022.101129).
- Boyd, D. E., Spekman, R. E., Kamauff, J. W., & Werhane, P. (2007). Corporate social responsibility in global supply chains: A procedural justice perspective. *Long Range Planning*, 40(3), 341–356. doi: [10.1016/j.lrp.2006.12.007](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lrp.2006.12.007).
- Brandão, J., Rausch, L., Munger, J., Naughton-Treves, L., & Gibbs, H. K. (2024). Behind the cattle industry: Modern slave labor used to produce Brazil's beef and leather. *Environmental Development*, 51, 101000. doi: [10.1016/j.envdev.2024.101000](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envdev.2024.101000).
- Bullock, K., Di Domenico, M., Miller, G., Shirgholami, Z., & Wong, Y. (2024). Under the radar? Modern slavery and labour exploitation risks for the hotel industry. *Tourism Management*, 102, 104857. doi: [10.1016/j.tourman.2023.104857](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tourman.2023.104857).
- Burritt, R. L., & Christ, K. L. (2023). Modern slavery and the Global Reporting Initiative—A bridge too far?. *Business Strategy & Development*, 6(3), 296–309. doi: [10.1002/bsd2.239](https://doi.org/10.1002/bsd2.239).
- Caruana, R., Crane, A., Gold, S., & LeBaron, G. (2021). Modern slavery in business: The sad and sorry state of a non-field. *Business & Society*, 60(2), 251–287. doi: [10.1177/0007650320930417](https://doi.org/10.1177/0007650320930417).
- Caspersz, D., Cullen, H., Davis, M. C., Jog, D., McGaughey, F., Singhal, D., ..., & Voss, H. (2022). Modern slavery in global value chains: A global factory and governance perspective. *Journal of Industrial Relations*, 64(2), 177–199. doi: [10.1177/0022185621105458](https://doi.org/10.1177/0022185621105458).

- Cho, S. H., Fang, X., Tayur, S., & Xu, Y. (2019). Combating child labor: Incentives and information disclosure in global supply chains. *Manufacturing & Service Operations Management*, 21(3), 692–711. doi: [10.1287/msom.2018.0733](https://doi.org/10.1287/msom.2018.0733).
- Christopher, M. (2022). *Logistics and supply chain management*. Pearson.
- Cole, R., & Shirgholami, Z. (2022). The outlook for modern slavery in the apparel sector in a post-lockdown economy. *Supply Chain Management: International Journal*, 27(4), 526–537. doi: [10.1108/SCM-06-2020-0245](https://doi.org/10.1108/SCM-06-2020-0245).
- Crane, A., LeBaron, G., Allain, J., & Behbahani, L. (2019). Governance gaps in eradicating forced labor: From global to domestic supply chains. *Regulation & Governance*, 13(1), 86–106. doi: [10.1111/rego.12162](https://doi.org/10.1111/rego.12162).
- CSR - German Supply Chain Act (LkSG) (2025). Csr-In-Deutschland.de. Available from: <https://www.csr-in-deutschland.de/EN/Legislation/German-Supply-Chain-Act/german-supply-chain-act.html>
- Das, B. (2019). Health hazards and risks for musculoskeletal problems among child labourers in the brickfield sector of West Bengal, India. *International Health*, 11(4), 250–257. doi: [10.1093/inthealth/ihy071](https://doi.org/10.1093/inthealth/ihy071).
- Das, K. S. (2022). Child labour and its determinants in India. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 138, 106523. doi: [10.1016/j.childyouth.2022.106523](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2022.106523).
- Davies, J., & Ollus, N. (2019). Labour exploitation as corporate crime and harm: Outsourcing responsibility in food production and cleaning services supply chains. *Crime, Law and Social Change*, 72(1), 87–106. doi: [10.1007/s10611-019-09841-w](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10611-019-09841-w).
- Edmonds, E. V. (2022). Globalization and the persistence of forced labor and child labor. In *Handbook on Globalisation and Labour Standards* (pp. 36–63). Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Fan, D., & Lo, C. K. (2012). A tough pill to swallow? The impact of voluntary occupational health and safety management system on firms' financial performance in fashion and textiles industries. *Journal of Fashion Marketing and Management: International Journal*, 16(2), 128–140. doi: [10.1108/13612021211222798](https://doi.org/10.1108/13612021211222798).
- Flynn, A. (2020). Determinants of corporate compliance with modern slavery reporting. *Supply Chain Management: International Journal*, 25(1), 1–16. doi: [10.1108/SCM-10-2018-0369](https://doi.org/10.1108/SCM-10-2018-0369).
- Flynn, A., & Walker, H. (2021). Corporate responses to modern slavery risks: An institutional theory perspective. *European Business Review*, 33(2), 295–315. doi: [10.1108/EBR-05-2019-0092](https://doi.org/10.1108/EBR-05-2019-0092).
- García-Alaminos, A., Zafrilla, J., & Monsalve, F. (2024). Forced labour in the fashion industry: A hypothetical EU-driven reorganisation of textile value chains. *Economic Systems Research*, 36(3), 1–26. doi: [10.1080/09535314.2024.2345096](https://doi.org/10.1080/09535314.2024.2345096).
- Gereffi, G., & Lee, J. (2012). Why the world suddenly cares about global supply chains. *Journal of Supply Chain Management*, 48(3), 24–32. doi: [10.1111/j.1745-493X.2012.03271.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1745-493X.2012.03271.x).
- Gereffi, G., & Lee, J. (2016). Economic and social upgrading in global value chains and industrial clusters: Why governance matters. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 133(1), 25–38. doi: [10.1007/s10551-014-2373-7](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-014-2373-7).
- Giri, A. K., & Singh, S. P. (2016). Labour standards in global value chains in India: The case of handknotted carpet manufacturing cluster. *Asian Journal of Business Ethics*, 5(1-2), 37–52. doi: [10.1007/s13520-016-0052-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s13520-016-0052-8).
- Gogl, S. (2023). The German construction industry and industrial self-responsibility in occupied Europe, 1939–45. *Scandinavian Economic History Review*, 71(2), 157–175. doi: [10.1080/03585522.2021.1984301](https://doi.org/10.1080/03585522.2021.1984301).
- Gold, S., Trautrim, A., & Trodd, Z. (2015). Modern slavery challenges to supply chain management. *Supply Chain Management: An International Journal*, 20(5), 485–494. doi: [10.1108/SCM-02-2015-0046](https://doi.org/10.1108/SCM-02-2015-0046).
- Gómez-Paredes, J., Alsamawi, A., Yamasue, E., Okumura, H., Ishihara, K. N., Geschke, A., & Lenzen, M. (2016). Consuming childhoods: An assessment of child labor's role in Indian production and global consumption. *Journal of Industrial Ecology*, 20(3), 611–622. doi: [10.1111/jiec.12464](https://doi.org/10.1111/jiec.12464).

- Gore, E., & LeBaron, G. (2019). Using social reproduction theory to understand unfree labour. *Capital & Class*, 43(4), 561–580. doi: [10.1177/0309816819880787](https://doi.org/10.1177/0309816819880787).
- Green, J. (2021). Closing the accountability gap in corporate supply chains for violations of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. *Business and Human Rights Journal*, 6(3), 449–489. doi: [10.1017/bhj.2020.28](https://doi.org/10.1017/bhj.2020.28).
- Hampton, D. B. (2019). Modern slavery in global supply chains: Can national action plans on business and human rights close the governance gap?. *Business and Human Rights Journal*, 4(2), 239–263. doi: [10.1017/bhj.2019.16](https://doi.org/10.1017/bhj.2019.16).
- Han, C., Jia, F., Jiang, M., & Chen, L. (2024). Modern slavery in supply chains: A systematic literature review. *International Journal of Logistics Research and Applications*, 27(7), 1206–1227. doi: [10.1080/13675567.2022.2118696](https://doi.org/10.1080/13675567.2022.2118696).
- Hollos, D., Blome, C., & Foerstl, K. (2012). Does sustainable supplier co-operation affect performance? Examining implications for the triple bottom line. *International Journal of Production Research*, 50(11), 2968–2986. doi: [10.1080/00207543.2011.582184](https://doi.org/10.1080/00207543.2011.582184).
- Hughes, A., Brown, J. A., Trueba, M., Trautrim, A., Bostock, B., Day, E., . . . Bhutta, M. F. (2023). Global value chains for medical gloves during the COVID-19 pandemic: Confronting forced labour through public procurement and crisis. *Global Networks*, 23(1), 132–149. doi: [10.1111/glob.12360](https://doi.org/10.1111/glob.12360).
- ILO (2018). Ending child labour by 2025: A review of policies and programmes. Available from: www.ilo.org, https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_norm/@ipecc/documents/publication/wcms_653987.pdf
- ILO (2022). Global estimates of modern slavery: Forced labour and forced marriage, ISBN: 978-92-2-037483-2, Available from: <https://www.ilo.org/>, <https://ilo.org/publications/major-publications/global-estimates-modern-slavery-forced-labour-and-forced-marriage>
- ILO et al. (2019). Ending child labour. *Forced Labour and human trafficking in global supply chains*, (PDF Web). Available from: <https://mneguidelines.oecd.org/Ending-child-labour-forced-labour-and-human-trafficking-in-global-supply-chains.pdf>.978-92-2-133705-8
- Ishaya, B. J., Paraskevadis, D., Bury, A., & Bryde, D. (2024). A systematic literature review of modern slavery through benchmarking global supply chain. *Benchmarking: An International Journal*, 31(2), 558–589. doi: [10.1108/BIJ-09-2022-0554](https://doi.org/10.1108/BIJ-09-2022-0554).
- Islam, M. A., & Van Staden, C. J. (2022). Modern slavery disclosure regulation and global supply chains: Insights from stakeholder narratives on the UK Modern Slavery Act. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 180(2), 1–25. doi: [10.1007/s10551-021-04878-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-021-04878-1).
- Jamali, D., Lund-Thomsen, P., & Khara, N. (2017). CSR institutionalized myths in developing countries: An imminent threat of selective decoupling. *Business & Society*, 56(3), 454–486. doi: [10.1177/000765031558430](https://doi.org/10.1177/000765031558430).
- Jiang, M., Chen, L., Blome, C., & Jia, F. (2023). Digital technology adoption for modern slavery risk mitigation in supply chains: An institutional perspective. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 192, 122595. doi: [10.1016/j.techfore.2023.122595](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techfore.2023.122595).
- Johansson, M. (2023). Human rights violations in the name of football: A qualitative content analysis on the human rights violations against migrant workers during the preparation and delivery of the fifa world cup 2022. Qatar.
- Kara, M., & Kara, T. D. T. (2023). Gender and being a mining engineer: The case of Turkey. *International Journal of Social And Humanities Sciences*, 7(1), 111–134. Available from: <https://izlik.org/JA52SC26CU>
- Karp, D. J. (2023). Business and human rights in a changing world order: Beyond the ethics of disembedded liberalism. *Business and Human Rights Journal*, 8(2), 135–150. doi: [10.1017/bhj.2023.10](https://doi.org/10.1017/bhj.2023.10).
- Kiss, L., Pocock, N. S., Naisangsri, V., Suos, S., Dickson, B., Thuy, D., . . . Zimmerman, C. (2015). Health of men, women, and children in post-trafficking services in Cambodia, Thailand, and vietnam: An observational cross-sectional study. *Lancet Global Health*, 3(3), e154–e161. doi: [10.1016/s2214-109x\(15\)70016-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/s2214-109x(15)70016-1).

- Koekkoek, M., Marx, A., & Wouters, J. (2017). Monitoring forced labour and slavery in global supply chains: The case of the California Act on transparency in supply chains. *Global Policy*, 8(4), 522–529. doi: [10.1111/1758-5899.12512](https://doi.org/10.1111/1758-5899.12512).
- Kshetri, N. (2025). Privacy and cybersecurity issues facing the metaverse: An analysis of technological and institutional factors. *Telecommunications Policy*, 50(3), 103140. doi: [10.1016/j.telpol.2025.103140](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.telpol.2025.103140).
- Kumar, R. (2025). Bibliometric analysis: Comprehensive insights into tools, techniques, applications, and solutions for research excellence. *Spectrum of Engineering and Management Sciences*, 3(1), 45–62. doi: [10.31181/sems31202535k](https://doi.org/10.31181/sems31202535k).
- Kumar, J., & Rani, G. (2025). From past to future of financial management behaviour: A systematic literature review and future research issues. *FIIB Business Review*. doi: [10.1177/23197145251315540](https://doi.org/10.1177/23197145251315540).
- Landman, T. (2020). Measuring modern slavery: Law, human rights, and new forms of data. *Human Rights Quarterly*, 42(2), 303–331. doi: [10.1353/hrq.2020.0019](https://doi.org/10.1353/hrq.2020.0019).
- LeBaron, G. (2014). Subcontracting is not illegal, but is it unethical? Business ethics, forced labor, and economic success. *The Brown Journal of World Affairs*, 20(2), 237–249.
- LeBaron, G., & Ayers, A. J. (2013). The rise of a ‘new slavery’? Understanding African unfree labour through neoliberalism. *Third World Quarterly*, 34(5), 873–892. doi: [10.1080/01436597.2013.800738](https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2013.800738).
- LeBaron, G., & Rühmkorf, A. (2017). Steering CSR through home state regulation: A comparison of the impact of the UK bribery act and modern slavery act on global supply chain governance. *Global policy*, 8(S3), 15–28. doi: [10.1111/1758-5899.12398](https://doi.org/10.1111/1758-5899.12398).
- LeBaron, G., & Rühmkorf, A. (2019). The domestic politics of corporate accountability legislation: Struggles over the 2015 UK Modern Slavery Act. *Socio-Economic Review*, 17(3), 709–743. doi: [10.1093/ser/mwx047](https://doi.org/10.1093/ser/mwx047).
- LeBaron, G., Lister, J., & Dauvergne, P. (2017). Governing global supply chain sustainability through the ethical audit regime. *Globalizations*, 14(6), 958–975. doi: [10.1080/14747731.2017.1304008](https://doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2017.1304008).
- Lewis, H., Dwyer, P., Hodkinson, S., & Waite, L. (2015). Hyper-precarious lives: Migrants, work and forced labour in the Global North. *Progress in Human Geography*, 39(5), 580–600. doi: [10.1177/0309132514548303](https://doi.org/10.1177/0309132514548303).
- Lotfi, M., & Pisa, N. (2024). Child slavery in supply chains: Actors of the dirty scene. *Journal of Transport and Supply Chain Management*, 18(0), 942. doi: [10.4102/jtscm.v18i0.942](https://doi.org/10.4102/jtscm.v18i0.942). Available from: https://hdl.handle.net/10520/ejc-jtscm_v18_n1_a942
- Lund-Thomsen, P., & Nadvi, K. (2010). Clusters, chains and compliance: Corporate social responsibility and governance in football manufacturing in South Asia. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 93(S2), 201–222. doi: [10.1007/s10551-010-0561-7](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-010-0561-7).
- Marschke, M., & Vandergeest, P. (2016). Slavery scandals: Unpacking labour challenges and policy responses within the off-shore fisheries sector. *Marine Policy*, 68, 39–46. doi: [10.1016/j.marpol.2016.02.009](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2016.02.009).
- Martín-Martín, A., Orduna-Malea, E., Thelwall, M., & López-Cózar, E. D. (2018). Google scholar, Web of Science, and Scopus: A systematic comparison of citations in 252 subject categories. *Journal of informetrics*, 12(4), 1160–1177. doi: [10.1016/j.joi.2018.09.002](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joi.2018.09.002).
- Martins Junior, A., & O’Connell Davidson, J. (2022). Tacking towards freedom? Bringing journeys out of slavery into dialogue with contemporary migration. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 48(7), 1479–1495. doi: [10.1080/1369183x.2021.1886062](https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183x.2021.1886062).
- McLaren, E., Salampasis, D., Busulwa, R., Baldegger, R. J., & Wild, P. (2024). Key stakeholders and their roles in modern slavery monitoring, detection and disclosure: A systematic literature review. *Sustainability Accounting, Management and Policy Journal*, 15(6), 1310–1337. doi: [10.1108/SAMPJ-08-2023-0598](https://doi.org/10.1108/SAMPJ-08-2023-0598).
- Mezzadri, A., & Majumder, S. (2022). Towards a feminist political economy of time: Labour circulation, social reproduction & the ‘afterlife’ of cheap labour. *Review of International Political Economy*, 29(6), 1804–1826. doi: [10.1080/09692290.2020.1857293](https://doi.org/10.1080/09692290.2020.1857293).

- Mora, C. J., Malik, A., & Murray, J. (2024). From mines to consumption via global supply chains: A viewpoint on assessing modern slavery and disease interactions. *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, 104, 107353. doi: [10.1016/j.eiar.2023.107353](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eiar.2023.107353).
- Musa, S. N. (2012). *Supply chain risk management: Identification, evaluation and mitigation techniques (Doctoral dissertation)*. Linköping: Linköping University Electronic Press.
- Paul, J., & Rosado-Serrano, A. (2019). Gradual internationalization vs born-global/international new venture models: A review and research agenda. *International Marketing Review*, 36(6), 830–858. doi: [10.1108/IMR-10-2018-0280](https://doi.org/10.1108/IMR-10-2018-0280).
- Paul, J., Lim, W. M., O’Cass, A., Hao, A. W., & Bresciani, S. (2021). Scientific procedures and rationales for systematic literature reviews (SPAR-4-SLR). *International Journal of Consumer Studies*, 45(4), O1–O16. doi: [10.1111/ijcs.12695](https://doi.org/10.1111/ijcs.12695).
- Pinheiro, S. M., Emberson, C., & Trautrim, A. (2019). For the English to see’or effective change? How supply chains are shaped by laws and regulations, and what that means for the exposure of modern slavery. *Journal of the British Academy*, 7(1), 167–190. doi: [10.5871/jba/007s1.167](https://doi.org/10.5871/jba/007s1.167).
- Pinnington, B., Benstead, A., & Meehan, J. (2023). Transparency in supply chains (TISC): Assessing and improving the quality of modern slavery statements. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 182(3), 619–636. doi: [10.1007/s10551-022-05037-w](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-022-05037-w).
- Reinsberg, B., & Steinert, C. V. (2025). The French duty of vigilance law: Reconciling human rights and firm profitability. *Review of International Political Economy*, 32(6), 2213–2245. doi: [10.1080/09692290.2025.2519189](https://doi.org/10.1080/09692290.2025.2519189).
- Richards, H. (2022). Risk, reporting and responsibility: Modern slavery, colonial power and fashion’s transparency industry. *International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy*, 11(2), 47–60. doi: [10.5204/ijcsd.2378](https://doi.org/10.5204/ijcsd.2378).
- Rosile, G. A., Boje, D. M., Herder, R. A., & Sanchez, M. (2021). The Coalition of Immokalee Workers uses ensemble storytelling processes to overcome enslavement in corporate supply chains. *Business & Society*, 60(2), 376–414. doi: [10.1177/0007650320930416](https://doi.org/10.1177/0007650320930416).
- Saberi, S., Kouhizadeh, M., Sarkis, J., & Shen, L. (2019). Blockchain technology and its relationships to sustainable supply chain management. *International Journal of Production Research*, 57(7), 2117–2135. doi: [10.1080/00207543.2018.1533261](https://doi.org/10.1080/00207543.2018.1533261).
- Savill, E., & Hoff, S. (2024). Human Rights Due Diligence: Risks of modern slavery for workers displaced by conflict. *Anti-Trafficking Review*, 22, 130–134. doi: [10.14197/atr.201224228](https://doi.org/10.14197/atr.201224228).
- Scaturro, R. (2021). Modern slavery made in Italy—causes and consequences of labour exploitation in the Italian agricultural sector. *Journal of Illicit Economies and Development*, 3(2), 181–189. doi: [10.31389/jied.95](https://doi.org/10.31389/jied.95).
- Smit, L., Holly, G., McCorquodale, R., & Neely, S. (2021). Human rights due diligence in global supply chains: Evidence of corporate practices to inform a legal standard. *International Journal of Human Rights*, 25(6), 945–973. doi: [10.1080/13642987.2020.1799196](https://doi.org/10.1080/13642987.2020.1799196).
- Sodhi, M. S., Tang, C. S., & Willenson, E. T. (2023). Research opportunities in preparing supply chains of essential goods for future pandemics. *International Journal of Production Research*, 61(8), 2416–2431. doi: [10.1080/00207543.2021.1884310](https://doi.org/10.1080/00207543.2021.1884310).
- Stevenson, M., & Cole, R. (2018). Modern slavery in supply chains: A secondary data analysis of detection, remediation and disclosure. *Supply Chain Management: International Journal*, 23(2), 81–99. doi: [10.1108/SCM-11-2017-0382](https://doi.org/10.1108/SCM-11-2017-0382).
- Stringer, C., & Michailova, S. (2018). Why modern slavery thrives in multinational corporations’ global value chains. *Multinational Business Review*, 26(3), 194–206. doi: [10.1108/MBR-04-2018-0032](https://doi.org/10.1108/MBR-04-2018-0032).
- Such, E., Gardner, A., Dang, M., Wright, N., Bravo-Balsa, L., Brotherton, V., . . . Trodd, Z. (2023). The risks and harms associated with modern slavery during the COVID-19 pandemic in the United Kingdom: A multi-method study. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 12, 1–21. doi: [10.1080/23322705.2023.2194760](https://doi.org/10.1080/23322705.2023.2194760).

- Tang, O., & Musa, S. N. (2011). Identifying risk issues and research advancements in supply chain risk management. *International Journal of Production Economics*, 133(1), 25–34. doi: [10.1016/j.ijpe.2010.06.013](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijpe.2010.06.013).
- Tickler, D., Meeuwig, J. J., Bryant, K., David, F., Forrest, J. A., Gordon, E., . . . Zeller, D. (2018). Modern slavery and the race to fish. *Nature Communications*, 9(1), 4643. doi: [10.1038/s41467-018-07118-9](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-018-07118-9).
- Trautrim, A., Schleper, M. C., Cakir, M. S., & Gold, S. (2020). Survival at the expense of the weakest? Managing modern slavery risks in supply chains during COVID-19. *Journal of Risk Research*, 23(7-8), 1067–1072. doi: [10.1080/13669877.2020.1772347](https://doi.org/10.1080/13669877.2020.1772347).
- Verlasevic, M. (2023). Modern slavery in post-conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina: Assessing the needs of trafficked women. (Master's thesis).
- Yan, T., & Hyman, M. R. (2024). The principal-agent problem and its mitigation: A critical historical analysis. *Journal of Management History*, 30(4), 615–636. doi: [10.1108/JMH-07-2023-0068](https://doi.org/10.1108/JMH-07-2023-0068).
- Yu, W., Wong, C. Y., Jacobs, M., & Chavez, R. (2025). Modern slavery supply chain capabilities: The effects of blockchain technology and employees' digital dexterity. *International Journal of Operations & Production Management*, 45(1), 210–235. doi: [10.1108/IJOPM-11-2023-0881](https://doi.org/10.1108/IJOPM-11-2023-0881).

Further reading

- Bui, H. N., Phung, N. P., Le, M. L., & Nguyen, T. H. D. (2025). Emerging trends and critical insights in international business research: A hybrid review. *Review of International Business and Strategy*, 35(2/3), 304–335. doi: [10.1108/RIBS-07-2024-0089](https://doi.org/10.1108/RIBS-07-2024-0089).
- Caruana, R., Crane, A., & Ingram, C. (2025). *The boundaries of modern slavery: The role of exemplars in new category formation*. Academy of Management Journal. (ja), amj-2022 doi: [10.5465/amj.2022.0210](https://doi.org/10.5465/amj.2022.0210).
- Cuyvers, G. (2023). *Modern slavery*. Las Vegas, NV: Histria Books.
- Emberson, C., Pinheiro, S. M., & Trautrim, A. (2022). Adaptations to first-tier suppliers' relational anti-slavery capabilities. *Supply Chain Management: International Journal*, 27(4), 575–593. doi: [10.1108/SCM-10-2020-0505](https://doi.org/10.1108/SCM-10-2020-0505).
- Fourie, J. (2021). Regulating modern slavery in global supply chains: Exploring the design and effectiveness of national legislation. (Doctoral dissertation, UNSW Sydney).
- Jain, S., Sharma, D. K., & Sharma, M. (2024). Mapping green supply chain practices: An extensive bibliometric review with the SPAR-4-SLR and TCCM framework. *NMIMS Management Review*, 32(2), 118–136. doi: [10.1177/09711023241282194](https://doi.org/10.1177/09711023241282194).
- Kach, A. P., Bhakoo, V., McGaughey, F., Boersma, M., Nolan, J., & Lichtman, S. M. (2025). Humanizing supply chains: Turning the spotlight towards remediation in modern slavery scholarship. *Journal of Purchasing and Supply Management*, 31(1), 100991. doi: [10.1016/j.pursup.2024.100991](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pursup.2024.100991).
- Majumdar, S., Dasgupta, S. A., & Farooq, R. (2023). Open innovation and firm performance in emerging economies: A bibliometric and TCCM analysis review. *Management Decision*, 63(8), 2958–2980. doi: [10.1108/MD-10-2022-1484](https://doi.org/10.1108/MD-10-2022-1484).
- Marmo, M., & Bandiera, R. (2024). Modern slavery: The harms of state-corporate benevolence and the role of academic activism. In *The Palgrave Handbook on Modern Slavery* (pp. 499–521). Cham: Palgrave Macmillan. doi: [10.1007/978-3-031-58614-9_24](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-58614-9_24).
- Marzi, G., Balzano, M., Caputo, A., & Pellegrini, M. M. (2025). Guidelines for bibliometric-systematic literature reviews: 10 steps to combine analysis, synthesis and theory development. *International Journal of Management Reviews*, 27(1), 81–103. doi: [10.1111/ijmr.12381](https://doi.org/10.1111/ijmr.12381).
- Mehmood, W., Ahmad, A., Aman-Ullah, A., & Mohd-Rashid, R. (2023). Modern slavery: A literature review using bibliometric analysis and the nexus of governance. *Journal of Public Affairs*, 23(1), e2832. doi: [10.1002/pa.2832](https://doi.org/10.1002/pa.2832).
- Mende, J. (2019). The concept of modern slavery: Definition, critique, and the human rights frame. *Human Rights Review*, 20(2), 229–248. doi: [10.1007/s12142-018-0538-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12142-018-0538-y).

- Paul, J., & Criado, A. R. (2020). The art of writing literature review: What do we know and what do we need to know?. *International Business Review*, 29(4), 101717. doi: [10.1016/j.ibusrev.2020.101717](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ibusrev.2020.101717).
- Rezapouraghdam, H., Saydam, M. B., Altun, O., Roudi, S., & Nosrati, S. (2025). A contemporary systematic literature review of equestrian tourism: Emerging advancements and future insights. *Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Insights*, 8(2), 472–492. doi: [10.1108/JHTI-01-2024-0046](https://doi.org/10.1108/JHTI-01-2024-0046).
- Robb, B., & Michailova, S. (2023). Multinational enterprises' narratives about and approaches to modern slavery: An exploratory study. *Review of international business and strategy*, 33(2), 199–218. doi: [10.1108/RIBS-10-2021-0128](https://doi.org/10.1108/RIBS-10-2021-0128).
- Singh, R. K., Mishra, R., & He, Q. (2025). Sustainable supply chain and environmental collaboration in the supply chain management: Agenda for future research and implications. *Business Strategy and the Environment*, 34(5), 5487–5513. doi: [10.1002/bse.4136](https://doi.org/10.1002/bse.4136).
- Stange, R., Scheffler, P., & Henseler, J. (2025). A systematic review of theoretical, methodological, contextual, and content-related foundations of customer delight research. *Total Quality Management and Business Excellence*, 36(5-6), 1–24. doi: [10.1080/14783363.2025.2469294](https://doi.org/10.1080/14783363.2025.2469294).
- Strand, V., Lotfi, M., Flynn, A., & Walker, H. (2024). A systematic literature review of modern slavery in supply chain management: State of the art, framework development and research opportunities. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 435, 140301. doi: [10.1016/j.jclepro.2023.140301](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2023.140301).
- Szablewska, N., & Kubacki, K. (2023). Empirical business research on modern slavery in supply chains: A systematic review. *Journal of Business Research*, 164, 113988. doi: [10.1016/j.jbusres.2023.113988](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbusres.2023.113988).
- Trautrimis, A., Gold, S., Touboulis, A., Emberson, C., & Carter, H. (2021). The UK construction and facilities management sector's response to the Modern Slavery Act: An intra-industry initiative against modern slavery. *Business Strategy & Development*, 4(3), 279–293. doi: [10.1002/bsd2.158](https://doi.org/10.1002/bsd2.158).
- UNDP (2019). Modern slavery is on the rise in Asia, but new laws show consumer pressure is working. Available from: <https://www.undp.org/asia-pacific/bizhumanrights/blog/modern-slavery-rise-asia-new-laws-show-consumer-pressure-working>

Corresponding author

Sudhanshu Joshi can be contacted at: sudhanshujoshi@doonuniversity.ac.in