

Child Labor Exploitation: Main Notions, Causes And Consequences

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Key words: child, labor, exploitation, protection.

Açırsözlər: uşaq, əmək, istismar, müdafiə.

Xülasə:

Bu məqalədə, Uşaqəməyi, uşaq əməyinin istismarına təsir edən və səbəb olan əsas faktorlardan və uşaq əməyinin istismarının yaratdığı mənfi nəticələrdən bəhs olunur. Uşaq əməyinin istismarı hal-hazırda bütün dünyada mövcud olan əsas social problemlərdən biridir. Çünki uşaq əməyinin istismarı uşaq hüquqlarının pozulmasının ən əsas növlərindən hesab olunur. Bu istismarın qarşısının alınması üçün bütün dövlətlər öz öhdəliklərini lazımi qaydada yerinə yetirməli və vacib olan tədbirləri həyata keçirməlidirlər.

Ключевые слова: ребенок, труд, эксплуатация, защита

Резюме:

В этой статье рассматривается детский труд, основные факторы, влияющие на эксплуатацию детского труда и негативные последствия эксплуатации детского труда. Детский труд сейчас является одной из основных социальных проблем в мире. Поскольку эксплуатация детского труда является одним из наиболее важных видов нарушений прав ребенка. Чтобы предотвратить эту эксплуатацию, все государства должны выполнить свои обязательства должным образом и принять необходимые меры.

Every child has a right to education, clean water, nutrition and a safe living environment. But in some situations according to different reasons most of children lose these rights. One of these reasons is the child labor exploitation. Children work because their survival and that of their families depend on it, and in many cases because unscrupulous adults take advantage of their vulnerability.

Millions of children around the world are forced in child labor, depriving them of their childhood, their health, education, depriving them of their fundamental rights in the process and condemning them to a life of poverty and want. (1) Of course, there is work that children do to help their families in ways that are neither harmful nor exploitative. But a number of children are stuck in unacceptable work for children – a serious violation of their rights, such rights include the opportunity to enjoy their childhood, attend school regularly, have peace of mind and etc. That's why, at first, we must clarify main notion of child labor. Not all work done by children should be classified as child labor that is to be targeted for elimination. Mainly, two main conventions deal with child labour: the Minimum Age Convention and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention. Both have been adopted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) – the specialist organisation in the UN dealing with the world of work – and ratified by the UK. And also CRC deal with main provisions of concerning with children. The term "child labour", coined in Britain during the 19th century, implies that the children involved should not be working. "Youth employment", on the other hand, implies something quite different – that young people need appropriate

training and support to enter the labour market and to find jobs when they leave school. Many languages do not have a phrase that implies that children should not be working and use expressions more similar to “child work”. (4)

The term “child labor” is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. The meaning of the term of child labor also varies among organizations, ILO argues that child labor is difficult to define. (1) It depends on the type of the job and, if the age is under eighteen and if the job intervenes the children’s education and development (ILO: 2004). The World Bank assumes that child labor can do serious threat to long-term national investment. Furthermore, according to UNICEF the problem of child labor can have more bad consequences besides all the concerns of investment or its relation to economic activity (ILO, 2013; Weston, 2005). UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 1989 refers to a person under the age of 18. (3) According to, ILO child labour refers to work that:

- is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and
- interferes with their schooling by:
 - depriving them of the opportunity to attend school;
 - obliging them to leave school prematurely; or
 - requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work

The number of children working in the world today is higher than most people think, nearly a quarter of a million children, or 16 out of every 100 children worldwide, are engaged in exploitative child labor—in violation of Convention on the Rights of the Child and international labor standards. Almost three-quarters of them work in hazardous environments, such as mines or factories, or with dangerous substances, such as chemicals. Although, it is difficult to obtain anything more than an educated global estimate. This is firstly because many kinds of child labor are underreported, and secondly because many countries have no desire or incentive to publicize how many of their young people work and secondly because

many countries have no desire or incentive to publicize how many of their young people. Nevertheless, statistical techniques allow us to estimate that 211 million children aged 5 to 14 and an additional 141 million children aged 15 to 17 are “economically active”, i.e. are involved in some form of work. (4) These numbers bring a number of key questions to mind: Why do children work? What forces them to do work? Why does society permit it? Child labor may cause by several factors. Some of them including

Poverty is certainly the greatest single force driving children into the workplace.

According to the experts, the main reasons for the emergence of child labour in bigger cities are unhealthy family life and economic deprivation. Families strained by financial difficulties cannot cope with the increasing demands of their children and sometimes even fail to provide them with adequate nutrition. (6) This appears to be the main reason children look for their own sources of income. Income from a child’s work is felt to be crucial for his/her own survival or for that of the household. Eradicating poverty, however, is only the first step on the road to eliminating child labour. Children who come from poor families may be forced to work to support their siblings and parents or supplement the household income when expenses are more than the parents’ earnings. It is a huge problem especially in developing countries where parents are unable to generate income due to the lack of employment opportunities or education. Children can be found employed in mines or hawking in the streets to earn money that is used to provide basic necessities such as food and clothing for the family. Children may also be employed in factories to generate income for the family instead of attending school. Such a practice is a common phenomenon in poverty-stricken regions with large factories set up by international companies. Another reason of child labor exploitation may be illiteracy. So, a society with many educated people understands the importance of going to school and pursuing dreams. Children have the ability and time to become whatever they aspire to be. Illiteracy, on the other hand, makes it difficult for many people to understand the importance of education. Illiterate people view education as a preserve of the privileged in the society.

They will therefore not provide support to children so that they can go to school and build solid foundations for future success. The same view of life is seen among illiterate parents who prioritize children contributing to the upkeep of the family over going to school.

Another factor which can cause is the high cost of education many communities do not possess adequate school facilities; even where schools exist the education provided is often not perceived by children or their parents to be a viable alternative to work. For many families, schooling is simply unaffordable. Even when it is “free” it involves a perceived opportunity cost of the income foregone when a child is at school rather than at work; and, so, Quality education is expensive. To many parents who live in abject poverty, priority is given to providing food for the family because education is too expensive to afford especially when there are many children to pay school fees for. Instead of letting children stay at home because there is lack of money to send them to school, parents opt to have them working as unskilled laborers to help support the family. Some parents can also only afford basic education which means that children will be forced to look for work since they cannot pursue their education further. Other reasons can be early marriage, so marrying at an early age is a major contributing factor to overpopulation. Low aspiration also one of reasons exploitation of child labor, namely it is important for children and parents to understand that they can work hard and make something great of themselves. Low aspirations by parents and children are a major cause of child labor because in such a situation, being employed in a local factory, or selling grocery in the streets is the normal way of life. HIV/AIDS also can be reason of child labour exploitation. So, By 2001, the UN estimated that 13 million children around the world under the age of 15 had lost either one or both parents to HIV/AIDS. About half become orphans before they are 10. This fact shows that many children lose parents according to this virus and this results they remain alone and trapped to child labor. Discrimination against minority groups also can be result child labor exploitation.⁽⁹⁾

One of main issues concerning with the exploitation of child labor was a this question.

Why employers demand children to work. Principal reason of this demand is form of this labor is cheaper rather than adults’ labor. Even in some cases children work unpaid, particularly as domestic workers and also they could be punished as “slavery”. We can indicate as example to these conditions a number of ECtHR cases. One of them was the *Siliaddin v France*. It is also employers find children more obedient and easy control in comparing with adult workers also for employers were easier to intimidate children.

However, most countries signed many international conventions concerning with prohibition and prevention of child labor and its exploitation, but in some countries concerned laws are confusing and vague. Child labor is a prevalent problem throughout the world, especially in developing countries. Africa and Asia together account for over 90 percent of total child employment. Child labor is especially prevalent in rural areas where the capacity to enforce minimum age requirements for schooling and work is lacking. Child labor takes many different forms, a priority is to eliminate without delay the worst forms of child labor as defined by Article 3 of ILO Convention No. 182:

(a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labor, forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict

(b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;

(c) the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;

(d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

(5)

After this Convention was adopted, the phrase “child labour” no longer refers exclusively to children working before they are 14 or 15, but to all cases in which children are exposed to harm at work, including work which deprives them of other basic rights, such as their right to education, or which exposes them to physical or sexual abuse. It is now a priority for UNICEF and other international agencies

to take action to end the “worst forms” of child labor, which involve an estimated 180 million children. UNICEF is also clear that all countries should set a legal minimum age for entry into employment and governments should take steps to ensure that this is respected. This does not mean prohibiting those children below the minimum age from working or earning any money. It is reasonable for children to help out in the home and to contribute to a family business, as long as this does not jeopardise their education or expose them to harm.

Child labor exploitation can cause some negative results. At first, have to point out that it damage both psychological and physical health of children. It must mentioned that child labor exploitation deprives children from their childhood and peaceful enjoy their basic rights. They lose quality of their childhood. A child should play with friends and make memories a lifetime. Another negative consequence of child labor exploitation is the health issues. So, undernourishment and poor conditions of work and working in hazardous places such as mines and factories impact badly their healthy. They also suffer from physical trauma. Children also lack the ability to shield themselves from most of the challenges that occur in the workplace. Issues such as bullying, sexual exploitation, and unfavorable working hours may result in mental trauma in these children. One of negative results of child labor exploitation can be illiteracy.(7) Because children lose their opportunity to go schools and it influence negatively their educational development. An individual who has gone to school may be aware of how to approach certain situations in life without resorting to brute force. An illiterate person, on the other hand, considers force to be the only answer to nearly all of the challenges experienced.

The effective abolition of child labor exploitation is one of the most urgent challenges of our time. But how can we stop child labor exploitation. Certainly, single action is not enough for elimination of child labor, stops child labor or puts an end to the harm which children suffer. Instead, we need a coordinated set of actions. This can involve: First solution can be preventing children from leaving school and entering labor market. Because leaving school early results illiteracy. Can be

create free education systems by states for poor children ,parents who don't have money for schools they can use this system. (8) And also every states and organizations try to putting the right laws and policies into place which ensuring public knows about them and the government has the political will to implement them. The poor living standards and financial constraints sometimes make them unwilling participants in this vice. Empowering poor people through knowledge and income generating projects would go a long way in reducing cases of child labour. Parental literacy also plays an important role in ensuring that the rights of children are upheld, and minors are not used as a source of labour. Empowering parents with this kind of knowledge can create a positive change in the society and encourage the shunning of child labour practices in communities.

Child labor is a big social problem which needs to be solved on urgent basis by the support of both, people (especially parents and teachers) and government. Children are our future that's why every individual and every state have to try to protect children from violence and abuse of their rights.(10) Including this abusive factors also exploitation(child labor exploitation, physical exploitation, psychological exploitation and etc.).It is particularly dangerous because it involves the sacrifice of a child's future welfare in exchange for immediate benefit.(2) Children are very little however they carry a prosperous future of any developing country. So, they are the big responsibility of all the adult citizens and should not be used in negative ways. They should get proper chance to develop and grow within the happy environment of family and school. They should not be limited by the parents only to maintain the economical balance of the family and by the businesses to get labor at low cost.

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