

Child Labor: Poverty and Armed Conflicts as the Main Causes

Child labor is one of the ugliest forms of people's exploitation as it presupposes the employment of the most vulnerable and unprotected social groups to earn money. Unfortunately, regardless of all attempts to resolve the problem and create a new world where children are free and can enjoy multiple benefits available to them, there are still areas where children have to work hard. Even though child labor is viewed as a cultural tradition in some countries, poverty and armed conflicts are the central reasons for the growing relevance of the question, meaning that the strategies aimed at improving the well-being of some areas can help to reduce the number of children who had to work.

The relevant statistics prove the scope of the discussed problem and its topicality. Thus, in accordance with the report, 152 million children are in child labor today globally (UNICEF n.d.). Most of them work in extremely hazardous conditions, such as mines and plants (Pinzon-Rondon et al. 2018). The given number is critically high for the modern world with the focus on the humanistic ideas and the need to protect the lives of children as the fundamental value. Moreover, this statistic shows the poor effectiveness of strategies aimed at protecting people globally and the need for new methods to struggle with it.

Moreover, speaking about child labor, it is possible to admit the correlation between the level of income and the number of children involved in it. Thus, Balagopalan (2019) states that for countries with significant poverty rates, the problem is more topical as children are forced to work to earn money and support their families. The literature shows that among all children in labor, 61% are in Asia, 32% in Africa, and 7% in Latin America (Balagopalan 2019). It proves that poverty peculiar to some developing nations makes the problem more topical and contributes to the increase in the number of working children.

Another important fact is the negative impact of armed conflicts on the problem of child labor. Pinzon-Rondon et al. (2018) say that in areas with various military conflicts, the number of children involved in work increases by 50%. Moreover, the type of work they do becomes even more dangerous compared to areas with traditionally high child labor rates (Pinzon-Rondon et al. 2018). In such a way, military conflicts result in the disregard of this group's needs and critical deterioration in the quality of their lives.

At the same time, there is an opposite opinion stating that the high rates of child labor are not linked to the problems of poverty. They can be explained by the cultural peculiarities of some nations and obsolete views on the role of children in the modern world, resulting in the allowance of child labor to help the family (Sensoy 2016). However, statistics show that such beliefs are peculiar to areas with a low level of income and poverty, which means that the financial aspect becomes the more important factor affecting children's engagement in work (Pinzon-Rondon et al. 2018). The change in finances available for households can help to drive the overall positive change.

In such a way, it is possible to conclude that child labor is linked to such factors as poverty and armed conflicts. Statistics show that low-income regions are characterized by the most threatening showings regarding child labor. Under these conditions, the reduction in the number of children who have to work can be achieved by helping them to struggle with poverty and improve their social institutions responsible for protecting children and providing them with chances for future life and career.

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