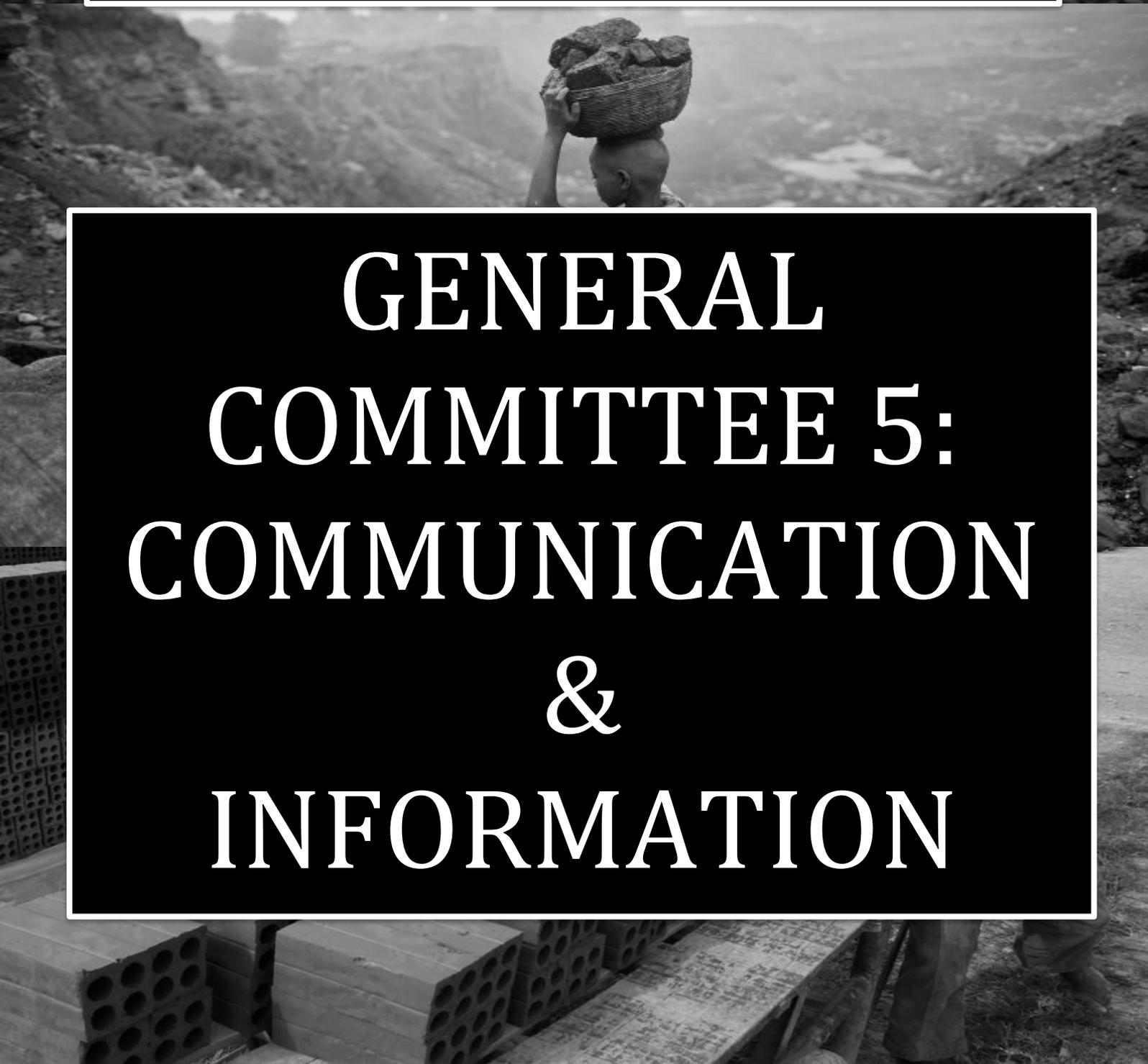




JMUNESCO'20



**GENERAL
COMMITTEE 5:
COMMUNICATION
&
INFORMATION**



ISSUE: Raising awareness in the media about child labor with the aim of stopping it

STUDENT OFFICERS: Erenalp Yücelen, Defne Ceylan

Introduction:

The issue of child labor has moved onto the agendas of governments, trade unions, activists, the media, and investors as never before. Child labor is also known as *child exploitation* and it is one of the most common forms of violence against children's rights. Child labor is the employment of children in the industry. Children involved are usually under working age (usually 15 in *domestic law*). The work harms the children both mentally and physically. According to the data of the *International Labor Organization (ILO)* in 2002, there are almost 246 million child workers who are working on the *worst forms of child labor* standards. It is observed that child labor is also detrimental to the education of children. According to Global Estimates of Child Labor 2012-2016, Geneva, September 2017: Child labor is concentrated primarily in agriculture (71%), 17% in Services; and 12% in the Industrial sector. It is essential to understand the main reasons for child labor in regions while aiming to eliminate the problem effectively. Some common factors are poverty, loss of income from *temporary shocks*, orphanhood, not having *functional financial systems*, etc. Another reason why some employments prefer children as workers is that they are *minimum wage workers*.

Definition of Key Terms:

- Industry: An economic activity where raw materials and manufacture of goods are processed in factories.
- Domestic system: A production system where entrepreneurs provide supplies so the workers can produce commodities in their own places.
- International Labor Organisation (ILO): A United Nations agency whose order is to promote social justice and support decent work by installing international labor standards.
- Worst Forms of Child Labor: Work which is expected to harm the well-being or health of children.
- Functional Financial Systems: A collection of institutions, such as banks, insurance companies, and stock exchanges, that authorize the exchange of funds.
- Minimum Wage Workers: The least quantity of salary that an employer is obliged to give fee earners for the work completed.
- Temporary Shock: A change in the economy of a region/country.
- Debt bondage: It is work that is exchanged to pay off loans.
- Bonded Labor: Individuals are forced to operate in order to repay a debt.

Background Information:

Causes of Child Labor

Wealth and Income:

It is advocated that the main factor of child labor is income and wealth. In some countries, education is not free. While some families make their children work since they cannot afford school, some children work because they do not have sufficient money in their household. The general lack of access to credit is also important for families from low-income countries to make their children work. Income volatility in families also contends the children to work. Temporary or permanent economic shocks may decrease the amount of monthly or a yearly income of a family. Natural disasters also cause loss of income more in certain, low-income countries where insurance does not exist.

Tradition, Perspective, Family:

In some cultures and countries, there's a view where work is helpful for character building and the ability improvement of children. There are traditions where children are supposed to follow their parent's footsteps and start working with them at an early age. Bonded labor, which is recognized as the worst forms of child labor, forces children to work and pay their family member's debt. There's a wide view where people think girls do not need an education which leads them being taken from school. Girls then are forced to do the housework or are sold domestically as sex workers.

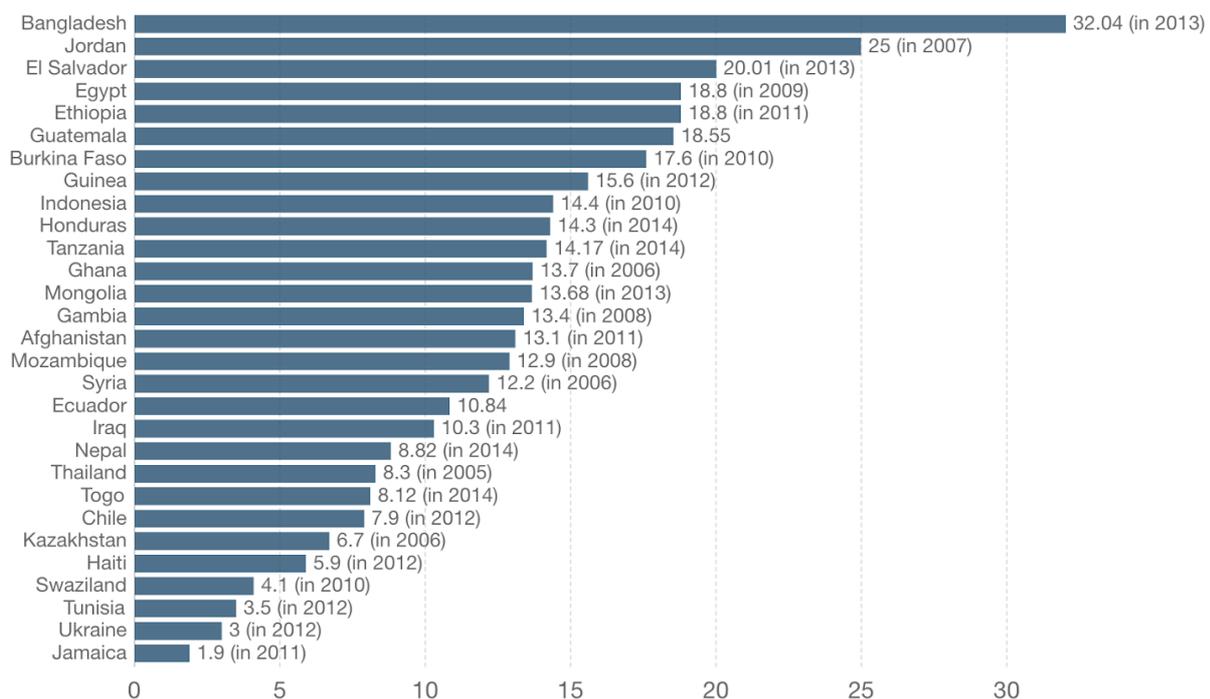
Education:

Most communities do not have adequate school facilities so they are not informed sufficiently about child labor. The education presented is often an inferior quality or not perceived by certain families or children irrelevant.

Average weekly working hours of children

Our World
in Data

Average weekly working hours for children ages 7-14 who are involved in an economic activity for at least one hour in the reference week of the corresponding survey (irrespective of school attendance).



Recent Trends From Global Estimates of Child Labor: Results and Trends, Geneva, September 2017 by International Labor Organization:

- There are 152 million child laborers. 88 million are boys and 64 million are girls.
- Globally 218 million children within 5 and 17 years are in hiring. 152 million of them are victims of child labor, 73 million of them work in worst forms of child labor.

Child Labor in Developed Countries:

About 60% of the child workers are in Asia, with about 23% in sub-Saharan Africa. This shows that most of the child workers live in developed regions, countries. A developing country is essentially agricultural but is operating to install an industrialized economy that can be contentious in global markets. Part of this problem comes from the total expenses of industrializing and registering into global markets. The governments of developing nations do not perpetually have well-established positions in the international market, which implies they do not have a lot of extra money.

Historical Background of the Issue:

Child Labor has begun as developed countries such as England and France started colonies in African countries. As the industrial revolution started African natives, including children, were sent to countries such as England as slave workers. The Victorian era became famous for hiring young children in factories and mines. Child labor played a significant position in the Industrial Revolution from its origin, often brought about by financial hardship. Children as young as three were put to work as sex workers. Factories and mines were not the only places where child labor was common in the early 20th century. Home-based manufacturing across the United States and Europe hired children as well. Governments then thought that labor in industries must be monitored and that's why the law that moved the work out of factories into urban homes. This helped families and women generate profit while taking care of house duties. While this new form of child labor had been spread out in Australia, Britain, Austria, and Germany, in 1946, Frieda Miller - then Director of United States Department of Labour - said the International Labour Organisation that these home-based operations submitted, "low wages, long hours, child labor, delicate and unsanitary working conditions." We live in the 21st century but child labor is yet prevalent in many parts of our world. It varies between 250 to 304 million with children aged 5–17 involved in any economic activity. If light particular work is prohibited, the International Labor Organization concludes there were 153 million child laborers aged 5–14 worldwide in 2008.

Treaties and Initiatives:

- Minimum Age Convention, 26 June 1973 and Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention 1999 by International Labor Organization (ILO)
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted universally by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.
- The International Convention on the Rights of the Child (ICRC) acknowledges the right of every child to be preserved from financial exploitation and from doing work that is dangerous or detrimental to their well-being and growth or that conflicts with their education. It also obliges governments to establish a minimum age for work and to present for relevant hours and forms of employment.
- The UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights include the most prestigious foreign guidelines on the role corporations are required to operate in reducing child labor. The UN Principles are approved internationally and included in a condensed form in the OECD Guidelines.
- The OECD guidelines give businesses useful advice on cross-border business and corporate social accountability. These are suggestions by the governments of the OECD countries, mostly Western countries, to corporations in their countries on how to conduct themselves in fields like human rights, the environment and avoiding engagement in degradation.

Involved Countries and Organizations:

The National Child Labor Committee (NCLC)

It is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1904 with the purpose of promoting the rights of children who are forced to work. Now in its tenth decade, the National Child Labor Committee devotes its efforts to instruct children about the working circumstances, restricting the exploitation of children in the labor market, advancing the well-being and education possibilities for the children.

International Labor Rights Forum (ILRF)

It is a nonprofit backing organization that describes itself as "an advocate for and with the working poor around the world". ILRF was founded in 1986. ILRF understands that all workers have the right to a secure working atmosphere where they are employed with regard and esteem. ILRF works to promote practical and useful tools to assist workers in obtaining enforcement of protections for their fundamental rights.

The Fair Labor Association (FLA)

It is a non-profit collaboration of colleges, civil community associations, and businesses. It explains its purpose as improving adherence to global and national labor laws.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

It is a United Nations agency administering the huge problem of labor. 185 of the 193 UN member states are members of the ILO. In 1969, the foundation won the Nobel Peace Prize for fostering peace and fairness for workers.

The Child Labor Coalition

The coalition believes that no child, regardless of culture, nationality, sex, religion, financial status, place of habitation, or profession, should be forced to labor.

Timeline of Events:

Industrial Revolution: 1750-1850	1830's - 1840's	1836's - 1840's	1883
Beginning in the Industrial Revolution era, seven year old children were forced to work in factories. It was unsafe and unsanitary.	Attitudes about child labor began to differ as some people started to have a positive impact on the riot against the issue which the employers wholly ignored.	People started to raise awareness about the issue which lead to Massachusetts(a state in USA) to pass a law which states that no child under 15 should work and children must attend school 3 months a year. As for the older children, their working hours were shortened to 10 hours a day.	The New York labor union forbid cigar making in tenements where a majority of kids worked in. The leader of this movement was Samuel Gompers.

The 20th Century:

1904	1908	1916	1924
The "National Child Labor Committee" is formed. The duty of this committee is to put restricting laws in order to prevent child labor from happening	Lewis Wickes, a worker from The NCLS, took photos of kids at factories to show the negative side of child labor. After these photographs were set to public, The NCLC gained support from those around it.	The NCLC passed the Keating-Owen Act. This act was an attempt to stop child labor by prohibiting the transportation of goods that the companies that have child workers own. The act was considered as unsuccessful for it did not last long.	The congress proposed the Child Labor Amendment and collected votes both in the house and in the senate. The Amendment states that no person under the age of 18 should work. The Amendment was finally ratified in 1937.

Previous Attempts to solve the issue:

Global March Against Child Labor:

Two decades ago, a global social movement had been initiated in order to suppress child labor. Civil-society organizations in over 100 countries in every continent had instigated a " Global March Against Child Labor" in 1998. The march involved activists who called on the government and international organizations to come

together and eradicate this problem. This movement was considered to be successful for it raised awareness on the issue.

World Day Against Child Labor:

In 2002, the ILO(International Labor Organization) launched the “World Day Against Child Labor”. Every year on the 12th of June, activists, organizations and the government come together to discuss the issue and figure out ways to overcome it. This event has a colossal impact on the issue as the number of children who were victims of child labor was 250 million, with the impact of this day, it is currently 168 million. This number is expected to decrease throughout the upcoming years.

Motion Picture:

The US Department Of Labor has produced important reports documenting the issues thoroughly. Recognizing that raising public awareness also requires photo and video documentation, in the mid-2000s USAID supported the creation of a photo and video repository, in particular to document conditions faced by girls. This material was turned into a film called “ Stolen Childhoods” . The film documented not only the problem but examples of what interventions could help working children – such as a new USAID-supported schoolhouse in communities of coffee pickers in Kenya, creating opportunities for children who had been working on coffee farms to attend school for the first time.

Possible Solutions:

-Raising Awareness On The Topic:

Currently, people are mainly focusing on social media and their personal entertainment. People are also paying attention toward the things that are newly happening in the world, so Child Labor is hardly anyone’s concern anymore. One of the best ways to deal with child labor is to raise more awareness on the topic. This can be achieved by using the Internet for this particular purpose or by increasing the number of events that are happening about Child Labor.

-Creating More Unions:

There are unions who fight against Child Labor and supporters who fight alongside them. If more unions are to be created, there will most likely be more supporters beside them. This way, the number of people who stand after the idea of eradicating Child Labor will increase.

-Educating The Children:

Educating children will help children on being more independent and more intelligent. This way, they cannot be forced to work. This could be achieved by

making the education of children the paramount priority of the government and have it support the children with their monetary needs that their parents may not be able to afford.

Useful Links:

- <https://theirworld.org> › explainers › child-labour
- <https://sites.google.com> › site › [downwithchildlabor20](#) › possible-solutions
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov> › pmc › articles › [PMC3425238](#)
- <https://www.gfa.org> › ... › Child Labor: Not Gone, but Forgotten
- <https://www.washingtonpost.com> › news › monkey-cage › 2016/07/07 › d

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- “Child Labour.” Child Labour, www.ilo.org/global/topics/child-labour/lang--en/index.htm.
- “Read ‘Monitoring International Labor Standards: Techniques and Sources of Information’ at NAP.edu.” *National Academies Press: OpenBook*, www.nap.edu/read/10937/chapter/8#164.
- *Unesdoc.unesco.org*, unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000147485.
- “The University of Iowa Labor Center.” *What Is Child Labor? | The University of Iowa Labor Center*, laborcenter.uiowa.edu/special-projects/child-labor-public-education-project/about-child-labor/what-child-labor.
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