



Committee: Specific Focus 2: Child Labor

Issue: Examining everyday realities and struggles in the pursuit of gender equality.

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Introduction:

Gender equality is a state in which one's gender does not determine one's opportunities, freedoms, or importance. According to the United Nations Gender Inequality Index, there are no countries where women have equal or better life standards or greater freedoms than men. Many nations took action on the gender inequality issue. A few of these nations made progress but the rest keep struggling. Gender equality affects a lot of different domains and one of them is in the workplace. In business, gender equality is the equal treatment and access of your male and female employees to the company resources and privileges. This includes equal salaries, equal consideration for promotions, pay raises... And we can also see this type of inequality at child labor.

Child labor is the exploitation of children through any form of work that deprives children of their childhood, keep them away attending to a regular school and it is also mentally, physically, socially or morally harmful. Laws worldwide forbid such exploitations but these laws do not consider all work done by children as child labor like work by child artists, family duties, supervised training and also forms of child work done by indigenous children in Americas. Child labor has been in our life since 19th and early 20th centuries and they used children between age of 5-14 from poor families worked in Western nations and their colonies alike. Child labor is a big threatening for all children because it takes children's chance to live a quality life as the other children and to have a proper education.

Definition of key terms:

Child labor is a term used to determine the people who are under the age of 18 in a workplace which leads blocking the opportunity of the child to study. Thus not every child labor is harmful in some cases it can help the child study and at the same time have a healthy financial status. But the agenda we will refer is the detrimental side of it.

UNICEF is the United Nations Children's Fund, operating within side the world's hardest locations to attain the maximum deprived youngsters and adolescents – and to guard the rights of each child, everywhere

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is dedicated to selling social justice and the world over identified human and labour rights, pursuing its founding challenge that social justice is important to conventional and lasting peace.

Gender inequality is a social and cultural phenomenon where human beings are discriminated against due to their gender. Basically, that is among guys and women. This phenomenon has considerable effects. We can experience its effect in unique areas: work, social life, own circle of relatives life, etc.

Background information:

Many children all around the world are forced by their parents or because of lower income and life standards, to work instead of an education. In the world's poorest countries about one in four children are involved with child labor and %29 of them live in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2017, Mali, Benin, Chad and Guinea-Bissau faced children aged 5-14 working and it was more than %50. Child labor is generally a sign of extreme poverty. It is known that children whose family has a lower income works to contribute to their families' resources. Labor drives them away from school life or their daily activities, which are so important for the children's future development.

There is a great effort going on to understand what child labor really is. But there are still too many things to learn about it. From another perspective, there is also no gender equality on child labor as well. Girls in poor families are usually involved in casual and informal activities, as domestic work, their participation in labor activities are generally underestimated. In child labor a big difference between girls and boys exists. That is why several resolutions from The United Nations Commission Human Rights is an essential need. And also, by focusing on the differences in the time allocation of boys and girls, we can learn a lot of thing about child labor in general and also about the family's economical situation. There is a basic theory structure in child labor to explain the gender differences in time allocation and changes of the gap as households control their limitations. Theory on the gender differences on children's time allocation model aims to focus on each child's time (work hours, domestic activities and school time.) and with that we can understand these families' structures (how many people the family is composed of or what is their economical situation...).

Historically, child labor is defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. Not all the work done by children should be classified as child labor. If children or teenagers participation in work do not affect their health or personal development or their schooling, this is something positive and not considered as 'child labor'. As an illustration, helping their parents at home, supporting in a family business, earning their pocket money outside of school hours or on holidays... But besides these, there is also the reality, which is work done by children and work, which should be considered as 'abusive child labor'. This is the most extreme and harmful form of child labor. Because of that children are being enslaved, separated from their families, exposed to serious illnesses, so that means they leave behind. Forms of extreme child labor first started through American history at 1930s. In particular, child labor was common especially during Industrial Revolution (1820-1870). Industrialization attracted workers and their families from farms, rural areas and poor families into urban areas and factory work. In factories and mines, children were often preferred as employees because children are more manageable, cheaper and calm than the adults. Historical documents show us that a great percentage of American children worked in mines, glass factories, textiles, agriculture, canneries, home industries and as newsboys, messengers, bootblacks and paddlers. During the late 19th century, many labor unions and social reformers insisted state and local legislation to take action against child labor. Since 1900, a few of these efforts had resulted and it affected state's child labor

standards, their content and the degree of enforcement. Generally these child laborers were the kids of poor parents or recent immigrants who are dependent on their children's salary to live.

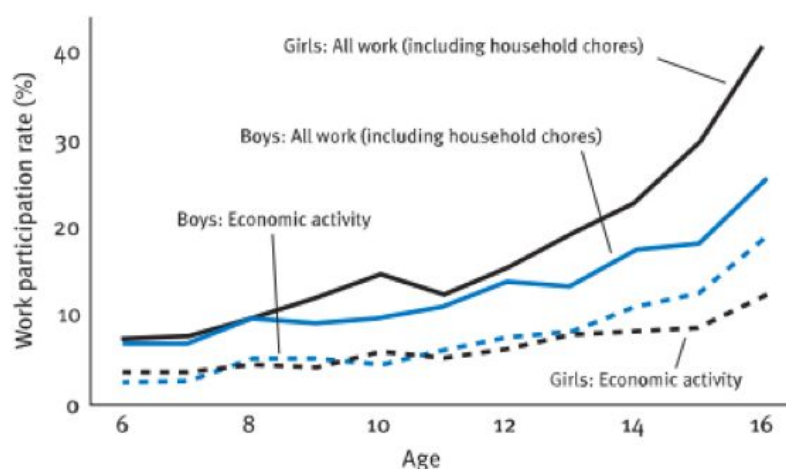
In the early 20th century, child labor reform has started. A lot of different organizations led by working women and middle class consumers such as State Consumers/Leagues and Working Women's Societies were involved in this issue. These organizations created The National Consumers League and The National Child Labor Committee and they all had the same point, which was taking action again child labor.

Examples of How Gender Inequality Affects Child Labor:

Child labor is particularly an issue for girls in developing countries as they do more housework than the boys do. And also standard definitions of child labor tend to underestimate girls' work. There are some other influences, which also affects gender inequality at child labor; economic activities of boys and girls change by country and industry, determinants of child labor may differ by gender, consequences of child labor may differ by gender as well.

For example, in rural India, boys participate in more economic activities than girls. But when we look at work participation including the housework, girls have higher total work participation at all age groups.

FIGURE 1 WORK PARTICIPATION RATES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS IN RURAL INDIA, 1994



Source: Author estimates based on data from Cigno, Rosati, and Tzannatos 2002.

Work done by girls is also underestimated because unlike boys, girls are called "idle" for household work by society. They also said that they don't go to school and they do household work but according to them it shouldn't be called work, it is normal.

In rural Morocco, in 1998, 38% of girls and 19% of boys were announced idle for housework. Idle children can seem to do nothing but according to their parents, they should be occupied with small works.

Boys are economically more active than girls in Latin American countries like Bolivia and Colombia but unlike that girls have a more active role on economic activities in African countries such as Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. Girls and boys are preferred to work on different economic activities. For example, boys are most likely to work in manufacturing, trade, restaurants, hotels and transports and girls usually work in agriculture and personal services.

Researches show that when household welfare increases, children's economic activity

decreases. As an illustration, using land size as a household welfare for rural families, increases girls' farm labor in Pakistan and Ghana. But it has no effect on work hours. A similar situation is not available for boys.

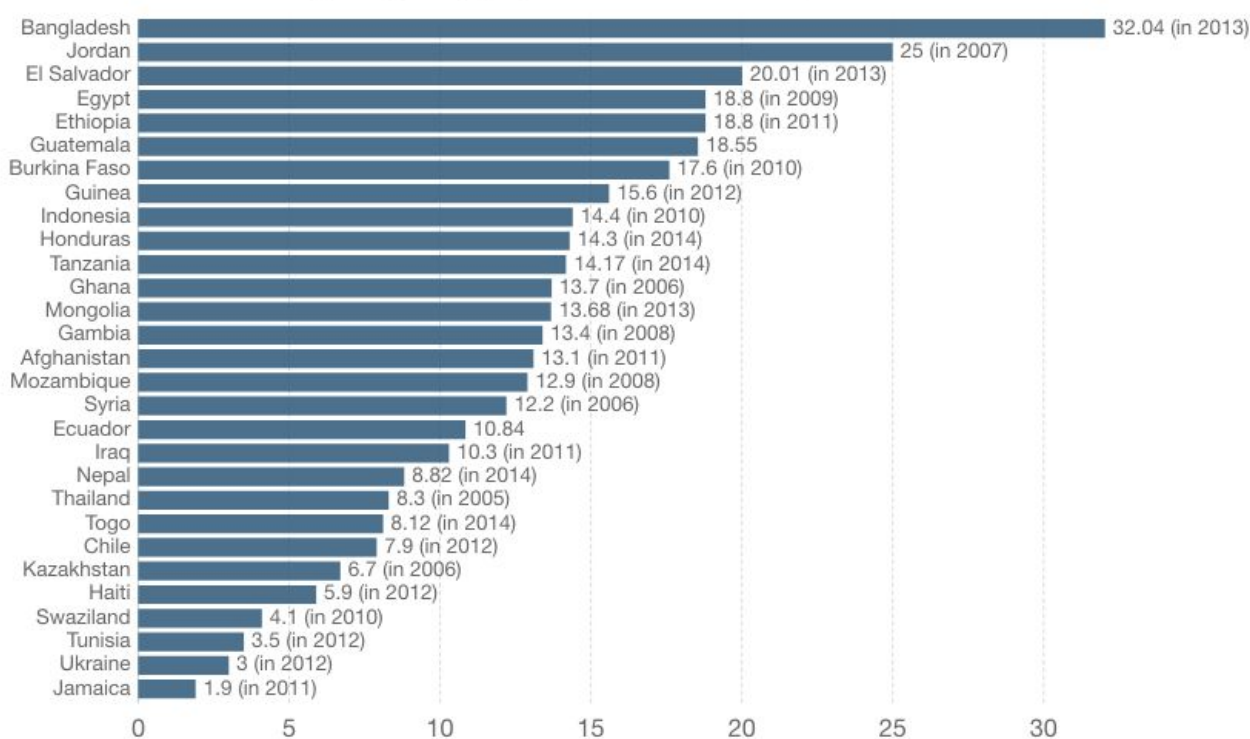
In many countries, gathering water is generally the responsibility of women and girls. Improvements on water substructure can play an important role in reducing children's, especially girls', work hours and developing their attendance to school. In urban Yemen, girls are more likely to work on water networks than boys.

In Indonesia, illness of a girl in the household affects a lot of things. For example, 29 percent rise in the child illness decreases an older sister's labor force participation by 25 percent, decreases their participation in school by 15 percent and increases their contributions in home care by 53 percent.

Research on Mexico and Brazil finds that involvement of girls in economic activities is more than boys. This can affect boys' ability to gain marketable work experience that they can use in their future life, while girls generally gain experience in domestic work which is not transferable to the experience gained in school.

Average weekly working hours of children

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).

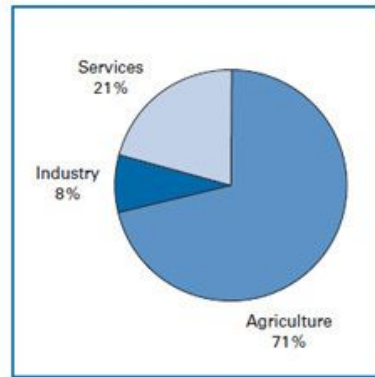


Source: World Bank – WDI

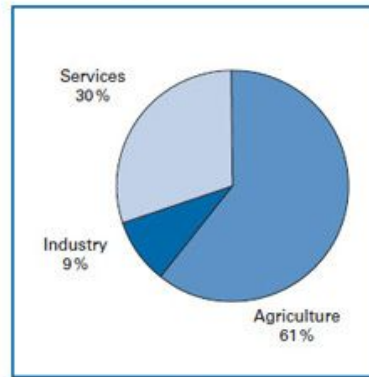
OurWorldInData.org/child-labor/ • CC BY-SA

Chart 2.3: Sectoral distribution of employment in a sample of 16 countries

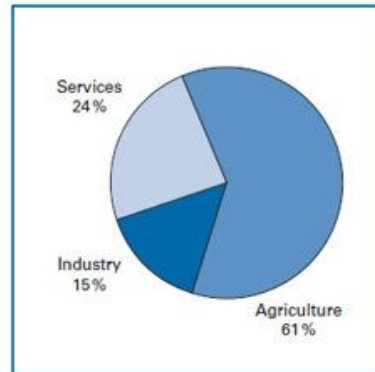
2.3.1. Boys aged 5 to 14 years



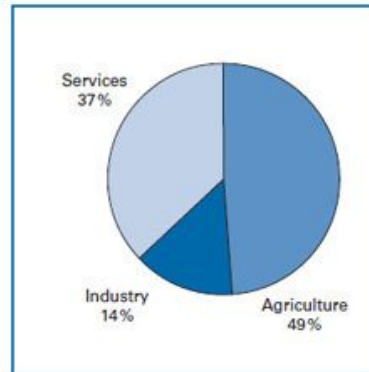
2.3.2. Girls aged 5 to 14 years



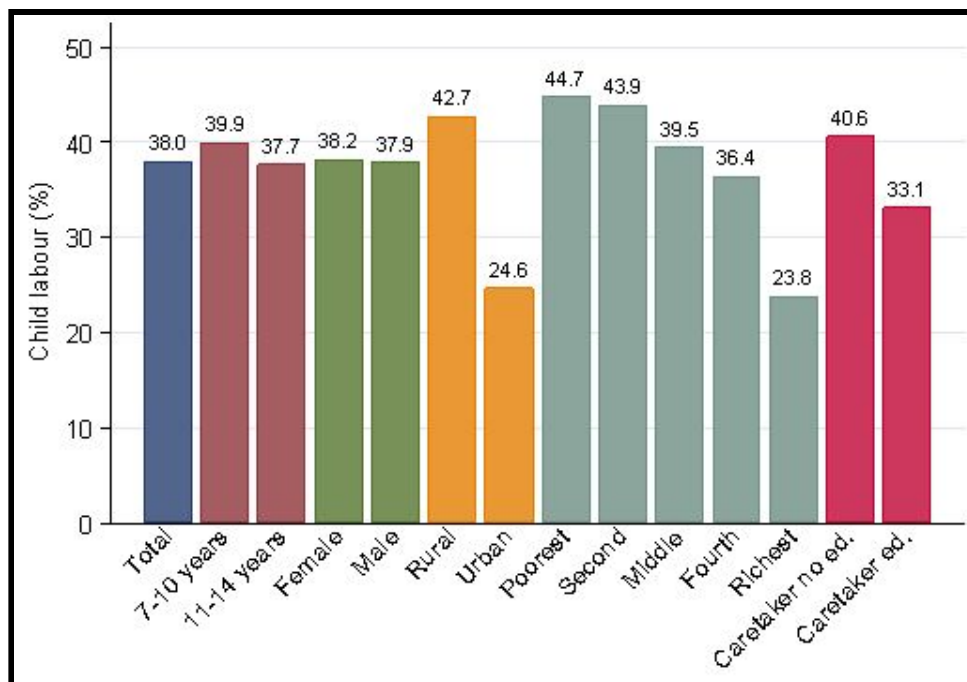
2.3.3 Boys aged 15 to 17 years

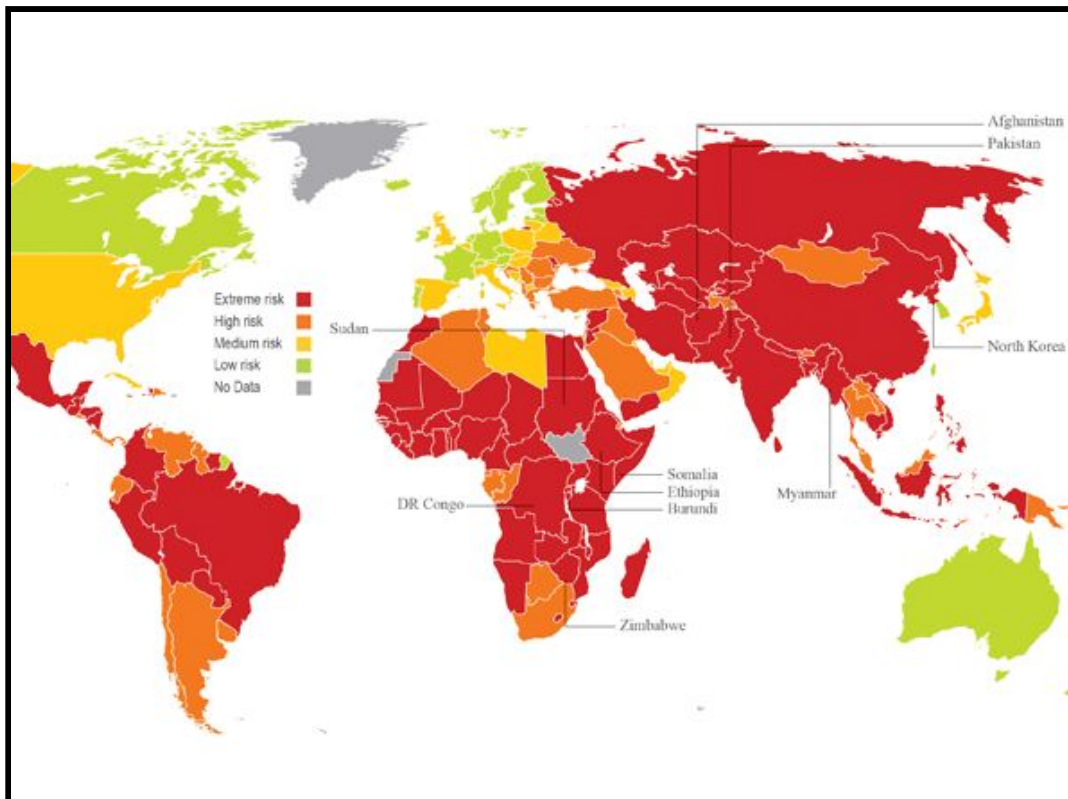


2.3.4 Girls aged 15 to 17 years



Source: SIMPOC calculations based on national child labour surveys from 16 sample countries.





Timeline of events

ILO Minimum Age Convention 1973.	The aim of this convention is to establish a minimum age for work and establishing national policies for the elimination of child labor.
ILO Worst Forms Of Child Labor Convention 1999.	This convention recommends that any definition of hazardous work should include work which exposes children to physical, psychological or sexual abuse or any kind of heavy work.

Previous attempts to solve the issue:

GA resolution (A/RES/71/177) followed the Convention at the Rights of the Child, which constitutes the trend within-side the advertising and safety of the rights of the child

GA resolution (A/RES/65/281) Recognizing that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and well-being

GA resolution (A/RES/65/214) recognized that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights was essential for the effective understanding, promotion and protection of all human rights,

Possible solutions:

One of the major reason why underage working is so common in India and Africa is poverty, poor living conditions, lack of job opportunities governments should work on the financial statue of the country by increasing exportation and the biggest cause of poverty is lack of education hence illiteracy governments should focus on and be aware of without education the country can never develop. Another solution to this crucial issue going around countries can be about creating public awareness with the assistance of IGO's, NGO's and social media platforms by creating donation campaigns which can support kids families to be in a stable and healthy financial statue as a result the children would not be obligated to work

Useful links:

<https://www.unicef.org/turkey/en/research-and-reports>

<https://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/ILOconventionsonchildlabour/lang--en/index.htm>

<https://www.ilo.org/ipec/ChildlabourstatisticsSIMPOC/lang--en/index.htm>

<https://ourworldindata.org/child-labor>

<https://blog.dce.harvard.edu/summer/gender-inequality-women-workplace>

<https://www.ei-ie.org/en/detail/14712/resolution-on-child-labour>

Bibliography:

<https://www.humanium.org/en/child-labor-in-india/>

<https://www.ilo.org/africa/areas-of-work/child-labour/lang--en/index.htm>

<https://www.savethechildren.net>

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/pages/home.aspx>

<https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home.html>

https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_71_177.pdf

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N10/529/40/PDF/N1052940.pdf?OpenElement>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child_labour

<https://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/ILOconventionsonchildlabour/lang--en/index.htm>

<http://www.ucw-project.org/attachment/Gallego&Sepulveda.pdf>