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World Vision



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WHAT IS CHILD LABOUR?

World Vision reports there currently exists approximately 160 million victims of child labour around the world. Nearly half of these children are employed in dangerous and degrading work environments which has only worsened since the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, with rising levels of poverty, it is estimated that 9 million more children will be exploited as child labourers.

Child labour consists of practices that involve long and strenuous work hours, night work, work with heavy machinery, as well as underground or underwater labour. To be considered a form of child labour, employed children are typically under the age of 12 (or between the ages of 12-17) and work hours from 14 to 43 hours per week. In extreme cases, child labourers can also be separated from their families due to the nature of their employment as well as exposure to hazardous work and employers. They are often left to fend for themselves and must withstand the possibility of being enslaved.

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A Case Study of Child Labour: Causes and Effects



There are many social, political and economic reasons as to why child labour is more commonly perceived in developing nations than in developed nations. Countries that have been exploited for centuries by imperialism and colonialism and are still economically recovering are more susceptible to having greater levels of impoverished and politically-overlooked communities. The burden within a single-family in such communities often falls on the eldest sibling. For instance, World Vision reports on the case of Roger, a 14-year old Filipino boy who works long hours as a charcoal maker and is employed in a field that is far more suitable for 30-40-year olds.

A nation's economic prosperity is tied to the empowerment of women and children as they both represent the future. It is imperative that child labour is actively fought against by both government, non-government organizations and international organizations on a global scale. For many families, child labour is an inevitable reality, however, child labour can be significantly reduced in developing nations by prioritizing the greater income-earning opportunities and refining government assistance programs for families.

According to World Vision, approximately 4.3 million children work in forced labour, which includes children in situations of debt bondage, slavery and commercial sexual exploitation.

University of Ottawa World Vision Mission

To operate a student run non-profit organization that raises awareness of the injustices in the world and organizes funds to support these causes in conjunction with the campaigns of World Vision Canada.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The severity of this issue cannot be overlooked. There are many things that you can do to bring awareness to this issue and help the families affected by this crisis!

1. Support a child through World Vision

- a. Through World Vision's child sponsorship program, you can contribute to supporting families from turning to child labour.

2. Support the No Child for Sale Campaign!

- a. Learn about World Vision's campaign at your university.
- b. Take action against child labour and exploitation at <https://www.worldvision.ca/no-child-for-sale/home>

3. Increase your own awareness and inspire change through social media platforms.

- a. Please remember that child labour also exists outside of the developing world. Learn more about child exploitation in Canada and extend your concerns to the government and global platforms!

