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Child Labor - Moral Choice

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Child Labor-Moral Choice

- Is child labor necessary in developing country??
- Child Labor uses in Developing countries... Moral Dilemma in Western Society?
The United States Superimposing Labor Laws in Developing Countries.

• Would eliminating the use of child workers help or hinder developing countries economic growth?

• Children that work on the streets are drawn to the economic benefits, not because they are being exploited. But because it is a better option than other income options.
A 12-yr old boy sells finger puppets on the steps of Cusco cathedral while still carrying his school material in a back pack. (Bromley, Mackie)
The Risk and Benefits of Child Labor

• Street Workers
  o Risks: “motor vehicle injuries, drug addiction, fatigue, malnutrition, sexual abuse and death.”
  o Benefits: “Children develop a repertoire of survival strategies as a response to the marginalization and subordination. Also, creativity, freedom, financial benefits, and experience a hybrid between work and play.”
The Risks and Benefits of Child Labor

- Rural/agricultural, Factory and service sector work
  - Risks: fracture and amputations of fingers, toes or entire limbs, head injuries and other disabling mishaps are frequent as in maltreatment and long-term damage to a child’s nervous system.
  - Benefits: Positive outcomes from work done such as pride in their contribution to their families’ economic security.
  - “According to the Human Rights Watch (2002), the majority of working children in the world are engaged in agriculture.”
In 1900, 18% of laborers were under the age 16 (Trattner)

Children were employed in cotton mills, farms, and factories, because of their small size and versatility.

The use of Children in factories helped the United States economic growth and directed it to the Industrial Revolution.
Conclusion, Do the Risks Outweigh the Benefits?

• Children in developing countries have the opportunity to attend morning classes, and still reap the benefits of working in the afternoon.

• If developed countries continue to superimpose child labor laws, child/families will seek other forms of income, which leads them into illegal forms of income.

• The ability for a child to successfully and legal earn income is detrimental to their health and success.
Thank You!

- Strata
- Utah State University
- Randy Simmons
- Trisha Haber