Child Labor - Moral Choice

Caitlin Lagasse
Utah State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/ucur

Part of the English Language and Literature Commons

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/ucur/10
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
  o 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.
  o Benefits: Positive outcomes from work done such as pride in their contribution to their families’ economic security.
  o “According to the Human Rights Watch (2002), the majority of working children in the world are engaged in agriculture.”
The United States History

- 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 legally earn income is detrimental to their health and success.
Thank You!

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