

A Paper on Child labor at the Workplace

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ABSTRACT: A global topic that has attracted a lot of controversy is child labor. Various suggested remedies include measures to increase international conformity with human rights norms, the imposition of trade restrictions or boycotts, and the strengthening of regulations and the investigation of crimes. None of these strategies have attained more than modest success, primarily because the underlying causes of child labor and global business pressures are rarely implemented and disregarded. A strategy that has gained almost little coverage in the legal community is the use of fair trade labels to combat child labor. Main observational analysis and case studies discussed here, however, show that fair trade can be seen as an established solution to existing child labor reduction strategies. Next, it depends on consumer incentives and private oversight to successfully prosecute non-complying firms in the area of fair trade. Second, it is voluntary and confidential, preventing foreign surveillance compliance concerns that rarely result with regulation or fines. Second, unlike cases focused on a limited percentage of the resulting issues of child labor and slavery, fair trade works on improving a significant number of workers' wages, living environments, wellbeing, and schooling.

KEYWORDS: Trade labeling, Human rights, Forced labor, Sex slavery, Trafficking, Debt Servitude.

INTRODUCTION

The horror stories widely publicized when it comes to the plight of children being abused globally are of children being trafficked into industrial sex work. Although this is obviously a problem that needs consideration, child labor, whether children have been trafficked or are coerced to work in their own families, is a less recognized and more common question affecting children. About 200 million children work in conditions that exceed universal child labor laws, according to the U.N. This global problem has drawn much controversy, including numerous proposals suggested by legal experts, some of which have tried to be adopted with marginal success by different countries. The importance of international oversight and implementation of human rights standards has been the subject of some of these academics[1].

In order to counter human rights violations such as child labor, some have urged countries to join foreign organizations such as the WTO. An increasing number of researchers are concentrating on countering child labor as an alternate approach by connecting economic punishments such as trade tariffs or boycotts with the unlawful use of child labor by a government. Many of these scholars depend on the proposal by Daniel Ehrenberg to treat child labor as an illicit trade subsidy which, under the World Trade Organization, constitutes an unfair competitive advantage. The importance of developing tougher laws and expanded enforcement of child labor has been stressed by other academics, as well as by U.S. politicians[2]. This paper claims that by endorsing fair trade labeling, worldwide child labor issues can be mitigated. Equal exchange is one of the world's fastest-growing economies. This encourages a market-based approach that allows factories in developed countries enjoy fair trade terms and higher revenues in return for meeting different human rights and labor requirements that favor workers.

But a remedy that has gained little consideration in the legal world is the use of fair trade labels to fight child labor. And key, qualitative analysis, as well as many other case studies, demonstrate that fair trade is capable of growing families' wages in developed countries, enhancing working conditions, and reducing child labor in

targeted sectors[3]. Equal trading is a highly successful approach since it would not entail any countries or private industries being coerced. Instead, it makes it easier to track labour policies accurately, to minimize commodity price volatility and to provide manufacturers with substantial incentives to sustain fair trading markets.

RIGHTS OF A CHILD

It is important to have specific descriptions of child labor and slavery before the content of these problems is examined. To start with, often the words forced labor and child exploitation may be merged, when in reality they describe separate, but often overlapping, problems. If the person being abused is an infant, permission is meaningless, because a child is trafficked if he or she is transported for abuse from his or her home[4]. Forced labor, facilities or activities such as slavery require exploitation. As with the concept of child labor, researchers have noted that identifying the spectrum of problem activity is one of the great challenges. Child labor is currently classified by the International Labor Organization (ILO) as any of the following three categories:

- Labor carried out by a minor child,
- Risky labor that jeopardizes a child's physical, emotional or spiritual well-being, or
- Sex slavery, trafficking, debt servitude and other types of forced labor, including for the purposes of war or prostitution.

Therefore, although child labor may entail the selling of a child, slavery or debt bondage within a child's own culture may also be the worst types of child labor[5]. Due to the scope of the three-pronged definition of child labor by the ILO, which can include employment that is helpful to the family, as well as the challenge of measuring the number of children employed around the world, this article would concentrate solely on the worse types of children.

WORLDWIDE PROTECTIONS AGAINST CHILD LABOR

The international community has agreed that it should not be tolerated to use kids for labor. In 1989, the Convention on the Protection of the Child was ratified by the United Nations General Assembly. This protocol lays out goals to be reached by individual countries for the protection of children and has been ratified more easily than any other agreement on human rights. The United States and Somalia are the only United Nations countries who have not signed this treaty[6]. The basic principle of this treaty is to state that all children under the age of 18 have some fundamental rights and that governments shall enact laws to protect these rights and to report on the condition of the rights of children in their region. The main value of the privileges that the Treaty asks for in this article is:

- (i) States should take steps to deter children from being stolen, kidnapped or trafficked for some reason or in some manner,
- (ii) Shield the child from any other kinds of abuse that are prejudicial to some part of the health of the child,
- (iii) Accept a child's right to be protected from economic abuse.

The Treaty calls on Member States to take institutional, administrative, social and educational steps to provide for a minimum age for jobs, to control the hours and conditions of employment, and to implement adequate fines or other sanctions to ensure the successful implementation of the provisions of the Treaty in order to deter the economic abuse of children. The extent of child labor in the world precipitated a demand in 1999 to prioritize the worst aspects of child labor and, as the overarching goal, to ensure the complete abolition of

child labor. As a result, the ILO adopted Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor, which allows nations to take immediate measures to eradicate the worst forms of child labor[7]. In addition, two optional protocols of the Convention on the Protection of the Child entered into effect in 2002 and further reinforced the treaty. They expressly forbid the trafficking of minors, child pornography and prostitution, and in the case of military conflict, they prohibit children. Unfortunately, while these international conventions oppose the use of child labor, few of them have been successfully implemented against companies or nations benefiting from child labor.

VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

It is a fallacy that in sweat shops, sooty factories or processing centers, the most harmful child labor exists to produce consumer products. In fact, the agriculture sector is the economic sector that is also most responsible for the worst forms of child labor. One third of the global population in agriculture is made up of child laborers[8]. More of the world's working children are engaged in agriculture than in any other field, the United States Department of Labor found. Most child laborers between the ages of 5 and 17 are in agriculture (60 percent), compared to some 26 percent in services and 7 percent in manufacturing, according to the ILO. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations found that 132 million girls, or 70% of children, worked in agriculture, out of children aged between five and fourteen. Although it may be shocking, farming is one of the most hazardous and regulated sectors. Part of the agricultural industry's problem derives from the lack of enforcement in that market.

Some countries refuse to control or limit agriculture to lower standards[9]. Certainly, according to the U.S. Child labor in agriculture is to a considerable extent unpaid, uncounted, sometimes illegal, and least known by the Labor Department. The cigarette industry is an industry in the agriculture sector and has become infamous for employing forced labor. In a hundred countries, tobacco is an important cash crop, and much more lucrative in many countries. It is extremely labor intensive and sometimes requires child labor, considering the economic benefits of tobacco. One research showed that child labor is 68 percent to 40 percent more widespread in tobacco growing families than in non-tobacco growing families. Furthermore, children growing tobacco are often subjected to the worst forms of child labor. Among tobacco tenants and their families, including children, bonded labor has historically been prevalent.

Children follow parents for several weeks to work in the cigarette factory, and they do not have a choice about how long they stay there, live in filthy situations, and are not free to go until they have paid their debts to the enterprise. Another disturbing example of the use of the worst types of child labor is the chocolate sector, another labor-intensive industry. A 2002 report reported that in Côte d'Ivoire, the world's largest cocoa producer, over 600,000 children were interested in cocoa farming[10]. A more recent ILO research in Ghana estimates that as many as one-third of working children could be single child laborers with no family relation. In both sectors, the dangerous working conditions for children include pulling heavy loads, handling explosives and poisons, using hazardous devices, not to mention physical violence and scarce food. Cocoa is a very labor-intensive industry with little use of equipment, close to tobacco, and this is cited as one of the reasons for the intensified use of child labor in this field.

CONCLUSION

U.S. policymakers need to understand that child labor is a more pervasive global danger to children than human slavery, but current strategies need to focus directly on the complex problems of child labor abuse. Fair trade labeling has a proven track record in reducing forced labor, in relation to trade restrictions, boycotts and foreign surveillance and trade sanctions. By providing discounts and tax cuts to fair-trade friendly businesses and the public awareness of the benefits of buying fair trade goods, the United States government

should consider encouraging fair trade labeling. Similar funding has been provided to fair trade organizations by the European Union, and the common acceptance and use of fair trade in Europe shows the advantages of such government support. Indeed, a large amount of funding from the European Union has been given to the fair trade movement.

With government funding, fair trade has expanded dramatically in Europe, with recent figures of up to EUR 1.5 billion per year. The E.U. in January 2010, admired the fair trade campaign for its role in raising awareness of the number of customers who buy socially conscious goods. To the E.U. It also shared its commitment to raising market awareness of fair trade, endorsing research on the effects of fair trade, and encouraging the financing of fair trade-based sustainability schemes. On awareness-raising alone, the E.U. funded fair trade in 2007 and 2008 with 19 million Euro. Recognition of fair trade organizations has become increasingly common in Europe, perhaps as a result of this government funding, with a study in 2005 finding that fair trade revenues in Europe increased by around 20 percent per year, making fair trade one of the world's fastest growing markets. There were 254 fair trade importing associations, 3,191 niche fair trade outlets, and 67,619 supermarkets selling fair trade goods in Europe as of 2007. There are, on the other hand, well over 200 fair trade importing associations, niche fair trade outlets, and 40,000 stores selling fair trade goods in the United States.

In the United States, fair trade as a per capita intake rate is comparatively low at just 2.43, compared with 20.06 in Switzerland, 11.57 in the United Kingdom, 7.27 in Denmark, 6.56 in Finland, and 4.66 in Sweden. Consumer awareness of fair trading in the United States peaked at 33 percent in 2009, compared to 70 percent in the United Kingdom. Thus, although the United States already has a strong demand for fair trade goods, by continuing to raise customer understanding, there is enormous opportunity waiting to be exploited.

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