

CHILD LABOUR

Child labour is a serious issue that needs to end. The exploitation of children through demanding work still occurs today, and heavily interferes with their education and childhood. It is physically and mentally exhausting for the children and is morally unjust. In this article, I will describe the effects of child labour on the children themselves, explain why actions need to be taken against child labour, and outline what you can do to help.



“168 MILLION CHILDREN AGED 5 TO 17 ARE ENGAGED IN CHILD LABOUR” UNICEF, 2017



Millions of childhoods are invaded with child labour, with almost half of the child workers working in hazardous conditions. At such youthful ages, these children should not have to suffer through these sorts of conditions, and instead should be receiving an education, the key to many locked doors in future life.

“CHILD LABOUR IS A BARRIER TO CHILD WORKERS’ DEVELOPMENT AND ABILITY TO RECEIVE AN EDUCATION”

There is a large negative impact on a child worker’s ability to attend school and therefore receive an education. Education gives children everything they need in life. It gives them knowledge, which helps them build opinions. It helps them reach their full potential, guiding them along the way. It teaches them the basics of reading and writing, to the knowledge needed to get a job and earn money to be able to afford the basic necessities in life. These are just a few of the reasons why an education is so important. Every child has the right to an education, signifying the importance of one. The fact that child labour prevents a child receiving an education is shocking. This is why something needs to be done about it.



“AT CURRENT RATES, MORE THAN 100 MILLION CHILDREN WILL STILL BE TRAPPED IN CHILD LABOUR BY 2020” UNICEF, 2017

If these figures hold true, the progress in ending child labour is too slow. As education systems around the globe are developing faster and faster, issues like these need to be sorted out. Developed countries, like the UK, are competitive due to their strong economy. From a purely economic perspective, developing countries which use child labour, may have faster economic growth if they were to educate all children and get them to perform tertiary jobs (through an education) instead of primary ones (through child labour). So, ending child labour and making sure that all children go to school and get an education would strengthen the economy of that country, helping them to catch up to other developed countries.



“BUY FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS WHENEVER POSSIBLE”

What can you do to help? There are many little things you can do that will make a big difference and help stop child labour. The little things would allow children to have an enjoyable childhood and get an education, and from the perspective of the country, strengthen the economy which in turn improves the quality of the life of the people. Here are some things which you can do:

- 1. Educate yourself and spread the word:** Educating yourself about child labour using trusted resources like UNICEF’s website makes you much more aware about the issue and means you can inform other people about it. If many more people knew about it, a whole movement against child labour could be created.
- 2. Sign petitions:** According to gov.uk “After 10,000 signatures, petitions get a response from the government. After 100,000 signatures, petitions are considered for debate in Parliament.” Petitions can make a change.
- 3. Donate to anti-child labour organisations:** Organisations like UNICEF, ILO and Save the Children, use donations to carry out actions that help children in the battle against child labour. Every donation counts.
- 4. Buy fair trade products:** Fair Trade products are products that come from farms that provide fair wages and safe working conditions. Fairtrade standards prohibit child labour.



This article explains what child labour is and the effects of it on both the children and the economy. It explains why an education is important to a child and how the public can help put an end to this ongoing battle.