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The effects of education system on to the child labour: an evaluation from the social work perspective

Buğra Yıldırım^{a*}, Eda Beydili^b, Merve Görgülü^c

^{a,b,c}Hacettepe University, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences Department of Social Work, 06800, Ankara, Turkey.

Abstract

Education is an important tool for development of individuals and societies. Children as a part of education system and the adults of future are a vital importance. The education system should be covered, especially children, including every human being in order to develop. In Turkey the process of education raised to twelve year, is known 4+4+4 system, and this decision got so much reaction because of its possible results. One of this results is the child labour problem. The aim of this study is to discuss the effects of education system on the child labour and bring into question social work intervention in order to eliminate this problem.

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1. Introduction

Among other members of a community, a child is an individual who needs looking after and private caring because of having a nature sensitive, sentimental and cognitive characteristic open to learning. Progression of a society is merely possible with the development of children in that community, who are strong psychosocially and physically. While child abuse dates back early humans, any child abuse in whatsoever form it is requires medical and psychosocial treatment, in addition the person who are involved in child abuse is subjected to legal act. Child abuse is mainly grouped as physical, emotional, sexual, and economical and negligence, and child labour is one of the prime issues of the economical abuse.

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +90 0312 297 63 63 / 328; fax: +90 0312 297 63 65.

E-mail address: bugrayildirim58@gmail.com

Economical abuse can best be defined as hiring a child for a work in which his rights are infringed, low payment is made, and his personal development is hindered (Bahar et. al, 2009). It is an insurmountable issue in our country as well as in many other developed and developing countries as a clear result of the distribution of unbalanced economic and technological growth. The need for human workers in the industries has gained an utmost importance because of the competition in the global markets in a correlation with globalisation; it has resulted in a crowded mass of labour class first in Europe and all around the world respectively (Alp et.al, 2009; Sunal et.al, 2008; Yıldız, 2007; Kavi, 2006; Özdemir, 2005; Sapancalı, 2002; exp.: Güler, 2001). As expected, first male workers and then in time female workers and in a short span of time child workers have been employed in industries, which has led a disturbance in the physical, sensorial, kinaesthetic, social, medical and moral development and his right for education has been disregarded. That has brought about children being prone to every threat, for they have adopted all the negative experiences and way of behaving in the work life.

2. The Issue Of Child Labour

To make a definition of child labour necessitates the definition of child. It can best be done by taking the age criteria and the children rights into consideration. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (commonly abbreviated as the CRC, CROC, or UNCRC) defines a child as any human being under the age of eighteen.

Child labour refers to the employment of children in any work that deprives children of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular school, and that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful. According to ILO (international Labour Organisation), the definition of working child and that of child labour do not overlap (FAO, 2013).

Child labour has always been considered as the series of acts that deprive the children of their childhood, main potentials, and the most importantly their honours, and that give a serious harm to their physical and mental development. All these prevent them from attending school and even if they do so, they lead them to work in heavy jobs that last for hours. To decide if a job is child labour or not is solely depends on the kind of job, the age of the child, the content the hours of the job, the working conditions, and the goals of the country; therefore, it varies from country to country and from sector to sector (ILO, 2004).

In Turkey, in accordance with the labour law of 2003, it is forbidden for employers to employ children under the age of 15; however, those who are in their 15 legally and have completed secondary school education or those who continue their education could be hired for the jobs as long as these jobs do not harm their physical, mental, and moral developments. For employment, it is a requirement for the workplaces to consider children's safety measures, their physical, mental, and psychological developments, personal tendencies, and abilities. It is necessary for works not to hinder them from going to school, and vocational training. Working hours of the children who have completed the compulsory education and do not attend to school is not allowed to be more than 7 hours per day and 35 hours per week, but for those who have completed the age of 15, the time could be extended to 8 hours per day and 40 hours per week (Labour Law No: 4857, Article 71).

It is clear that education system has considerably important to shape the working conditions of children. It would be useful to have a look at the prospects of child labour both in our country and in the World before giving the details of education.

3. A General Overview Of Child Labour Both In Turkey And In The World.

Almost 1/3 of the World population is comprised of children under the age of 18. Children and youngsters constitute almost half of the whole population in most countries (Unicef, 2006). Although according to the statistics of ILO there are a plethora of children who are employed under the age of 5, almost all of the children employed are those under at the age range of 5-17. In accordance with the records of ILO, 306 million out of 1.586 billion children in the World (19.3%) are in the employment sector, and 250 million (around 70%) of these children are child worker, which shows that one out of every seven child in the World is child worker. 115 million of these children are performing very dangerous tasks (ILO, 2010).

The same statistics 176 million children at the age range of 5-14 are in industry and it is clear that the number of child workers is 153 million, of whom 53 million are employed in dangerous tasks. 129 million children at the age

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