CHILD LABOR IN KENYA AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Nehal Mohammed Alharbi, Master of Public Affairs O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Kenya

dx.doi.org/10.18374/IJBR-22-2.11

ABSTRACT

Child labor exists in developing countries such as Kenya and other countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Instead of going to school, children often work dangerous jobs. This paper will assess the negative economic effects of child labor and consider policies to reduce it. The study will concentrate on developing countries. The study will focus on the economic causes of child labor and its impact on economic growth and consider the efficacy of various regulatory mechanisms to reduce child labor, including boosting credit availability, improving financial markets, and increasing economic growth.

***Keywords**: Child labor, Developing countries, Economic conditions, Children's rights, Tackle policies in Kenya*

1. INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, children have been compelled to work in hazardous and dehumanizing environments. Today, millions of children are working in poor or hazardous environments in the United States and around the world. A substantial number of children are employed in commercial agriculture. Others take on jobs in prostitution, the drug trade, or other arduous jobs, such as military service. Workdays from ten to fourteen hours are common. Despite the fact that child laborers have the potential to become productive and mature citizens, they are denied the right to education, health care, and dignity (Mendola, 2016).

Policies to reduce child labor face challenges, and sometimes have unintended side effects. For example, the Child Labor Deterrence Act's passage in the United States in 1922 forced 50,000 children out of the garment industry, according to UNICEF. Many of these children ended up working in hazardous industries such as stone-crushing, street hustling, and even prostitution.

This paper will assess the child labor problem. Section 2 below gives basic information on child labor conditions in developing countries around the globe. Section 3 describes the economic conditions that cause child labor, while Section 4 assesses the impact of child labor on economic growth. Section 5 describes the cost and consequences of child labor; Section 6 provides a policy case study of Kenya. Section 7 concludes the paper.

2. CHILD LABOR IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Child labor is a big issue in many developing countries, particularly in places where poverty is prominent. As part of a global development partnership, vulnerable children must be identified, and problems associated with the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) are highlighted; specifically, poverty eradication, universal primary education, equality of opportunity for men and women, and the fight against HIV/AIDS. Third-world countries have high poverty rates, financial instability, and populations that lack access to fundamental human needs such as clean drinking water, safe shelter, and nutritional food, resulting in widespread destitution and high death rates. Third-world countries are most prone to social evils like child labor. There is a link between child labor and a country's development status (Caraway, 2016).