

Research Report

Issue:	The issue of finding economic incentives for companies to ban child labour in the textile industry
Forum:	Economic and Social Council
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Definition of the issue:

Child labour is a very high discussed issue. Therefore the idea of finding economic incentives for companies practising child labour in the textile industry might be a good possibility to enforce a ban of child labour, but also ensure this development plan by finding economic incentives for affected companies by proposing some advantages in order to avoid the possibility of using children to work for lower wages.

Problem and Background information:

Child labour is not always considered bad. If children help their parents at home or at work they can learn a lot in terms of collaboration or social commitment, but for sure a so called exploitive child labour also exists.

Definition of exploitive child labour:

Exploitive child labour is defined as violation against their rights. Child labour is a violation of fundamental human rights and has been shown to hinder children’s development, potentially leading to lifelong physical or psychological damage. Child

labour refers to work that is harmful to children's physical and mental development and includes work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children, and interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, by making them leave school prematurely or by requiring them to go to school as well as doing heavy work or working long hours.

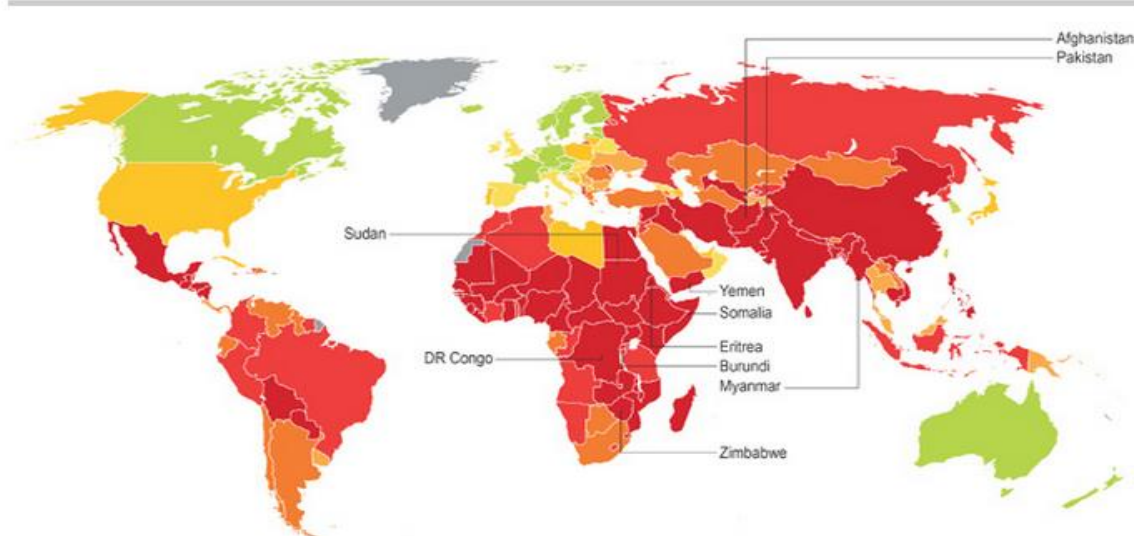
In the worst cases, child labour can make children slaves, separate them from their families, expose them to serious dangers and illnesses and/or leave them to look after themselves on the streets of large cities – often at a very early age.

According to the IAO convention highly discussed exploitive acts of child labour are slavery, compulsory labour, children working under the age of 13, child prostitution and pornography, child soldiers, illicit work as for example drug trafficking, as well as work that endangers health, safety, morality. Children are also not supposed to work in mines, to carry heavy weights, to work for a longer amount of time or at night.

One of the biggest problems concerning the issue of child labour is somehow a vicious circle these children are captured in. Their parents need their children to earn money, because they are not able to support their families only with the low wages they earn by working. By sending children to work, they do not have the chance to learn and gain knowledge about the most basic things they should know about. Their knowledge is bounded to what they have to do while they are working in order to earn a very little amount of money. Within not having a chance for a better job, that could leverage them, because they had not had the chance to learn and go to school, they won't work for wages, that are high enough to support a family when they are grown-ups as well as their parents were. In the end they need to send their children to work, too. Thus a circle of not or very low educated children working for a littlest amount of money for the only reason of living is just about to continue.

Geographical situation and countries involved:

Child Labour Index map 2014



Rank	Country	Category	Rank	Country	Category	Legend
=1	Eritrea	Extreme	=6	Afghanistan	Extreme	■ Extreme Risk
=1	Somalia	Extreme	=6	Pakistan	Extreme	■ High Risk
=3	DR Congo	Extreme	8	Zimbabwe	Extreme	■ Medium Risk
=3	Myanmar	Extreme	9	Yemen	Extreme	■ Low Risk
=3	Sudan	Extreme	10	Burundi	Extreme	■ No data

(<http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-K7TedyTtlrU/UmwqtqcFdMII/AAAAAAAAAMSo/2p1M-wZFek8/s1600/childlaborindex2014.png>)

Pro/Contra child labour:

<u>Pro:</u>	<u>Contra:</u>
cheap labor	unhealthy working conditions
easily controlled labor (no rebelling, etc)	traumatization/mental instability
children do jobs grown- ups won't	unfair pay wages
keeps children from getting into trouble	abuse of children
children need money to support their families financial	too strenuous work for children
gives children an idea of financial responsibility and work ethics	children are innocent and shouldn't be exposed to the dark ways of factory work
	uncivil working discipline

Organizations involved:

International Labour Organization (ILO) + their International Programme on the Elimination of Child labour (IPEC):

“The elimination of child labour has always been central to the aims of the ILO. In fact the first international standard to regulate child labour was adopted in 1919. From this time onwards, ten child labour standards have been adopted and a Minimum Age Convention (No. 138) was

drawn up in 1973. In 1999 the ILO adopted Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labour, which is discussed in more detail throughout this resource.

Established in 1992, the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) is the ILO's biggest technical cooperation programme.

IPEC works towards the elimination of child labour, taking action throughout the world to improve the situation of child labourers every day. Thanks to IPEC's efforts, hundreds of thousands of children have been taken out of work and given better opportunities or have been prevented from having to work."

(http://www2.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/Youthinaction/C182-Youth-orientated/C182Youth_Background/lang--en/index.htm)

UNICEF

Solutions and key developments:

- IPEC

Resolutions and actions taken (concerning rights, protection and child labour):

- A/RES/51/77
- S/RES/1261
- A/62/182
- A/62/259
- A/62/297
- A/62/88
- A/61/299
- A/62/209
- A/62/141
- A/HRC/7/8
- A/62/228

Tasks for delegates:

Is your country having a problem with the issue of child labour?

Can you think of any economic incentives?

How can you enforce such incentives in a country having issues?

Is there any other way to enforce actions besides the UN?

Or

What is an affected country itself able or even supposed to do in order to avoid child labour?

Think of a specific age that is marking a child as one and thus protects it from working.

Useful sources:

<http://greenplanetethics.com/wordpress/child-labour-pros-and-cons/>

<http://www.un.org/en/events/childlabourday/background.shtml>

<http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/briefingpapers/childlabour/>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/complete-ban-on-child-labour-below-14-approved-by-cabinet-112082800510_1.html

<http://www.timetoast.com/timelines/the-history-of-child-labor>

<http://www.history.com/topics/child-labor>

<http://nabe-web.com/publib/be/000330.pdf>

Sources:

<http://www.thestar.com/content/dam/thestar/opinion/commentary/2013/10/23/banning-child-work-a-dangerous-move/bangladesh.jpg.size.xxlarge.letterbox.jpg>

<http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-K7TedyTtlrU/UmwTqcFdMII/AAAAAAAAAMSo/2p1M-wZFek8/s1600/childlaborindex2014.png>

<http://www.tdh.de/was-wir-tun/arbeitsfelder/kinderarbeit/daten-und-fakten/was-ist-ausbeutung.html>

<http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/briefingpapers/childlabour/>

<https://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20080505212441AABjeIa>

<http://greenplanetethics.com/wordpress/child-labour-pros-and-cons/>

http://www2.ilo.org/ipecc/Campaignandadvocacy/Youthinaction/C182-Youth-orientated/C182Youth_Background/lang--en/index.htm

<http://www.aktiv-gegen-kinderarbeit.de/gegenmassnahmen/kampagnen/ipecc/>

<http://www.buzzle.com/articles/history-of-child-labor.html>