

Portfolio
ENGLISH WRITING SKILLS And COMMUNICATIONS
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Section: G

CAUSES OF CHILD LABOUR

It is an academic essay consists of
outline, statistics and references



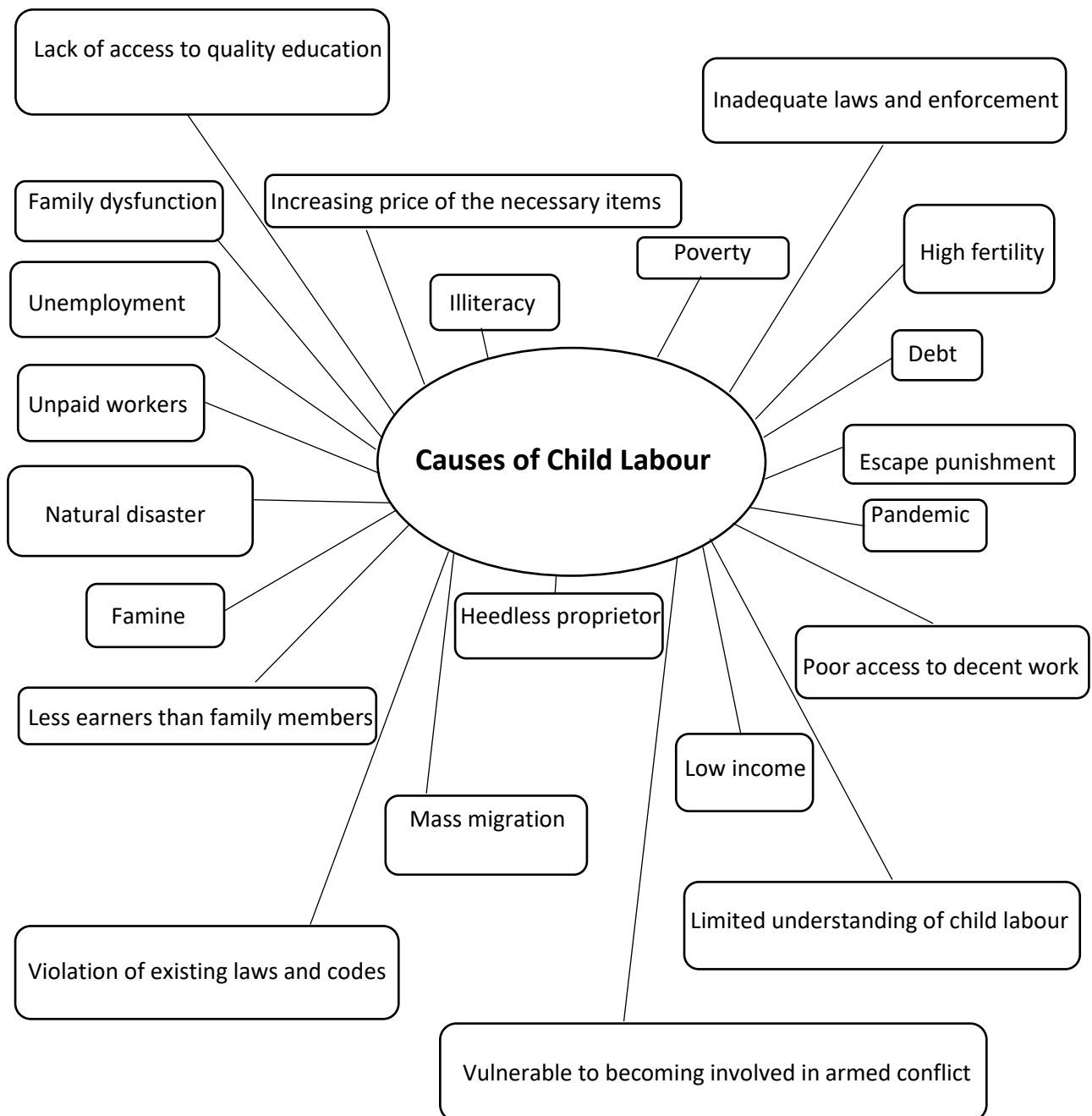
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Portfolio Task 1

Essay title: Causes of Child Labour

1. Brainstorming (Generating Ideas for Essay)



2. Collecting Materials

Resource mat 1:

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_117863.pdf

The factors that cause child labour are closely interrelated. We define here five key factors.

The first three of these (poverty, education and social norms) can be considered supply factors. They prompt parents to supply the labour of their children in their own businesses or farms or in the labour market.

A powerful determinant of child labour is poverty. Parents send their children out to work or ask them to work in the family business or on the family farm because the family has a low income and needs the extra money (or work effort) that the children provide. In Ghana's oil palm and rubber plantations, for example, 48% of child labourers said they worked to support the family's income, while an additional 16% worked to help their parents in the plantation (see Figure 2). Children who are orphaned work to support themselves.

Article 2 of the ILO's Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (C. 182) defines a 'child' as anyone under the age of 18. There are 318 million economically active children in the world. About two-thirds of these children are engaged in what is considered child labour. The remainder participate in acceptable forms of work. Child labour is work that harms a child's well-being and hinders his or her education, development and future livelihood. Child labour is work which, by its nature and/or the way it is carried out, harms, abuses and exploits the child and deprives the child of an education.

Notes:

- Poverty, education, social norms are the supply factors.
- Poverty is the main factor.
- Approximately 218 million children are engaged in child labour due to poverty.
- Most of the families are not sound financially.

Resource mat 2:

<https://laborcenter.uiowa.edu/special-projects/child-labor-public-education-project/about-child-labor/causes-child-labor>

Child labor laws around the world are often not enforced or include exemptions that allow for child labor to persist in certain sectors, such as agriculture or domestic work. Even in countries where strong child labor laws exist, labor departments and labor inspection offices are often under-funded and under-staffed, or courts may fail to enforce the laws. Similarly, many state governments allocate few resources to enforcing child labor laws.

Even when laws or codes of conduct exist, they are often violated. For example, the manufacture and export of products often involves multiple layers of production and outsourcing, which can make it difficult to monitor who is performing labor at each step of the process. Extensive subcontracting can intentionally or unintentionally hide the use of child labor.

Workers' abilities to organize unions affect the international protection of core labor standards, including child labor. Attacks on workers' abilities to organize make it more difficult to improve labor standards and living standards in order to eliminate child labor. For example, in 2010, 5,000 workers were fired and 2,500 workers were arrested as a result of their union activity, according to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

Notes:

- Inadequate laws for preventing child labour.
- Lack of enforcement of laws and codes.
- Violation of the existing laws and codes as the violators are not punished for their heinous crime.
- Most of the workers are deprived of their rights.

Resource mat 3:

<https://data.unicef.org/resources/covid-19-and-child-labour-a-time-of-crisis-a-time-to-act/>

Recent years have seen significant progress in the fight against child labour. The current COVID-19 pandemic, however, can potentially reverse the positive trends observed in several countries and further aggravate the problem in regions where child labour has been more resistant to policy and programme measures.

The level of global economic integration and the current crisis are likely to have a large and possibly lasting worldwide adverse socio-economic and financial impact. The pandemic is increasing economic insecurity causing disruptions in supply chains, falling commodity prices, in particular oil, and halting the manufacturing industry. The financial markets have been particularly affected, tightening liquidity conditions in many countries and creating unprecedented outflows of capital in many economies.

The paper discusses the main channels through which the current pandemic can influence child labour, including fall in living standards; deteriorating employment opportunities; rise in informality; reduction in remittances and migration; contraction of trade and foreign direct investment; temporary school closures; health shocks; pressure on public budgets and international aid flows.

Notes:

- Increasing rate of economic insecurity because of pandemic.
- Fall in living standards.
- Lack of employment opportunities.
- Reduction of remittances.

Resource mat 4:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child_labour

In European history when child labour was common, as well as in contemporary child labour of modern world, certain cultural beliefs have rationalised child labour and thereby encouraged it. Some view that work is good for the character-building and skill development of children. In many cultures, particular where the informal economy and small household businesses thrive, the cultural tradition is that children follow in their parents' footsteps; child labour then is a means to learn and practice that trade from a very early age. Similarly, in many cultures the education of girls is less valued or girls are simply not expected to need formal schooling, and these girls pushed into child labour such as providing domestic services.^{[15][57][58][59]}

Notes:

- Lack of access to quality education.
- Limitation of understanding the impacts of child labour.
- Considering child labour as a skill development of the children.
- The cultural tradition of following the footsteps of the parents.

Resource mat 5:

<https://ideas.repec.org/p/wpa/wuwphe/0310001.html>

This essay analyzes the economic causes of household decisions concerning fertility, education and child labor when children can supplement family income early in life and must support their parents in old age as adults. Parents, who raise and educate children for both financial and altruistic reasons, will typically choose a too little schooling for the economy to grow when all are poor. High child- raising costs or an educational process which is not sufficiently productive are the main reasons for the existence of a poverty trap with a high population growth rate and little or no schooling. Interventions such as taxes and subsidies can lead to sustained long-term economic growth, with fulltime schooling and a low population growth rate, even without outside aid, if the child-raising costs are not too high and the educational process is at least moderately productive.

Notes:

- Increasing rate of fertility.
- High child-raising expenses.
- Expensive educational process.

Portfolio Task 2

Causes of Child Labour

Essay Outline

I. INTRODUCTION

II. BODY

A. Body/ supporting Paragraph 1

Main idea: Poverty & Child Labour

Supporting Ideas -

- i. Economic insolvency
- ii. High fertility rate
- iii. Insufficient employment opportunities
- iv. Current pandemic situation, natural disaster

B. Body/ supporting Paragraph 2

Main idea: Illiteracy & Child Labour

Supporting Ideas -

- i. Lack of access to quality education
- ii. Unaffordable educational process
- iii. High child-raising expenses
- iv. Limited knowledge of child labour

C. Body/ supporting Paragraph 3

Main idea: Law enforcement and violations

Supporting Ideas -

- i. Inadequate laws for preventing child labour
- ii. Violation of the existing laws
- iii. Escape punishment
- iv. Poor enforcement of the rules and regulations

III. CONCLUSION

Introduction

Child labour has in recent years significantly increased worldwide including in developing Asian countries such as Bangladesh. It has become a serious socio-economic problem and a curse to our society. It is a barrier to our development programmes. The estimated number of current child labourers are nearly 218 million. Of this total more than 126 million are engaged in hazardous work **[Article 2, ILO's Child Labour Convention, 1999]**. This paints an alarming picture and the severity scale of this social problem is now beyond question. **Factors such as poverty, illiteracy, inadequate laws and codes, violation of the existing laws seem to be the key causes of child labour. This essay will explore these significant causes of child labour together.**

Portfolio Task 3

Causes of Child Labour

Essay Outline

I. INTRODUCTION

II. BODY

A. Body/ supporting Paragraph 1

Main idea: Poverty & Child Labour

Supporting Ideas -

- i. Economic insolvency
- ii. High fertility rate
- iii. Insufficient employment opportunities
- iv. Current pandemic situation, natural disaster

B. Body/ supporting Paragraph 2

Main idea: Illiteracy & Child Labour

Supporting Ideas -

- i. Lack of access to quality education
- ii. Unaffordable educational process
- iii. High child-raising expenses
- iv. Limited knowledge of child labour

C. Body/ supporting Paragraph 3

Main idea: Law enforcement and violations

Supporting Ideas -

- i. Inadequate laws for preventing child labour
- ii. Violation of the existing laws
- iii. Escape punishment
- iv. Poor enforcement of the rules and regulations

III. CONCLUSION

Causes of Child Labour

Child labour has in recent years significantly increased worldwide including in developing Asian countries such as Bangladesh. It has become a serious socio-economic problem and a curse to our society. It is a barrier to our development programmes. The estimated number of current child labourers are nearly 218 million. Of this total more than 126 million are engaged in hazardous work [Article 2, ILO's Child Labour Convention, 1999]. This paints an alarming picture and the severity scale of this social problem is now beyond question. **Factors such as poverty, illiteracy, inadequate laws and codes, violation of the existing laws seem to be the key causes of child labour.** **This essay will explore these significant causes of child labour together.**

First and most importantly, poverty is the powerful determinant of the child labour. A major portion of our population is poor. Most of the families are not sound financially. There is not much employment opportunities for individuals of our country. High-fertility rate is an influencing factor of poverty. As many families have low income or less earners than the family members, they engage their children in various earning activities to supplement the family income. Even they do not have their sufficient livelihood. Approximately 1 in 10 children are exposed to child labour worldwide [UNICEF, 2020]. Due to the current pandemic situation the rate of economic insecurity has increased significantly. It creates unemployment problem. As a result, the greater part of the children became engaged in hazardous work to support their family. Thus the child labour is on the increase.

Besides, it is now a proven statement that illiteracy can lead to another significant reason of child labour. The illiterate parents are not aware of the hazardous consequences of the child labour. The families from poor educational background send their children to do work so that they can add to their family income. For absence of appropriate knowledge the vast majority of them consider child labour as an expertise advancement of their children. Education makes people wise and prudent. It is evident that the higher level of the education of the population, lesser will be the number of child labourers. In European history when child labour was common, certain people believed that child labour develops the skill of their children and thereby encouraged it [Wikipedia]. As the child raising expenses and the educational process are too expensive, parents cannot afford to send their children to school. Because of insufficient scope for compulsory, free education most of them remain illiterate. It limits the future opportunities for those children as well as their communities. Illiteracy thus becomes the means of engaging in hazardous work to earn their livelihood.

More importantly, there are inadequate laws for child labour and the existing laws are often violated. Child labour laws around the world are frequently not enforced in a proper way. The labour departments or labour inspection officers are under-subsidized and under-staffed or courts may neglect to uphold the laws. In the same manner, the government allocate few resources for enforcing the laws and codes of child labour. Even though in the countries where strong child labour laws and codes exist they are often violated. Because the violators are not being punished

for their heinous crime. They are able to escape the punishment by using their power and political support. In 2019 approximately 1426 number of child labour violations are found **[ILO'S Worst Forms of Child Labour, 2019]** Because of insufficient laws the workers became deprived of their rights. Most of the workers are unpaid. As a result they fail to contribute to their families and send their children to do dangerous work productively without a break to increase their income. Thus absence of law enforcement and violation of the laws can lead to a important cause of child labour.

To conclude, this essay has sought to explore some of the underlying causes of child labour. Children work should never be desired in a society. To stop this unlawful practice the government should stern in implementing the existing laws regarding to employment of child labour. The government must ensure peaceful, carefree and secure world for the children. Otherwise everyone has to suffer in the long run caused from this social problem. Bangladesh is conforming UNICEF'S 'SAY YES TO CHILDREN' programme which includes 15 necessary things for children **[Child Well-Being Survey,2016]**. Finally, everyone should come forward to eradicate this evil from our society.

Word count for the Essay: 713

References

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