



STUDY GUIDE

UNITED NATION'S CHILDREN'S FUND 2

**AGENDA: ADDRESSING CHALLENGES
FACED BY WAR AFFECTED CHILDREN
WORLDWIDE**

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LETTER FROM THE BUREAU

Esteemed Delegates,

It gives us immense pleasure to welcome you all to Shishukunj MUN - Junior Edition 2023. It is our honour to serve as the bureau of The United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF-1) with Parth Badlani as the Chair, Kavyaa Turakhia as the Vice Chair and Samaksh Jain as the Rapporteur.

The agenda for the committee is "Upholding Child Rights and Combating Child Labour" which focuses upon basic fundamental rights provided to children globally, discussing the protection, development and well-being of children worldwide. Child Labour is an ever-lasting problem that affects a number of children of their overall basic rights like the right to education, health, food etc. Delegates are expected to know these problems and their past solutions which have been implemented to improvise and debate upon them.

This study guide is a brief document designed to provide you with a basic guideline to prepare on the agenda and allow all delegates to come forward with innovative solutions to solve real-world problems. In the committee, rather than only focusing on your individual countries, we would like all of you to be diplomatic and address various concerns of children worldwide with a comprehensive approach. The study guide shall give you a brief, but comprehensive insight into the agenda of the committee as well as provide you the groundwork for your research. We expect you to not keep your research limited to the study guide.

As delegates, your aim is to develop strategies and measures to overcome child labour and ensure implementation of child rights. The delegates are supposed to lobby, discuss and form consensus in the conference. We would also like the delegates to keep in mind that the case studies mentioned throughout this guide are for better understanding of the problem, and are not to be discussed as separate topics during the conference.

We are very excited to meet all of you and are sure that our committee will be fun, enriching and successful.

Good luck and All the best!!!

Regards,

Parth Badlani, Chairperson

Kavyaa Turakhia, Vice-Chairperson

Samaksh Jain, Rapporteur

ORGAN DESCRIPTION

In response to the famine and sickness that were hurting children in Europe, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was established in 1946. UNICEF is a development agency that works towards humanity and defending rights for every child around the globe. These rights include the right to a decent area to live, safety from harm, access to healthcare, food, education. In order to support all children, especially those who are underprivileged, UNICEF has a presence all over the world and collaboratively works with leaders and legislators.

In 1961, UNICEF expanded its goals beyond improving children's health and nutrition to also include education. Around this time, the committee also developed its modern theory on aid, which promotes a holistic approach to addressing the needs of children and since then the committee has been working towards the development and improvement of children.

UNICEF's main aim is to drive change for children and young people every day, across the globe. UNICEF believes that every child has the right to grow up in a safe and inclusive environment and works with partners around the world to promote policies and expand access to services that protect all children.

INTRODUCTION

AGENDA :- UPHOLDING CHILD RIGHTS AND COMBATING CHILD LABOUR

The most defenceless and priceless members of society are children. They are entitled to fundamental human rights like the right to an unharmed childhood and the right to healthcare, education, and safety from violence. Unfortunately, child labour is a form of exploitation that deprives kids of their rights and puts their physical and mental health in danger. It affects millions of kids around the world.

Any work that robs children of their youth, hinders their education, or is hazardous to their bodily or mental health is referred to as child labour. It encompasses both dangerous and non-hazardous activities, such as housework, farming, and unofficial employment, such as working in mines, factories, or around heavy machinery.¹ The majority of the 152 million children that work as minors worldwide, according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), are found in Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

Governments, civil society organisations, and the commercial sector must work together to protect children's rights and end child labour. It entails developing and putting into action policies and plans that safeguard kids from exploitation and guarantee their access to basic necessities including healthcare, education, and food. It also entails educating people about the harm that child labour causes to children, their families, and society at large.

This topic is extremely important since it not only affects the wellbeing of specific children but also has wider consequences for social justice, human rights, and economic development. Thus, it is imperative that everyone work together to end child labour and make sure that every child has the chance to realise their full potential.

Hence, Child Rights and Child Labour go hand in hand, if either is exploited or hindered it can affect children's life, wellbeing, growth and development to a great extent negatively and Upholding Child Rights and Combating Child Labour is what all children over the globe deserve and desire and that is their key to survive and thrive.

¹ (https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_574717/lang--en/index.htm)

GLOSSARY

1. **Abortion:** Ending of pregnancy at an early stage- A child dies in the womb of the mother.
2. **Discrimination:** Discrimination is the process of differentiating one another on the basis of gender, caste, colour, race, economic background etc.
3. **Economic Security:** Economic Security is when a person has stable and reliable income which is enough for him to survive and provide basic requirements like food, medical help, etc to his family as well.
4. **Ethnicity:** Ethnicity refers to classification based on social factors like race, nationality, language, culture, religion etc.
5. **Food Security:** Food Security is when all people worldwide have access to adequate and affordable clean, safe and nutritious food at all times to fulfill their dietary needs.
6. **Inequality:** when people are treated differently because of the differences in them like gender, colour, religion etc and are not able to get the same number of opportunities and benefits.
7. **Marginalisation:** treatment of a person, group, or concept as insignificant or peripheral.
8. **Slavery:** Slavery is controlling or the ownership of a person to work as a labour.
9. **Trafficking:** Trafficking is the illegal trade of humans for forced labour etc.
10. **Unconditional Cash Payments:** Money is provided without any conditions or rules about the use. This is done in two ways- through government programmes and schemes and also through non-governmental organisations.

CHILD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Promoting Food Security and Access to Clean Water

Food Security is when all people worldwide have access to adequate and affordable clean, safe and nutritious food at all times to fulfil their dietary needs. Access to clean water is the availability, accessibility and affordability of clean drinking water which is safe to consume and is free from contamination. All human beings require food and water in adequate amounts to survive, especially children since they are in such a stage of life where they are continuously growing and developing in each and every part of life. Food and water provide them with a number of nutrients, vitamins and minerals which help children fight against malnutrition, improve their health and assist them to grow and develop. Food and Water are extremely crucial for the survival of children but 160 million children over the world face malnutrition every year and malnutrition is the cause of 45 percent of deaths in children under the age of 5². In countries like Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen, almost 8 million children under the age of 5 face risk of death from severe food shortage.³ Main reason for food shortage is poverty and other economic factors. In conclusion, ensuring children have access to clean water and food is crucial for their growth and general well-being.

Access to Healthcare and Sanitation

Healthcare for children is the medical aid and services provided to children to lead a healthy lifestyle and stay away from diseases, infections and sickness. It is given both to normal healthy children as well as those infected. Working for the healthcare for children is an important factor since it helps children in maintaining a healthy and happy lifestyle, staying away from illness and diseases, being physically and mentally active and overall a good health helps children to stay strong and to grow and develop.

Further, even if all nations work for the healthcare of children and provide children with all kinds of facilities and requirements to lead a healthy lifestyle and wellbeing but children do not live in a clean, hygienic environment and their surroundings are dirty, unclean and polluted it causes a direct negative impact of their health. This is called sanitation. Sanitation is the keeping clean of surroundings and environment and maintaining hygienic living conditions in order to keep public health conditions safe and secure. In summary, placing great importance on the healthcare and sanitation of children is crucial for their overall wellbeing and lifestyle.

²

(“<https://www.savethechildren.org/content/dam/usa/reports/advocacy/global-childhood-report-2019-pdf.pdf>”, n.d.)

³

(“<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/global-hunger-crisis-pushing-one-child-severe-malnutrition-every-minute-15-crisis>”)

Through guaranteeing their access to high-quality healthcare services and encouraging good hygiene habits, all nations can protect their well-being, minimise the risk of illnesses, and support their physical and mental growth.

QUALITY EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

Education in this world has become one of the most important requirement of every child. It forms the foundation of independence. Every child should have the access to quality education so that they have a bright future. Most of the countries have been focusing on the development and improvement of this resource. According to Global Reports 2019-20, Globally Primary Schools, 25% of schools still lack electricity, basic sanitation and drinking water and 50% of the schools lack computers and internet access.⁴ The percentage of the efficiency of compulsory primary education has statistically increased in the past few years. Even after all these steps, countries like Somalia still face issues with proper education systems while countries like India have taken steps to ensure that the underprivileged aren't deprived of education through reservations. It is crucial to prioritise quality education for children as it plays a fundamental role in their development, social advancement and the betterment of future generations. Through equal and comprehensive access to education, nations can empower children with the necessary knowledge, abilities, and critical thinking skills to navigate a rapidly evolving society. Quality education not only cultivates their creativity and nurtures their inquisitiveness but also equips them with the necessary resources to overcome obstacles and make valuable contributions to their communities. Hence, working for quality education is the need of the hour.

Hence, overall working for the Healthcare and Wellbeing of Children is of utmost importance and is a crucial factor to work towards the agenda tabled.

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(<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal4>", n.d.)

CHILD RIGHTS

Rights are the basic privileges of a person that ensure that the person is able to sustain properly with the required resources and speech and expression. These are awarded to every human including children and children being the youth of this world, require proper surroundings and rights. To ensure this, it has been more than 30 years since the Convention of Child Rights was signed guaranteeing that every child lives in a healthy and sustainable environment, with proper education, food, sanitation and with the right to be heard on decisions and issues which would affect the future. It is one of the most widely ratified human rights treaty in existence.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have created the blueprint of a better future and are exactly what the children have been demanding- no poverty, quality education, health and sanitation etc. According to the UN, several SDGs and basic humanitarian principles, Children are neither the property of their parents nor subjects of charity. They have their own rights. The Sustainable Development Goals and basic Child Rights for the development of children consists of the following:-

Economic Security

Economic security refers to the financial condition of an individual or a household required to sustain and in the well being of the family. Money is required for pretty much everything so it also encompasses food security, education, health and sanitation.

Economic Security ensures that the child lives in a healthy environment where all the necessities and amenities are provided to him/her. A lot of countries have set a minimum income of parents before they are adopted by them, checking the living conditions as well. Lack of economic security leads to several problems like child poverty, child labour, food insecurity, improper or no education etc.

Universal Child Benefits have been proved to be helpful in such scenarios- Unconditional cash payments or tax transfers; has been critical in fighting against child poverty but it is only adopted in 1 out of 10 countries according to UNICEF's report. Till now, in 15 High-Income Countries, this technique has led to 5% reduction in child poverty on average. The report Universal Child Benefits: Policy Issues and Options states that children in middle-income countries, if they avail this facility even at the cost of 1% of the Gross Domestic Product would reduce 20% of poverty in the entire population.⁵ Apart from this, in countries where this system is very well developed, it has become a part of the national social policy system and has scaled up social protection as well.

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(<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/universal-child-benefits-critical-reducing-poverty-new-odi-and-unicef-report-finds>", n.d.)

Gender Equality

Gender Equality consists of the basic principle of inclusivity (acceptance) in society and equal opportunities. A lot of steps have been taken to ensure that boys and girls have the same rights and status. Gender Equality is not only about empowering girls but it is also about empowering all genders the same. As for progress, girl child education has increased drastically over the past few years. Even though all countries have publicly stated that they promote gender equality, it has not completely been implemented-worldwide, nearly 1 in 4 girls is neither employed nor trained compared to 1 in 10 boys.⁶ Girls in Afghanistan have had to face dreadful issues related to freedom of expression, education, medical facilities and sanitation and this has increased with the Taliban gaining power again. In India, female infanticide and child-selective abortion, even though illegal, are present in a lot of areas, specially rural because of the mindset of the people. Apart from this, girls have been deprived of technology especially in low-income countries while men peers appear online quite frequently- schemes like Adolescent Girls Agenda and Gender Action Plan. Even after the implementation of laws and schemes, execution still needs improvement.

Ethnicity, Culture and Discrimination

All children worldwide must have the basic right to their culture, an ethnic life and free from discrimination. All children must be equally respected and live their childhood with dignity and worth irrespective of their gender, caste, colour, religion, economic backgrounds etc. Ethnic and Cultural Rights are the basic rights all children must have to be able to practise, promote and propagate their ethnic backgrounds and culture they come from. They must have the right to preserve their ethnic identity, promote their language, traditions, religion, and serve as a good example to the society.

Discrimination is the process of distinguishing a person(s) from one another on the basis of their gender, colour, caste etc. Many children all over the world face various forms of discrimination and usually their basic rights are denied due to the same reasons. Many children in certain countries do not even avail such basic rights and the negative impact of discrimination isolates them from the majority. Therefore, promoting rights to ethnicity and culture for children is vital for an equal and inclusive society. Children are the world's future and if their basic rights are exploited how would the world progress. Hence, all nations must join hands and work for the ethnic, cultural and discriminatory issues for children all over the globe at once.

⁶ ("<https://www.unicef.org/gender-equality>", n.d.)

CHILD LABOUR

Child exploitation, which deprives them of their innocence, potential, and dignity, is referred to as child labour.⁷ Millions of children worldwide are impacted by this type of abuse and violation of their rights.

Work that is dangerous, challenging, or that impedes a child's educational or social development are just a few examples of the varied forms that child labour can take. Children who work are frequently denied the chance to obtain an education and enjoy their youth, as well as being forced to long hours, little pay, and hazardous working conditions.

Although there are many different factors that contribute to child labour, poverty, lack of access to an education, and social marginalisation are frequently to blame. Girls, children from racial and ethnic minorities, and migrants are more susceptible to child labour.

A variety of actions are needed to end child labour, including legislative and regulatory changes, public awareness and education-raising campaigns, social protection initiatives, and consumer advocacy. Governments, civil society organisations, and international organisations collaborate to advance laws and policies that safeguard kids from exploitation, give them access to school, and guarantee them a secure workplace. Consumers can also play a significant role in reducing child labour by endorsing moral and sustainable supplier chains and shunning goods that are known to be made using child labour.

Problems and Solutions for Child Labour

Problems

Numerous issues and difficulties brought on by child labour affect the society as a whole. The threats to children's health and safety posed by child labour are one of the main issues. Children who are compelled to labour frequently do so in risky situations that can cause harm, disease, or even death. They may put in long hours, frequently without the right safety equipment or training, and they may be subjected to dangerous chemicals, harsh equipment, or high temperatures.

The difficulty in obtaining an education is another significant issue with child labour. Children who labour frequently can't go to school, which may limit their opportunities in the future and contribute to the cycle of poverty. Children might not be able to gain the knowledge and skills they need to enhance their lives and contribute to society if they don't have access to education. Economic exploitation is also continued through child labour.

⁷ (https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_800090/lang--en/index.htm)

Additionally, child labour can result in adult workers receiving lower pay and worse working conditions, perpetuating a cycle of exploitation and poverty. Another issue relating to child labour is social isolation. Working children can feel alienated from their friends and communities, which can be harmful for their mental and emotional health. They could pass up chances to interact with others and engage in developmental activities, which can result in feelings of isolation, despair, and low self-esteem.

Human rights, such as the right to health, education, and protection from exploitation, are all violated by child labour.⁸ Due to the fact that girls are frequently subjected to more severe types of child labour, such as domestic servitude or forced marriage, it is a form of gender inequality. In order to effectively address the core causes of the child labour issue and offer a variety of solutions, including education, poverty reduction, legal and regulatory reforms, social protection, and consumer awareness, a multidimensional strategy must be used.

Solutions

To address this brutal issue common to the entire world, ending child labour necessitates a variety of solutions and initiatives.

- Education, which gives kids the abilities and information they need to end the cycle of exploitation and poverty, is one of the best remedies. Governments may contribute to lowering the frequency of child labour and fostering prospects for future economic growth and development by ensuring that children have access to high-quality education.
- Poverty alleviation is another crucial solution. Families may feel obligated to send their children to work in order to make ends meet, which is one of the main drivers of child labour. Governments can help to lessen the economic pressures that result in child labour by tackling poverty through targeted social protection programmes, such as cash transfers or food assistance.
- Reforms in law and policy are also essential to ending child labour. Governments have the power to enact laws and rules that forbid child labour and impose penalties on those who violate them. In order to make sure that these rules are being followed and that children are safeguarded from exploitation, they can also set up monitoring and enforcement measures.

⁸ (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5860687/>)

- Another crucial solution is consumer activism. Customers may send a strong statement to businesses that they will not accept child labour abuse by choosing to support goods made without it. This can lower the demand for goods made using child labour and provide market incentives for businesses to adopt more moral and environmentally friendly practises.
- Employment opportunities for adults must be increased in order to overcome the problem of child labour. This also helps the economy as well as the adults in becoming independent.
- Last but not least, the abolition of child labour depends on partnerships and cooperation between governments, civil society organisations, and the commercial sector. In order to safeguard children from exploitation and to guarantee that they have access to school and other opportunities, stakeholders must collaborate in order to share knowledge, resources, and best practices.

In conclusion, a multifaceted strategy that targets the underlying causes of the issue and offers a variety of remedies, such as education, poverty reduction, legal and legislative reforms, consumer action, and collaborations, is needed to end child labour. We can create a society where all children are protected from exploitation and have the opportunity to realise their full potential by banding together to advance children's rights and wellbeing.

DISCUSSING PROBLEMS OF SLAVERY AND CHILD TRAFFICKING

Child Slavery

Child slavery is the term used to describe the forced labour of children for wages or services against their will, frequently in circumstances where they are required to work long hours in hazardous and unhealthy conditions. Children who are held in slavery are frequently trafficked, forced to labour in mines, factories, farms, or as domestic servants, and are not allowed to go to school or have a childhood.

Modern-day slavery is thought to include the significant human rights violation known as child enslavement.⁹ Over 150 million children are thought to be working as child labourers at any given time, many of whom are compelled to do so under risky or exploitative circumstances. In underdeveloped nations, where poverty and illiteracy render children more susceptible to exploitation, child slavery is a common occurrence.

The fight against child slavery combines economic development, legal action, and educational initiatives. Around the world, governments and non-governmental organisations struggle to advance laws and policies that safeguard children from exploitation and give them access to education and secure employment.

Child Trafficking

The illicit trade of children for the purpose of exploitation, such as forced labour, sexual exploitation, or forced marriage, is known as child trafficking.¹⁰ Millions of children worldwide are impacted by this severe human rights violation, which is a sort of contemporary slavery.

Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or reception of children for the purpose of exploitation through fraud, deceit or force constitutes child trafficking. Children who are trafficked are frequently forced to move out of their homes, neighbourhoods, or nations, where they are exploited, deprived of basic necessities and exposed to health concerns.

⁹ (<https://www.hrw.org/legacy/children/labor.htm>)

¹⁰ (<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/slavery-and-trafficking>)

A variety of initiatives are used to combat child trafficking, such as collaborations, protection, prosecution, and prevention. In order to stop child trafficking, governments, civil society organisations, and international organisations collaborate to improve child protection systems, increase public awareness, and support laws and policies that both criminalise trafficking and safeguard children's rights. At the same time, it is crucial to take action to safeguard and assist child trafficking victims, including guaranteeing their safe and willing return to their families and communities as well as giving them access to legal, medical, and social services.

A multi-sectoral strategy that targets the issue's core causes, such as poverty, illiteracy, and social injustice, as well as supports human rights for all children is necessary to prevent child trafficking.

CASE STUDIES

Child Labour in South Africa

Approximately, one-fifth of the children in South Africa are indulged in child labour, which is almost twice as higher than that of any other region. Africa has the highest number of child labourers-reaching to approximately 72.1 million as normal workers while 31.5 million in hazardous (harmful) works.

Even after multiple attempts, the rate of progress has been slow over the past few years. Africa being a country that frequently faces fragility and crisis has led to an increase in child labour. Reports of the year 2014 have stated that around 31,000 children have not been attending school or are facing difficulties in learning because of work related injuries- in turn trafficking of children especially girls for inhumane practices increased.

Due to poverty in Africa, children have been working in toxic surroundings on low wages and violation of rights. 80% of African children have failed to complete education, roughly 90,000 have been severely injured. Not only has the graduation rate dropped, but also enrollment rate in schools has decreased right away because children tend to start earning wages right away to support their families. Even after all this, more than 2,68,000 children working in the Agricultural Sector have to face terrible treatment and drastically low wages leading to them falling below the poverty line.

The UN has still been working effortlessly to decrease these problems. The ILO (International Labour Organisation) has collaborated with Alliance 8.7 Organization to find more solutions to this global issue. This organization has been growing continuously and expanding the amount of Child Labour Units and National Steering Committees in South Africa to provide knowledge locally and summon support globally. Even after all these attempts, Child Labour continues to thrive in South Africa.

The Indian Firecracker Industry

Child labour is frequently used in the Indian firecracker industry, which is well-known for this.

¹¹A study by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates that 100,000 youngsters work in this field, many of whom are subjected to hazardous working conditions and toxic chemicals.

One such instance involves Ravi, a 12-year-old who worked in a tiny firecracker factory in Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu . Ravi was made to labour long hours in dangerous circumstances without any safety equipment or training. He received a pitiful salary and frequent verbal and physical harassment from his boss.

Ravi was asked to carry out risky and difficult activities despite his young age, including handling explosives and mixing chemicals. He was certainly exposed to dangerous chemicals and poisons, which is why he frequently had headaches, skin rashes, and respiratory issues. Following a few months of employment at the factory, Ravi's parents started to worry about his health and safety and made the decision to contact a nearby non-governmental organisation (NGO) that strives to end child labour for assistance. Ravi received medical care, education, and vocational training from the NGO, which also worked with his family and the local government to get him out of the dangerous workplace.

¹¹(https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_dialogue/@actrav/documents/publication/wcms_164573.pdf)

CONCLUSION

Upholding Child Rights and Combating Child Labour are just a few crucial steps towards creating an equal and inclusive society for children. Recognizing and Protecting the rights of children, all nations must ensure their well-being, development, and protection from exploitation. Child labour deprives the youth of their childhood, education, and opportunities for a better future. Eliminating child labour and fostering an environment in which children can flourish and reach their full potential are collectively UNICEF's responsibilities. Nations must significantly advance in safeguarding the rights of every child and creating a better and more fair world for future generations through raising awareness, passing and implementing laws, ensuring access to excellent education, and tackling the causes of child labour, collaborating and striving for a day when each child is free, secure, and given the chance to succeed. In conclusion, working for child rights and child labour is the need of the hour and having committed to work towards this aim is everything about the future.

We are looking forward to receiving some innovative solutions which may lead to finding more effective rules to eradicate child labour and provide all children with their basic rights. We hope that you come up with solutions which can be practised all over the world .

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

1. What measures should be taken to ensure abolition of child labour?
2. How can the rights of the children be promoted and safeguarded?
3. How can awareness and advocacy for child labour and child rights be strengthened?
4. What strategies can be employed to ensure equal access to nutritious food and clean water to children globally?
5. What steps can be taken to improve sanitation and hygiene in order to promote child-friendly healthcare environments?
6. How can barriers and access to quality education for children be resolved and ensured?
7. What measures must be taken to eradicate poverty for children?
8. How can problems with girl child education and gender inequality for children be settled?
9. How can anti-discrimination rules and policies be implemented?
10. How can measures be taken to ensure equal access to child rights to all?
11. What initiatives must be taken to ensure protection to victims of child slavery and trafficking?
12. How can partnerships be formed with community and organizations to uphold child rights and combat child labour?

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