

Child Labor: What is it?



Introduction

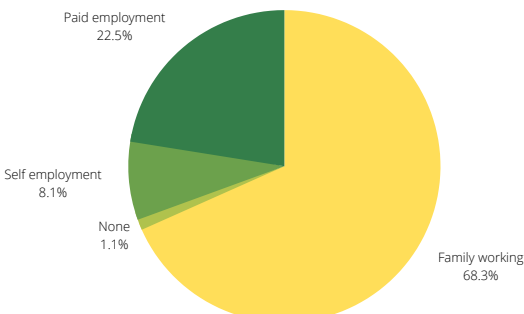
"You can't regulate child labor. You can't regulate slavery. Some things are just wrong," says Michael Moore, the famous and controversial documentary director.

A lot of children aren't as lucky as you are. What if your life was ruined at a young age because you were working for a crabby boss in a rusty old factory? What would you do?

What is Child Labor?

Child Labor is when people make children work hard at a low price to make a lot of money. This usually takes place in factories, but it can also be in other ways. People use children as advertisers, miners, slaves, and much more! Did you know that people even pay children to smuggle items for them?

Child labor has been around for pretty much the entire human race. But it started to boom out in the industrial revolution, which started around 1760. This is when people really started making children work the heck out of themselves, for less than a dollar a day! Children work for around 14 hours a day, doing the exact same job. Spinning wheels, weaving, lifting heavy boxes, or even operating huge machines! Imagine folding a blanket. Easy, right? Now what if you did exactly that for 14 hours every day for only a dollar? This is child labor. Well, if you're a child, of course.



People's Opinions on Child Labor

Now when you're talking to someone about child labor, most likely you're talking about the bad impacts. Most people view child labor as being cruel, evil, and asserting dominance over children. The only people that Agree with child labor are the owners of the factory, who use child labor to make money. Again, I don't mean that your mom is torturing you to do your chores. Chores are not even close to child labor, they are just bits of work you should do. Most people view as child labor being bossy factory workers "forcing" children to do work for them. People say factory owners use children because they are weak, and strong at the same time. They are weak when you push them around, but strong when they focus on work. Children also have better bodies than adults, which allows them to work more. This makes children an easy target for factory owners.

Nowadays, you might see posters, or maybe even people marching down the street to stop child labor. In 1998, there was a global march to end child labor. It was led by at that time, a 44 - year old man named Kailash Satyarthi who later went on to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014. Even though most countries have ended slavery and child labor, some places continue their old acts. Africa has a total population of 72 million children who work in factories, followed up by Asia, with 62 million.

Above
Children working in a factory, and being commanded by their boss to do work>..

"You can't regulate child labor. You can't regulate slavery. Some things are just wrong," -Michael Moore

Iqbal Masih

After all of the torture the adults have made the children suffer from, one of the children decides to stand up. His name is Iqbal Masih.

Iqbal was sold to a carpet factory at a young age of 4 for only 12 dollars for his family to pay off their debts. Five years later, he ran away from the carpet factory, but was later caught by the police who brought him back to the carpet factory, who told the police to hang him upside-down if he tried to run away again. But that didn't stop Iqbal. He escaped a second time, and this time to BLLF [Bonded Labour Liberation Front], a school for child slaves and quickly completed a four-year education course in only two years! Of course, Iqbal didn't stop there. He then went all around the world to make speeches about child labor, sharing his story and how child labor is wrong. He received the Reebok Human Rights Award in 1994, and announced, " For us slave children, Ehsan Ullah Khan [person] and BLLF have done the same work that Abraham Lincoln did for the slaves of America. Today, you are free and I am free too."