

The Solution for Different Countries to Solve Child Labor Issues

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Abstract: Child labor is a long-standing problem around the world. In order to further understand the issues related to the child labor, this paper intends to address child labor in the United States, Turkey, and Myanmar. In recent years, child labor as a socially vulnerable group has been widely concerned. With the rapid development of the economy and society, as well as the continuous improvement of the education system, the state pays more and more attention to the protection of minors. This paper should also invest in this vulnerable group. This paper explored the theory of child labor and the theory of labor value, and analyzes the causes, types, and impacts of child labor. Most of the hypotheses are supported by historical analysis. The study of solutions in different countries can contribute to a more informed discussion and restraint in this area. This solution is relatively single, and the main solution requires countries to focus on and address child labor.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The colonial expansion of Holland, Britain, and other countries in the early 18th century, mostly feudal countries, mainly aimed to plunder wealth and further expand the world market [1]. Before the mid-18th century, the primitive accumulation of capital accumulated wealth through the exploitation of workers' surplus-value later, such as slave trade, colonial plunder, etc. [2]. Due to the emergence of the first industrial revolution from the 1760s to the 1840s, the era of manual labor was replaced by machines, which started with the birth of working machines [3]. After the outbreak, the invention and application of machines simplified the labor process, saved people's physical strength, and made it possible for children to work, and child labor shifted from simple work to work in labor-intensive industries such as factories and enterprises. It is in this context that child labor emerges. Child labor is the employment of a child in a business or industry especially in violation of state or federal statutes prohibiting the employment of children under a specified age [4]. On 10 June 2021, the International Labor Organization and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund jointly released the report global Trends in Child Labor 2016-2020. The number of child laborers worldwide has increased by 8.4 million in the past four years, bringing the total to 160 million [5]. Mervyn Martin studied the parameters related to child labor, developmental implications, causes, and Consequences in 2013 [6]. At present, the aquaculture industry, tobacco industry is more child labor. The number of child labor worldwide has been on the rise and continues to worsen [7].

To reduce the number of child labor as much as possible, in general, people's attitudes towards child labor are assumed to be two-sided, positive for employers, but negative for families and families. The hypothesis of the development of child labor comes from the economic aspect. In order to increase income, a poor area and a family make children become cheap labor. In order to improve the profit of the country's manufacturing industry, child labor is developed as cheap labor. The emergence of child labor problems in the United States can be assumed to originate from the first Industrial revolution in the United States in 1820-1875, the child labor problems in Turkey are assumed to originate from the entry of Syrian refugees, and the child labor problems in Myanmar are assumed to originate from political instability. The assumption of child labor may prevent children from getting a better

education, leading to the stagnation of a country's education level and future development, affecting the economy.

1.2 Research Gap

Although there are many kinds of research on Child Labor, for example, Mervyn Martin studied Child Labor: Parameters, developmental implications, causes, and Consequences [8]. Ozge studied beliefs and attitudes of Kurdish migrant mothers towards child labor [9]. However, due to the development of labor-intensive industries, the problem of child labor has become more serious, because these labor-intensive industries are at the end of the industrial chain, the profit margin is small, especially in recent years, the rise of labor costs, so that the employment of child labor has become a means for some employers to reduce labor costs and expand profit margins.

In such a situation, to solve such a problem, this article will discuss child labor and set a research question: how to solve the problem of child labor in different countries.

The problem of child labor is not only the focus of social attention but also the hot issue of academic research. In recent years, theoretical and empirical research on child labor has achieved great results. However, the systematic research on child labor in the academic world is not clear and perfect. There is no perfect theoretical support, and it is rare to collect authoritative theoretical analysis books and materials. Therefore, it is extremely necessary to carry out deeper and further research and solutions in this field.

1.3 Research Structure

In order to find the best solution, this paper assumes that three representative countries are selected as case studies. The assumptions made in this paper based on these three countries are as follows: For the United States, it is necessary to continue to increase technology-intensive industries, so as to reduce the demand for low-skilled and low-educated child labor; for Turkey, it is necessary to increase compulsory education; for Myanmar, it is necessary to improve the education system. In order to verify whether the hypothesis is correct, the following research direction of this paper will focus on the basic theoretical concepts of child labor; Development status of the three countries; Causes of child labor; Problems that arise for families; Social and market impact; Theoretical analysis and research on typical cases of child labor; Suggestions to solve the problem of child labor to prove: This paper is a review paper, and the following whole paper will be reviewed. Firstly, child labor theory and labor value theory will be reviewed from a theoretical perspective, and the causes and effects of child labor will be explored in the child labor theory. The theory of labor value explores the relationship between labor and value. Then through the definition and types of child labor in three countries (the United States, Turkey, Myanmar), factors causing the emergence of child labor, other problems caused by the emergence of child labor problems, measures to improve the problem of child labor, analysis, and exploration.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Labor Value Theory

Karl Marx put forward the theory that the value of all goods is created by human labor, and the socially necessary labor time condensed in the value of goods is the ultimate cause of commodity price changes [10]. And found that the massive use of child labor has become routine, and the contradiction between labor and capital is extremely sharp [11]. The wages of workers in all industrial countries have a general downward trend. Lowering wages have become the main means for factory owners to reduce costs and improve market competitiveness. Low wages combined with constant unemployment have created mass slums and slums. At the same time, capital wealth increased rapidly at the expense of workers. The contradiction between labor and capital, or between the working class and the capitalist class, evolved into a fierce social class struggle [12]. Marx's labor value theory is the theoretical elaboration and explanation of such historical experience materials.

2.2 Child Labor

The issue of child labor is a neutral topic. Although this topic has always existed, it has not been fundamentally solved because of insufficient attention.

Child Labor refers to underage children or child workers. The age of adulthood varies from country to country. In the United States, Turkey, and Myanmar, child labor refers to children or young workers under the age of 14, 16, and 16 respectively [13]. Child labor is roughly divided into four types, namely, exploited child labor in commercial agriculture, forced child labor in the drug trade, child labor in domestic service, child labor in pornography, and prostitution [14].

2.3 Three Different Countries on Child Labor Issues

(1) United States

From 1820 to 1875, when the first industrial revolution began, the United States, as a capitalist country, used people under the capitalist system as a kind of resource, which was required to improve the efficiency of use and reduce the cost [15]. Child labor has a competitive advantage in this respect, low consumption level, can compress wages, weak resistance, reduce maintenance costs, short training cycle, less than ten years. Show that child labor is the lowest cost. So, after the first industrial Revolution, people just from agricultural production to industrial production had basic no working skills, child labor does not exist skill differences, adults can also be able to child labor, resulting in the outbreak of child labor problems.

As it can be seen from Table 1. About a quarter of young men and women are employed during the average school month. In the summer, about a third of young men and women work. About 28 percent of white youth are employed while in school. About 38% are employed in the summer. For blacks, the comparable figures were 13 percent (school year) and 20 percent (summer). Hispanic youth, 15% (school month), 20% (summer). It illustrates the significant racial and ethnic differences in employment status.

Table. 1. Employed Persons 15 to 17 Years of Age by Class of Worker, Selected Characteristics, School and Summer Months, 1996-1998 [16]

Sex, age, race & Hispanic origin	School months			Summer months		
	Total employed (in thousands)	Percent distribution		Total employed (in thousands)	Percent distribution	
		Wage salary workers	Self-employed worked		Wage salary workers	Self-employed workers
Total,15-17 years	2,896	97.1	2.3	3,969	95.9	3.3
Male	1,460	96.3	2.9	2,070	94.7	4.3
Female	1,437	97.8	1.8	1,899	97.2	2.2
Age 15	366	92.3	6.3	694	90.3	8.2
Age 16	1,011	97.2	2.2	1,412	96.0	3.0
Age17	1,520	98.1	1.4	1,862	97.9	1.6
White,15-17 years	2,569	97.0	2.4	3,474	95.7	3.5
Black,15-17 years	240	98.8	1.3	376	98.4	1.6
Hispanic origin,15-17 years	225	97.3	1.8	309	96.8	1.6

(2) Turkey

Economic development: Until recently, the Turkish economy experienced major financial crises almost every five years, and the purchasing power of Turkish citizens declined due to persistently high inflation rates. Turkey has made great efforts to improve its socio-economic infrastructure. According to the Human Development Index, Turkey ranked 84th out of 177 countries in 2007/2008, and its economy was among the 20 largest economies in the world in 2006, with per capita GDP reaching \$5,482 [17]. Despite these improvements, the unemployment rate was still 11% in 2008 and 34% of the population lived below the poverty level [18]. As economic downturns and unemployment can affect low-income families more severely, child labor often becomes a viable option to increase family income [19].

Migration and urban poverty: Migration from rural to urban areas is closely associated with an increase in urban poverty and, therefore, child labor. Starting in the 1950s, many rural families moved to cities as a result of the transition from an agricultural economy to an industrial-driven economy [20]. These families experience severe poverty in the cities, and most children join the labor force to supplement the family income.

Family income: Child labor often occurs in low-income families in Turkey [21]. As in other developing countries, household income is negatively correlated with child labor.

Family size: In 2008, the poverty rate for households with three or four members was 8.5%, compared with 38.2% for households with seven or more members, highlighting the greater risk of poverty for larger families [18]. Studies consistently show a negative correlation between family size and child labor.

According to the following two charts (Figure 1 and Table 2), the average employment rate of children aged 12-17 is 13.2%. As shown in Figure 1, older children, especially male children, have a higher employment risk. This figure also shows that if a trend line is drawn to show the employment rate of young children, the predicted employment rate will be quite low, about 0-4%. The gender employment gap exists in all age groups, although it tends to expand on the increase in children's age. The comparison of the average employment rate shows that the employment rate of male children (18.6%) is almost twice and a half that of female children (7.5%).

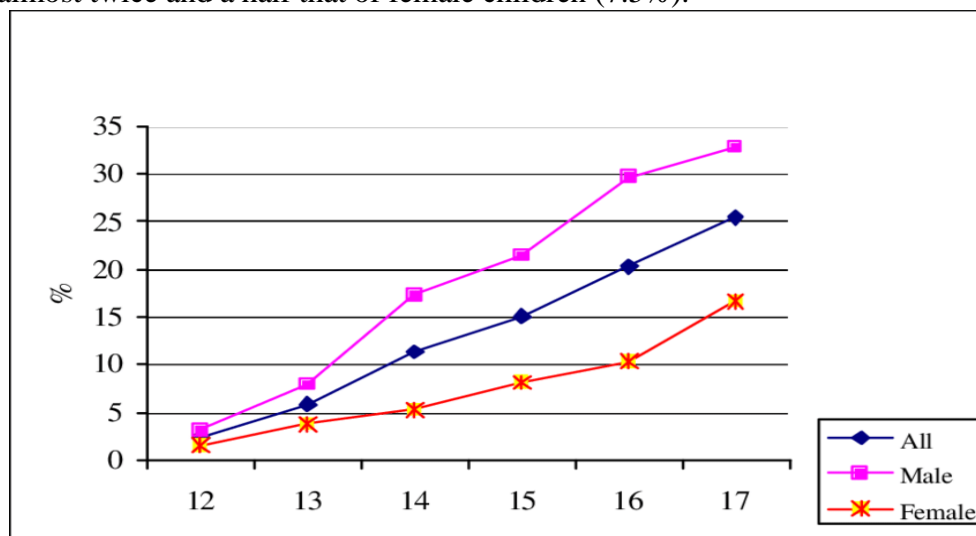


Figure 1. Employed children by age [22]

Table. 2. Distribution of working children across industries [22]

All Working	Wage Earners Children			
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Agriculture*	11.5	50	3.9	26
Manufacturing				
Food, Beverage, Tobacco	3.5	4.5	3.7	5.9
Textiles, Wearing Apparel, Leather*	11.1	23.2	14	35.3
Furniture Manufacturing*	6.8		8.8	
Other Manufacturing*	11.6	4.1	14.8	7.8
Construction*	4		4.8	
Whole Sale and Retail*				
Auto Repair*	11.9		14.9	
Retail Sales*	15.3	6.1	10.3	6.4
Repair of Home App./Personal Items*	3.2		3.1	
Other	3.1	2.9	3	4.4
Hotels and Restaurants*				
Restaurants, bars, coffee houses etc.*	8.4		8.5	
Social, Personal Services				
Barber Shops, Coiffure	4.5	4.2	6.1	6.9
Total	94.9	95	95.9	92.7

(3) Myanmar

There is a general lack of quality education for all in Myanmar [23]. This may include, among other things: lack of schools; Schools of variable quality; Lack of accessible education for children; Poor attendance; Low educational achievement and achievement standards; Teachers are poorly paid; And/or retention of teachers in remote rural areas.

As can be seen from the following three tables (Table 3-5), the age breakdown of child labor shows that 48% of all child labor are in the 5-11 age group, 28% in the 12-14 age group, and 25% in the 15-17 age range. Young children account for a small but still large proportion of the total number of children engaged in hazardous work; There are 23 million more boys than girls engaged in child labor and 17 million more boys than girls engaged in dangerous work. From different perspectives. Boys accounted for 58 cents of all child workers and 62 percent of all children engaged in hazardous work, and the gender gap increased with age. Girls may be more engaged in less obvious and therefore underestimated forms of child labor, such as housework in their own homes, a form of work that is not included in child labor estimates. It is also worth noting that between 2012 and 2016. The decline in child labor among girls is only half that of boys, which means that the gender gap in child labor has narrowed, and similar patterns are exposed in dangerous work; Agriculture is the most important sector of child labor, accounting for 71% of the total number of child labor. The relative importance of agriculture has increased significantly since 2012 when the sector accounted for 59 percent of all child labor. This change may reflect the regional shift of the child labor population to Africa, where agricultural child labor is dominant. The industrial sector is the place where children are most at risk. Three-quarters of children working in this sector are engaged in dangerous work. It is also worth noting that in the face of factors such as climate change, families are transferred from farms to cities. In the future, services and industry in the informal urban economy may become more important in some areas.

Table. 3. Children in employment, child labor and hazardous work by age group, 2016 [24]

Age group	Children in Child Labor		Hazardous Work	
	(`000)	%	(`000)	%

5-11 years	72,585	8.3	19,020	2.2
12-14 years	41,887	11.7	16,355	4.6
15-17 years	37,149	10.5	37,149	10.5

Table. 4. Children in employment, child labor and hazardous work by sex, 5-17-year age group, 2016 [24]

Sex	Children in Child Labor		Hazardous Work	
	(^000)	%	(^000)	%
Boys	87,521	10.7	44,774	5.5
Girls	64,100	8.4	27,751	3.6

Table. 5. Sectoral distribution of child labor, number and percentage share, 5-17 years age group, 2016 [24]

Sector	(^000)	% Share
Agriculture	107,543	70.9
Industry	18,007	11.9
Services	26,072	17.2

In conclusion, in addition to the factors that cause the problem of child labor, the problem of child labor also occurs under the circumstances of national policies and cultural concepts [25]. At present, backward countries still have the problem of production technology. If a country's production technology capacity increases, the utilization rate of child labor may decrease. For example, India's green Revolution reduces child labor and increases the enrollment rate [26]. In order to improve production technology, it is suggested to optimize the market environment and create a market environment of equal competition.

2.4 The Effectiveness of Child Labor

(1) Effectiveness on Children

Child workers are working too hard, causing premature loss of health and a sharp reduction in life expectancy. Child laborers' early exposure to the dark side of society distorts their values and outlook on life, affects social security, and may have a low sense of belonging to society after adulthood. Child workers do not have access to education and learning from an early age, resulting in their poor learning ability, after the basic can only rely on coolies to maintain a life, which is not a good thing for the society and individuals.

(2) Effectiveness on Country

Child labor can bring low-cost benefits to the country and the enterprise in the short term, but when they grow up, they can only rely on low wages to maintain their own life, and the tax collected by the country will be reduced, affecting the economy of a country. Because the educational level of child labor is low, the educational level of the country is lowered. On the whole, if the child labor problem continues to develop in a country, it will hinder the development of the social economy, the level of employment, social stability, and the improvement of education quality, and will make a country more and more backward.

3. Results and Discussion

The act was passed by Congress in 1938 [27]. The act banned child labor in factories, but not on farms. According to the bill, children up to the age of 12 can do agricultural work after school with their parent's permission, and there is no time limit. It was not until August 2011 that the U.S. Department of Labor attempted to amend the labor law [28]. A proposed ban on jobs such as tobacco harvesting for children under 16 is seen by some as a breach of America's agricultural heritage. In Turkey, employment-related regulations have different definitions of "child" or "minor" according to Turkish law. The minimum age for signing an employment contract is 18, but children under 18 can do so with parental permission [29]. In contrast, Turkish Labor law prohibits the employment of

children under 15 years of age but allows children between 13 and 14 years of age to do light work without specifying the requirements [29]. In Myanmar, it is not allowed to employ minors under the age of 14 [30]. However, there are still school-age children aged 10-17 who work as child laborers to support their families due to poverty [31].

Problems existing in the United States: It is the only country in the world that has not ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child [32]. The International Labor Organization cannot effectively control this phenomenon, so the child labor problem has not been well solved and controlled. It is suggested that the communication between ILO and the US can be more in-depth so that the US can pay positive attention to this issue. Turkey's problems are immigration and urban poverty. Migration from rural to urban areas is closely related to the increase in urban poverty, and since the 1950s, many rural families have moved to cities as a result of the transition from an agricultural economy to an industrial-driven economy [33]. The majority of working children in urban areas are from Kurdish families who have emigrated from eastern and southeastern Turkey in the last 15 to 20 years [34]. It is suggested to increase poverty alleviation efforts in urban areas. The existing problems in Myanmar were poverty and inadequate education systems, which suggested migration between rural and urban areas and within neighboring countries, particularly Thailand.

4. Conclusion

Child labor is a universal and temporary social phenomenon, child labor has its profound historical origin, there is child labor at home and abroad, and the living and working conditions are very bad. In this context, this article reviewed the study of child labor, explored the types of child labor, the factors causing the emergence of child labor problems, the impact of child labor, and other issues. Through the collation of the theory of Child Labor and the Labor Value Theory, as well as the analysis of the history and status of child labor with the review. It was concluded that the problem of child labor in the United States originated from the first industrial Revolution, that in Turkey it was mainly caused by immigration and urban poverty, and that in Myanmar it was mainly caused by low education level and economy. Contrary to the hypothesis, except in the United States. In the discussion, this paper suggested that the United States and ILO could have in-depth communication, that Turkey could increase poverty alleviation efforts in urban areas, and that some parts of Myanmar should carry out internal migration.

The contribution studied in this article is due to the phenomenon of child labor being an objective existence in the process of social development, so it cannot achieve the desired effect. Therefore, through the analysis of the measures taken by child labor, and then pointed out the reasons, and finally give innovative measures, according to the characteristics of the current stage of social and economic development to solve the problem of child labor. The implication is the hope that by studying this article, The paper can have some understanding of child labor. Eliminate child labor as soon as possible and effectively, so that children's rights and interests are protected. Limitation refers to research without primary data, which cannot ensure the authenticity of data and lag of data. Future Study will spend more time on selecting research contents at home and abroad to improve the availability of data as much as possible.

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