

Child Labor and its Impact on Academic Success A Field Study on Some Working Schoolchildren in Mascara

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Abstract. This study aims to attempt to understand the effect of child labor on their academic success, given that the importance of the study lies in the fact that this phenomenon constitutes a serious problem negatively affecting the academic success of children, who are forced to leave school and engage in work to earn a living. The study concluded with results indicating that difficult working conditions affect children's ability to concentrate and learn well. Children who work endure psychological and physical pressures that affect their ability to benefit from classes and educational subjects. Moreover, working children face other social and psychological challenges such as exploitation, abuse, and lack of respect. We also found that children in the city of Mascara work extensively in various sectors, particularly in agriculture and domestic services. Despite the legislation and measures taken to combat child labor in the country, many children continue to face difficult conditions that force them to work instead of going to school.

1. INTRODUCTION AND RESEARCH PROBLEM

Academic success is one of the fundamental indicators for measuring the progress and development of individuals in society. The fact that children receive a good education and achieve good academic results is considered an important goal for families and communities. However, the phenomenon of child labor remains a major challenge in many countries and negatively affects children's academic success and development.

Child labor is a social phenomenon that involves employing children in paid or unpaid work, instead of allowing them their right to education and the enjoyment of their childhood. Forms of child labor include work in agriculture, industry, domestic services, and even in the streets. It is regrettable that this phenomenon is not limited to developing countries, but also exists in many advanced industrial countries.

Child labor is linked to a combination of social, economic, and educational factors. The prevalence of child labor is higher in countries facing poverty and social exclusion, where children find themselves in difficult conditions that force them to work to meet their essential needs and support their families. Moreover, the lack of appropriate educational opportunities and social support increases the likelihood of a decline in the academic success of working children. The work of ...

Child labor negatively affects children's academic success. Children who work are forced to give up their right to education and school enrollment. They are subjected to physical and psychological pressures that influence their ability to concentrate and learn well. Moreover, working children suffer from a lack of familial and educational support necessary to succeed academically. Thus, we pose the following question: Does child labor lead to a deterioration in academic achievement, or does it interact in different ways with the attainment of academic success? And do other factors play a role in determining this relationship?

2. HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

- Lack of time and challenges with school assignments: working children struggle to manage their time between work and studies. Professional responsibilities can lead to delays in completing school assignments and preparing for exams, which negatively affects academic success and performance.
- Limited family and educational support: working children may have limited family and educational support due to their difficult economic conditions. They may lack educational resources, tutoring, and academic guidance that could enhance their academic success.

3. DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

Child labor: it is a phenomenon that refers to the exploitation of children for work in inappropriate conditions and with low wages or no wages at all. Child labor exploitation is a shameful and immoral phenomenon that negatively affects children's lives, exposes them to danger, and deprives them of their fundamental rights as well as their natural opportunities for education and healthy development.

Children are recruited to work in a variety of sectors and industries, such as agriculture, mining, the textile industry, factories, domestic services, tourism, restaurants, and others. Children are often employed in developing countries, where poverty and a lack of employment opportunities for adults exist.

The age of child workers ranges from about 5 to 17 years, but work is most common among younger children, who are also referred to as "non-citizen workers who enter the country illegally or whose residence permit has expired, or who are below the legal age" (Al-Sahaf.H, 76-77).

Academic performance: it is a term that refers to the level achieved by an individual in terms of the knowledge and skills they acquire thru education and studies. Academic performance reflects the extent to which an individual understands and assimilates

academic subjects, including concepts, information, and practical skills. It can also be defined as "a determined level of opinions and competence in schoolwork, as evaluated by teachers thru standardized tests" (Cima, A., 1972, 48).

Academic performance includes a set of levels and indicators that assess the individual's performance in learning. This can include evaluation by teachers, tests and exams, as well as the assessment of projects and practical activities. Academic performance may also include the attainment of diplomas or educational certificates certifying the individual's level of academic achievement in specific areas.

School assignments: they refer to tasks and work assigned to students by teachers at school to be completed outside of class. School assignments include a variety of activities and tasks aimed at reinforcing and deepening the concepts and knowledge covered during lessons.

School assignments can include writing reports, solving exercises and math problems, conducting research, reading books and educational materials, preparing presentations, completing reading and writing assignments, and carrying out individual or group projects. As defined by Saber: "All the written and oral schoolwork that students are assigned to do at home" (Saber, 1415, 08).

Family support: refers to the support that family members provide to each other, whether in the domestic environment or in family relationships. Family support aims to provide care and emotional, social, and moral support to family members, and to strengthen proper and open communication among them.

Family support can include healthcare, nutrition, housing, and the general comfort of family members. It also includes emotional support, empathy, and active listening to the needs and problems of family members. Family support also includes providing advice, recommendations, and assistance in time management and handling the pressures and challenges of life. Educational support: educational support refers to the efforts and measures undertaken to provide the necessary help and support to students in order to achieve academic success. Educational support aims to promote student learning and develop their skills, concepts, and understanding of school subjects, 'it is having people in whom the individual can trust and believe that they can trust them and find them when needed' (Sarason; 1984; 128).

Study Methodology: Thru this study, we have attempted to use qualitative methodology in accordance with the nature of the subject, actively seeking to understand and describe the phenomenon under investigation and to extract the main indicators and expressions related to it.

Population and research sample: The population of our research consists of school-going but working children in the city of Mascara.

We chose a purposive sample of 50 children working in the agriculture and domestic services sectors, divided into 19 girls and 31 boys.

4. CAUSES OF CHILD LABOR IN ALGERIA BETWEEN GENERAL AND LOCAL:

Child labor in Algeria is a social problem resulting from several causes that contribute to the worsening of this phenomenon, among which we mention:

Poverty and unemployment: Poverty and the high unemployment rate are among the main reasons that drive children to work to meet their needs or to support their families.

Weakness of education: the lack of educational opportunities and the poor quality of education can push children to enter the labor market instead of receiving an appropriate education.

Difficult economic conditions: many families in Algeria suffer from difficult economic conditions, which drives children to work to help the family meet its basic needs.

Conflicts and displacements: armed conflicts and displacements can lead to a deterioration of the economic and social situation of families, which promotes the spread of child labor.

Social and cultural issues: certain social and cultural customs and traditions can lead to the exploitation of children in labor, such as work in domestic industries or agriculture.

Lack of monitoring and enforcement of laws: there may be gaps in the implementation and enforcement of laws and regulations related to the protection of children's rights and the prevention of child labor.

5. CHILD LABOR AND ITS EFFECT ON ACADEMIC SUCCESS:

The impact of work on academic success: when children work part-time or full-time, it can negatively affect their academic success. Working children face challenges such as a lack of time dedicated to education, fatigue and exhaustion due to work, as well as insufficient academic and pedagogical support, which negatively affects their ability to excel academically.

- Economic and social impact on child labor and academic success: Poverty and high unemployment rates are among the main factors that drive children to work. Children may find themselves forced to work to meet their basic needs or to support their family. This economic pressure diverts their attention from academic success and affects their chances of academic development.
- Cultural and traditional factors: Social habits and traditions in society can influence the prevalence of child labor and their academic success. Working at a young age can be considered part of education and socialization, and academic education may be perceived as secondary. These values and beliefs influence the preference for work rather than academic success. Role of education in the fight against child labor: Good teaching and access to quality education are important factors in the fight against child labor. By providing appropriate and favorable educational opportunities, we can reduce the chances of children entering the labor market at an early age and increase their chances of academic success.

The analysis of this relationship requires highlighting the complex interactions between child labor and academic success, and how social, economic, and cultural factors can influence this situation. And how social, economic, and cultural factors can influence this relationship. Understanding and analyzing these factors promotes the development of effective solutions to combat child labor and improve children's academic success. Child labor can negatively affect children's ability to perform and complete school assignments effectively.

Here are some points that explain how child labor can affect the completion of school assignments:

Lack of time: working children spend long hours working, and therefore have little time to do their homework. They may have difficulty managing their time and prioritizing between work and studies.

Fatigue and exhaustion: working children may be physically and mentally tired due to their workloads, which affects their energy and concentration when doing schoolwork. They may have difficulty concentrating for long periods and completing their homework well.

Lack of resources and support: working children may lack the necessary resources and support to complete their school assignments well. They may not have an appropriate place to study, school books, or help from parents or teachers to understand school subjects.

Lack of mastery of the school curriculum: Given their focus on work, they may lack a complete understanding of the school curriculum and the topics covered. They may encounter difficulties in following the classes and understanding new concepts, which affects their ability to complete school assignments correctly.

To reduce the impact of child labor on the completion of school assignments, it is necessary to work toward creating a supportive environment for working children. Academic support and appropriate resources must be provided, in addition to adequate time management to allow children to complete their school assignments and work in a balanced manner. Governments and communities must also combat child labor and ensure children's rights to a good education and protection against work harmful to their health and development.

6. CHILD LABOR BETWEEN ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND FAILURE:

Child labor is complexly linked to academic failure and success. Child labor is a social phenomenon that affects children's rights and hinders their chances of obtaining a good education and succeeding in school. Here are some points that explain how child labor is related to school failure and success:

Impact of work on school attendance and engagement: Child labor can affect their school attendance and engagement in the educational process. Working children may have difficulty attending school regularly and participating in additional school activities.

Time and fatigue: Working children may be tired due to the work and time they dedicate to professional activities, which makes them less able to concentrate and absorb lessons in class and affects their academic performance.

Lack of educational resources: Working children may suffer from a lack of educational resources available to them, such as textbooks and basic school supplies. This can have a negative impact on their ability to follow school programs and achieve academic excellence.

Health and nutrition: challenging working conditions can have a detrimental impact on children's health and nutrition, which affects their physical and mental capacity to do well in school.

The social role and orientation: the role of working children in society and the social models surrounding them can be influenced by work, which can affect their social integration, emotional stability, and academic success.

It is important to combat child labor and provide equitable and quality educational opportunities for children. Governments, communities, schools, parents, and international organizations must work together to reduce child labor and ensure their right to education.

Child labor can affect support courses both directly and indirectly. Here are some points that show how child labor influences support classes.

Lack of attendance and engagement: working children may have difficulty regularly attending support classes due to their professional commitments. They may encounter the same problem in actively engaging in educational courses, as they could be tired or unable to concentrate due to the strenuous work.

Lack of time: working children may be pressured due to time constraints caused by work, which reduces the available time to attend support classes. They may find it difficult to handle an additional load of extra classes after working hours.

Physical and mental fatigue: working children may suffer from physical and mental fatigue due to long and arduous working hours. This fatigue can affect their understanding and interaction with the content of support classes and influence their overall performance.

Low academic performance: working children may have difficulty achieving good grades in fundamental academic subjects, and consequently, they may have a weakness in the knowledge and skills necessary to fully benefit from support courses (Suleiman K., 45, 2002).

In order to reduce the impact of child labor on tutoring sessions, it is necessary to provide an appropriate environment for working children. It is necessary to ensure the availability of academic and educational support tailored to their needs and to provide flexible access to support classes, taking into account their work schedule. It is also important to provide psychological support and active participation from teachers and parents to help working children achieve optimal academic performance.

7. CONCLUSION

In general, it can be said that child labor has a negative impact on children's academic success. Putting children to work exposes them to numerous factors that hinder their educational experience and affect their ability to succeed in school. They may have difficulty attending school regularly and engaging in the educational process, and they may lack the resources and support necessary to succeed academically, and they may suffer from physical and mental fatigue.

Therefore, society, governments, schools, parents, and international organizations must work together to combat child labor and ensure children's rights to quality and safe education. It is necessary to provide high-quality educational opportunities accessible to all, including working children. Academic support, appropriate resources, as well as psychological and social assistance must be offered to working children to help them overcome work-related challenges and achieve adequate academic success.

At the global level, international organizations and governments must work to strengthen legislation and implement child protection policies and measures against child labor, and ensure the child's right to a quality and safe education. Children must have the opportunity to grow and develop without being forced to work in hazardous conditions. At a young age and in harmful conditions. By eliminating child labor and providing good educational opportunities, we can give children the chance to reach their full potential and succeed in school. Education is a fundamental right for children, and we must work together to create an appropriate educational environment that allows them to thrive and achieve their future ambitions.

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