

INTERNSHIP REPORT

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Duration of the Internship: 12 weeks (18.04.05- 08.07.05)

Organisation: International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Department: International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)

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About the ILO and IPEC

The main objective of the International Labour Organization (ILO), which was founded in 1919 as the first specialized agency of the United Nations in 1946, is to promote “social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights”¹; such as freedom of association, the right to organize, collective bargaining, abolition of forced labour, equality of opportunity and treatment. The ILO has a tripartite structure which is constituted by workers, employers, and governments. The Department of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), which was founded in 1992, is one of the departments in which the ILO provides technical assistance to various countries. IPEC’s work is based on the Conventions No. 138 and No. 182. While the former requires the effective elimination of child labour, the latter necessitates the elimination of the worst forms of child labour. IPEC has been trying to eliminate child labour by raising awareness both at the national and international level and by supporting national capacities to mainstream child labour into national agendas.

Tasks during the Internship

After a brief review of the education system in Central Asian countries, I analyzed and commented on Rapid Assessment Reports which show the actual situation of child labour in a country or region given a three-month time period. These reports were “Child Labour in Tobacco and Cotton Growing in Kazakhstan” by the Center for Study of Public Opinion (CSPO), “In-depth Analysis of the Situation of Working Children in the Volgograd and the Volgograd Region”, and the “Role of Employers in Elimination of Child Labour” by National Confederation of the Entrepreneurs (Employers’) Organisations of Azerbaijan Republic. Moreover, I wrote a short paper about child labour in illegal mining in Ukraine. Finally, I

¹ <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/about/index.htm>

concentrated on the impact of child labour on youth unemployment and worked on the IPEC working paper “The Impact of Children’s Work on Schooling Multi-Country Evidence based on SIMPOC² Data” by Ranjan Ray and Geoffrey Lancaster by using new SIMPOC-Philippines Data for 2001.

Reflection on my Tasks, Issues Identified, and Opportunities etc.

The first month of my internship was a more orientation to the ILO in general and IPEC in particular. Reviewing the education system in Central Asian countries, analyzing Rapid Assessment Reports gave me a general idea with regards to child labour in these countries. Central Asian countries have mostly weak education systems which means for children and their families lower returns from education. This, in turn, canalizes poor children into economic activity which mainly takes place in agriculture and mostly in cotton fields.

A research about child labour in Ukraine as a transition economy which switched from a planned to a free market economy was another task during the first half of my internship. In Ukraine, as in many other transition economies, some children have begun to work in order to replace social safety nets which were eliminated to a great extent after the transition. One of the fields in which children have been working is illegal mining to which the World Day Against Child Labour drew attention on June 12, 2005. Hence, I wrote a short paper which emphasizes the existence of child labourers in illegal mining in Ukraine.

In the second half of my internship, I focused on the impact of child labour on youth unemployment and participated in youth unemployment conferences in the International Labour Conference at the ILO. Attending these conferences gave me not only the opportunity to observe the tripartite approach of the ILO, but also to see the attitudes of many different

² Statistical Information & Monitoring Programme on Child Labour in IPEC

countries with respect to youth unemployment. Because working hours of children have possibly detrimental effects on human capital accumulation, child labourers are expected to have lower chances in future to get a job under decent work conditions. Having this perspective, I focused only on the first step and analyzed the impact of working hours of children on their school performance by extending the IPEC working paper entitled "The Impact of Children's Work on Schooling Multi-Country Evidence based on SIMPOC Data" by Ranjan Ray and Geoffrey Lancaster. While this study used a data set for seven countries, Belize, Cambodia, Namibia, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, and Sri Lanka; I used only new SIMPOC- Philippines 2001 data. To be able to make a comparison between authors' and my estimation results, I preferred to use the same methodology in the working paper. At the end of my estimation results, I found out, as the authors, that working hours of children adversely affect school performance of children. This task was very beneficial for me, because through working on this econometric study, I acquired knowledge about dealing with raw data, analyzing survey questionnaires, and using the software package SPSS.

Thanks to this internship, I could meet other interns who come from all over the world. I could exchange ideas and experiences, acquire knowledge about other departments, and draw a general picture about the ILO and other Organisations of the United Nations. Moreover, through various conferences which were organised by different departments of the ILO, I could generate knowledge about other departments of the ILO.

To sup up, through this internship, I could inform myself about the ILO and IPEC, deepen my knowledge about child labour, acquire new skills, and work in an international environment. In the Appendix, you can find the list of conferences that I attended and papers that I wrote during my internship.

APPENDIX

Conferences attended at the ILO and the United Nations

1. Social Dialogue by Guiseppe Casale on April 26, 2005, 16:00 - 18:00
2. How meaningful are the unemployment rates of low-income countries? Speakers: Philippe Egger, Ajit Ghose, Farhad Mehran and Irmqard Nübler. Chair: Peter Peek on April 28, 2005, 16:00 - 17:30
3. Enforcement Issues by James Gross and Lance Compa on May 3, 2005, 16:00-18:00
4. Working and Employment Conditions in the new EU Member States: Convergence or Diversity? by Daniel Vaughan-Whitehand on May 12, 2005, 16:00-17:30
5. Eleventh Decent Work Forum: Do labour market regulations hinder or help small enterprise development? Speakers: Friedrich Büttler, Martin Clemensson, Josè Luis Doza, Katerina Tsotrordi, and Manuela Tomer. Chair: Corinne Vorgha on May 19, 2005, 16:00 - 17:30
6. Equity and Development: A Preview of the World Development Report 2006 by the World Bank Chief Economist Francois Bourguignon on June 3, 2005, 15:00-16:30
7. International Labour Conference: Bringing Youth Employment into the International Development Agenda. A High Level Dialogue with Partners of the Youth Employment Network on June 7, 2005, 15.00 – 18.00
8. International Labour Conference: Youth Employment Network (YEN). Building collaboration: technical exchange among partners on June 8, 2005, 09.30 – 13.00
9. China and India's Economic Progress Implications for Coherence between Economic and Social Policies at International and National level by Prof. Ajit Singh (Cambridge) and Alice Amsden (M.I.T) on June 29, 2005, 10.30 – 12.00