

Child Labor

(Scientific Paper)



Prof. Dr. Fathia Mohamed Bahshawan

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www.yemeninformation.org

البريد الإلكتروني: YIC@yemeninformation.org

مكتب صنعاء: 216282-1-967 - مكتب عدن: 772415913 - مكتب إب: 426502-04

Paper Summary:

Child labor is one of the complex and cross-cutting problems that have emerged in the recent years, influencing and affecting all economic, social, health and cultural aspects of the child, and sometimes having a negative and devastating impact on him/her, and hence on his/her family.

The phenomenon of child labor refers to their exploitation in any form of work, depriving them of their childhood, impeding or threatening their education, restricting their rights and limiting their opportunities in the future, as well as leading to vicious cycles of poverty. This exploitation is prohibited by legislations all over the world, thus this phenomenon has emerged as a result of a combination of many factors, the most important of which are poverty and unemployment, in addition to family problems, which pushed them to the labor market to meet their necessary needs, thus turning them from dependent individuals to participants in the economic support.

The purpose of this paper is to shed light on this phenomenon and the extent of its spread in Yemen, in addition to identify its causes and effects on the individual and society. Some recommendations were made, including providing adequate social protection for all, including comprehensive benefits for children; increased spending on quality education; the return of all children to school; providing services and programs that fight poverty and its causes; ensuring income-generating programs for families with economic problems; as well as establishing offices to protect children from homelessness and beggary; and establishing institutions or social welfare homes.

Introduction:

Child labor is a global phenomenon that has recently begun to spread and expand and has negative effects on the child in particular, and on the family and society in general, as it is multidimensional. The problem of child labor

varies from one country to another, but it is more frequent in the poor and developing countries, as well as in developed countries. It is also a complex and cross-cutting problem where it influences and affects people, family and society.

Countless children in various parts of the world are exposed to daily risks to their growth and impede the development of their abilities. Among these obstacles is the assignment of children to hard work that is not commensurate with their physical abilities, and under difficult conditions, which negatively affects their health and future. A working child is a child (between the age of 6 and 15) who works or is used by other individuals for the purpose of obtaining money.

The conflicts and disasters that some countries in the Arab world have been experiencing for years have led to an increase in the number of children who were forced to work in jobs that threaten their physical and mental development and deprive them of educational opportunities. In many streets of the cities and capitals of the Arab world, children have been driven by poverty, and perhaps orphanage, to work daily in blacksmithing workshops or in agricultural fields, and they are often at traffic lights on the streets trying to sell tissues and other things to motorists; this may be due to poverty, lack of social justice and the absence of government support for the poor social groups, all of which have been major factors for the spread of child labor.

The United Nations has considered child labor to be exploitative work if it includes full working days, long working hours, or hard work, or if it is on the streets in difficult conditions, or if it is underpaid, or has above-normal responsibilities, or has an impact on education, or is an act that degrades the dignity of children, such as slavery, and all acts that hinder their social and psychological development.

As is well known, the phenomenon of child labor refers to the exploitation of children in any form of work, depriving them of their childhood, impeding

their ability to attend school, and having a harmful mental, physical, social or moral impact. In fact, child labor weakens the energies, potentials and capabilities of the future generation for the advancement of their societies, and affects the development of human resources and their development capabilities.

It is also a violation of childhood rights to education, play and social life, and because the actions of children have a significant impact on their behavior, especially on younger children who have been unable to pursue their studies; their direct transition to the labor market poses a greater risk to them. Indeed, the childhood stage is the most important and influential stage of growth in an individual's life, and it is the beginning of his/her upbringing, thus if the beginning is healthy and sound, the child will then keep on growing in a healthy manner.

Child labor has recently spread remarkably in Yemen. One in seven (14%) of children aged between 6 and 13 are involved in child labor. Using the population estimates of the Social Protection Monitoring (SPM) survey, approximately (730,000) children were found to be engaged in child labor, and that among (1.6) million children who are dropped out of school in Yemen, one out of five children is involved in child labor (21 %).

Children engaged in labor are more likely to be out of school than children who are not engaged in labor in all categories, with the exception of 6-year-olds; one out of five children, aged between 6 and 13, who is out of school, works, especially when out-of-school children reach the second cycle of basic education, as they become more likely to engage in work. This indicates that work may become a barrier to school attendance for out-of-school adolescent children, and that out-of-school girls are more likely to work than out-of-school boys (UNICEF, 2014: 43, 46).

Child labor has been a social and psychological problem for our society for years, and the current conditions have increased the suffering, causing a rise

in child labor and their occupation of professions that cause them severe psychological suffering that exceeds their ability to bear.

Through this research paper, we will learn about child labor, how it began historically, and what are the reasons that led to that, while addressing child labor in Yemen.

Child Concept:

According to the Oxford Dictionary, the term child is used to refer to a human newborn until he/she reaches the age of maturity, and this applies to both males and females. The stage in which the child lives is called the childhood stage. Therefore, sociologists differed in their definition of the concept of the child and determining its nature, so several trends emerged in this, including:

The first trend: The child concept is applied to humans from the moment of his first birth until he/she reaches adulthood, and the age of maturity is determined by the State, society and the law in each country independently.

The second trend: The child concept is defined as a newborn human being in the first age stage up to the age of 12, regardless of his puberty and the legislation in place in his country, the laws, regulations and agreements.

The third trend: A child shall be described as the newborn from the moment of his birth until his puberty, provided that to be differentiated between adulthood and puberty.

As for the United Nations, it defined a child as any person under the age of eighteen (<https://ar.wikipedia.org>), but Article (1) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child defined him/her as a person under the age of eighteen, unless national laws define the legal age much earlier (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child).

As for the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, it defines a child as “every human being under the age of eighteen unless, under the law applicable to him/her, he reaches the age of maturity earlier.” The Convention

on the Rights of the Child does not specify in its definition the age at which the child is to be released, but rather shows flexibility in defining it by binding on the 192 States signatories to the Convention up to November 2015 AD, to set the reference point for reconstruction under specific circumstances and requirements, such as the legal age for child labor and education, the execution of their sentences, imprisonment, or similar circumstances related to the stage specified in the definition of the Convention (<https://cte.univ-setif2.dz>).

From the above, a procedural definition of the child can be set as follows:

A child is a newborn human being from the moment of his birth until he reaches the age of maturity determined by the state in accordance with the legislations in place in his country and the laws, regulations and international agreements.

Child Labor Concept:

Researchers define the concept of work in many general and practical fields as the effort or physical or mental energy expended to perform a particular task. Based on this definition, it is considered as an unclear and undistinguished concept as well. It does not differentiate between work for which a person is paid and work for which he is not, and in the case of obtaining a wage; what is the quality of this reward? From which parties does he get this fee? What kind of activities can the term “work” be called? What are the rights and duties entailed if an individual agrees to carry out a specific activity that falls within the framework of the concept of work? Does the child and the adult agree to perform the same activity that can be called “work” so that he is exposed to what adults are exposed to, bears the same consequences and responsibilities and receives the same benefits, or not?

All of these questions lead us to an important question:

Which of the activities performed by the child can be contributed to the concept of work?

In order to answer this question, it is necessary to present some distinctive criteria among the various activities of children which are the following:

- 1- Whether the activity is paid or not, because getting a wage for a practiced activity falls within the economic framework, which makes us calling the concept of work on this activity, and what the quality of this wage is.
- 2- If the activity is productive or non-productive, and in case the activity is non-productive, then the activity is within the educational or promotional activities.
- 3- The period of time occupied by the activity that the child practices, does this activity occupy all of the child's time or a part of it? Is this period of time fixed over long periods or variable?
- 4- The quality of the responsibilities of the child in the event that he performs a certain activity, that is, there are obligations that the child bears and he is punished in the event of not fulfilling them during the activity.
- 5- Is the child being exploited during the activity, that is, the child does not obtain the rights and duties obtained in the event that he performs a specific activity (Abdel-Aal, 1997: 15, 16).

Child labor is: the work that places heavy burdens on a child; any work that threatens the safety, health and well-being of the child; so that the basis of the work is to benefit from the child, despite his inability to defend himself; reliance on him as a cheap alternative to adult labor, or in other words; the work that prevents the child's education and training and is a reason for depriving him of his/her rights.

Although child labor occurs in almost all sectors, seven out of ten children work in agriculture according to the International Labour Organization, as about 60% of children aged between 5 and 17 are employed in the agricul-

tural sector. Noting that the agricultural sector includes: activities related to cultivation of fields and forests, aquaculture, fishing, and livestock breeding (Zafar, 2019: 4, 5).

The report “Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward” published by the International Labor Organization and UNICEF, showed a decrease in the number of working children by 94 million between 2000 and 2016, and a significant increase in the number of working children in the age group of 5 to 11 years. Today, they represent more than half of the total global figure. The number of children in this category, who are engaged in dangerous work, i.e., work that is likely to harm their health, safety or morals, has increased by 6.5 million since 2016 to 79 million.

In sub-Saharan Africa, population growth, recurrent crises, extreme poverty and weak social protection measures have increased the number of working children by 16.6 million over the past four years, even in regions that saw some progress after 2016, such as Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean. The additional economic shocks and school closures due to COVID-19 mean that already working children may work longer hours or in worsening conditions, while many others will be forced into the worst forms of child labor due to the loss of jobs and incomes for the members of vulnerable families.

The report warned that nine million additional children in the world are at risk of being forced to work by the end of 2022 due to the pandemic, and that this number may rise to 46 million if they do not have access to necessary social protection.

The report reached other main findings, namely:

- The agricultural sector employs 70% of working children (112 million), followed by 20% in services (31.4 million), and 10% in industry (16.5 million).

- About 28% of working children in the age group between 5 and 11 years, and 35% of working children in the age group between 12 and 14 years are out of school.
- Child labor is more prevalent among boys than girls at all ages. If we calculate the housework that is practiced for at least 21 hours per week, the gender gap narrows in child labor.
- The prevalence of child labor in rural areas (14%), which is three times higher than in urban areas (5%) (ILO and UNICEF, 2021).

Children practice different jobs, ranging from simple, marginal, and dangerous. They may work in factories, laboratories, farms, and car workshops. They may work as domestic servants or street vendors who sell various goods, and work as passengers in camel races in the Gulf countries in particular (Ramzi, 1998: 23, 45), and some criminals may exploit children to perform illegal acts such as drug trafficking or prostitution, thus exposing childhood to the worst forms of exploitation and humiliation.

According to ILO estimates, the number of working children between the ages of five and fourteen in the world is estimated at 300 million, of whom 250 million are in third world countries, 50% of them work permanently, and the rest work during school holidays (Ferjani, 2001: 14).

Through this presentation, we can come up with a procedural definition of child labor:

He is a working child who works or is employed by other individuals in order to obtain money, and his/her age is between six and fifteen.

- The International Labour Organization divides the types of working children into three categories as follows:
 - Children in Employment:

The category of children in employment is the most prevalent category in the world, and it includes: child labor in all types of paid productive activities, and some non-productive activities, such as the production of household goods for personal use, this is not considered an economic activity, or child labor as house servants. It is worth noting that economic activities within this category are not limited to legal activities, but also include illegal activities.

- Child laborers:

The category of working children or child laborers is the most restrictive category of others, with some exceptions. This category includes children over the age of 11 who work for a few hours with light work that does not hinder them from practicing their other activities such as going to school or vocational training or otherwise, and children over the age of 14 who do not engage in any dangerous work are excluded from this category.

- Children in hazardous work:

The category of children in hazardous work includes children who work in any dangerous work that exposes them to many harms, whether related to their safety and physical health, or related to their moral and mental health (Fors, 2008:571).

Child labor historically

Societies have suffered since antiquity from the phenomenon of child labor, as it has spread between industrially advanced cities and developing and poor countries (Boyd, 1994: 153), and this global phenomenon is a complex problem, especially in the societies where the source of child labor is the result of the culture and traditions prevailing in that society, or when it is caused by the country's structure and economic conditions (Lachowski, Zagórski, 2011: 386), so the problem of child labor has received increasing attention during the past decade (Boyd, 1994: 153).

In the Middle Ages, the family was distinguished by having a large number of children, the death rate among them increased, and the average adult life declined. After a few years of age, the child enters the adult life very early to perform the same work and activities, covering his/her expenses and some of his/her family's expenses.

Child labor in the pre-industrial period in Europe was characterized by the attachment of the family to the land; the latter was using its children to earn their pension. At the end of the eighteenth century AD, there was a rapid development in technology there as a result of the emergence of the Industrial Revolution, and a class of industrialists emerged that replaced the old agricultural aristocracy, along with an increase in the rates of the working class that built the last extreme forms of monopoly, and during the second half of the nineteenth century, the British parliament passed the first child protection legislation aimed at preventing the exploitation of juveniles.

Although juvenile employment is a phenomenon and an issue, history confirms the fact that it is linked to the Industrial Revolution. Britain was the cradle of this revolution due to its adoption of juvenile labor with an unusual intensity in the mining and textile industries. After that, the rate of participation of children in the age group between 10 and 14 began to decrease to reach (30%) in 1851 AD, then the percentage drops to (17%) in 1901 AD after free education was available at night in the world in 1870 AD.

In the United States, the rate of child participation reached 17% in 1890 AD, while the first census in France indicated that the rate of juvenile participation in the labor force reached 20% in 1896 AD. Therefore, Britain and France issued the Child Labor Law (Hibir, et al., 2017, 22-23).

During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, there were many children between the ages of 5 and 14 from poor families working in Western countries and their colonies mainly in agriculture, household assembly operations, factories, mining, and services, such as boys who work in the news business;

some of them worked a 12-hour night shift.

With the increase in family income and the availability of schools and the issuance of child labor laws, the incidence of child labor decreased, but the sense of the importance of this phenomenon, and the need to put an end to it did not occur until the early sixties of the twentieth century, when an article appeared by psychiatrists that sparked interest in the American media about this phenomenon, which led the community to put in place laws that criminalize the exploitation and abuse of children in degrading acts (Al- Hariri, 2000: 58).

Global attention to the rights of the child began since the drafting of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1957, where the Declaration stipulated that the child must be protected from neglect, cruelty and exploitation, shall not be trafficked by any means, shall not be used before reaching an appropriate age, and shall not be allowed to engage in a profession or work that is harmful to his/her health or education, or causes damages to his/her physical, mental or moral development.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child issued in 1989 stipulates that every effort must be made to protect the child from economic exploitation and performing any work that is likely to be hazardous, or to impede his education, or to harm his health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. The UN General Assembly also obligated Member States to take legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to ensure such protection, in particular setting a minimum age for joining work, an appropriate system for working hours and conditions, and imposing appropriate penalties to ensure the effective implementation of these provisions (National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA), 2011AD: 8).

The International Labor Organization estimated in its 2006 report that the number of working children in the world between the ages of 5 and 17 reached about 218 million in 2004 AD. Asian and Pacific countries are among the

most common regions for working children. They number about 122 million child laborers, followed by the African Sahara region with 49.3 million, and then Latin America and the Caribbean with 5.7 million. In fact, children working in agriculture account for 69% of working children, compared to only 9% in industry.

As for the number of children who practice the “worst forms of child labor”, the International Labour Organization sources estimated their number at about 8.4 million. Where these children work in poor conditions, they are forced into debt bondage or other forms of slavery, into prostitution and pornography, or into armed conflicts or other illegal activities (National Council for Family Affairs, 2011AD, 11).

According to ILO estimates for recent years, there are an estimated 300 million working children between the age of 5 and 14 in the world, of whom two hundred and fifty million are children in Third World countries, 50% of whom work permanently, and the rest work during school holidays. As for working children in the Arab region, their number is estimated at about 9 million Arab children who have dropped out of primary education and have been integrated into the labor market, and these numbers are growing alarmingly without control or direction.

In the Gulf countries, juvenile labor is characterized by its dependence on children from other countries, as many immigrants see their presence in those countries as a valuable opportunity that should be exploited to the fullest extent, even if this requires depriving their children of education and pushing them to the labor market. Children practice different jobs, ranging from simple to dangerous. They may work in factories, or in the Gulf countries, and some criminals exploit children to perform illegal acts such as drug trafficking or prostitution. Thus, childhood is exposed to the worst forms of exploitation and humiliation (Jubair et al., 2017AD: 22-23).

In the world's poorest countries, one in four children works, and the largest number (29%) of them live in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2017, four African countries (Mali, Benin, Chad and Guinea-Bissau) experienced more than (50%) of children aged between 5 and 14. All over the world, agriculture is the primary home of child labor; the vast majority of them are found in rural areas and informal urban economies, often working at the behest of their parents rather than in factories, as poverty and lack of schools are the main cause of child labor.

Child labor in Yemen:

Children in Yemen are involved in many professions; some of them work on board fishing vessels in coastal cities, or transport goods within markets, in factories, or in qat fields, while some of them beg or sell goods to motorists at crossroads in major cities. They practice many unprofitable professions, mostly on the grounds that they are unskilled workers that have not received education, or have not passed the stage of basic education, or that they have not obtained some professional training in certain professions.

Officials at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour estimate that the number of working children is between four or five million at the level of the Republic due to the state of Yemen's economic conditions and the existence of conflict and war, in addition to the widespread of poverty and the low level of awareness of the dangers of early work for children.

One of the most important characteristics of the situation in Yemen is the emergence of a number of variables that have accompanied the transformation processes that society has been going through politically, socially and economically since the 1990s, the most prominent of which are:

- 1- The prevailing imbalances in the economic balances with the weak resources that resulted in some problems, such as the low efficiency of the workforce, the weak educational, technical, professional and

craftsmanship level of the population, and the decline in the role of women in the productive work.

- 2- The increase in government investment and consumer spending, which was represented in the government budget deficit, balance of payments deficit, high prices, weak infrastructure, and interference in the pricing of a number of commodities (Farea et al., 1997: 10).

In 2000, the Ministry of Social Affairs conducted a governmental survey that reported that there were 421,000 working children at the national level, while Seyaj, a local NGO for child protection, reported that the number of working children in the country was about 3.5 million, while the International Labour Organization in Yemen found that there was some disagreement over the numbers; but it is estimated that there are between 500,000 and 550,000 child laborers in the country.

In 2002, the Yemeni government approved the Children's Rights Law in Yemen, which sets the minimum legal working age at 14 years. At the same time, the law prohibits the introduction of children under 15 years of age into industrial work. The law does not place any restrictions on child labor in family businesses regardless the age. Yemen is one of the signatories to ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor (www.thenewhumanitarian.org).

As a result of these tragic conditions in Yemen, child labor has spread remarkably, only to find themselves in the face of a bitter reality, exposed to violence and victims of exploitation, as the weakest link in all the wars the country is going through. Despite the inaccuracy of official statistics, it showed that the number of working children in Yemen exceeds 400,000, belonging to the age group of (10-14) years, the male ratio being 55.8% and the female ratio being 44.2%.

While the International Labour Organization confirms that 1.4 million children working in Yemen are deprived of their most basic rights, which rais-

es a state of emergency that requires international action to help reduce this phenomenon, and that about 34.3% of children aged between 5 and 17 work in Yemen, noting that the number is constantly increasing (www.independen-tarabia.com).

The traditional seasonal agricultural professions that depend on the traditional primitive methods of agriculture, as a result of the weak contribution of the modern agricultural sector in employment, are among the most common professions practiced by working children in the age group (10-14) years. Agriculture absorbs 89% of the working children of the same age group, and these professions in the rural sector account for 91% of the working children due to their distinctive agricultural activity and the opportunities that children find to help their families in paid and unpaid field activities. Urban workers accounted for 24.5% in 1994, and urban sales and service workers have the highest percentage compared to other professions and jobs, reaching 29.6% of all urban working children in 1994, thus rural children only practice such professions at a rate of 1.2% (Fara'a; et al., 1997: 10).

Thus, the phenomenon of child labor is undesirable, and the whole world is working to confront and eliminate it because of its negative effects on children in their present and future, in any way, and harm them physically, socially and morally.

Reasons of the Phenomenon of Child Labor in Yemen:

There are many reasons that push children to work, and hence the spread of the phenomenon of child labor, and among those reasons are the following:

- Disruption of the security situation and the spread of conflicts with the outbreak of war.
- High rates of unemployment and poverty.
- Population increase.
- Poor health conditions (Fara'a et al., 1997: 10).

- Significant dropout after the age of nine from compulsory education; as the follow-up to the study drops to 56.6% among children aged (5-17) years (ILO 2010, 54).
- The difficult social and economic conditions experienced by the Yemeni families.
- Parents' lack of awareness of the negative and harmful effects of child labor at an early age.
- Lack of basic social skills as a result of not completing their studies.
- The spread of some cultural values that encourage child labor in some societies.
- Financial problems and accumulated debts that some families suffer from, which may push children to work to pay them off.
- Employers exploit children because they earn less income than adults, and at the same time do not know their rights, which makes them more vulnerable to exploitation.
- Ignorance and lack of quality primary and vocational education (unicef.in, 2020).

The phenomenon of child labor has emerged as a result of a combination of several factors, the most important of which are:

1) Economic Factors:

The presence of severe economic crises that hit the majority of families in certain countries, as a result of wars or other pressures, pushes some fathers to send their children, despite their young age, which may be less than seven years, to work in order to obtain additional sources of income to help with family expenses. But what these parents are doing is not justified because the highest responsibility that a child should assume at such an age is studying to build his future, and it has been found that up to this moment, there are more

than 70 million children in the poor countries around the world working in agriculture, mines and tobacco fields.

Poverty is one of the dominant factors leading to the spread of child labor. With poor families or those living below the poverty line in some developing countries, some children are forced to increase family income to secure the simplest requirements of life represented by food (www.hellooha.com). The increase in the pace of child labor is a result of the expansion of poverty, and there is no doubt that the economic and financial crises that the country is going through are pushing children to work in order to preserve the family structure and satisfy the basic needs of their families (info.wafa.ps), because most families of working children suffer from a low level of income, which indicates the importance of the economic motive being a major factor for children to join the labor market. The earnings of working children represent about a quarter of the total income of the family, and sometimes exceeds to three quarters of the family income, and it may constitute the income of the whole family (Al-Hariri, 2000: 63). A study that dealt with the economic dimensions of the phenomenon of child labor has concluded that the low family income has led to maximizing the value of the wage-working child's contribution, as this contribution ranges between 22.8% and 30.7%, and this high percentage explains the increase in child labor in poor families (Ramzi, 1998 : 65).

2) Social factors:

Among the most important social factors that directly affect the increase in the phenomenon of child labor are the following:

- Social inequality between children, such as caring for the smartest, most beautiful and most capable of integrating into the society and neglecting those who are the opposite, and racial discrimination and mistreatment, whether within the family, at school or in the outside community, especially in the countries or cities with a mixture of indigenous peoples and displaced individuals or displaced from other

cities or countries, is one of the main reasons for the spread of child labor and the extent it has reached in these countries.

- Ignorance, which spreads considerably in simple and uneducated environments, pushes children to drop out of school for work. The lack of adequate knowledge and the necessary culture that some families have been deprived of, as a result of outdated social habits or for certain economic reasons, has contributed to the spread of the phenomenon of employment as if it were a duty for children to build and strengthen their personalities and participate effectively in their families, without addressing its negative effects on the child's psyche and life. It was found that 65 million girls and 56 million boys do not get their necessary right to education around the world (www.hellooha.com).
- Family rupture is a factor in children's recourse to work. The separation of the parents or the death of one of them may push the child to work to make up for the shortage caused by the absence of one of his parents. The results of one of the studies showed that 14% of the sample members are children whose parents have died, and the neediest families are those that lack the breadwinner (the father), so the work of their children becomes a major source of income (Ramzi, 2002: 23).
- Increase in the number of family members and lack of birth control; The burden on the head of the household and the inability to provide for the requirements of life for his family.

3) Educational Factors:

There is no doubt that what the educational systems face in most developing countries deprives many children of education, and increases the rates of their participation in the labor market. The educational factor is related to the previous factors; the low economic and cultural level of the family, the spread of illiteracy among its members, and the indifferent view of the importance of

education, all led parents to remove their children from schools and “throw” them into the labor market. They see that work is more feasible and has a greater benefit than education, which is useless, especially since the unemployment rate among the educated is increasing.

One of the studies, conducted on child labor in Lebanon, indicates a low level of education for the members of that sample, as the percentage of children who dropped out of primary education reached 53%, while there is a percentage that did not initially enroll in education, and illiteracy prevails among the families of working children (Ramzi, 1998: 61)

The inappropriateness of educational curricula for children’s ages and mental development, their lack of modern educational methods, and their filling with enormous information at the expense of basic skills and information that should be focused on, all lead to dropouts from education and increase of illiteracy rate. In addition to the high expenses of university education, which constitutes a huge burden on low-income families; as parents refrain from educating their children, and push them to work to help them bear the burdens of life (<https://info.wafa.ps/ar>).

It is clear that the regularity of children in schools impedes them from working permanently, forcing them to work temporarily. Therefore, some countries seek to link the obligation of education with the age at which an individual is allowed to work, so education is obligatory until the end of basic or secondary education, that is, at the age of fifteen or eighteen (Ferjani, 2001: 19).

4) Outbreak of Wars:

With the outbreak of wars, everyone’s suffering multiplies, but childhood’s share of the tragedy reaches a devastating extent. As children’s enrollment in the labor market increases, and with the increase in the displacement of dysfunctional families, parents lose their jobs and sources of income, so some children are forced to work to secure some of the family’s basic needs, and

this is what is found in the midst of the societies suffering from wars or the ones to which those fleeing from war migrated.

Consequences of Child Labor:

It is clear that child labor has negative effects on the working child first and on his society second, and these effects are highlighted in the following areas:

1- Educational Effects

Children who work have either completely dropped out of school, or work after school, and they may not have entered school at all or received any amount of education, and in all cases the poor impact of work at the expense of children's education is highlighted (Ferjani, 2001: 19). In fact, there is a strong relationship between child labor and the level and accessibility of education, as the economic conditions of the family and the social position of education call for children to drop out of school and be forced into the labor market.

The phenomenon of child labor is linked to the phenomenon of school dropout, which is the student leaving school before completing the period of compulsory education extending from the first grade to the tenth grade, and exposing them to jobs that will make them lose their childhood and distort their personalities. The first main reasons behind the dropout phenomenon and the tendency to work are the difficult economic and living conditions experienced by poor families, forcing them to remove their children from schools and enroll them in the labor market.

The phenomenon of dropping out of schools is the result of deficiencies in the primary education system such as the appropriation and inadequacy of the educational curricula and that it does not meet the needs of children and does not satisfy their desires and tendencies. Therefore, the opinion of those in charge of preparing the new educational curricula must take into account the phenomenon of child labor in order to reduce it, and the compulsory education system should be implemented.

Dropping out is an educational waste and has a negative impact on all aspects of society and its construction. It increases illiteracy and unemployment and weakens the economic structure and productivity (Al-Tawashi, 2015: 16-18). A study on the educational needs of working children concluded that the most important of those needs were the need to learn, read and write, continue education, and the need for social care, love and appreciation (Ahmed, 1991).

2- Economic effects

Child labor affects the long-term development of society, in addition to its direct impact on the life of the individual and the family. Societies in which the percentage of child labor is high may suffer from a loss of societal balance due to the high percentage of uneducated labor, which may cause a decrease in the level of production and the quality of produced goods, and therefore it is necessary to seek a new generation capable of challenging difficulties, in order to obtain a better productivity in the future, and that is only by sending children to receive education instead of employing them, and thus they will play an active role when they receive appropriate education, which may raise the productivity and quality of goods at the local and international levels (Vandenberg, 2007: 27).

There are those who believe that working for a child is better than begging, but the reality is that child labor does not prevent or eliminate beggary, but on the contrary, it may be a way to beg, especially when the financial return of work is reduced to the degree that makes the child beg people for sympathy, and this is clearly demonstrated among the children street vendors.

Most families of working children suffer from a low level of income, and this confirms the importance of the economic motive as a main factor for children to join the labor market, and the earnings of working children represent about a quarter of the family's total income, and sometimes it exceeds three quarters, and it may constitute the entire family's income (Al-Hariri, 2000: 63).

3- Social and Psychological Effects

The social and psychological effects of child labor diverge and vary depending on the type and conditions of work, and the child's family conditions. Some children may seem satisfied with the support they provide to their families, and increasingly have confidence and self-reliance (Abdel-Fattah, 2001: 95), while parents send their children to work believing that this contributes to helping them cope with the difficult living conditions, but they may overlook the long-term negative effects.

Child labor may interfere with their school education, in addition to their lack of ability to raise productivity and increase their future earnings, which means lower future income for their families, which may lead to the spread of poverty and increase the likelihood of their children working in the future as well (Galli, 2000: 3).

Early work causes a negative social impact on the juveniles who engage in it, and these effects include: dropping out of school and then delinquency, falling victim to criminals and delinquents, psychological and negative influence, feeling inferior and different from the rest of their peers from children, and hating life. In general, when juveniles perform non-independent work from an early age, this will affect them in the future, as they cannot obtain any qualifications to do work that requires scientific expertise and ability, and this situation is coupled with a loss of inclination to education that arises due to the immaturity of the juvenile or the child that allows them to reach to better work and social progress. Therefore, the worker who joined work at an early age often spends his entire life at the bottom of the social ladder, limited to performing routine work that does not require any skill or scientific experience, if he does not eventually face unemployment (Jubair; et al., 2017: 27).

Child labor plays a role in increasing the unemployment rate among young people. The work done by children is often the work of adults, and employers prefer child labor because they are more willing to fulfill orders, less trouble-

some and less paid than adults, which constitutes real competition for adults looking for work (Ferjani, 2001: 16-17).

The low standard of living of the child's family, such as poverty and the failure to satisfy the necessary and basic needs that achieve sound development and psychological satisfaction for children affect their behavior in the long run, according to several researches. For example, a child takes theft as a legitimate means from his point of view to satisfy his material need that the family was unable to provide for him, or he resorts to work to obtain money that fulfills his desires.

Likewise, the exposure of the family to disintegration when the spouses separate for any reason, whether through divorce, abandonment or the death of a spouse, causes family disintegration, which would can leave the whole family in a situation of instability, confusion and low level of intimate social interactions among its members. The greatest consequences are those that affect children and affect their relationships with their families, which are usually characterized by fear and tension and the provision of the simplest needs, whether material or emotional. As a result of disintegration, the family usually seeks to find the appropriate means to live after the absence of the breadwinner, which sometimes has to hold the children responsible for participating in bearing the burdens of life, which pushes them to drop out of school and go to work (Jubair et al., 2017: 28-29).

4- Physical Effects:

There is no doubt that the work of juveniles at an early age has negative consequences that are reflected on the physical health of children, which leads to the spread of diseases among them. The results of numerous studies have confirmed the need to pay attention to the health aspect and to provide health, preventive and curative care for children through health and basic care units, and the need to make business owners and inspectors, the families of working children and the children themselves aware of the health risks caused by

work, especially the high-risk jobs that the law prohibits young people from engaging in (Jubair; et al., 2017: 22-27).

Children often work in unhealthy environmental conditions that directly affect them, and they may be exposed to many risks during their work. There are those who work in chemical plants or car workshops and are exposed to chemicals and the danger of dealing with mechanical and electrical machines. There are also street vendors who are constantly exposed to car accidents, dust and noise, in addition to the conditions of heat and cold, malnutrition and extreme fatigue as a result of working for long hours without rest, all of which affects their health and that of the young children more severely (Ramzi, 2002: 25).

Abstract: To reduce or eliminate the phenomenon of child labor in Yemen, a set of measures must be taken, as follows:

- 1) Poverty eradication is the best treatment for the phenomenon of child labor by supporting poor families providing services and the requirements of various basic social, educational and health services.
- 2) Providing programs that reduce poverty and eliminate its causes.
- 3) Providing care and special attention to working children, and containing them socially, and giving them a sense of security and reassurance.
- 4) Awareness-raising the families of working children about the importance of education and the necessity of taking care of them, and making them conscious of the responsibility towards them.
- 5) Conducting field studies for this category, and creating a database to count the number of working children, following up on their conditions, and offering opportunities and programs that limit the spread of their labor phenomenon.
- 6) Providing income-generating programs for those families who suffer from economic problems, as well as guidance programs and services, educating families about them and explaining the mechanisms for obtaining them.
- 7) Establishing offices to protect children from vagrancy and beggary.
- 8) Establishing social welfare institutions and homes.

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