

EKIN COLLEGE

JUNIOR MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

JANUARY 2019

“REACH FOR JUSTICE”



ILO

Topic A: Promoting the Rights of Migrant Workers

Topic B: Combating child labor and inhumane working conditions

RESEARCH REPORT

CHAIR: JANÇAT TEZCAN

Co-CHAIR: SELENA YEDİKARDEŞ



EKINJMUN CONFERENCE JANUARY 2019

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Welcome Letter from the Secretary General

It is with my utmost pleasure to welcome you all to the 3rd annual session of EKIN Junior Model United Nations. My name is Isabella Yazici and I will be serving as your Secretary General. Our conference will take place in Izmir, Turkey between the 11th and the 13th of January, 2019. In alliance with our annual slogan imagine, innovate, inspire we are aiming for younger generations to comprehend that they have the capability of changing the world.

As Albert Einstein once said, “In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.” This year in EKIN JMUN we will simulate 12 extraordinary committees. In light of these words, these committees will focus on finding the spark of light within all of the darkness and try to solve the crises both our world and the conference presents. I fully believe that every participant will do their best to make the world a better place. Both the academic and organizational team have worked many hours to bring you the best version of EKIN JMUN and an overall inspiring, unforgettable experience that will stay with you your whole life.

To come to a conclusion, on behalf of our academic and organizational team I would like to invite you to the third annual session of the biggest JMUN organization in the region. I cannot wait to meet you in January.

Sincerely,

Isabella Yazici

EKINJMUN 2019 SG

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Introduction

A: Introduction to the committee:

The International Labour Organization was created in 1919 by Part XIII of the Versailles Peace Treaty ending World War I. It grew out of nineteenth-century labor and social movements which culminated in widespread demands for social justice and higher living standards for the world's working people. In 1946, after the demise of the League of Nations, the ILO became the first specialized agency associated with the United Nations. The original membership of forty-five countries in 1919 has grown to 121 in 1971.

In structure, the ILO is unique among world organizations in that the representatives of the workers and of the employers have an equal voice with those of governments in formulating its policies. The annual International Labor Conference, the ILO's supreme deliberative body, is composed of four representatives from each member country: two government delegates, one worker and one employer delegate, each of whom may speak and vote independently. Between conferences, the work of the ILO is guided by the Governing Body, comprising twenty-four government, twelve worker and twelve employer members, plus twelve deputy members from each of these three groups. The International Labor Office in Geneva, Switzerland, is the Organization's secretariat, operational headquarters, research center, and publishing house. Its operations are staffed at headquarters and around the world by more than 3,000 people of some 100 nationalities. Activities are decentralized to regional, area, and branch offices in over forty countries.

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TOPIC A: Promoting The Rights of Migrant Workers

Introduction to the topic:

The effects of globalization unexpectedly increased the search for a better life by migrant workers. Due to low employment and poverty in their developing countries, many workers migrate from their own countries to developed countries with the hope of a better life. As of now, there are 150 million migrant workers globally, with about half of these being women.

As statistics show, one in every eight migrant worker is between the ages of 15-24.

Also since there are often no laws to protect the rights of migrant workers in both the destination and origin country, it makes them a really easy target for exploitation, abuse and human trafficking.

General Overview

Throughout history, people have always migrated from their countries for a variety of reasons, the top two being conflict and lack of economic opportunities. Migration can occur in a variety of forms; either on an individual level or in families or large communities. Unavoidable effects of urbanization, industrialization and the development of advanced transportation techniques also provided an impetus for migration to occur.

A massive wave of globalization caused 60 million people from Europe alone to migrate towards more developed countries in between 1860-1914. This wave was also known as the First Wave Of Globalization. The wave led governments to tighten the border control measures since the development steam engines, ships and airplanes made it easier to migrate.

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Meanwhile, citizens of the receiving countries weren't accepting and receptive to the massive groups of foreign people (most of them being criminals, disease-mongers, etc.). Laws were being passed in order to discriminate and exclude migrant workers. As an example, United States passed a series of laws in order to stop the migration from Asia and Europe.

Migrants from former European colonies began to move towards Europe and USA, reversing the first movement from the First Wave of Globalization after the conclusion of World War 2. European countries were proving to be attractive destinations for work and other opportunities by managing to recover from the damages of World War 1.

International Conference on Population and Development was held in Cairo in order to discuss the ways of making migration easier. Both origin and host countries were urged to protect migrant workers from xenophobia, racism, human trafficking and other crimes. However, several issues hindered any concrete plan. Also, not many existing legal systems in countries were effective when it came to protecting the rights of migrant workers.

Current Situation

Migrants can be divided into three; legal, illegal and refugees. Legal Immigrants are those who have entered the country with notification of the destination country by

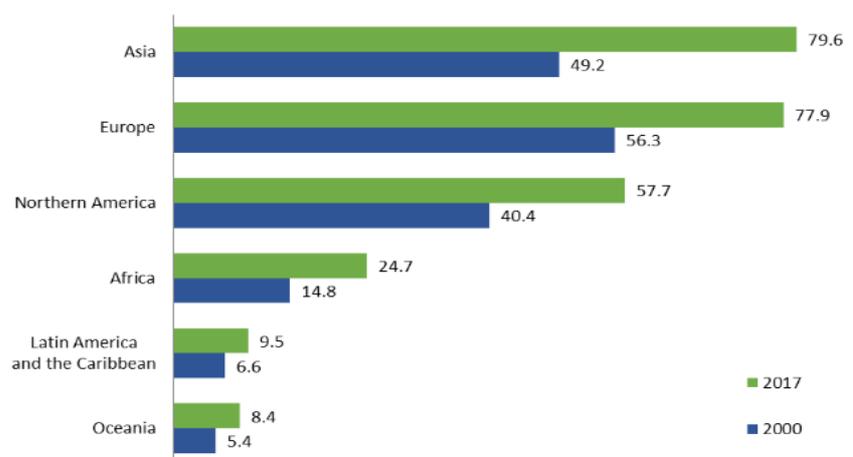
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providing the proper paperwork. There are different types of time limitations for these immigrants. Governments can allow immigrants to stay and work in the country permanently or for a limited amount of time. Refugees can be both documented and undocumented. However, undocumented refugees are considered illegal. Illegal immigrants are people who enter a country without the notification of the destination country, often bypassing the border checkpoints.

Even though migrant workers are beneficial for the world economy, either temporary or permanent, illegal or legal; migrant workers are subject to crimes, discrimination and racism.

Most migrants originate from developing countries to developed countries. Most of the migrants reside in Europe, Asia or North America.

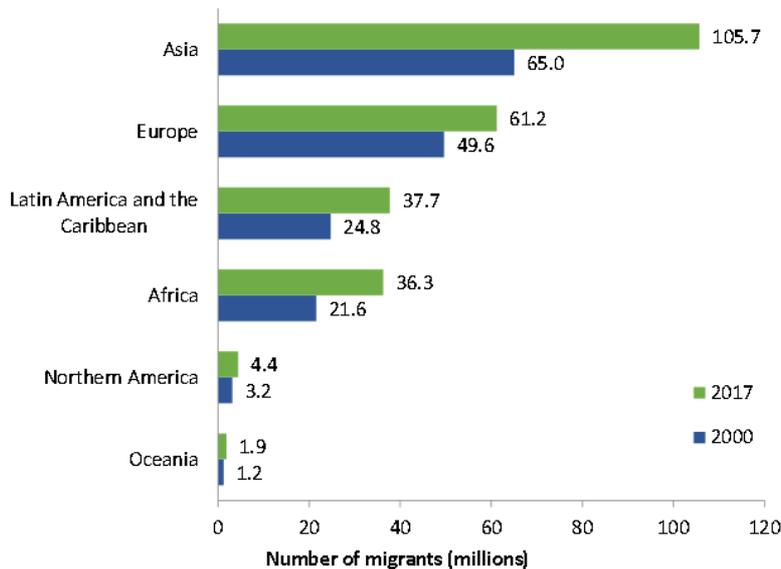
Number of international migrants (millions) by region of destination, 2000 and 2017



Source: United Nations (2017 a)

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Number of international migrants by region of origin, 2000 and 2017



Source: United Nations (2017 a).

Migrant workers are divided into two by their skill levels. White collar migrant workers are highly skilled individuals holding high positions in companies. They are treated similar, if not same with the local employees in that company. They are also treated the same by the law. Issues such as wages, hours, remuneration, sick leave, benefits and other forms of protection are regulated. Blue collar migrant workers are individuals holding menial jobs. Agriculture, domestic work, construction, hotel and catering services, auxiliary security, and sex work are common industries a blue collar worker can find a job. Even though white collar workers face xenophobia and racism, blue collar workers are often much more exposed to all kinds of abuse such as discrimination, exploitations from their employers and sexual abuse. Especially young and female migrant workers are at risk of falling into the hands of smugglers, drug traffickers, human traffickers and criminal organizations.

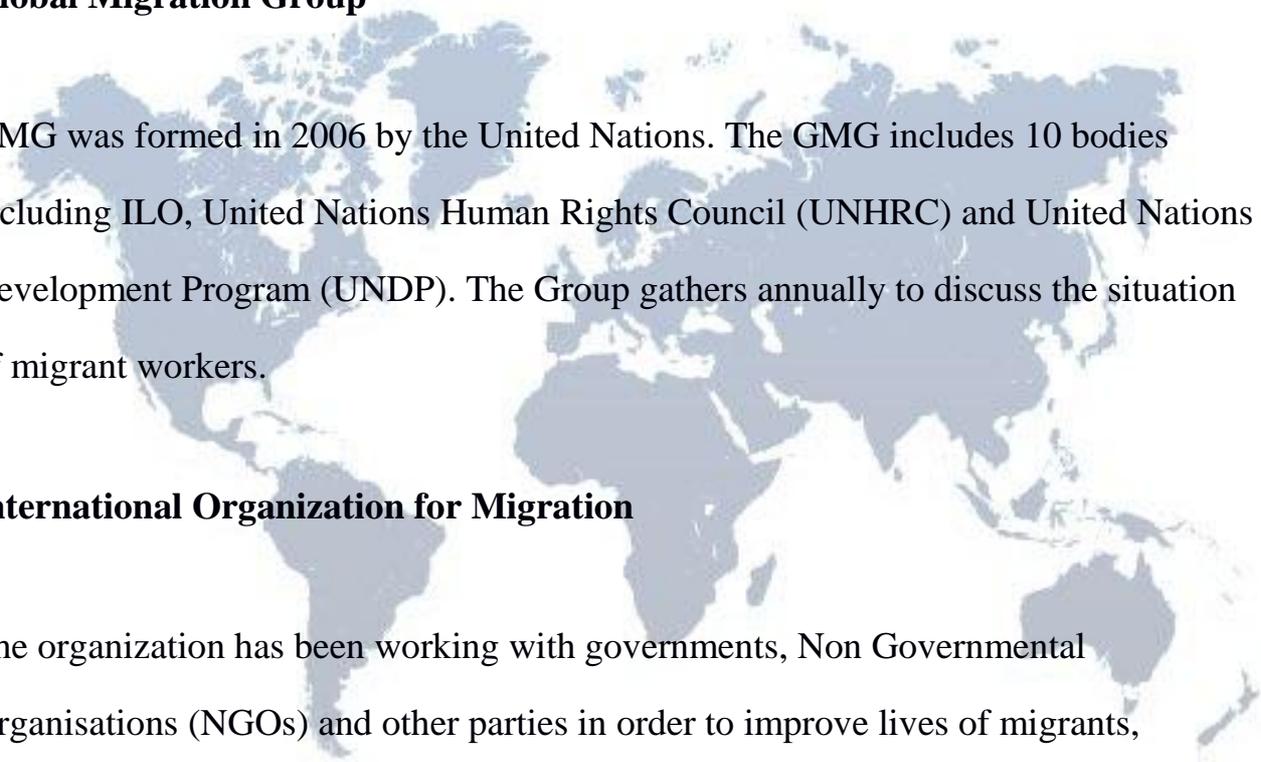
Approximately 20.9 million people are trapped in forced labour all around the world according to ILO in general. Most of these people are exploited in the invisible economy, which includes sexual exploitation. In South Asia, Africa and Latin America millions of people are forced to work for many reasons, biggest one being debt. Modern slavery and forced labour –both being really profitable industries- can

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profit up to 150 billion dollars per year illegally. Most of the victims work in industries such as manufacturing, entertainment and construction

Commissions and Organizations for improving the lives and rights of migrant workers

Global Migration Group



GMG was formed in 2006 by the United Nations. The GMG includes 10 bodies including ILO, United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The Group gathers annually to discuss the situation of migrant workers.

International Organization for Migration

The organization has been working with governments, Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and other parties in order to improve lives of migrants, including refugees and workers. The IOM also provides assistance to not only the 165 member states, but also to any parties or states wanting to learn more about migration.

Responsibilities of Origin and Destination Countries

Origin countries should protect migrants as they exit the country with laws, and should be there to protect them when re-entering. They should be informed by origin

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countries about not only the terms and conditions of employment, conditions of living and the migration process but also the dangers such as human traffickers, gang members and criminals in the destination country. Each individual should be informed about the unethical employers as they have zero problems about taking advantage of migrant workers in several ways. These include excessively high recruitment fees, the provision of false information with regards to the employer, nature of job and job scope, the failure to inform them of their rights as an employee, the forcing to them to sign a contract in a language they do not understand and changing the contents of contracts after signing. Origin countries must also simplify the process of recruitment, with some degree of supervision so that people seeking jobs overseas are protected furthermore. Migrants should be educated about the relevant organizations so that they can approach in a case of emergency.

Destination countries should collaborate with origin countries in order to provide them the information regarding the industries migrant workers can be employed in even if they don't have the laws to protect migrant workers fully. If the laws are against migrant workers to be recognized on the same level as locals, destination countries must make the necessary changes. Destination countries should not only fight against abusive employers and human traffickers operating in their borders but also inform migrants about organizations to approach in case of emergency.

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Top 5 Destination Countries (as of 2017)

USA holds the largest amount of migrants in the world as of 2017. Majority of the those migrant workers are from developing countries such as Mexico, Dominican Republic and Haiti. Also, most of the migrant workers are employed in agriculture industry and a sizeable percentage of them are undocumented.

Saudi Arabia is known for their laws of executing migrant workers for a variety of reasons, theft and black magic to name a few. However, Saudi Arabia keeps attracting migrants. While most of the skilled positions are open to those which are Europeans, the low skilled positions are reserved for migrants from Africa or South Asia. Saudi Arabia utilizes the kafala, where all aspects of a worker's employment are controlled by the employer whatsoever.

Germany is the third popular destination for migrant workers by holding 12.2 million migrants with people from over 100 countries such as Turkey, Italy and Romania. Even though it is often not the case, illegal migrant workers have the right to work in decent conditions and earn a living wage under German laws. Germany is also a part of several organisations regarding the issue.

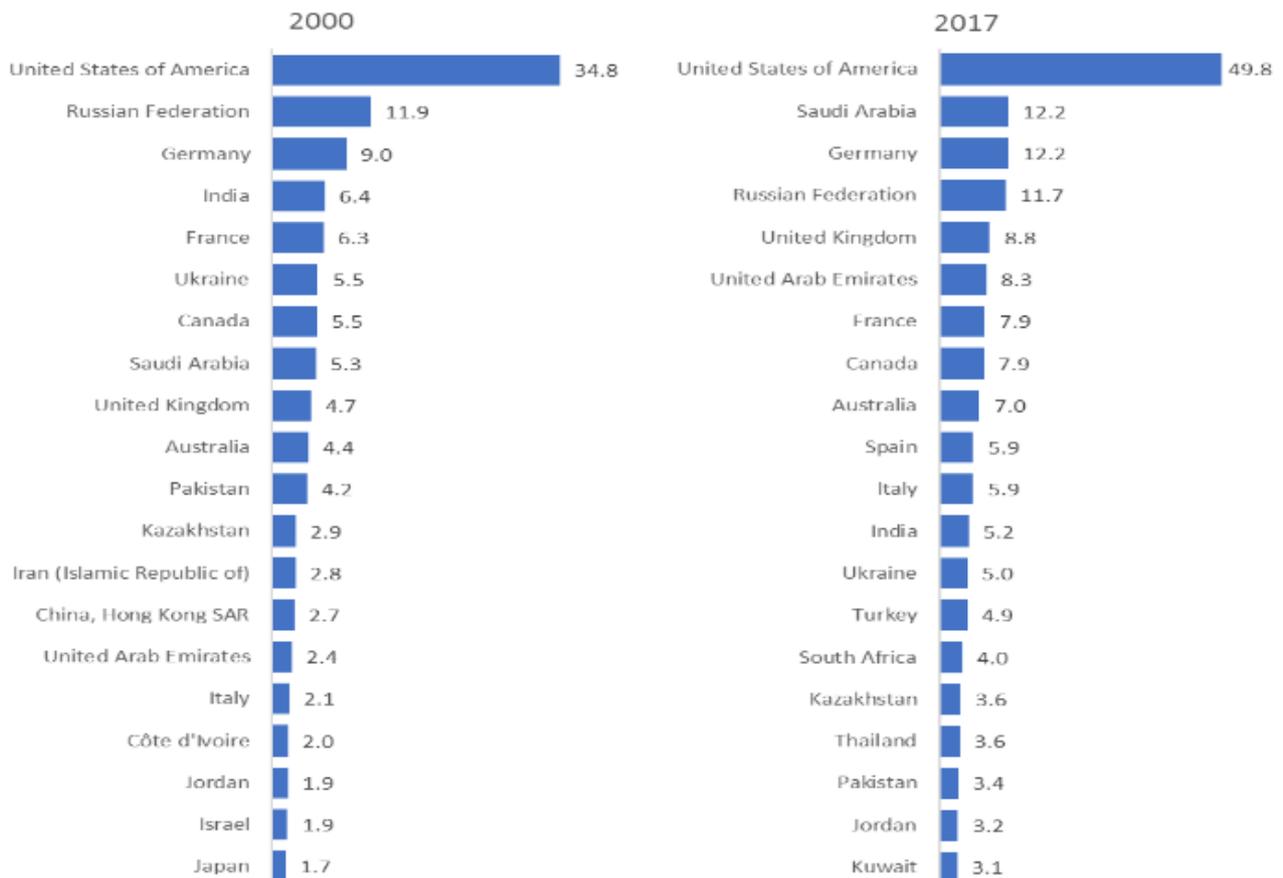
Russian Federation keeps attracting people from It's neighbors and Central Asian countries. It's the 4th most popular country for migrant workers by hosting nearly 12

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million migrants. The uncontrollable increase of crime rates and inflation made Russia (especially Moscow) not as desirable as it used to be.

United Kingdom has nearly doubled the amount of its migrants since 2000 by 8.8 million as of 2017 with the fastest increase of low-skilled workers. The UK Borders Act 2007 covers variety of issues regarding the migration.

Twenty countries or areas hosting the largest numbers of international migrants, 2000 and 2017, number of migrants (millions)



Source: United Nations (2017 a)

Notes: "China, Hong Kong SAR" refers to China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

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Top 5 Origin Countries (as of 2017)

India has the largest Diaspora in the world with 16.6 million migrant Indians. India is not only a origin country, it also attracts people from neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh and Nepal.

Mexico has the second largest Diaspora as of 2017. Migrant workers from Mexico usually migrate towards USA and Canada, and are almost always employed in labour intensive jobs in the agriculture industry.

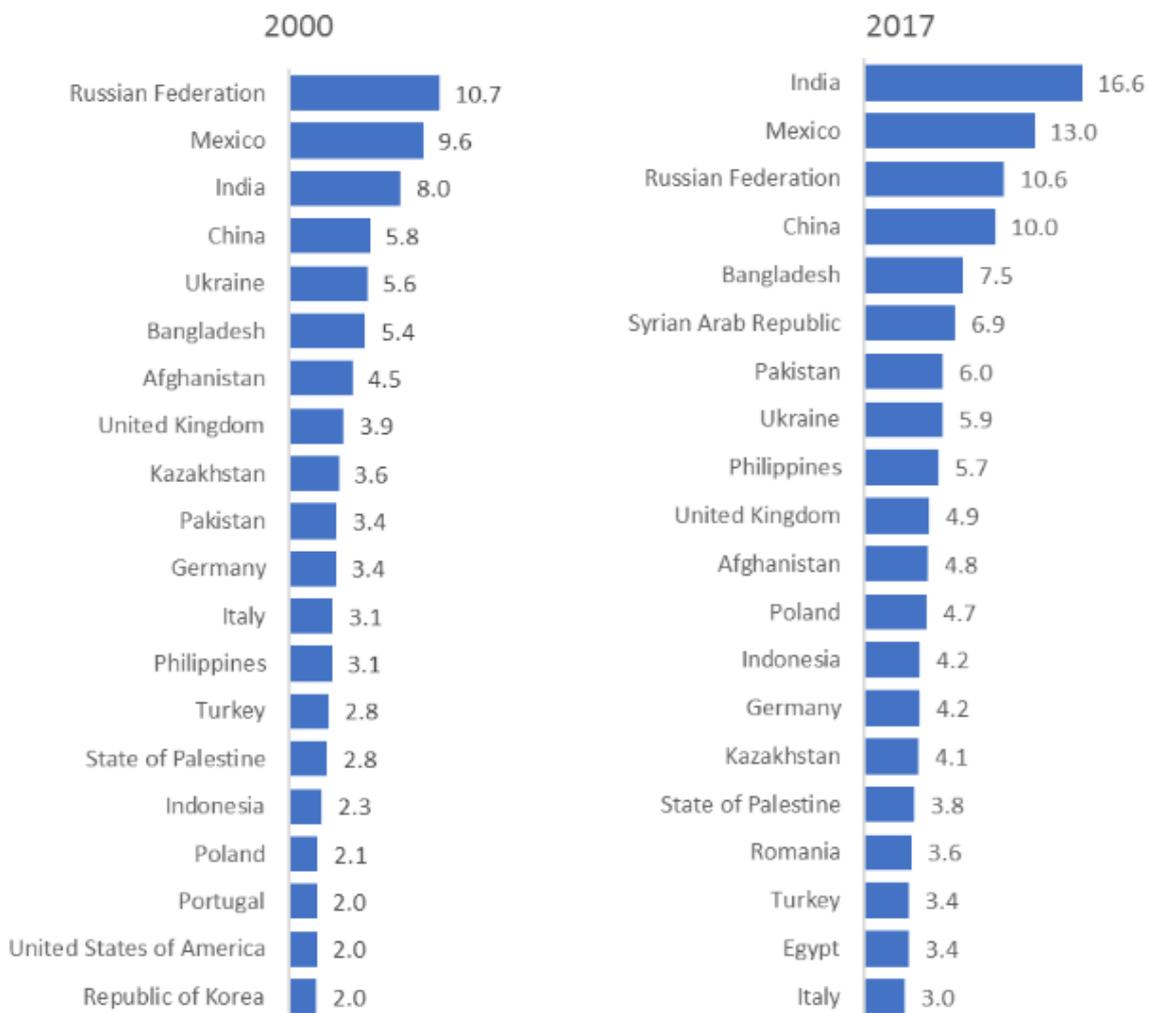
Russian Federation is not only a origin country, it is also the 3rd most popular origin country as of 2017. More and more Russians keep migrating since the Collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 towards European countries.

China is the most crowded country in the world. As the population keeps growing, employment rates and wages fall down. Even though there are many employment opportunities in China, nearly 10 million Chinese people have migrated towards less crowded countries such as America, Canada and Australia to name a few.

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Bangladesh is the 5th most popular origin country in the world. Saudi Arabia holds most of the Bangladeshi diaspora. Most popular locations for Bangladeshi migrants are Asian countries like Malaysia or Islamic countries such as UAE and Qatar.

Twenty largest countries or areas of origin of international migrants, 2000 and 2017, number of migrants (millions)



Source: United Nations (2017 a)

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TOPIC B- COMBATING CHILD LABOR AND INHUMANE WORKING CONDITIONS

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Every day somewhere around 168 million children across the world go to work instead of school. Child labour prevents children from living their childhood and this makes them take quick steps to adulthood, while much of the labour they undertake being dangerous and unhealthy.

Children who work in unhealthy and dangerous conditions may be died or injured as a consequence of safety problems and lack of health standards. Children who work under these conditions may have disabilities and diseases. Mental and physical problems can be results of child labour with dangerous conditions. Often health problems caused by being engaged in child labour may not develop or show up until the adulthood.

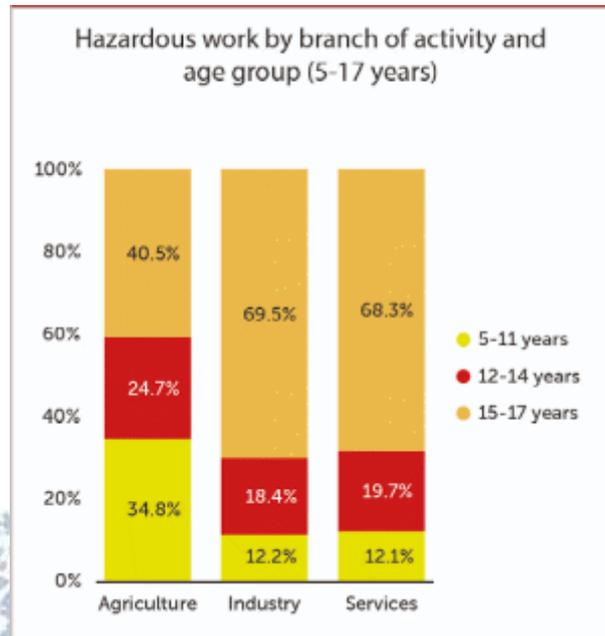
Children in inhumane working conditions is the worst form of child labour with an estimated 73 million individuals, aged 5 to 17, working in dangerous conditions in a wide range of sectors such as agriculture, construction, mining, manufacturing, as well as in hotels, bars, restaurants, markets ,domestic services and any kinds of organizations with a service. This issue is a problem that both developed and developing countries have, without gender, children start working at these jobs at an early age.

According to the ILO reports, 22.000 children die each year during laboring, while the number of those who got injured because of their work are unknown.

Children are more vulnerable to dangerous work conditions than adults because their bodies, thoughts and minds are still developing and the dangerous working conditions are more devastating and permanent for them.

Children are often “achievers”, they want to perform well and they are inexperienced and untrained in handling dangers. Tools and machines are not made for them, and in this way pose more dangers.

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HISTORY OF THE TOPIC

During the Industrial Revolution children with poverty and who expects money often worked full time jobs in order to support their household. Even 4 year old children have worked long hours in factories under dangerous and bad conditions. The child labouring continued through Industrial Revolution until laws were passed that made child labor illegal and forbidden.

Children have worked in all sorts of jobs including machines, mines, shepherding, selling newspapers on street corners and sometimes chimney sweeps. For some organizations children were preferred to adults because they could easily fit into small places and machines. Some families also needed the extra money that their children could earn by working. Those families gave their child a chance to develop their skills. Also a way to earn money. However, eventually laws were passed against child labour. In 1938, the Fair labor Standards Act was passed which placed some limitations on child labour, set a minimum wage, and put limits on how many hours an employee should work.

In 1990, the Convention on the Rights of a Child was adopted by the United Nations which was ratified by 193 countries.

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the ILO led the Worst Forms Convention in 1991 which prohibits many forms of child labour such as debt bondage, child trafficking, prostitution on and any hazardous work.

United Nations initiated the International Program on the Elimination of Child Labour in 1992 to eliminate child labour by strengthening national capacities to address some of the causes of child labour.

CAUSES OF CHILD LABOR

Primary causes

According to ILO one of the most important reasons for child labour is poverty. Income of the children work is usually for his/her own survival or for the household. Income from working children no matter how little money that they make may be the 20-45% of the household income. According to ILO one of the reasons is that there are no quality and efficient schools in the region. This is the major factor driving children to harmful labour. Children work because they have nothing else to do. Many communities, particularly in agrestic areas where between 60–70% of child labour is extensive because there's no school where children can go even if there are, mostly it's far away from the built-in area and usually no transport is available. Yet these issues are enough for uneducated families to make their children work. Also, migration is a big reason of child labor.

Cultural causes

Some cultural beliefs encourage child labour. From the view of these beliefs, working is creating personality and skill development of children. The cultural tradition is that children follow their families footsteps; child labour means to learn and practice a skill from an early age. Similarly, in many cultures the education of girls is not necessary or girls are simply not expected to go school and these girls are forced into child labour such as enlistment domestic services.

Major Countries Involved

Africa is widely known for it's bad conditions, especially about child labour. Many children from Africa begin working at home to help their parents run the family farm

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first. Children in Africa are mostly forced to work to pay for their family's debt and other financial factors.

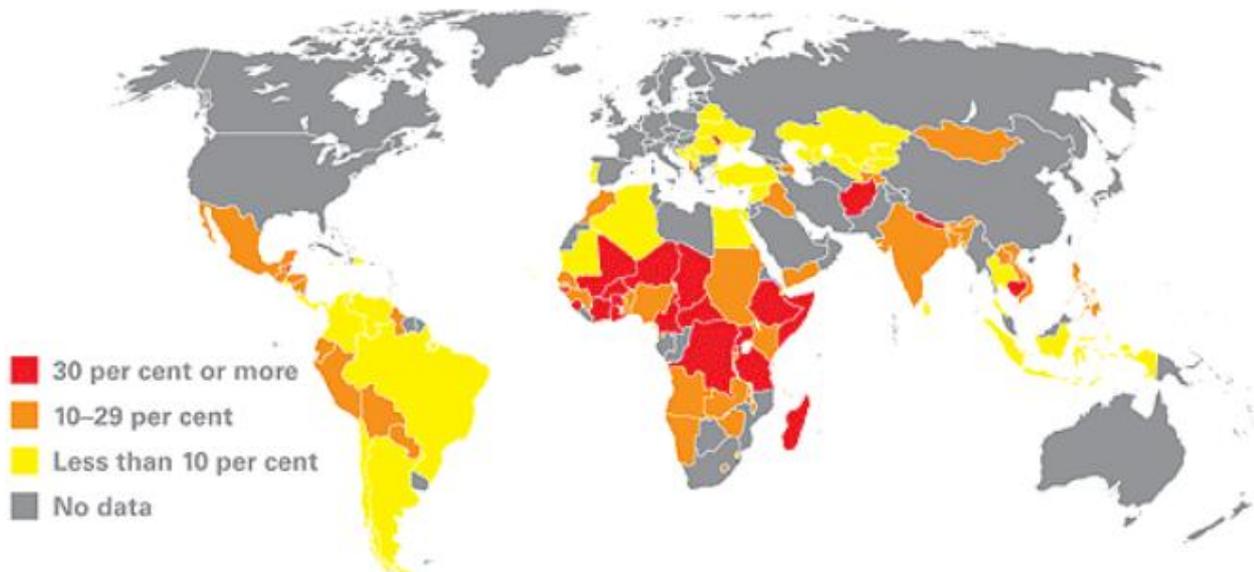
In total, there is an estimated five million children who are currently working in the field of agriculture which steadily increases during the time of harvest. Along with 30 percent of children who are picking coffee, there are an estimated 25,000 school age children who work year round.

India is home to the largest number of children who are working illegally in various industrial industries. Agriculture in India is the largest sector where many children work at early ages to help support their family. Many of these children are forced to work at young ages due to many family factors such as unemployment, a large number of family members, poverty, and lack of parental education. This is often the major cause of the high rate of child labour in India.

Brazil always had the issue of child labour since the colonization of the country. Work that many children took part in was not always visible, legal, or paid. Free or slave labour was a common occurrence for many youths and was a part of their everyday lives as they grew into adulthood. In Brazil, the minimum working age has been identified as 14 due to continuous amendments that occurred in 1934, 1937, and 1946.

China is the most known out of all. Since China is the most crowded country in the world, poverty and wage are low, but employment is high. In order to live and survive in such a country, all family members start working at a young age. According to the China Labour Bulletin, in 2000, there were approximately 11,575,000 children at work between the ages of 10 to 14 in China.

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