

# Child Labor

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## BACKGROUND

Industrial Revolution started with mechanizing and industrializing textile industry, which especially needed children whose fingers were tiny and handy. Moreover, children's wages were lower than adults'. Companies can fire thirty workers to hire ten children. Besides, the machines were easy to operate, professional skills were needless. Even five or six-year-old kids could operate them.

## Current Situation

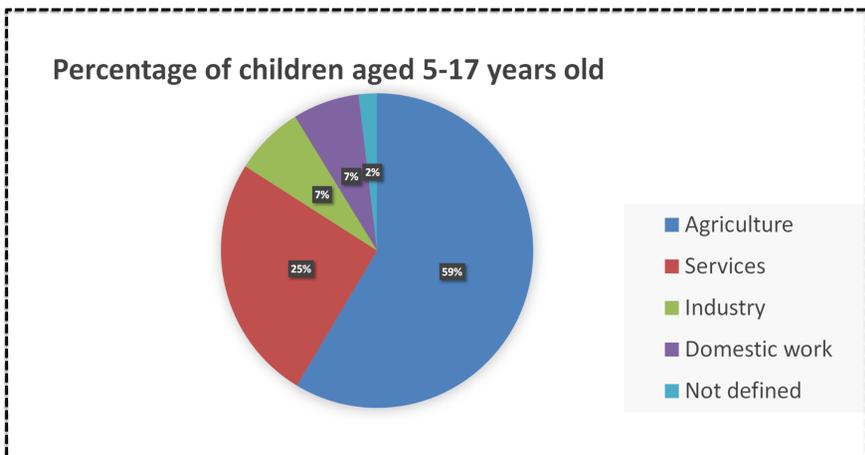
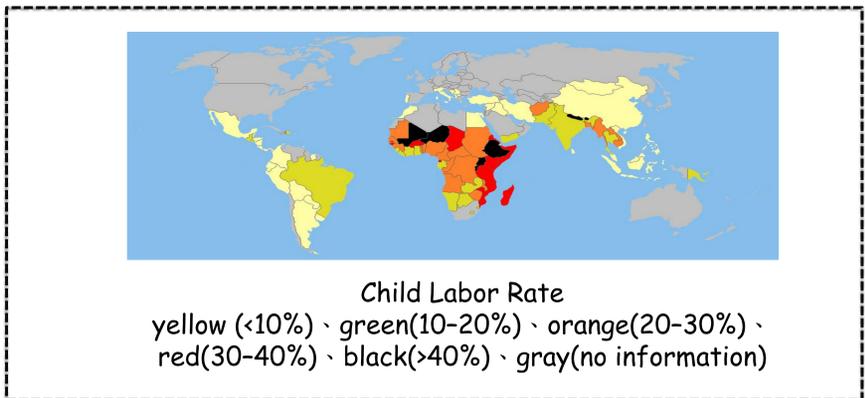
There are about two million child laborers around the world. Seventy percent of them are doing dangerous jobs. The child labor problem in developing countries, such like India, Bangladesh, the Philippines, is really serious. These children can't go to school. They work long hours for only a small amount of money, which has harmed them both physically and mentally. They work like slaves, and even are forced to go to wars.

## Policy

1. Help the children's families rise from poverty.
2. Help poor children get education.
3. Strictly implemented ELCC and CRC
4. Enhance business ethics and corporate social responsibility.
5. Purchase products with "NO CHILD LABOR" tag.

## Results

Although organizations in many parts of the world have stood up for children's rights, cases of child labor never disappear.



## World Day Against Child Labor

Each year on June 12, the World Day Against Child Labor brings together groups from around the world to highlight the plight of child laborers and work out solutions.

Economy?	Free Choice?	Skill for Trade?	Domestic work the same as factory work?
"They [factory reformers] believed that families could not give up the wages of children. Observers believed that textile factories could not run without child labor" (Clark Nardinelli, Historian, 1990).	"No one, not parents, employers, or government should be able to coerce children into or prohibit them from entering work situations. Children old enough to be supporting themselves are old enough to make their own decisions" (Wendy McElroy, Feminist, 2001).	Critics argue that children who work in the factories learn valuable things such as endurance and the trade skills.	"The work was often more difficult because of pressure, and the oppressive conditions of the factories. Tasks were harder and required concentration and strength. Children were watched by an overseer which created fear" (Carolyn Tuttle, Historian, 1999).

