**Speak Out and Speak Out Loud**

What is child labour? Do you know what child labourers go through? Why are they forced to work? Do they have a choice? How can child labour be concluded, to give children all over the world acquire an improved life? How can we make the problems or complications of child labour essential to the sights of children who are fortunate and have freedoms and opportunities that child labourers do not have? According to the novel, Iqbal by Francesco D’Adamo these questions can be resolved and there will be no child that has to be forced to do something they don’t want to do. In this essay I will be discussing on several topics relating to the abhorrent dilemma of child labour and how it needs to be abolished throughout the lives of 218 million children, globally (Free The Children – Child Labour Article, Pg. 3 of 8) that have the fate of being child labourers. The first topic I will talk about is the physical effects of what devastates the life of a child labourer. The second topic I will deliberate about is the emotional/mental that damages a child labourer. The third topic I will talk about are the effects or consequences of child labourers being away from their love ones. Lastly, I will be talking about how all and any of us can help and raise awareness for child labourers. We must take advantage of our voices, power and human rights to collaborate and help child labourers throughout the world get the freedoms and opportunities they rightfully deserve.

There are many physical affects that damage and corrupt the life of a child labourer. Many physical effects are caused by child labourers working continuously on hazardous machines. For example, in the novel Iqbal, Twig hurt his hand working on a loom (Francesco D’Adamo, Pg. 52). Statistics even say that 22, 000 children die in work- related accidents, yearly (Free the Children – Child Labour, Pg. 3 of 8). Child labourers also get sick because they do not get treatment or medicine as they work in dirty and infected areas. The evidence of children getting sick was when the children in the carpet factory got an attack of dysentery which lasted for a month; Hussain Khan did not even give them treatment (Iqbal, Francesco D’Adamo, Pg. 52). A second physical effect is that masters are not helpful and caring people, which means they would not give there workers a bunch of food for comforting them after a hard day’s work. Child labourers work hard even though they are malnourished. A third physical effect is that child labourers get are that they are abused, exploited and tortured when they do something improperly or make a rebellious act. The evidence of child labourers being abused and tortured was when Iqbal ripped the Blue Bhakara and was bruised and forcefully sent to the Tome for his act of deviancy (Iqbal, Francesco D’Adamo, Pg. 34-37). These are just some painful and abominable physical effects child labourers go through.

There are many emotional and mental effects that a child labour suffers through. An emotional effect that child labourers share is that they all produce rage within themselves against their masters, but they are too afraid to rebel back. An example of this was when Karim did not want to rebel against Hussain Khan, but we know deep down Karim despises him. He is just fearful of being thrown away like an old, outgrown pair of shoes, so Karim just obeys everything Hussain tells him (Iqbal, Francesco D’Adamo). A second emotional effect is that child labourers don’t want to dream of becoming free because they know that the hope of being free is gone, which is not true. They don’t want to dream of being free because some child labourers have resigned their life to being child labourers. Child labourers don’t want to imagine a different life because they know now they are alone and that no one is aware of what they go through and that people don’t care about them. Regardless of all the emotional pain they receive, these are just some horrible emotional and mental effects a child labourer experiences.

Clearly the physical and emotional/mental effects that child labourer goes through is agonizing and awful and the repercussions of child labourers being away from loved ones is also as dreadful. The first effect of child labourers being away from loved ones is that child labourers quit dreaming and remembering memories about their families. For example, in the novel Iqbal, Fatima stopped dreaming because she knows she would not see her family ever again. She even forgot her family’s identities and the memories she shared with them (Francesco D’Adamo, Pg. 2). The second effect is that since they are away from their family, they do not feel loved, which is another reason they feel alone. Love shapes who you are as you grow up, with no love you will probably live in a world of hatred and won’t learn how to forgive. The last effect is that some children will probably bottle up their anger toward their family because they will feel betrayed that they think their parents gave them away. This hurts the child because some do not even know that they are forced to be given away and that their families have no choice, but to let them go. Evidence of a child labour being forced away was when Maria was sold by her father and she chose to become a mute, probably by the agony she had experienced when she was forced to leave and be given away like an investment. Her father did not even raise his head when they took Maria (Iqbal, Francesco D’Adamo, Pg. 77). Now you see some of the effects of child labourers being away from loved ones and hope you learn how important family is, so say I love you to your family as much as you can because anytime they can disappear from you.

There are bountiful ways society all over the world can stop the problem of a child being forced to do an act they do not want to do, but we must take advantage of our voices and human rights to help or raise awareness. The first way we can raise awareness for child labourers throughout the world could be something as simple as speaking with your friends, family and people in your community about the dilemma of child labour and see what can resolve these dilemmas. Once you talk to an innumerable amount of people in your community, you can form a group and unite against the problem (Free The Children – Child Labour, Pg. 6 of 8). The second way is we can volunteer out time to organizations that work to protect children. Also we could write to companies who do the crucial act of child labour and demand they stop (Free The Children – Child Labour, Pg. 6 of 8). The last way is to participate in campaigns that are tied to helping child labourers. You can also donate to organizations and make these organizations aware to people who don’t have a clue of what these organizations do and who they help (Free The Children – Child Labour, Pg. 6 of 8). These are just some ways out of many we can get the problem of child labour through the minds of many and find out how we can make a difference and pay it forward.

To help child labourers all over the world get the freedoms and opportunities they are dying to get, we must take advantage of our voices, power and human rights. The first two topics I talked about are what I thought damages the lives of child labourers and how it is devastating to have the life of a child labourer. No child ever deserves a life with no freedom and human rights. I wonder how a child labour can withstand being abused, exploited, tortured and forced to work with no say, this is like not having a voice! The last topic I talked about are just some ways we can raise awareness and help. Imagine if people in the world used their voices and human rights, all together we can free all the children in the world who suffer and give them a better life full of happiness. It starts with us, all of us can make a difference and start a revolution to battle and overcome this enormous obstacle that Iqbal started. Another reason we should help because only a person with a pure and genuine heart would care and feel pain and sorrow. Since all of us have a heart we can open our hearts and change the fate of these suffering children. Another reason we should think about helping is because if we were in their place we would want someone to help us and not be ignored, too. Do you ever see a child labourers’ eyes? Only we can change the sorrow look in their eyes into eyes full of confidence and make them believe they can achieve anything. Have you ever seen a child labourer smile and enjoy what they do? Only we can change the frown they have everyday into a bright gorgeous smile. There is a saying that the best accessory to wear that never goes out of style is a smile. Child labourers are counting on us for help, so let’s change our attitude from selfish to selfless. Child Labour is a big problem in the world, so as long as there is a child forced to work his body tirelessly we can not say it is not our business, *it is our business*.