Human Rights: For Every Child

“The change starts within each one of us, and ends only when all children are free to be children” (C.Kielburger). Every child should be given the opportunity to experience and enjoy their childhood but unfortunately, more than 246 million children do not get to because they have been denied their right for education, the right to play, and freedom to speak up. Our world is full of children in need, so we can not go on until we are working together. We must help the children by making better decisions about giving the rights to the children of future generations to come.

According to the United Nations, every child have the right to a good quality education, every child should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level they can (U.Nations, Article 28). The story of Elizabeth Eckford and Shamsia Husseini in which they were discriminated and violated is an ideal example. Another good illustration of this growing issue is the segregation of white people to black people just because of their skin colour. Regardless, they still had the courage to go to school which sparks the issue about children having all the personalities needed in order to succeed in life. However, they are kept from reaching their goals because they are discriminated, exploited, or violated. From the novel Iqbal that we read, the children are not able to go to school because they have to work illegally. Instead of pencils or pens, they hold threads and ropes, and instead of tables and chairs they are sitting on their looms working from dawn to dusk (D’Adamo, 87). Children should be given the opportunity to go to school instead of taking all the labour and when they reach the appropriate age to work, they can work at a better job because they went to school. The awareness of the world around us has been the first step of giving children their right for a good quality education.

In the rush to create a generation of Einstein, we have forgotten about the importance of play for children’s development. If not given the opportunity, there is a chance that they are not going to get the benefits of playing such as physical and social development. Playing is an important part of childhood, if a child forgets how to play it might mean that the child has a damaged memory. Several reasons might be because of their experience of stress, trauma, or they are always scared. In the case of the novel Iqbal, the children forgot to play because of years of working in the carpet factory and often they do not have enough time to play (D’Adamo, 88). Why are children struggling to master tasks that are inappropriate for their age? Why are desks and worksheets replacing blocks in pre-school? Imply put, our culture has taken a wrong turn (Play=Learning). We have been used to letting children to play and socializing them to other children, in this way they can learn life lessons and they can develop their skills and personalities. In these days, children are rather reciting a poem instead of learning what the vowel and consonant letters are. Right to play values reflect the best practices of sport, play co-operation, nurture, dedication, respect, hope, and leadership. These values are the basic values that will help shape what kind of individual the child will be. Giving the children right to play make up their childhood basic values, life lessons for them to grow up as decent individuals in the future.

Speaking is our way of communicating with other people, whether we ask help of share our opinions or thoughts. What we don’t know is that many people rob children’s voices. When children’s voices are robbed they are left helpless and unable to express their own feeling or stand up for their selves. Children are silenced because of the abuses and exploitations. In the novel Iqbal, Maria who can talk decided not to because she was silenced when the money lenders took her away to pay off their family’s debt (D’Adamo, 74-76). This silenced Maria because from that day on she had experienced all kinds of abuse and her family is taken away from her. In particular to this worldwide issue is the story of Severn Cullis-Suzuki, she spoke in front of the United Nations in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil addressing the issues that the world is facing today. She also admitted that even she, do not know how to solve these problems. This story shows how strong the voices of children are, that we might be small but we speak loud, and gives a tremendous impact. The Vow of Silence is an awareness-raising campaign that engages thousands of participants to stand up for the children whose right is not upheld. This type of community has to change, we have to give children their voices back because in today’s situation every voice counts, these voices are the voices of the unheard and they will be the leaders of the bright future to come.

Right now children in need reside in the hearts and in the soul of the people. We must make better decisions, actions, and thoughts for what we think, we become. The labour of children marks the unjust reality for children throughout the world. Working children could not attend school, children’s voices are silenced because of exploitations, and children losing their childhood, these are just small part of the problem the world is facing today, but they say all problems has a solution. The solution is up to us, you can take part by volunteering in Free the Children Take Action for raising awareness and campaign. Also, you can donate money, non-perishable foods, or basic school supplies that the children need in UNICEF Canada. Let us realize that change can only come when we stand together as one.