**A Life In The Darkness**

What is the reason for children to become child labourers? Is it because they need money? Or is it simply because they have no choice? Why must they be taken away from their families and grow up in a factory where they had been stripped away from their childhood? According to the novel Iqbal by Francesco D’Adamo, children are bought and sold to pay off their family’s debt. They do not have a choice, but to go with their masters and work in a factory. In this essay, you will find out what causes child labour and how it all starts. You will also learn the working conditions of a child labourer and what they go through in their everyday lives. Lastly, you will find some ways to help stop child labour which you can use to help free these poor children. We must collaborate with each other so we can finally abolish this brutal act of child labour and make a major difference in our world!  
  
 Did you know that there are a lot of things that causes child labour? According to the Child Labour article on page four by Free The Children, poverty is the main cause of child labour. Students are expected to pay for tuition fees, uniforms, books, school supplies, and sometimes teachers’ wages (Free The Children-Child Labour page 4). This causes them to work as child labourers so they can pay for school or other expenses. In the novel Iqbal, the protagonist was sold to a carpet factory to pay for his brother’s medicines (D’Adamo, 19). Poverty affects everyone, but those children who are directly affected by this face child labour as a devastating consequence.  
  
 More than two hundred million children around the world are child labourers (D’Adamo, v). All of these children go through working and living conditions that will totally change their lives. In the novel Iqbal, it said; “From his deep pockets, Karim brought out a box of matches. We could see Iqbal in the flickering light of the match. He forced himself up from the corner where he was crouching and came toward us. His lips were split from thirst and the flame of the match bothered his eyes” (D’Adamo, 47). This explains the cruelty of their masters and how inhumane their punishments are. They can let a child starve to death inside an old and dark cistern. These children are getting malnourished. Another experience that other child labourers go through is being a child soldier (Chivy Sok-What is Child Labour? page 29). They are kidnapped from their families and are forced to fight in wars. They are then forced to kill their own parents and serve their masters. According to Chivy Sok’s article about child labour (Chivy Sok-What is Child Labour? page 28), another experience that other child labourers go through is being a prostitute. Most girls are kidnapped or taken away from their families and are forced to be sex slaves for their masters. These are some of the things that child labourers go through, but it does not have to be this way. They do not have to be denied of their rights and be treated with disrespect.  
  
 There are many things that you can do to help. You do not have to wait for adults to guide you on what you can do to help stop child labour. We can all do things that will help little by little. According to the Child Labour article by Free The Children (Free The Children-Child Labour page 6), one way of helping out is by learning more about child labour and what it does to children. Learning more about child labour is raising awareness. You can spread out the word and make other people aware of what is happening to other children around the world. Another way of helping out these children is by volunteering your time with organizations working to protect children (Free The Children-Child Labour page 6). By doing this, you are preventing child labour in your community and making sure children are safe. Participating in campaigns that builds affordable schools for children in poor countries is another way of making a difference in their lives (Free The Children-Child Labour page 6). By building schools that they can afford, they can finally get an education and not be a child labourer. There are many ways that you can do to help stop child labour, but the one that most speak to you is the most effective.  
  
 To make a major difference in our world, we must cooperate with each other so we can end child labour and give these child labourers their voices back. Since you now know what causes child labour, the working conditions they face, and some ideas of what you can do, it is time for you to make a difference. Stand up and use your voice for a good cause! These children are humans, too! They deserve to get the rights that normal children have. Speak to adults. Learn more about child labour. Talk to your community about these problems. Even these little acts can make a humongous difference. You will be surprised of what you can do. If people knew what these children face everyday and collaborate, we can change their lives for the better and possibly end this situation that haunted hundreds of millions of lives.