Protecting Children Rights

Name

Institutional Affiliation

Date

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**Introduction**

The vulnerability of children necessitates the need for their protection. It is in the same line that the United Nations has formulated global children rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In the same manner, nations around the world have formulated local laws that protect the rights of children. Despite these measures being enacted, the infringement of the rights of children is still prevalent around the world. The infringement results from a wide spectrum of practices against children including forced labor, exposure to violence, sexual abuse, forced marriages, human trafficking, female genital mutilation, just to name but a few (Deutsche Welle, 2018). Further research in this topic would be useful in portraying the actual picture of the problem, and seeking solutions for the problem. This paper will explore the prevalence of the violation of children rights around the world, and how this global societal issue can be addressed.

**Background Information**

In 1989, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted to protect the rights of the child. Basically, the convention on the rights of the child recognizes that every child, despite his/ her age, gender, and background must be treated fairly and with dignity. The child is defined as any human being who has not attained the age of eighteen years, unless the adulthood is attained earlier in accordance to the national law. The convention consists of fifty four articles which holistically cover the protection of the child from all forms of abuse, neglect, and abandonment. The socioeconomic, civil, culture and political rights are defied in the UN Convention (World Vision, 2018).

Despite the adoption of the UN Convention, children rights are still violated even today. For instance, reporting from a UNICEF report, Deutsche Welle (2018) noted that hundreds of millions of children around the world are exposed to forced labor, preventable diseases, and violent; among other actions and scenarios that lead to the violation of their rights. In addition, a total of 223 million children around the world, both boys and girls experience sexual violence every year. Furthermore more than 300 million children have behavioral problems because of being exposed to violence.

In the same manner the World Vision (2018) noted that more than 300 million children around the world are living in conditions which compromise the child rights. The childhood of such children is stolen through abuse, exploitation and slavery. Today, around one in every 3 girls aged below 18 years in the developing nations is subjected to forced marriages. Similarly, the percentages of children who are victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation are rising by the day. The situation is getting worse with time. As a result, the national governments, civil societies, the corporate sector, and all other stakeholders should join hands in protecting the rights of the children.

**Solutions**

One of the ways in which the rights of children should be protected is by making them beneficiaries of the global economic boom. According to Deutsche Welle (2018), the global economic boom has fostered resources that could be used to better the lives of children. If such resources could be used to mitigate poverty, and foster education, the children could benefit. However, most governments, especially in the developing nations do not include the children as beneficiaries of the economic boom. Global problems including climate change and the effects of economic crisis affect the poor families with a higher magnitude. Of course when this happens, the children are ones who suffer most.

Ironically, the United Nations Children's Fund noted that around 75% of the poorest children are living in nations which have already attained the medium per capita incomes. A good example include countries such as china, and India; where the economic gap is widening, making them home for huge percentages of poor children. Due to this situation, the children are forced to drop out of school and contribute to the family incomes by doing manual jobs such as working in quarries. India alone hosts around 12 million child laborers (World Vision, 2018). The governments should leverage the resources generated by the economic boom, to address issues that compromise the children rights. According to Pemberton et al. (2017) poverty is a significant underlying factor in the violation of children rights.

As a result, the governments should channel these resources to the areas that could better the lives of children including the education and the health sectors. In the same manner, the government should establish and/or support programs that foster the economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights of the children. For instance, this could be done by educating families, government agencies, and organizations on the rights of children, and how to protect such rights. By creating awareness in the communities in which these children live, the government positively impacts the environment in which the children live, and mitigate their vulnerability. In the same line, the government could focus on enhancing laws and accountability, increasing social services and social support towards the poor families, stimulating behavioral and attitude change, as well as strengthening the resilience of the children (World Vision, 2018). In view of this, there are many areas in which the government can work on in order to mitigate poverty, and thus promote the rights of the child, by making the children beneficiaries of the economic boom. After all, a government that protects the rights of the child protects its future.

Another possible solution for the problem of the violation of children rights is actively involving the children in finding solutions for the challenges that they face. According to Ruiz-Casares et al, (2016), including the children in decisions and implementations of their rights, would help them establish the realities surrounding their challenges and rights, and respond appropriately. However, in most cases, the children are regarded as the victims, and not the right holding individuals that they are. One way of actively engaging the children in the protection of their rights would be creating awareness. Children are vulnerable to activities such as sexual exploitation, and child trafficking mostly because they lack awareness. As such, notifying the children of risks of such activities, and arming them with the skills of how to keep them from harm would actually work in preventing victimization. The children should be advised on being vigilant, what to look out for, and the importance of seeking helps from a trusted individual in case they sense that they could be in risk. Indeed, active participation of children in the protection of their rights is a viable means of protecting child rights.

In conclusion, the vulnerability of children has historically generated the violation of their rights. However, over the years, governments and international institutions have realized the need for the protecting children rights. The UN convention for the rights of the child is an important player in the protection if children rights all over the world. Nonetheless, a significant number of children around the world are victims of the various forms of violations of their rights. The role of protecting the rights of the children therefore, must be embraced by all entities in the society. The government has a major role to play in mitigating poverty; which is among the underlying key factors that yield the violation of the rights of the child. In the same way, active involvement in the protection of their rights is important in making the children aware of their vulnerability, and ways of evading the risks.

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