CHILD LABOR AS AN EDUCATIONAL IMPEDIMENT

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Education is not just after the academic and scholastic development and welfare of children. It is also inclusive of other services and initiatives to benefit children including the protection of their individual rights. Therefore child protection policies, programs and practices are strictly mandated to be observed and implemented in every school and elementary learning institution. School leaders, teachers, parents and stakeholders have the noble responsibility to protect the rights and welfare of children within or even beyond the school boundary.

However, there are just some circumstances putting children’s right at risks. There are different factors and influences that compromise child protection inside and outside of school. One of these factors is the prevalence of child labor or child exploitation. Child labor is the term used to refer to actions of coercing, forcing and exploiting children in occupation, labor, work or job that is not appropriate to their young age. Different forms of child labor are physically not suitable and fit for children. Most of all, these jobs are physically burdening, difficult, tiresome and tormenting for their age.

More than the physical burden, child labor is also totally damaging against the other aspects of children’s development especially in terms of academics and education. Severe engagement of children in child labor often leads to adverse academic consequences like chronic absenteeism and tardiness in school, poor academic performance and worst, total dropping out of school. School days and hours are supposed to be intended for children’s acquisition of basic knowledge and skills in the classroom. But children involved in child labor typically do the opposite or instead spend their time and energy in doing manual jobs and labor that are physically demanding and harrowing.
for them. Therefore, child exploitation is such a huge drawback against children’s educational acquisition.

References:

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3425238/