What is child labour?

Child labour is about the exploitation of the most vulnerable in our society - children. According to the latest estimates of the ILO, there are just over 245 million children below the age of 18 working in the world. Approximately 180 million of them work in the worst forms of child labour, toiling in hazardous and life-threatening conditions. Many are deprived of an education and suffer physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Some will be physically handicapped or even die before reaching adulthood as a direct result of their labour. Others will be emotionally scarred for life.

For many, child labour is an invisible phenomenon, invisible because children work in hidden occupations, or invisible because society is only too willing to turn a blind eye. Making child labourers visible will help strip society of its indifference to their plight.

Young people as a force for change

IPEC is spearheading international efforts to make child labour a thing of the past. Since the root causes of child labour are many and complex, IPEC is tackling the issue on several fronts, through the ratification and implementation of international conventions, practical programmes on the ground and the mobilization of key sectors of society. One of these is young people.

IPEC recognizes that young people have an important role to play in raising awareness of issues of social justice and exerting their influence in their communities to bring about social change. By empowering young people, giving them responsibility and recognizing the value of their contribution, IPEC hopes to harness the wealth of creativity and commitment that they can bring to the campaign to eliminate child labour.

People, young and old, must become more aware of what is happening in their world. If society closes its eyes to unpleasant realities, it is shirking its responsibility and knowingly condemning a massive number of children to a future of poverty, misery and hard labour. Worse still, if society does not actively open the eyes of its children so that they can understand what is happening out there in the wider world, it is condemning them to a lifetime of ignorance and indifference. This is not fair and it is not right.

What is child labour? Children are denied their basic human rights, including access to education and protection from violence. Child labour can lead to poverty, ill-health, and even death. Children are more likely to work in hazardous conditions and have limited opportunities for education and development. The SCREAM model promotes the integration of key stakeholders to ensure that all children can avail of their fundamental right to attend school, educating them and recognizing the value of their contribution.

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The spirit of SCREAM

The pack, which forms the basis of the SCREAM initiative, is made up of 14 educational modules and a User’s Guide. The modules are flexible and the process has been conceived in a “building block” format, in other words, in a way that they can be adapted to whatever constraints an educator may face, either in time or in resources.

The modules place heavy emphasis on the visual, in that they incorporate performing arts as a means to deepen young people’s understanding of the issue of child labour and to provide them with powerful tools of self-expression. The idea is to move beyond the purely academic and intellectual and delve into the creative and emotional depths of each individual. The power of these methods in enhancing the educational, social and personal development of young people cannot be underestimated.

The pack will be made available to educators around the world through the Internet in a downloadable format, backed by a printed and boxed version accessible and practical.

IELTS through E

The themes of the modules

Debate

Research, prepare and conduct a public debate on an issue related to child labour.

Draws on experiences gained from other parts of the world, particularly research on information, creative writing and role-play.

Develop public-speaking, debating and communication skills.

Media

Get to grips with the world of media.

Develop contacts with the media to bring public attention to the issue of child labour and make sure it’s published. Prepare press releases.

Drama

Develop and perform a theatre piece on child labour.

Stimulates dramatic expression and provides an outlet through which young people can express themselves in an articulate and meaningful way. Builds a strong platform for community integration and awareness.

World of Work

Learn about how the world operates.

Stimulates awareness and promotes the important of tripartism in social development.

Stimulates the roles and responsibilities of the community and how they interact for the benefit of society.

Community Integration

Stimulates the role of communication in the child labour project. Reinforces the role of the community as agents of social mobilization and change.

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