

Children in Iran



Children's Rights Now!

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Children and work

Different aspects of children's rightlessness in Iran and their living and work conditions are not enough or not at all exposed for the international public. The existing concerned international organizations do not make any effort to reveal children's situation. Therefore, "Children's Rights Now" has devoted the next six months of the year to a special activity about the situation of children in Iran. The "Newsletter, Children in Iran" is an effort to draw international public attention to the rightlessness of children in Iran. This newsletter is being published in different languages.

MANY CHILDREN IN IRAN ARE EMPLOYED AND DO NOT GO TO SCHOOL

Work heaviness on children's small shoulders

"He tightens his eyes, so tight like his heart. He tries to keep his face far from the flames of the smiths-forge so that his flesh and skin would not be burned. He sinks the shaft into the furnace to pull the underdone crystal out of furnace..... As soon as the flash went out, Ahmad turns and has looks to us. Mehdi is younger than Ahmad. He asks me what are we doing there. Not with words, but with his eyes. We headed there in search of employment of children, who some times work under the worst conditions to get paid. In Iran today, 9 millions of children aged

6 to 10 are employed. The Employment and Social Ministry of Iran has so far done nothing, but other than compile 6 articles about youth working conditions.

Kashvad Monshizadeh, the expert of regulating the work relationship of Employment and Social Ministry, says, "Children's employment is a big problem that the government, employer and parents deny. They think it is too bad that international society knows that in our country the children are employed too."

It is a tradition that employers hire children in secret. In some occasions the employers are parents of children. At brick-kiln, the employer would sign an agreement contract with the father of family and provide him a place to live. The father too would take all members of his family there. So, the whole family would work there together, even 4 or 5 year old child.

The census taken on 1996 indicates that: 9,080,676 of the population in Iran are 6 to 10 year old children, from which, 1,860,013 children are deprived educational opportunities. According to the census of the Education Ministry, on the same school year, the number of students from the age of 6 to 19 (elementary, junior high and senior high) is announced 17,207,134. About 5,181,235 children are deprived from educational opportunities.

Among children aged group 10 to 14 about 368,031 children are employed and 366,475

children have no special employment status.

On the group aged 15 to 19 about 1 million and 547 thousands and 149 youths are employed. Most of them are working in the agriculture industry, retail, transportation and repair. In this census of course, there is no mention of street children, odd jobs and other children who work part time while schooling.

It is unfortunate that there was no study done on a considerable number of these children. With the exception of about 1 million and 600 thousand girls aged 10 to 19 that are married and are housewives, the rest are working in farms and plantations, small family and private carpet weaving looms, retails and brick-kilns.”

“*Jameah Newspaper*”, Saturday, April, 25, 1999.
(Zahra Koshnamak)

**On the Occasion of 87th International
Employment Sitting (Children’s
Employment)**

**Children’s employment and prohibiting of
exploitation**

“1 million and 800 thousands children are

employed in Iran. As mentioned by one of the expert of Employment and Social Ministry on April 25th 1998 on an interview with Jameah Newspaper, No.77, unfortunately due to the lack of manpower, there is no possibility of supervision and inspection. In order to gain children rights in different aspects of labor and employment from one side, and to punish the managing executives and foremen who are exploiting these children by physical abuse on the

other, the enormous management has faced difficulties to obey constitution and labor law.

According to a report from Unisef office in Iran (Children’s Fund of United Nations), about 1.3% of children aged 6 to 14 are employed

and do not go school. This number is 2.4% in city regions and 5% in villages. In villages also more than 10% of girls and 17% of boys are working over 7 hours a day.

Therefore, they have no time to get involved to any educational activity. The number of 10 to 14 year old girls who are working at home or are working out of home to gain income, is twice of boys. This number is 3 times in the villages.”

”*Khordaad Newspaper*”, Tuesday, June 25th, 1999.
(Ahmad Amoly),



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