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CHILDREN AND CHILDHOOD IN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES

Abstract

This paper brings childhood's perspective and presentation of obstacles which are children in Third World countries faced with. Generally speaking, perspective of societies in Third World countries depends on economic, politic, social and cultural aspects. Therefore, lower classes of society, which are the most numerous, have tendency to shorten childhood's duration in wish to prepare their children for "adult world" and in the end for labor and work. Upper classes of society have modern perspective about childhood, primarily due to financial security where child is given absolute care and all conditions for cognitive, emotional and psychomotor development. Difficulties which are children faced with in their childhood are: trafficking and smuggling, forced labor by kidnappers or by members of their family, forced prostitution, recruitment in criminal bands, low life and health standard and inability to have quality education. When it comes to educational possibilities, they are inadequate and even absent for some children, who are forced, by their own or other influence, to approach to already mentioned difficulties. Despite numerous laws and regulation which are ensured by UN, there is not much to do for children from the Third World except to raise awareness in First World about children's problems, which are normally being ignored.

Keywords: *children, childhood, diversity, perspectives, Third world, educational possibilities*