

CHILD LABOR IS JUST NOT FAIR

You have the right to work, to choose your work, and to work in good conditions.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 23

The Government should protect you from work that is dangerous to your health or development, that interferes with your education or that might lead people to take advantage of you.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 32

★ Learning Points

1. You have the right NOT to work if the working hours interfere with school and study times.
2. You have a right NOT to work if that work is dangerous or harmful to your health.
3. When you are of full age, you have a right to choose your work.

WELCOME (5 minutes)

Song, “Be Our Best”

REVIEW

Show the **Child Labor** mini-poster.

Who would like to share your thoughts or feelings about child labor?

INTRODUCTION (15 minutes)

Activity: Rupinder’s Story

Read or have a student read the story in Rupinder’s own words. This is a true story.

My name is Rupinder and I am 13 years old. My parents work on a coffee plantation. When I was young, I went to school for two years. But when I was 8, my parents told me I had to stay home and look after my younger sisters and brothers. Then, when I was 10, I started working on the coffee plantation, too, during picking seasons. I worked from 6 in the morning until 10 at night. One day while working, I hurt my arm.

Now I can’t work on the plantation any more. My parents can’t afford to keep me at home if I don’t work, so I came to the city, but I couldn’t find work here. It’s difficult because I cannot read or write. I really want to go to school, and learn to be an engineer or a builder.

DEVELOPMENT

Activity: In Rupinder’s Shoes

Explain: We are going to step into Rupinder’s shoes and think about his situation.

Instructions are on the next page.

After the activity, have each group briefly report.

Questions

- What do you want to learn to do when you grow older?
- Can you think of a way that you can become an engineer or builder?
- What can you do to get more education?
- What have you learned by being a good observer? Who can help you?

Explain: Rupinder isn’t the only one this happened to. Millions of children and youth around the world work long, hard hours every day. The places they work are often dirty and sometimes unpleasant or even dangerous. We call that kind of work “Child Labor.”

CONCLUSION (5 minutes)

Show Child Labor Photos from Lesson 9A.

Questions

- What kinds of work are these children doing?
- If they work during the day, what are they not doing?

Have a student read UDHR 23, and ask:

- What does it say about working conditions?

Have another student read CRC Article 32.

- What should government do to protect you from Child Labor?
- If these rights are not honored, what can you do to work around it?
- As a facilitator, what can you do to help? See suggestions on the next page.

CHALLENGE

1. Think about work you would like to do when you grow up, and what training you will need.
2. Be prepared to share your thoughts with the rest of the class next time.

IN RUPINDER'S SHOES

Divide the class into 4 groups. Give each one a different section of the story with questions to discuss among themselves. They can choose a spokesperson to report when they get back together.

- **Young Rupinder, you may go to school.**

What are you able to do?

What can you do to learn all you can in school? How will school help you?



- **8-year-old Rupinder, you cannot attend school anymore.**

“We need you to take care for your younger siblings, so we can work on the coffee plantation.”

Is there a way you can keep studying at home?

Can you talk to your teacher or another adult?

What can you learn while caring for young children?

What can you do to make your home a learning place? What can you teach your siblings?

- **10-year-old Rupinder, you must now work on the coffee plantation.**

“We need the money in order to feed the family.”

Is there any way you can go to school before or after you work?

How can observation help you by using your eyes, ears and mind to learn important things about working on the plantation?

Are there ways you can keep learning in the ways that you learned in school?

How can you learn to be more effective in your work?

How can you work with others to improve conditions and success?

How can you learn to be safe in your work? How can you keep up with the long hours of work?

- **Older Rupinder, I'm sorry that you got hurt working on the coffee plantation.**

“We cannot keep you at home if you cannot work. Go find work in the city.”

Where will you go to find work?

What skills do you need in order to find work?

Where will you live and what will you eat?

As a facilitator, you may have students who are struggling with these issues. Consider ways in which you might be able to help. Perhaps you can discuss this as a school community, beginning with other teachers, school administrators and parents.



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