Rutgers Global Child Labor Forum (2013-14)

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Purpose

- To raise awareness among students of global child labor issues with an in-person forum.
- To research, analyze, and disseminate information from peer-reviewed literature, the World Health Organization (WHO), by region, and on efforts by the United States Department of Labor—International Bureau of Labor Affairs (US DOL-ILAB) to reduce worst forms of child labor.
- To inform students of local and global health effects of E-Waste in Guangdong and Guiyu, China.

Methods and Materials

- Conducted Research
- Created Literature Review
- Analyzed Information
- Prepared Reports/Summaries
- Presentations and Discussions at Forum
- Attendees Evaluate Forum Experience

Significance

- Prevalence of child labor is already high and is still increasing—an estimated 215 million child workers worldwide, with over 50% engaged in hazardous work.
- Due to unsafe practices, working children have a higher prevalence of health ailments; and, many children are abused by employers (workplace violence).
- For example, mining worldwide exposes children to the use of dangerous tools, toxic gases, and potential explosions.
- Thus, there is a growing need for awareness of and action against the large-scale problem of child labor.

Examples of Studies and Efforts of USDOL-ILAB and WHO

Previous: USDOL-ILAB Grants by WHO Region

Southeast Asia - 11%
Western Pacific - 17%
European - 17%
Americas - 28%
African Region - 28%
Eastern Mediterranean - 25%

2013 to Present: USDOL-ILAB Child Labor Grants by WHO Region

Southeast Asia - 11%
Western Pacific - 17%
European - 17%
Americas - 25%
African Region - 25%
Eastern Mediterranean - 26%

Evaluation Summary/Next Steps

Evaluation data served as the future indicator of the interest of child labor among the Rutgers student body, and informed a 2014-15 proposal (funded!) for a Rutgers Global Child Labor Film/Video Series with discussions, spring semester, 2015. [NOTE: in progress]

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