



SERP-P NEWS

Innovating Knowledge Exchange in Policy Research

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Socioeconomic Issue on Spotlight¹ CHILD LABOR

As of 2011, 5.59 million children aged 5 to 17 are already in the labor force, according to a survey conducted by the National Statistics Office and International Labor Organization. More than 50 percent (3.2 million) of them are exposed to hazardous labor in agricultural, services, and industrial sectors (Reyes et al. 2014).

Based on the same report, the number of working children increased by 53 percent (1.9 million) between 1995 and 2011. While child labor exists in all regions of the Philippines, the highest proportion of child labor was recorded in Northern Mindanao—with three in every ten children, aged 5 to 17, already working. Moreover, Reyes et al. (2014) noted that there are more boys engaged in child labor than girls.

In the study of Marcus and Harper (1997), child labor is not entirely regarded as a negative issue; as long as a child's general welfare and education are not at stake. This is consistent with the country's operational definition of child labor stated in RA 7658 (An Act Prohibiting the Employment of Children Below 15 Years of Age in Public And Private Undertakings), wherein a child worker can only be considered as a child laborer under these three parameters: hazards faced, age, and parental supervision (Alonzo and Edillon 2002).

Nevertheless, a child's vulnerability makes him/her more prone to the worst forms of child labor, such as slavery, prostitution, illegal drug-related activities, and one exposed to hazards (Aldaba et al. 2004).

According to Sta. Maria et al. (2001), internal trafficking, wherein trading and exploitation of victims are done within the country, may be considered as a major factor why children are exposed to the worst forms of child labor. For these children, working in agriculture, mining and quarrying, construction, and transportation industries poses danger and consequences that may affect their health and well-being.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

24th World Open Space on Open Space

9–12 November 2016
Manila, Philippines

The World Open Space on Open Space is a gathering of enthusiasts, neophytes, simply curious and all those interested in Open Space—in and from different parts of the world.

First Green Business Forum (GBF) for Asia and the Pacific

22–24 November 2016
ADB Headquarters, Manila

The GBF aims to provide a platform for knowledge sharing and lessons learning on the best policies/incentives, institutional arrangements, and financing modalities that can best support rapid green business development in the region.



A teenage boy sells fish in Dalahican Port in Lucena City, Quezon. Photo by MVPAranas

For instance, in the agricultural regions of the country, children who work for farms and plantations are exposed to threats such as snake bites, accidents, and energy-draining chores. These children earn not more than PHP 50–60 a day, with no benefits (**Rollolazo and Logan 2002**).

Esguerra (2002) analyzed what causes child labor in the Philippines. Based on his study, financial constraints, inability to fulfill primary needs due to family size, and availability of child work are the three main reasons that influence a household's decision to allow a child to work. External factors, such as socioeconomic development, geographic location, and level of government expenditures on social services, also affect decisionmaking in these households.

To address this issue, **Esguerra (2002)** suggested a two-pronged approach that involves (1) poverty reduction, development of the country's economic growth, and extension of permanent job availabilities, and (2) an intervention to deal with other forms of child labor.

In another study, **Aldaba et al. (2004)** suggested that effective policies, institutional reforms, and collaborations with international organizations should be strengthened to enhance the policies and campaigns against child labor. Improving

education, raising awareness, and reinforcing anti-poverty actions, meanwhile, are some of the key solutions that **Marcus and Harper (1997)** recommended.

Intensifying the implementation of laws and policies should also be prioritized to curb the number of children involved in child labor. These policies include, among others, the Labor Code of the Philippines, Department of Labor and Employment Order No. 4 (Hazardous Work and Activities to Persons Below 18 Years of Age), and Republic Act No. 7610 (Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act) (**Aldaba et al. 2004**).

Aside from child labor, the SERP-P database also showcases studies that explore the worst forms of child labor in Negros Oriental (**Oracion, 2005**), women and children trafficking at the Manila Port (**Pacis 2001**), laws protecting child workers (**Ateneo Human Rights Center 1997**), youth employment in the Philippines (**Tidalgo and Teodosio 1981**), and improving labor standards in the Philippines (**Villamil 2002**).

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¹ Socioeconomic Issue on Spotlight (SIS) is a write-up that explains socioeconomic and development issues using materials available on the SERP-P website. This issue of SIS was penned by Ivy A. Publico, a communication research student from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines and a former intern at PIDS.

SERP-P Resources on Child Labor

- Child Poverty in the Philippines
- Small Hands: Children in the Working World
- Eliminating Child Labour in the Philippines
- A National Policy Study on Child Labour and Development in the Philippines
- Internal Trafficking in Children for the Worst Forms of Child Labour: Final Report
- An In-Depth Study on the Situation of Child Labour in Agriculture (Preliminary Findings)
- An Analysis of the Causes and Consequences of Child Labour in the Philippines
- The Worst Forms of Child Labour in Negros Oriental: A Final Report on the 2003 Baseline Survey
- Women Children and Internal Trafficking for Child Labour: A Situational Analysis at the Manila Port
- Opening Doors: A Presentation of Laws Protecting Filipino Child Workers
- Youth Employment in the Philippines
- Improving Labor Standards in the Philippines: The Case of Child Labour

For more child labor-related studies, simply type “**child labor**” or “**employment**” in the search box of the [SERP-P website](#).

SERP-P team conducts promotional activities

SERP-P Coordinator Mark Vincent Aranas talked about the SERP-P Project in two separate knowledge events to promote the project among researchers, policymakers, and students. SERP-P promotional activities are also an attempt of the SERP-P team to raise the level of awareness of the research community about the open access agenda.



PCC-SEARCA Scholarship

The project aims to strengthen the Philippine Carabao Center's pool of professionals by providing scholarship grants to qualified PCC officers and regular staff to complete graduate degrees from selected universities of center of excellence in the Philippines, USA, Canada, and Australia.

Legislative Information System (LEGIS)

House of Representatives

LEGIS is a browser-based system that allows a user connected to the Internet to access, retrieve, print, or save structured bills information and status as well as download full texts of bills, republic acts, House Journals, House publications, and other published legislative materials and documents.

Call for Proposals: Biodiversity Projects/ Initiatives

BIOFIN is looking for biodiversity projects/initiatives that have potential to scale and can deliver social, environment and economic performance.

For more information, send an email to sheillamae.almasa@minda.gov.ph, or visit [BIOFIN website](#).



The Mindanao Development Authority invites everyone to participate in the **NCCA 2017 Call for Proposals for Mindanao**.

The 2017 Call for Project Proposals advances the socioeconomic agenda of the Duterte Administration, to wit: the promotion of science, technology and creative arts shall be pursued "to enhance innovation and creative capacity toward self-sustaining inclusive development."

LATEST SERP-P RESOURCES

- Continue but Redesign the Grant Program for Water Supply and Sanitation
- Consumption, Labor Income, and Lifecycle Deficit by Urban-Rural Residence and by Income Group: Philippines NTA 1991, 1999, and 2011
- The Motor Vehicle User's Charge: Some Issues and Recommendations
- Potential Effects of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership on the Philippine Economy
- Impact Assessment of the National Greening Program of the DENR: Scoping or Process Evaluation Phase - Institutional Component
- How to Improve Smallholders' Access to Formal Credit: Lessons from the Agrarian Production Credit Program
- Competition for the Market: A Policy Framework for Improving Bus Operation along EDSA
- Economic and Poverty Impacts of the National Greening Program
- National Greening Program: Lessons from Institutional Analysis

Visit the DPRM website for more information about this year's celebration. Click [here](#).

14th DEVELOPMENT POLICY RESEARCH MONTH

Investing in Risk Reduction for a Resilient Philippines
Angkop na Kahandaan: Matatag na Ekonomiya at Lipunan

SEPTEMBER 2016



For more information, please contact 085-342-1830 loc. 4102, or email at vpacad@urios.edu.ph. Click [here](#).



**Green Business Forum
for Asia and the Pacific**
Investing in a Sustainable Future

22-24 November 2016 • ADB Headquarters



Philippines: Supporting More Inclusive Peace and Development in Mindanao

World Bank Vice President for East Asia and Pacific Victoria Kwakwa highlights how partnership and collaboration can help eradicate poverty in southern Philippines.

Watch the video [here](#).



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

One (1) Fellow II (Item No. OP 18)
Philippine Institute for Development Studies

Program Specialist (GEID)
SEAMEO-SEARCA

Supervising Economic Development Specialist
Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment Staff-NEDA

Economist IV
National Tax Research Center

Publications Assistant for Research and Researcher-Writer for Migration and Development
UP CIDS



VISION OF FILIPINOS FOR COUNTRY

The Philippines shall be a country where all citizens are free from hunger and poverty, have equal opportunities, enabled by fair and just society that is governed with order and unity. A nation where families live together, thriving in vibrant, culturally diverse, and resilient communities.



If you want your forthcoming events, latest publications, and other announcements to be included on the *SERP-P News*, contact:

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