

The Importance Of Self-awareness To Promote Decent Work Among Children

Self-awareness is critical for managing our children such that they will not be exposed to indecent work which can negatively impact of their performance and well being.



- ILO Convention No. 138, Art 7(b) stipulates that light work may be permitted from the age of 12 or 13 provided it does not “prejudice attendance at school” nor the “capacity to benefit from the instruction received”.
- This raises the question: Does a limited amount of children’s work at these ages “prejudice attendance at school” and/or damage the child’s “capacity to benefit from the instruction received”?

The Indecent Work for Children

- Because of the delicate nature of the cocoa tree species, cocoa trees are treated with [pesticides](#) and [fungicides](#).
- Cocoa harvest is not restricted to one period per year and occurs over a period of several months to the whole year.
- Pods are harvested at multiple times during the harvest season because they do not all ripen at once.

- In 2019, the International Cocoa Initiative investigated the prevalence of child labour in the cocoa industry. It found 7,319 children identified as involved in one or more hazardous tasks.
- Many of these tasks could be hazardous when performed by children, according to the ILO.
- Mixing and applying chemicals can be hazardous due to pesticide contamination, especially because no protective clothing is worn during application.



- Clearing vegetation and harvesting pods can be hazardous because these tasks are often done using machetes, which can cause [lacerations](#).
- This skill is part of normal development in children 15 to 17 years old, but is a higher risk in younger children. Many have wounds on their legs where they have cut themselves.



- A survey conducted by U.S. Department of Labour indicates that in 2005, 92 percent of children between the ages of 5 and 15 are involved in heavy load carrying work in the cocoa industry, which can cause open wounds.
- Transport of the wet beans can also be hazardous due to long transport distances and heavy loads; [hernias](#) and physical injuries can occur.
- The International Cocoa Initiative upholds the International Conventions that promote child rights and that outlaw child labour practices, as well as the relevant supporting national laws.



Decent Work and Responsibilities For Children

- A family is the smallest unit of a community which is also part of society. Like a community, a family also has members and a leader.
- In the family, the position of a child is important! Indeed, in a family position, children can be in a lower position after the father and mother as parents.
- However, the existence of children can bring more happiness to a family.
- Besides having rights, children also have responsibilities and duties at home.



Decent Work and Responsibilities For Children

- Child work is when a child helps out with tasks at home or in their family's business. This can be a good thing because it can help the child learn new skills and be part of the family team. It is different from child labor, which is when children are made to work in dangerous or exploitative conditions.
- Not all work done by children is classified as child labour.
- For instance, children carrying out light, non-hazardous tasks on the family farm for a limited period of time, under supervision, and without compromising their schooling, is considered as acceptable child work.
- Cooking small portion of food, basket making, etc are desirable skills.
- This type of work is often necessary for the welfare of many families in our rural societies.

- It also contributes to children's development, providing them with skills and experience that help them prepare for their adult farming life.
- By contrast, activities such as carrying heavy loads or using chemicals are considered as "unacceptable forms of child labour", because they are physically dangerous for children.

Helping to Do Household Chores

- Have you ever helped your mother cook? Or help dad wash the car. Well, this activity is an example that you are helping them.
- Doing house chores is not just the responsibility of one person. However, the assignments are a shared responsibility. You can share tasks with other family members. For example, mom is in charge of cooking, dad is in order of washing the car, the younger brother is in the amount of washing the dishes, and you are in charge of sweeping the floor.
- Therefore, the chores feel easier to do because everyone in the family does them together.

Studying/Schooling

- Learning is indeed expected of every human being until the end of their life. However, as a child, studying is a must. Every parent wants the best education for their child because they hope they can achieve their goals and succeed.
- For this reason, the child must be knowledgeable and study. Well, a child shouldn't disappoint their parents.



Always Asking Parents for Permission

- Asking parents for permission is a child's duty. This is because before a child gets married, they are still under the responsibility of their parents.
- Therefore, a child must ask permission from their parents if they want to leave the house. By asking permission, your parents will know where you are and can be on alert if you need anything. Parents are responsible for their child's safety and whereabouts.

Keeping the House Clean

- A house is the most comfortable place for every family. It is also a place for children to get to know their immediate environment. It is not surprising that every family member hopes to spend much time at home.
- Usually, Saturday and Sunday are used for *family time*. Some spend time chatting, watching movies, and cleaning the house together.
- A comfortable home is not only characterized by a warm sense among the family members. However, a comfortable home also comes from a clean house.
- **Tidying Up Your Room**
- A bedroom is indeed a private place for everyone, including children. It's good for you to pay attention to the cleanliness and tidiness of your room. You started by making the bed, cleaning the furniture's dust, and tidying up the room's layout.
- It is not surprising that a neat and clean room will provide comfort for you. Let's get used to tidying up your space, okay?

Maintain Good Relations with Siblings

- Every family does not only consist of a father, a mother, and one child. Some parents have many children, so the family members become more and more.
- Problems can arise when children disagree or don't get along with their siblings. The atmosphere in the house becomes not conducive and can make other family members uncomfortable.
- Therefore, it would be nice if a child could maintain a good relationship with siblings because the family atmosphere will feel comfortable. Although indeed, the different personalities can complement each other. Therefore, respecting each other is essential.

- **Listening to Parents' Advice/obedience/Seeing elders as good role model**
- Parents are born first before the children. Parents also have more life experience than children. Sometimes, we need to pay more attention to the advice from parents. However, listening and incorporating it into your daily life is a good idea.
- Therefore, remember to listen to every piece of advice from your parents, okay?

Having Good Manners

- Wherever it is, of course, we have to maintain our manners while speaking and behaving, right? And it is no exception for a child in their own house.
- Indeed, the house is the most "relaxing" place. However, even though the atmosphere at home seems "relaxed," children still must be polite, especially with their parents.

THANK YOU

END



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