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Child labor is used mainly through the inclusion of children into “adult” sectors of activity, housework (work on garden plots, babysitting, family business), and crime.

In major cities, street child labor prevails (work in “adult” sectors and involvement in crime), whereas housework is typical of small settlements. Irrespective of city size, among children of the same age, labor often acquires the traits of some gaining at the expense of others who suffer due to lack of fashionable clothes, poor health, difficulties in studies, etc. To gain possession (even if temporary) of fashionable clothes, videos, and cassettes, they are prepared to run errands for their “employer” classmates.

Most adolescents are not forced to work: many kids even from prosperous families wish to have pocket money. Most often, adolescents receive their first earned money from parents and relatives for doing housework. Male youths fairly often name loading as a paid job, and girls, messenger functions. Car washing and work at gas stations is the first labor experience of 10 percent of surveyed adolescents. About 3 percent names these as the source of income: gambling for money, begging, and resale of stolen items.

Children from well-to-do families strive to have a job more often and are more particular about their jobs than children from poor families. The latter ones are willing to do anything as long as they are paid money, and they are more often involved in criminal types of activities and “adult” labor sectors.

Most people ignore children who earn their living in the street, both those begging and those offering various services (car washing, pamphlet handing-out, etc.). Some people tell them to wash windshields, buy drinks and periodicals from them, etc. Motorists believe that such trade is very dangerous, because it is fraught with road accidents and is a direct threat to the children’s life and safety. It is incomprehensible why the road police (even in the capital) are absolutely indifferent to this fairly widespread practice.

Parents, as a rule, know that their children work (4/5 of the surveyed adolescents said so). They view the fact differently depending on their level of education: the higher the level, the more often they view negatively their children working for money. In general, however, the parents of Moscow schoolchildren were divided in their assessments almost equally. In rural areas, the share of positive assessments is higher, because there child labor is more often connected with agricultural production and is helpful in obtaining a future profession.

Most of the working schoolchildren had only satisfactory and unsatisfactory grades, and for a certain portion of them studies have become totally unimportant, because they earn more in the street than their educated parents.

Government structures do not manifest due interest in providing employment assistance to persons under 15. They practically opted out of organizing child labor. Employment services are passive, and only in exceptional cases do they assist in searching for a suitable occupation. As a rule, however, they limit themselves to taking part in professional orientation work.

Today, we may speak about the presence of elements of child labor exploitation in Russia and view it as activity that hampers the child's development and negatively influences his morality, even in those cases when direct sexual molestation is not present. Most of the children involved in the sphere of paid labor are doing harmful, immoral and, therefore, dangerous types of work. We are convinced that the main area of work with such children and adolescents is helping them to continue studies and receive professional training.