



Working Girls and Education

Policy Recommendations in the framework of Children Rights

Aydın Doğan Foundation (ADV) and Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV) launched, in December 2015, www.turkiyedecocuklar.org as an innovative policy tool. Open data from TÜİK, ILO, and Hacettepe TNSA on working girls in Turkey was assembled and reorganized as an interactive database to facilitate evidence-based effective policy making. Working girls and education is the most alarming issue on the database. As a follow-up, ADV and TESEV brought together experts, in Istanbul, on 28 April 2016, to discuss and recommend policies.

Seda Akço – Humanist Bureau
“Prevention of child labor cannot be discussed without addressing basic income assurance”

- Child labor is not violation of labor law; rather, it is the consequence of social and economic policies. Therefore, the effects of these policies on children (early marriages, drops from school, child poverty) should be addressed in order to undertake a successful fight against child labor.
- State is obligated for providing support to families for childcare. This is a matter of children rights. Therefore, in order to fight against the worst kinds of child labor, such as seasonal agricultural labor, State should develop social and economic policies: for instance, the minimum wage should be raised and every parent should be provided with basic revenue assurance.
- Civil society should make the issue of child labor and its root causes visible, and work to make State fulfill its obligations, by demanding, guiding, and developing solutions.
- Citizens should also play an active role in preventing child labor by demanding support for families in childcare and by being responsible consumers.
- Child labor is related to economic policies as well. Demand for more and cheaper goods as well as inspection pressures on producers are a burden on workers, especially on children, in labor intense

sectors. Preventing child labor has a cost that should be shared by all actors in the production chain.

Dilek Karagöz – UNICEF Turkey
“Root causes of the problem should be tackled instead of simply doing a dressing for protection”

- Economic support; Families should be provided with economic support in order to help them establish minimum living standards; and employment opportunities must be enhanced.
- Revision of discriminatory implementation of societal norms; “best for the child” should be advocated within the norms of children rights. We should work on gender norms considering that even if girls are not included in paid labor, they are involved in household labor.
- Access to basic services; Children’s access to basic services such as health and education should be ensured while at the same time financial, societal, and production conditions leading to child labor must change.
- Revision of business principles; child labor should be prevented in supply chain with regular inspections. Awareness should be raised within the production-consumption, society, and environment circles.
- Policies should respond to local dynamics.

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Başak Akkan – Boğaziçi University

“Home care burden plays an important role in gender roles, relations with school, and socialization”

- Accessible childcare and pre-school education, neighborhood and municipality day care centers should be established.
- Bearing in mind that school is a liberating space for girls with home care burden, their commitment to school work must be maintained.
- Labor should be divided at home

İşıl Oral – Education Reform Initiative

“Girls schooling increased; however, absence due to labor is still high”

- The Ministry of National Education should disclose absenteeism data.
- State and the Ministry of Education should ensure girls’ attendance at school.
- Interregional differences among women’s schooling should decrease
- Scholarships should not always be granted based on success (by Seda Akço)

