

KOSOVO LABORER CHILDREN: THEIR AFFECTIVE AND COGNITIVE TRAITS VS. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

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ABSTRACT

Socio-economic problems in Kosovo inevitably influence the education system. The study investigates child labor (CL) phenomena, which is known as a poverty consequence. It mainly aimed to find how labor factor affects affective-cognitive traits and academic performance of children. Two groups of school children were compared, laborer and non-laborer children. A range of tools were applied to properly investigate their socio-economic status (both groups live in poverty), emotional disturbances, school performance, social support and the level of some cognitive traits such as self-evaluation, self-esteem etc. The research results show that affective and cognitive traits of laborer children are being negatively affected by their experiences when compared to the children who do not work but live in poverty. The study didn't show any difference in academic performance between the two groups, but there is enough evidence within the study which brings to a conclusion that the laborer children are being positively discriminated within the school system. The study investigates child labor phenomena through a psycho-social perspective and it came with a range of recommendations that were being piloted through a direct intervention project which resulted to be helpful for children and school curricula in general.

Keywords: Child labor, affective traits, cognitive traits, social support, Kosovo.