Seminar on child labour, education and youth employment

Paris, 13-14 December 2007
Understanding Children’s Work Project
Centre d’Economie de la Sorbonne, Université de Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne

The seminar will be held on 13-14 December 2007 in Paris, Maison des Sciences Economiques de l’Université de Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne.

Child labour remains a pervasive threat to children’s rights and an obstacle to achieving the *Millennium Development Goals*. The ILO estimates that 218 million children were engaged in child labour in 2004. Of these, well over half (126 million) were in hazardous forms of work, meaning work “likely to jeopardize/harm their health, safety or morals” (ILO Conventions Nos. 138 and 182). Many child labourers are very young, and therefore particularly vulnerable to workplace abuses, lost schooling, and work-related ill-health or injury. The ILO global estimates for 2004 indicated that 108 million child labourers were below the age of 12 years.

Factors contributing to child labour are multiple and overlapping. Poverty plays perhaps the most important role – children are often forced to work because their survival and that of their families depend on it. Child labour may form part of a household’s strategy for dealing with risk, making them less vulnerable to losses of income arising from individual or collective shocks. Access to basic services, credit availability, social safety net coverage and cultural attitudes towards schooling, inter alia, are other factors that research suggests are linked to child labour. Child labour is also closely related to youth employment outcomes, as early labour force involvement prevents the accumulation of the human capital necessary for gainful employment during early adulthood and beyond.

Child labour and children’s right to education are also closely linked. Parents may involve their children in labour rather than school because the school is inaccessible, or is of poor quality and therefore not seen as being worth the investment of their children’s time. Indeed, there is broad consensus that the single most effective way to
stem the flow of school age children into work is to extend and improve access to school, so that families have the opportunity to invest in their children’s education and it is worthwhile for them to do so. With no access to quality education, millions of children are left to work, often in dangerous and exploitative conditions. The international community’s efforts to achieve Education For All (EFA) and the progressive elimination of child labour are therefore inextricably linked.

UCW Project and the Centre d’Economie de la Sorbonne are organizing a two-day seminar to present recent research on child labour and its linkages with educational and youth employment outcomes. The seminar will also aim at identifying key information gaps relating to these themes, thereby helping to guide future research efforts.

SUBMISSION OF PAPERS FOR PRESENTATION AT SEMINAR:

We are calling for papers relevant to the following themes for presentation at the seminar:

- Determinants of child labour and education;
- Link between child labour and education;
- Impact of child labour involvement on youth employment outcomes;
- Labour market entry processes and school-to-work transitions.

Papers with a geographical focus on Sub-Saharan Africa are particularly encouraged.

All papers should be submitted in .pdf or .doc format by 15 July 2007 to Ozge-Nihan.Koseleci@univ-paris1.fr or gbreglia@ucw-project.org.

Papers can be in a provisional version, but must contain a clear presentation of the results obtained and a complete reference list in order to be considered by the scientific committee.

The first page of the paper should include: i) submission title, ii) author/s’ name/s, iii) abstract, iv) keywords, v) JEL classification, and vi) detailed contact information (name, surname, mailing address, phone and fax number, e-mail address) of the author in charge of the communication.

The paper can be written and presented either in French or in English.

The papers will be reviewed by a scientific committee; applicants will be notified by 1 September 2007 as to whether their paper has been accepted for presentation at the seminar.

The deadline for receipt of the final versions of the seminar presentations and papers (as they will be presented at the seminar) is 30 September 2007.

Persons interested in participating (attending and/or presenting) in the seminar are invited to register as soon as possible at CES (Centre d’Economie de la Sorbonne),
jointly to Ozge Nihan Koseleci AND Gabriella Breglia by electronic mail: Ozge-Nihan.Koseleci@univ-paris1.fr AND gbreglia@ucw-project.org

Travel reimbursement:
For persons presenting at the seminar, partial or total travel reimbursements are possible, following a formal request to Ozge-Nihan.Koseleci@univ-paris1.fr and gbreglia@ucw-project.org.

The formal request for reimbursement should contain a written request for reimbursement, the paper, and the registration form. In order to be considered, the whole dossier should be mailed by 15 July 2007.

The reimbursement will be assigned on the basis of the submitted elements, the number of requests and the availability of funds. The scientific committee will be responsible for the decisions concerning travel reimbursements; its decisions will be final.

The scientific committee is composed by:

Jean-Claude Berthélemy, Professor at the University of Paris 1
Furio Rosati, Understanding Children’s Work Project, Professor at the University of Rome II Tor Vergata
Alessandro Cigno, Professor at the University of Florence
Alexandre Kolev, University Paris 12
Mathilde Maurel, University Paris 1
Lorenzo Guarcello, Understanding Children’s Work Project.
Elisabeth Cudeville, University Paris 1.

Organizing committee:
Ozge Nihan Koseleci, University Paris 1
Gabriella Breglia, Understanding Children’s Work Project.