CHILD LABOUR IN TOBACCO CULTIVATION IN THE ASEAN REGION

Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance

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Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA) 

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CHILD LABOUR IN TOBACCO CULTIVATION IN THE ASEAN REGION

I. Introduction

Child labour is prevalent in tobacco cultivation in Southeast Asia. All ASEAN countries are Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and, hence, are obligated to enforce the Convention and ensure their rights are protected (Table 1). Most ASEAN countries grow tobacco with the exception of Brunei Darussalam and Singapore. Child labour has been used in tobacco cultivation in all the tobacco growing countries.

This report will provide an overview of the problem in the ASEAN region. It will address how different industries have dealt with child labour issues, laws on importation of goods using child labour, and how the tobacco industry have shielded themselves through their corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities, which have not eradicated the problem. A case study on child labour in tobacco growing from East Java in Indonesia is presented. Indonesia is the largest tobacco producer in the region and its leaf exports to international markets makes it important to address the problem. The report will also provide recommendations on what needs to be done to eradicate child labour in leaf production.

The CRC states that children have the right to highest attainable standard of health (Article 24), right to education (Article 28), right to be protected from injury or exploitation (Article 19), and the right to be protected from commercial exploitation (Article 32). The CRC points out that while not all work performed by children violates Article 32, however, work that is hazardous, interferes with schooling or is harmful to the child’s physical, mental and social development clearly does. The type of work children are involved in tobacco cultivation clearly violates the CRC and exposes them to hazards, injury and ill health.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), 60% of child labour worldwide is in agriculture. The United States of America’s Department of Labour has documented a report on goods produced using child labour or forced labour. Tobacco is one of the agricultural products listed in this report. There are at least 15 countries listed in this report including countries from the ASEAN region that engage child labour in tobacco.

Table 1: Countries Ratification/Accession to the CRC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Date of Ratification/Accession (a)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>15 October 1992 (a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>15 September 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>8 May 1991 (a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>17 February 1995 (a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>21 August 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>27 March 1992 (a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>28 February 1990</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Figure for Year 2008

II. Regional Status of Tobacco Cultivation

Table 2 provides the current number of registered adult tobacco farmers in the region, which does not include child workers.

Tobacco cultivation is highly labour-intensive; hence, family labour, including child labour, is used in the tobacco growing countries in the ASEAN region - Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. Children take part in all tobacco farm activities from planting to harvesting to post-harvest (i.e., handling of tobacco, particularly in stringing of tobacco leaves in preparation for drying them). Children and adults (mainly women) working with tobacco are at high risk for green tobacco sickness (GST), caused by dermal absorption of nicotine from contact with wet tobacco leaves. Children working with tobacco are also denied educational opportunities that could help lift them out of poverty.

According to the 2012 Supply and Demand Report by Universal Leaf Tobacco Company, Inc., Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand are exporters of flue-cured and burley tobacco leaves (Table 3). Thailand also exports about 10 million kilograms of oriental and semi-oriental leaves a year. Cigarettes manufactured using Indonesian produced leaves are also exported to Malaysia, Singapore and the USA. Philippines-made cigarettes using leaves originating from the Philippines are exported to Malaysia and Thailand.
III. How Different Industries Deal with Child Labour

Corporations often have a very clear policy on child labour – they abhor it and do everything possible to ensure their products do not use child labour or is in any way remotely connected to any form of child labour. When companies discover it or get exposed that their products are made using child labour, their response is usually swift and decisive. They condemn the activity, conduct immediate investigation, and often immediately terminate the contract. Below are a few examples of how some industries deal with child labour.

Sherrin footballs: In 22 September 2012, the Sydney Morning Herald reported the findings of a 12-month investigation by the Herald that children in India are working, sometimes forced, in the painstaking and painful hand stitching of footballs, netballs and soccer balls. These included the Sherrin footballs, a well-known Australian brand, being hand-stitched by children as young as 10 years, for as little as AUD 0.12 a ball.1 Within five days of this report, Sherrin announced that it had pulled all ball manufacturing from its Indian subcontractors, after admitting some of its balls were made using child labour. According to a Sydney Morning Herald report, Sherrin’s parent company, Russell Corporation, said it was “extremely grateful” the matter had been brought to its attention and that, with immediate effect, no balls would be allowed to be subcontracted out for stitching. The Australian managing director of the company went on to say: “We have a zero tolerance policy regarding the use of underage workers, and we are appalled that one of our subcontractors has used child labour in the stitching of our footballs.” The company response was swift and decisive and the “zero tolerance” of child labour was clearly demonstrated.

Hershey: The Hershey Company is facing lawsuit filed in the Court of Chancery in Delaware, USA by the Louisiana Municipal Police Employees’ Retirement System, a public pension fund and a Hershey shareholder. They are seeking information whether Hershey knew they were using supplies from West Africa that uses child labour, as this would be a violation of federal child trafficking laws.2 A 2011 study by Tulane University found that 1.8 million children in the Ivory Coast and Ghana work in the cocoa industry and that the vast majority of them were unpaid.3 In October 2012, grocer Whole Foods Markets, Inc. removed Hershey’s chocolate brand Scharffen Berger from shelves after a “Raise the Bar, Hershey?” campaign by advocates, who sought to put the spotlight on child labour in chocolate production.

Apple: Apple Inc. discovered in 2012 that at least eleven 15-year-old children were working in three factories that supply Apple. Apple investigated and later reported that the child workers are now no longer being used, or are no longer underage.4 In each of the three facilities, we required a review of all employment records for the year as well as a complete analysis of the hiring process to clarify how underage people had been able to gain employment,” Apple said, in an annual report on its suppliers.5

Disney’s Cars: There was a report in 2011 that Disney’s best-selling Cars toys were being made in a factory in China that uses child labour and forces staff to do three times the amount of overtime allowed by law, according to an investigation. The factory, called Sturdy Products, makes toys for Mattel Company. Disney responded, “We take these matters impacting our licenses and business partners very seriously and will continue to evaluate this situation based upon the information available to us.” Wal-Mart issued a statement in which it said: “As soon as we learned of the allegations of human rights abuses at the Sturdy Products factory, we immediately launched an investigation.”6

Tobacco industry: The tobacco industry purchases tobacco leaf that uses child labour. While the industry acknowledges child labour is used in tobacco cultivation, however, it continues to purchase and profit from these leaves. Although the problem has been prevalent for many years, it appears nowhere near to being eliminated. The industry hides behind corporate social responsibility activities directed at children and farming communities, but the problem remains entrenched in the industry. Unlike other industries that terminate contracts or put in place a zero tolerance for child labour, the tobacco industry has set no such polices or target date for complete eradication. They have been collecting detailed data about the extent of problem, as in the case of the Philippines, but continue to buy leaves manufactured using child labour.

In the Philippines, an Eliminating Child Labour in Tobacco Growing Foundation (ECLT) survey in 2008 in Alcala in Pangasinan, Baloan in La Union, San Emilio and San Juan in Ilocos Sur, and Pinili in Ilocos Norte, found:

- Nearly half of all the children (47%) in the survey areas are involved in an activity indicative of child labour. Specifically by age group, 66% of children aged 12 to 14 are involved in activities indicative of child labour, 44% of children aged six to 11 and 31% of 15 to 17 year olds.
- The average weekly hours worked by children in tobacco cultivation, however, it continues to purchase and profit from these leaves. Although the problem has been prevalent for many years, it appears nowhere near to being eliminated. The industry hides behind corporate social responsibility activities directed at children and farming communities, but the problem remains entrenched in the industry. Unlike other industries that terminate contracts or put in place a zero tolerance for child labour, the tobacco industry has set no such polices or target date for complete eradication. They have been collecting detailed data about the extent of problem, as in the case of the Philippines, but continue to buy leaves manufactured using child labour.

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It is extraordinary for an industry to continue purchasing and profiting from a product made with child labour without a definitive phase-out or zero tolerance policy in place. According to Prof. Stanton Glantz from the University of California, “If major tobacco companies were genuinely committed to improving the socio-economic conditions of child workers, they should rectify harmful business practices by enforcing a policy that they will not purchase any tobacco grown using child labour.”7

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reject tobacco leaves produced with child labour; and • provide a disincentive for its members who purchase tobacco leaves produced with child labour.

ECLT’s endorsement by international agencies such as the ILO and the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) serves to legitimise and promote it. Meanwhile, its affiliates – the tobacco industry – continue to profit from tobacco produced by child labour.

Article 13 of the global tobacco control treaty, the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), and its related guidelines require Parties (176 countries) to ban tobacco industry related CSR activities. The Parties should ban contributions from tobacco companies to any other entity for “socially responsible causes”, as this is a form of tobacco marketing.

Additionally, Article 5.3 Guidelines in Recommendation 67 calls upon Parties to de-normalize and regulate activities described as “socially responsible” by the tobacco industry.

However, when governments fulfill their obligations and implement the FCTC and ban these CSR activities, the tobacco industry mobilises farmers to oppose and fight these measures. The industry is well aware of the fact that they are not in any position to do work with any government or inter-governmental organisations to eliminate child labour. Meanwhile, the tobacco companies in the ASEAN region have actually increased their CSR activities. Philip Morris, for example, increased its spending in six countries in the ASEAN region from USD 8.2 million in 2009 to USD 10.2 million in 2012. In the Philippines and Thailand, PMI more than doubled its spending on CSR; while in Malaysia it increased its CSR expenses more than five-fold. Although tobacco advertising, sponsorship and promotions are banned in most countries in the region, this ban is circumvented when these CSR activities are given positive coverage in the media. BAT’s CSR activities have been described as a form of “corporate political activity” used to expand access points across government to facilitate dialogue with policymakers and influence public and elected officials.

A 2010 international road map to eliminate worst forms of child labour by 2016 has outlined action points for both government and non-government organisations. It recommends that a government responsibility should be assumed at the highest level and a government should put in place preventive and time-bound measures to fight the worst forms of child labour, including through international cooperation. Periodically reviewing and updating national lists of hazardous work prohibited for children. The road map also recommends creating an environment that aims to combat child labour in the supply chain.

The USA imports both tobacco leaf and cigarette sticks from Indonesia. In 2001, the USA imported about USD 13 million worth of leaf from Indonesia, which increased to USD 26 million in 2010. It is possible to determine if the leaf purchased from Indonesia or any country has used child labour. Tobacco packs have bar codes which contain detailed information about the product including source of its ingredients. A tobacco company should be able to verify if its tobacco came from an area which produces leaf using child labour.

V. Restriction on Importation of Goods Using Child Labour – USA

United States Code 19: (Customs Duties) 1307 – Sec. 1307 prohibits the importation of merchandise produced with forced labour including indentured child labour: All goods, wares, articles, and merchandise mined, produced, or manufactured wholly or in part in any foreign country by convict labour or/and forced labour or/and indentured labour under penal sanctions shall not be entitled to entry at any of the ports of the United States, and the importation thereof is hereby prohibited, and the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to prescribe such regulations as may be necessary for the enforcement of this provision.

Recommendations

• Ban CSR activities conducted by the tobacco industry directly to farming communities; implement WHO FCTC Article 5.3 and Article 13; • Set a definitive deadline i.e., 2015 to completely halt child labour in tobacco farming and apply a phase-in plan at national level; • National governments must take responsibility to end child labour in tobacco production; • Utilise the excise duties from tobacco to provide assistance to tobacco farming communities to keep their children in school; and • Set up a disincentive for the tobacco industry to profit from tobacco leaves produced with child labour – charge a bond to be managed by the government.

IV. Tobacco Industry’s White Wash on Child Labour

The industry-sponsored ECLT was established in 2000 through the collaborative partnership of British American Tobacco (BAT), the International Tobacco Growers Association (ITGA) and International Union of Food. In October 2000 it expanded to include other top tobacco companies in the world including Philip Morris USA, Philip Morris International, Japan Tobacco International and Imperial Tobacco, and leaf merchants Alliance One International, Inc. and Universal Corporation. The ECLT supports projects in Indonesia and the Philippines. In the 13 years of its existence and activities, the problem of child labour has not ended in countries where it conducts activities. While publicly condemning child labour, the organisation and its members have not done the following:

• set a systematic plan to end child labour; and • set a deadline to end child labour in its project countries;

• reject tobacco leaves produced with child labour; and • provide a disincentive for its members who purchase tobacco leaves produced with child labour.

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A. Background

Previous studies in East Java have shown many children aged between 12-13 years, and even younger, are found to be actively working. In tobacco plantations, it is normal for children to work a 24-hour shift, i.e., from 7:00 AM to 7:00 AM the next day. In tobacco warehouses, women and children are often found working long hours, and at nights in enclosed physical settings with minimal facilities and being allowed only limited breaks.

Research conducted by ILO-IPEC on “Child Labour in Tobacco Industry in Jember” in 2007 found that 56% of child workers started working before the age of 15 years, 95% had dropped out of school, the majority work more than 7 hours per day and face a variety of occupational risks. In 2008 the Independent Governmental Initiatives Foundation (YPSM) a local NGO in Jember, interviewed 100 child-workers under the age of 18 years and 100 parents of working children using a written question and answer format. The results showed that 14% of the children interviewed were less than 15 years old, with the youngest being 9 years old, when entering the workforce. Overall 80% of child labour in the tobacco business comprise of girls. The children stopped attending school due to economic reasons and then entered the workforce.

The Indonesian Government has ratified ILO Convention No. 138 by Act No. 1 of 1999, which sets the age limit for children who are forced to work, and ILO Convention 182 by Act No. 1 of 2000 on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, prohibited for children. However, the problem now lies in the implementation of the legislation and regulations.

In principle, the children are prohibited to work; however, in the event of a family’s dire conditions and unfortunate economy, the child can work but it should not deviate from the provisions of the Act as provided in Law No. 13 of 2003 on Manpower. According to the law, their age should not be less than 15 years and children may only do light jobs that do not endanger their physical, mental and moral well-being, for not more than 3 hours, and with the permission of their parents. In addition, the child must continue attending school.

B. Scope of Research

This study will illustrate child labour problems in tobacco farming in two districts of Sampang and Probolinggo in East Java Province. This qualitative study will examine several issues as outlined below:

1. Children’s involvement in labour activities in the agricultural sector in the tobacco farming districts of Probolinggo and Sampang.
2. Types of jobs undertaken by children in the tobacco farming chain, number of hours they devote to work and how they are perceived.
3. Impacts and health risks experienced by children working in tobacco farming.
4. Impact of child labour on continuity of their education, use of children’s leisure time and their future expectations.
5. Local government’s efforts in East Java province to eliminate child labour specifically in the tobacco sector.

C. Methodology

This research is descriptive in nature and is a qualitative study using a participatory approach by the researchers. Primary data was obtained through guided interviews combined with observation techniques, focus group discussion (FGD) with two - four children, and storytelling. Informed consent was obtained before interviews were conducted with the child informants.

In Sampang, data collection was conducted in Baruh village of the Sampang sub-district, Telambah village of the Karang Penang sub-district, Labuhan and Taman villages of the Sreesh sub-district. While in Probolinggo the study was conducted in the sub-districts of Paiton, Kota Anyar and Pakuniran. These three sub-districts are the centre of tobacco plantations in the district of Probolinggo.

Primary data was collected in June and August 2012, while the secondary data was obtained between June and September 2012.

D. Overview of Tobacco Farming

During the tobacco planting season the seedlings need water and fertilizer to enable the plants to grow. After two months the tobacco plants no longer need water and if rain falls over the plants, they will be damaged. Growing tobacco plants need sun; hence, it is suitable to plant in the dry season.

Harvesting or picking tobacco leaves is done in phases. The first tobacco picked is the “grosok” that is the dry leaves from the bottom-most part of the plant, followed by the “bottom” green leaves at the lower end. Then the “middle”, which is the leaves...
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In Bucor Kulon village, the farmers sell their nampangin. The tobacco farmers sell chopped dried tobacco leaves directly to the cigarette factories. Instead, there are several tobacco commodity channels that farmers go through:

- The tobacco farmers sell chopped dried tobacco to collector merchants at the village. These collector merchants send the tobacco to the tobacco warehouse owned by middlemen. The middlemen will then supply to the cigarette factory's warehouse.
- In Bucor Kulon village, the farmers sell their leaves to the merchants or middlemen in the tobacco market. The middlemen then sell to the cigarette manufacturing factory.
- The tobacco farmers sell the chopped dried tobacco to middlemen, who in turn sell to the cigarette manufacturing factory. These middlemen have warehouses to store the tobacco which they later sell to the cigarette factory warehouses.

D.1. Tobacco Farming in Sampang

In September 2012 tobacco products listed at the Plantation Office of East Java province for the District Sampang is 2,915 tons (2,915,000 kg) comprising entirely of Madura tobacco. Sampang district is one of the six tobacco producing areas in East Java, after Pamekasan, Sumenep, District of Probolinggo, Jember, and Bojonegoro.

According to the records of the Integrated Agricultural Development Plan in 2008, the distribution of commodity by the tobacco-farming sub-sector is dominated by tobacco plantations in the northern coastal region of the district of Sampang, i.e., the sub-districts of Banyuates, Ketapang, and Sokobanah. Tobacco productivity in the northern coastal region is 880 kilograms per hectare (kg/ha), while productivity in the District of Sampang is 877 kg/ha (Sampang district in Figures, 2009). As for the productive tobacco plantations, they are found in the northern coastal area as wide as 856 ha (96%) of 886 hectares in the District of Sampang with a production value of 657.04 tons (657,040 kg).

D.2. Tobacco Farming in Probolinggo

Probolinggo has seen a decline in the total area of tobacco farming. According to September 2012 data in the Plantation Office of East Java, the Probolinggo District has 13,240 hectares under tobacco farming. However, the data in 2011 has shown a larger tobacco farming area of 13,609 hectares. The Head of Production Division at the East Java Plantation Office, Elia Hariano, stated the data is not final for 2012, as new reports are being compiled. The 2011 tobacco crops yields from the harvest in Probolinggo District showed 14,837 tons (14,837,00 kg) of tobacco from an area of 13,609 hectares. The data for the tobacco crops in 2012 is still being collected. Tobacco harvests are not spread evenly since the planting stage is not done simultaneously.

D.3. Tobacco Farming Issues

Tobacco harvesting is staggered due to different planting schedules. Some plantings were done ahead to reap early harvests, while others followed later. According to the farmers in both Sampang and Probolinggo districts, there can be only one crop cycle per year, and it is not possible to have two crop cycles. The reason for this is that tobacco plants grow well during the dry season. At the initial planting, a lot of water is required, however, after a month the plants no longer need water. If rain falls during this stage, it would damage the tobacco crops.

In the months of May through to August, there is usually no rain. For fields without irrigation, no other crops can be cultivated except for tobacco. According to Mochtar, a tobacco farmer in Paiton Probolinggo, in the dry and hard soil during these months, only tobacco plants can grow, and no other plants can survive. In fact, in Probolinggo, some tobacco plants were planted on the banks of a river that has dried up and appears rocky. This is one reason why sometimes tobacco farmers persist in tobacco farming, even though they incur losses. They are workers who refuse to remain idle and plant the land with tobacco since it cannot be planted with other crops, even though it may lead to losses. To begin the work, the farmers often have to sell their belongings, such as gold jewellery, livestock or their motorcycles. It is common that they get trapped by loan sharks to obtain their initial start-up capital.

In the 2011 harvest season, chopped dried tobacco reached a price of IDR 47,000 (USD 4.80) per kg. However, tobacco price fell in 2012 and was only IDR 24,000 (USD 2.45) per kg. Many tobacco farmers ended with having low quality tobacco, which fetched a price of only IDR 20,000 (USD 2.00) per kg, while some were even priced at only IDR 11,000 per kg. This fluctuating condition is certainly difficult for farmer's economy because the selling price is below the cost of production. Apparently the big tobacco companies are not able to help the farmers away from this difficulty.

E. Child Labour in Tobacco Farming

E.1. Child Labour Profile

Six children, three boys and three girls, provided information for this research from the Sampang district. Another six children, three boys and three girls, participated from Probolinggo. They are aged between 11 and 16 years, with a few still in school while others had already dropped out. Those still in school work in the afternoons and evenings, while those who have dropped out start work in the morning and continue through to the afternoon, evening and night. They work to help their parents and neighbours and they also work independently during off-season of tobacco growing.

Child labour is used in almost all aspects of tobacco growing and preparation of leaf for sales. In general, during the planting season, the children work by planting tobacco seedlings, watering and applying fertilizer to the new growing tobacco plants. During the harvest season, the children pick tobacco leaves, fold the leaves to prepare them for chopping and set the chopped tobacco leaves on bamboo shoots (nampangin) to dry in the sun (curing tobacco).

Parents and employers are fully aware that they utilize child labour and there is no resistance because it is accepted as a common and normal practice in the village. Naturally, the children who work, especially those who put in long hours, experience fatigue. However they do not want to stop working because not working when there is work would make them feel awkward since other children are working in their villages.

E.2. Child Education

Children working in the tobacco growing sector comprise of those still actively going to school and those who have dropped out. Those who are attending school are generally at the basic education level of primary and junior high school; although, we also found there were primary school drop-outs.

Child workers who are still schooling work after school either in the evenings or nights, or on holidays. During the planting season the child workers water the tobacco plants in the afternoon after school. During the harvest season, the working children fold the tobacco leaves and...
During the harvest season, female children in Probolinggo are involved in folding leaves to prepare them for chopping.

"nampangin" starts from around 4:00 until 7:00 or 8:00 at night. On a Saturday night or holiday evenings, they admit to working until 10:00PM.

Those who are still schooling remain in the school system, but those who have dropped out, work becomes their main activity. The money these drop-out children earn is not enough to get them back to school. They usually end up in skills trainings and attend Catch-Up Program.

E.3. Child Health

In the course of their work child workers experience fatigue and other symptoms such as dizziness or nausea. Children are also exposed to occupational injuries such as accidents from the use of sickles.

The child workers are also exposed to green tobacco sickness (GTS), a disease associated with tobacco, although it is difficult to confirm if the children are indeed afflicted with this. GTS symptoms include headache, nausea and body weakness. Children working with tobacco claim to have experienced all of these symptoms at some time or other. It cannot be ascertained whether the children working in the tobacco farming sector are suffering from GTS because these symptoms are similar to that of a cold, flu or exhaustion from regular work, and not exclusive to tobacco farming.

GTS is rather difficult to trace because the medical personnel (doctors) at the Paiton Community Health Centre in Probolinggo who were contacted have never heard of this disease. According to the doctor on duty there, during the tobacco harvest season, the community health centre is deserted as the local community is busy in various jobs in the tobacco sector. This means sick persons including those experiencing GTS symptoms are caught up in the hustle and bustle of harvesting tobacco that brings money in. Even if children or adults fall victim to GTS, chances are it will go undetected by the medical professionals in the midst of thousands of acres of tobacco plants.

E.4. Usage of Earnings

In general, the children admitted that the earnings they received from work supplemented the family income. Person receiving the children's wages are the parents of working children however, the wages for the full-time child labourers are received by the children directly from the employers. These earnings are partly given to the parents and partly used for the children's own needs.

The children spend their earnings on themselves to buy snacks, including cigarettes. Children who smoke can finish a 12-sticks pack over two days. They smoke relatively cheap brands at IDR 5,000 - or IDR 6,000 per pack. Children who smoke do not use tobacco products produced from their own village.

None of the wages were saved for the children's long-term future. The wages received by the child workers are insufficient to get them to return to school.

E.5. Exploitation and Violence

The type of work that children do is the same as that of adults except for chopping tobacco, which is done only by skilled adults. Children's work in the tobacco farming sector are: planting tobacco seedlings, watering the growing seedlings, applying fertilizers, picking out caterpillars from the leaves, harvesting tobacco leaves, folding the leaves and arranging the chopped tobacco on bamboo shoots (nampangin) to cure it.

If the work is barangan (contract work) in nature, the wages of the child workers are valued the same as adult workers, where the wages depend on the quantity of work done by the child workers. The nature of the contract work ranges from folding and "nampangin" or curing the chopped tobacco leaves. If the child workers are aiming for more wages, they have to work until late hours in the evening when fatigue sets in and they become sleepy. In non-contract work, the wages for the child workers are less than that of the adults.

There were no reported acts of violence from the employers. However, a workplace without protection and safety, such as no face-masks or gloves available, or working under the hot sun, is common; therefore, the child workers often feel "tortured".

E.6. Expectations of the Child Workers

For child workers who are still in school, there are expectations for continuing education to a higher level. Work is now considered a common activity done by children their age and does not affect their aspirations for the future. Those school children put more priority on continuing school and working outside school hours, even though it reduces their study time and play time. Sometimes, light work is even considered as part of play.

Meanwhile, child workers who have dropped out generally find it harder to return to school. They expect to attend skills training programmes or Catch-Up Program. They have expectations of receiving a school certificate from the Catch-Up Program that will be used for better jobs than becoming a labourer in the village or in the farms.

E.7. Efforts to Eliminate Child Labour

Child labour is an important issue that needs to be addressed thoroughly and in a sustained manner. This commitment to children is stated in the form of the aspiration “Future Without Child Labour” as a global effort to end child labour.

To prevent children from entering employment from an early age, laws have been passed, namely Law no. 13 of 2003 on Manpower, and Law no. 20 of 2003 on the National Education System. To provide protection for children in family settings, Law no. 23 of 2002 on the Child Protection was
The existence of the BPTA Committee is authorized by the East Java Governor Decree No. 188/573 / KPTS / 013/2011. The committee has completed a BPTA Plan of Action for the period of 2012 – 2016 which has been determined in the Decree of the Head of Manpower, Transmigration and Population in the East Java Province Number: 560/250 / KPTS / 106.05 / 2012. One of the programs on the reduction of child labour is the PPA-CCT (Reduction of Child Workers - Family Hope Program).

F. Conclusion

F.1. Child labour in tobacco farms was found in both the districts of Probolinggo and Sampang. The children were found to work during the planting as well as the harvesting seasons. Generally they enter the workforce before the age of 15 years, and some even before 13 years of age.

F.2. During the planting season, the child workers usually water the growing tobacco plants and fertilize them. During the harvest season, the children work in the fields picking tobacco leaves, bring rolls of leaves from the fields to the house, fold the leaves to be chopped and organize the chopped tobacco for curing in the sun (“nampangan”), then pack the dried tobacco into big rolls (“negoedak” or “negohit”).

F.3. Child workers were found to work between 3 to over 7 hours a day. They earn around IDR 15,000 - to IDR 25,000, per day depending on the type of work, the amount of work that can be completed or the time taken to complete a task. The part time child workers do not receive their wages directly, and parents have control over it; while the full time child workers receive their earnings directly from the employers, and some would share with their parents.

F.4. Child workers who earned wages spend the money on themselves, which also includes cigarettes. No child smokes cigarettes from the tobacco harvests in their respective village. They prefer to buy branded manufactured cigarettes to smoke daily. One pack of cigarettes is usually smoked over 1 - 2 days.

F.5. The existence of child labour in tobacco farming violates the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified by Indonesia and Law No. 23 of 2002 on Child Protection. It is also a violation of the ILO Convention No. 138 and Act No. 20 of 1999, which sets the age limit for children who are forced to work.

F.6. Child labourers experience fatigue and illness as a result of their work. The children working in the tobacco sector admitted they have experienced headaches, nausea, fevers or body weakness. However, the symptoms do not appear all at the same time. Therefore, it is uncertain whether these symptoms are related “green tobacco sickness” (GTS). Since GTS is new to the medical staff many do not understand this disease fully, therefore it is also difficult for them to ascertain whether this disease is present.

F.7. Children enter the workforce by leaving school or dropping out of school first. Then, rather than being idle, they enter the workforce full time.

F.8. Those still in school and living with parents will continue their education until they finish basic education or higher. Whereas, those children who have dropped out of school due to poor family economic conditions will find it difficult to re-enter school on the poor wages they receive.

F.9. The East Java provincial government has made efforts to tackle child labour by establishing a Provincial Action Committee (Komite Aksi Nasional - KAP) on the Elimination of child labour through the East Java Governor Decree No. 188/573 / KPTS / 013/2011. KAP has developed a Provincial Action Plan (RAP) through a Decree of the Head of the East Java Nakkertransduk Number: 560/250 / KPTS / 106.05 / 2012.

F.10. The PPA-PKH program conducted by Disnakertransduk in 2012 covers 16 districts involving 2,010 children. In the district of Probolinggo, the program has established six shelters which are able to provide assistance up to 10 children. The Sampang district is not covered by this PPA - PKH program yet.

G. Recommendations

G.1. Tobacco has been declared as an addictive substance since it contains nicotine that is harmful to health. Aside from smoking a cigarette, nicotine from tobacco leaves can enter the human body through the pores of the skin. Children should not be working in this sector, especially in a job where there are no protective clothing or other occupational health and safety measures such as masks and gloves.

G.2. Poverty is apparent among the child workers and their homes. The children wear dirty clothes, live in small dilapidated houses with minimal furnishings. This situation needs the attention of the government and all parties, especially to meet...
the child’s right to education, and continuing education needs to be sustained at least until they finish secondary or high school; this is to prevent drop-outs from entering employment at an early age.

G.3. The national and local government should make policies and provide for budgets to ensure that every child would not drop-out at the primary and secondary education to avoid them becoming child workers.

G.4. For those children who have dropped out of school for a few years and find it hard to return, skills and life skills training should be provide for their future. Parents and the community should be persuaded not to involve children and certainly not in dangerous and unhealthy conditions, including working at night, working hard or long hours that interfere with their development.

G.5. It is common for tobacco farmers to incur a loss, because the harvest is not good enough which results in prices to fall. Low yields and poor quality tobacco could be due to natural conditions, such as high winds or rain during the harvesting season and pest attacks such as caterpillars that damage the growing tobacco leaves.

G.6. The existence of middlemen in the supply chain of tobacco puts farmers in a more vulnerable position in determining the commodity prices. The farmers remain vulnerable to price assessment determined only by the middlemen who purchase tobacco leaves from them and supply to cigarette manufacturers.

G.7. In the months of May–August, the land becomes dry without irrigation making it suitable only for tobacco, even though there is the risk of inevitable loss to the farmers. The government should intervene to provide for the farmers in the countryside to overcome their numerous problems through alternative activities.

REFERENCES


Arranging (nampangin) chopped tobacco leaves on bamboo weaves for curing under the sun is usually done by female children.