

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

This thesis will analyze the role of The International Labor Organization (ILO) in dealing with the exploitation of child labor in Indonesia through the International Programme on The Eliminating of Child Labor (IPEC). The ILO thinks that there are still 215 million children who are working or have to work. Child labor is when children are made to work and are against the rules of the world. Rules that must be followed. Are done by children who are too young to work legally. It is a problem because it can be dangerous for the child and can interfere with their education and growth. It is important to protect children from being forced to work and to ensure they have access to education and safe childhood. This is not okay because it involves kids, whereas they are too young and should be in school, or maybe because they are old enough to work, their job is not safe for people under 18 (Asih, 2015). According to Central Bureau of Statistics, data on child labor in each province in Indonesia at the age of 10 to 17 years from 2020 to 2022.

Based on BPS data, 2022 Percentage of working children aged 10-17 years by province in Indonesia the level of child labor in each province varies from 2020 to 2022. In 2020 Southeast Sulawesi province has the highest percentage of child workers at 8.05% . In Indonesia, from 2020 to 2022 the number of child workers has decreased by 3.25% in 2020, by 2.63% in 2021, and by 2.44% in 2022. This is due to the government implementing the International Labor Organization (ILO)) as an international organization that deals with issues in labor and employment. This program realizes the elimination of child labor by strengthening a national capacity to overcome all forms of child labor and creating a worldwide movement in combating the phenomena that occur in child labor. IPEC is one of the agencies collaborating with the ILO in implementing a gradual multi-sectoral strategy to motivate a broad range of alliances and partners by recognizing and taking the lead in fighting child labor (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2022).

Even though efforts have been made to stop children from working in Indonesia, it is still a problem that exists. The ILO's IPEC found that many children work in different jobs like cleaning, fishing, mining, collecting trash, farming, entertaining, and more. This list doesn't show all the types of child labor, but it does show the ways people are trying to record them. Children who work are easy targets for bad people who may kidnap or hurt them. If child labor

is not stopped, these children will grow up to have a tough time finding good jobs. They won't be able to support their own families, have kids that they can give a better life to, or help their country grow (Wilson, C. D., Taylor, J. A., Kowalski, S. M., & Carlson, J. 2010).

The MoWECP has a report for 2020 about Indonesian children and their situation. It talks about children who work and are between the ages of 10 and 17. This report is the newest information that the government has on child labor. A report shows that some children are working when they are not allowed to. The report looked at information from a survey in 2019. The survey found that 1. 87% of children aged 10 to 12 and 5. 14% of children aged 13 to 14 were working when they should not be. In 2019, there were 2. 35 million children between the ages of 10 to 17 who were working. Most of them worked in farming, some in providing services, and some in making products. There is not enough information about kids who work and are between 5 and 10 years old. Different government departments don't all use the same information about the workforce from the 2019 survey. For example, the Ministry of Manpower still uses old and wrong guesses about child labor from a survey done in 2009 (Wilson, C. D., Taylor, J. A., Kowalski, S. M., & Carlson, J. 2010).

Kids who work on tobacco farms in East Java, Central Java, and West Nusa Tenggara are at risk of being hurt by pesticides, working too much, carrying heavy things, and working in really hot weather. Kids who work on farms where they grow things like palm trees, coffee, and rubber, pick up the fruits and plants that fall to the ground. They also use dangerous chemicals to kill weeds on the farm. Sometimes, children are asked by their families to help gather palm oil with grown-ups. This can make the children work very long hours, even until it's dark outside. They may have to stop going to school to do this work. In the city of Bima, on an island called Sumbawa, kids work as horse riders. This can be dangerous because they can get hurt and even die if they fall off the horse. Horse racing can cause students to be absent from school. It can also be unsafe (Yale H. Ferguson, 2016).

There is a law called 78/2021 that says the government must protect children who have been forced to work, sold like slaves, sexually exploited, trafficked, or who have disabilities or belong to a minority group. Comprehensive protection means giving help to people who need physical, emotional, and social care. This can include supporting children from families that do not have a lot of money and helping in legal situations. The government gave a health card to help poor families in Indonesia who are having a hard time because of the pandemic. This card can help them with basic things they need and reduce the risk of children having to work.

The amount of money KIS will have in 2021 is the same as the amount they had in 2020 - \$3.43 billion (Yale H. Ferguson, 2016).

The ILO has a program called IPEC that was made in 1992. It wants to help stop child labor by teaching countries how to deal with the problem and making a worldwide effort to fight against it. IPEC works in 88 countries and spends more than \$61 million each year on projects to help people technically. This is the biggest program in the world that the ILO runs. IPEC is trying to stop children from working, which is a very important part of the ILO's goal to make work better for everyone. Child labor stops kids from getting an education and skills for their future. It also adds to poverty and makes countries less competitive and productive, which means they lose money. Taking kids out of work and getting them an education, as well as helping their families find jobs, helps grown-ups have better work. The main aim of IPEC is to stop all kinds of child labor. However, they are currently focusing on the worst types of child labor defined in the ILO Convention of 1999. This is a list of bad situations that should never happen to people. It includes slavery, selling children, and making kids work in dangerous situations. It also involves using children for things like making drugs or doing illegal things. No one should ever do these things to children (Abdelkarim, A., Schween, D., & Ford, T. G., 2018).

As for the existence of child labor, there are many factors that cause its existence. And the poverty factor is mentioned as the main factor causing the emergence of child labor. Not to mention the risks and impacts of children's involvement in work, in the sense that everything that is experienced and felt is disturbing to the point of being harmful to children. Child labor is a cause and effect of poverty. Poor families encourage their children to work for additional family income, or even as a means of survival. The existence of child labor actually perpetuates poor families for generations, slow economic growth and social development. Poverty is the main driver for children to enter the labor market, because parents really need their children's labor to earn household income. However, the reality shows that not all poor people allow their children to enter the world of work. This means that there are other facts, including social, cultural, demographic factors (Naufaludin Ismail., 2017).

The potentials that can increase the number of child workers are the low level of public education. The causes include the uneven quality of teachers, the low quality of prospective workers, and the unfavorable character of prospective workers, as well as the lack of suitable job opportunities in the education sector. The role of education is to provide knowledge and

skills, thereby increasing productivity and creating access to employment. The economic factor is one of the strongest factors in encouraging the existence of underage child labor. The second factor is education. The low level of education of parents makes it difficult for them to get a job which affects their income in meeting their daily needs, so that their children also help by working. The third factor is family conditions, where in a number of cases encountered by researchers, working children live with single parents who have to support their children whether it is due to divorce or orphanage (Abdelkarim, A., Schween, D., & Ford, T. G., 2018).

This program is implemented as a framework within the framework of national efforts to address issues on children, and specifically intends to eliminate forms of child labor cases. The strategy to achieve this goal is through a labor monitoring system in certain sectors such as mining, supporting human rights and protecting child workers through education, vocational training and health services. The ILO through IPEC is responsible for assisting and monitoring countries to eliminate child labor. The ILO also campaigns for children's rights that have not been obtained such as education, health and protection of children from economic exploitation.

Indonesia's leaders promised to get rid of kids working, especially when it's terrible for them. The promise was made when they agreed to follow ILO Convention No. 182. This passage is talking about a law that sets the youngest age someone can legally start working. This refers to two important legal documents created in 1999 by the International Labor Organization. Act No 182 prohibits the worst forms of child labor and takes quick action to eliminate them. This shows that Indonesia is dedicated to stopping bad labor practices and a law that was made to protect children, known as Act No. 23 of 2002. In 2003, the government made a law about the workers. The Indonesian government made a promise to stop a bad thing called WFCL and a group called NAC-EWFCL to make it happen. The actions that need to be taken are decided by the National Action Plan to get rid of WFCL. This plan is in the Presidential Decree No. 59 of 2002 (Abdelkarim, A., Schween, D., & Ford, T. G., 2018).

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in finding out more about the role of the International Labor Organization (ILO) in dealing with the exploitation of child labor in Indonesia through the International Programme On The Eliminating Of Child Labor (IPEC). This research will focus on discussions in international relations

theory regarding the role of international labor organizations and the functions of this ILO organization through IPEC in dealing with the exploitation of child labor in Indonesia.