



IPEC



International
Labour
Organization

Young workers in the tourism sector: risks and opportunities

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Forms of child labour in tourism

- **It's not child's play !**



Meet Rajiv...



- 12 year old porter in Nepal
- carries 25kg on a trekking tour
- paid about a half of adult wage
- legal working age in Nepal: 14 years
- no time to attend school
- thrilled to find an opportunity to help support his family



what do children do in the tourist industry?

- Accommodation
- Catering / food and beverage
- Excursions, recreational activities, entertainment industry
- Tours and transport
- Producing souvenirs
- Selling souvenirs



Accommodation



- **Workplaces:**

hotels, holiday resorts, boarding houses, guesthouses, lodges, bed&breakfast places, rooms in private homes; laundries and cleaning firms

- **Occupations:**

receptionist, baggage attendants, bell-boys, lift-boys, porters, garden hands, cleaners, helpers in laundry and ironing, etc



Catering / food and beverage

- **Workplaces:**
restaurants, cafes, teashops, snack bars, beer gardens, pubs, bars, beach shacks, street stands, itinerant food vending stalls
- **Occupations:**
kitchen helpers, waitresses and waiters, delivery boys, dishwashers, water-carriers, cleaners, vendors of fruit, snacks and ice-creams



Excursions, entertainment



- **Workplace:**
excursion sites, tourist sight-seeing spots, sport and beach activities, fitness centres, animal shows, circuses, folklore performances, casinos, night clubs, massage salons, brothels
- **Occupation:**
tour guides, ticket & postcard vendors, flower-girls, photo “models“, shoeshine boys, beggars, beach cleaners, acrobats, divers for pennies, golf caddies...



Tour operating and transport

- Workplaces:

travel agencies, airports, train stations, bus and taxi firms, excursion and transfer boats

- Occupations:

small handling agents, errand-boys, baggage attendants, bus attendants, car washers and guards, ship-boys, deck-hands, porters, etc



Souvenir production



- **Workplaces:**

Wood carving and plastic processing, textile industry, sewing shops, straw and palm leaf manufacturing, shell, coral and mother-of-pearl processing, carpet-weaving, tanning, leather production, gem industry, precious stones mining, etc

- **Occupations:**

manufacturers of all kinds, shell and pearl divers



Selling of souvenirs

- Workplaces:
shops, hotel
boutiques, stands,
itinerant sales
activities on streets
and beaches
- Occupations:
souvenir vendors
of all kinds



children working in tourist areas

- are often behind the scenes, invisible.
- most people don't regard them as "child labour"
- BUT, many are in its worst forms
- **how many exactly?**
...we don't know!



Overlap of “youth” and “child”

- Youth = 15-24 years old.

[general UN usage when discussing “youth employment” etc.]

- Child = below the age of 18 years

[Legal definition under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and ILO C182] therefore,

- 15-17 years age group
= “young workers” and “children”
at the same time



An occupational accident case:

- **A 17-year-old girl had part of her left ring finger amputated** after her fingers were crushed in a pie-making machine at the bakery where she worked.
- The teenager had been employed for the duration of her Easter holiday. She had only been working for one hour before the accident happened. Her left hand was dragged into the machine after she had tried to remove a pie from the machine's rotating table.
- She had touched a safety flap on a guard in front of the pastry press. But the machine was faulty and her hand was dragged through the flap so that the press came down on her fingers

Source: European Agency for Health and Safety at Work
<http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/7606507>



Another accident case

- **A teenage kitchen worker suffered serious burns** to his legs from a faulty pasta boiler. A Portuguese national who spoke no English, he was scalded when he accidentally knocked open a drain connector, which had become stuck.
- The company's health and safety policy instructed the restaurant manager to report any machine fault and mark the machinery 'out of use'. The restaurant manager had not been made aware of any such requirements. The company's own internal accident investigation was virtually non-existent. The company employs a large number of non-English speaking employees, yet none of the health and safety information was translated.
- **The company pleaded guilty** and was fined GBP 15 000 for failing to protect the health, safety and welfare of its employees and a further GBP 3 000 for failing to report the accident within 10 days. They were ordered to pay GBP 5 000 in compensation to the injured person and legal costs of GBP 16 875.

[same source as the previous case]



Thank you for your attention !



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