**Introduction**

Is child labor still an issue within our decade? Most people think that child labor doesn’t exist anymore in the United States. In 1938 the “Fair Labor Standards Act” was passed in order to put a stop to child labor. Children were allowed to work under very hot weather. Many children say they have to carry their own water or buy it on the fields because the water that is provided to them is dirty or it is tap water from communities near by.

Many workers said there are no toilets and hand washing facilities available for them on the fields only during pumpkin season. They have to bring their own water to wash their hands. If they don’t wash their hands they can get infections.

Hundreds of thousand of children work every day in the United States agriculture. Children under the age of eighteen work in farms in order to help support their families. With the money they earn they buy food, repair the family’s truck, pay phone bills, buy clothes and supplies for school. When they work that can face many conditions for example, the lack of education, sanitation, working with dangerous machinery, equipment, tools, sexual harassment and violence.

The Humans Rights Watch also asked parents why they let their children work. Some parents said they allow their children to work because they don’t have enough money to pay for childcare, they do not meet basic expenses for example, food and they want to keep the family together, especially when they migrated.

**Education**

A third of children who work and go to school at the same time have a tendency to drop out before graduating from high school. When these children attend school they fall asleep in class, arrive late, study few hours and get grades of an F. The median highest grade these children accomplish is the 8th grade. Since these children don’t have a diploma they have no choice but to keep working in agriculture with a low pay. In California, the drop out rate for migrant children was over 50 percent in 2005.

There are organizations that help migrant children with their education. According to NCLB (No Child Left Behind) the purpose of Migrant Education is to support high quality education programs to help support their education that was disrupted due to work, ensure that children who migrate between states are not penalized in curriculum, and graduation requirements. They also design programs to help migrant children overcome educational disruption, cultural and language barriers, and social isolation.

**Sanitation**

Another problem that children face in the United States Agriculture is that they are not provided with drinking water, hand washing facilities, and toilets. According to Human Rights Watch, the Occupational Safety and Health Act requires that a group with more than 10 people should get drinking water, toilets and hand water facilities.

The reason why they are require to provide this is because the employees work under very hot weather. Many children say they have to carry their own water or buy it on the fields because the water that is provided to them is dirty or it is tap water from communities near by.

**Dangerous Equipment**

Many young children are required to use knives and chainsaws at a young age with little to no experience in fields. Many children end up having to work again in the same day that they were injured. Deaths are common among workers. Forty-one percent of these come from tractors or vehicles. Forty percent of these children are required to climb ladders. Forty percent of these children are required to use knives.

Since 1966, only twenty cases of sexual abuse or assault have reached a higher court due to the lack of reports from victims. Until very recently in 2005, Olivia Tamayo was the first female farm worker to successfully challenge her employer in federal court.

**Conclusion**

Children work in order to help out their families but they face many obstacles. They deserve an education like every child, there are many programs that help out migrant children. We can help them by donating money. Child labor does exist in the U.S. but we can try to put an end to it.

**Literature cited**


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**Acknowledgments**

We thank Professor Roure and Professor Martinez for guiding us and helping us in our project. Your advice was very helpful.