

Committee: International Labour Organization

Question: Does technology help or hinder the working conditions?

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In the past century, the rate of industrialization and the introduction of technology has greatly affected the way we work today. Big advancements were made in light of COVID-19, pressuring a large amount of the population to work through distance-technology.

The International Labour Rights Forum wants to have laws that protect workers from the global corporations that violate their rights and for workers to hold the corporations accountable and strengthen their voice to speak up for their rights.

The International Labour Rights Forum has acknowledged that working circumstances have changed drastically over the past half year and certain workers were forced into undesirable positions like losing jobs. Unemployment percentages have reached record highs in certain places causing economic issues for millions of people. The ILRF recognizes this issue and takes into account. Could (some) of these jobs be saved due today's technology?

Technological advancements have replaced certain jobs but also opened up opportunities for new ones, due to this, higher education is more required because the jobs that don't require it are replaced with automated machines. This then leads to the point of working conditions in companies with high end machines. Do these expensive machines take our attention away from the poor working conditions people are forced into since the money is spent on the machines and not on making the workplace suitable for its workers? Or are companies only spending large amounts of money on machines if and only if they can afford to maintain the working conditions that were present before?

The people who do not have access to higher education or technology are greatly affected by today's advancements. They can no longer work the jobs they once wanted to, potentially causing them into forced labour of if it's from a young age, child labour. In that case, technology strongly hinders their working conditions. This is because the jobs they once could have had, with a fair pay and acceptable conditions is now replaced by technology. In today's big companies, it is very rare that companies hire someone with no technological knowledge or no higher education. This causes them to be workless and go into forced labour. The ILRF dedicates it's time to achieve dignity and justice for workers worldwide.

The people who do have access to higher education and/or technology are put in privileged positions. Their jobs aren't replaced by technology and they learn how to use it from a young age. This gives them an advantage with situations like the coronavirus, where people were forced to leave their jobs either because it was a service or due to their little knowledge of technology, their knowledge didn't allow them to work from distance. People who have and have had access to technology kept doing their jobs as normal, their previous education allowed them too, never causing financial problems. This helps the working conditions for the more privileged people because it's their home from where they work at and since their knowledge is so much, they bring good money to the company leading to good pay.

The ILRF had some difficulties with the corona virus because it was hard to know where there was forced and child labour because most people weren't working. We value that labour rights are universal and that they are the central pillar of social justice and economic development. We believe that technology helps and hinders the working conditions but also that it depends on if the workers have to work from distance or just in general how the money is spent inside a company. If it's long-distance working, it is very difficult to assess working conditions.