

The underage child
employment.
congress then
passed the

[Government](#)



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The Progressive Era rose as a response to immense changes brought about by modernizations, growth of corporations, pollution and corruption in the government. During the period between 1908 to 1920, there was widespread child labor in the U. S. soil. Children would work in industrialized factories in the midst of all the pollution and difficult working conditions all-day and even through extended hours. Even though this was a practice against the law, it was considered helpful especially for those children who came from not well-off families. The children were subjected to harsh working conditions and even during the winters, they would work upwards of 50 hours a week.

The children wanted to go to school and learn but were not able since they were working all the time. The working sites were not only risky but harmful as well for the children. Due to exposure to such conditions, most children would find themselves indulging in destructive behaviors such as drug abuse in order to numb what they felt on the inside; pain. Hine's photographs aided in creating awareness of the much needed child labor reform. This resulted in many states banning underage child employment. Congress then passed the Fair Labor Standards Act in 1938, which was declared constitutional in 1941 setting working hours to 40 per week and a 40 cents wage payment per hour.

The act prohibited employment in industries with hazardous conditions of ages below 18 while employment in non-hazardous environments was set at 16. This played a big role in the progressive era in America where major issues were discussed and worked upon one after another.