

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY POLICIES IN SERBIA IN THE CONTEXT OF CHILD'S RIGHTS PROTECTION

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INTRODUCTION

Child's rights protection is closely interrelated with environmental conservation. Several aspects of child's rights depend on environment quality. The violation of environmental protection provisions may result in the violation of child's rights. Violation of child's rights through the violation of environmental provisions may occur not only through criminal offences against environment, but also through long-term application of environmental policies that are harmful for child's rights or do not take into consideration the needs and best interest of children.

LITERATURE REVIEW / THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

In this paper, child's rights and environmental protection are defined in accordance with relevant international legal documents ratified by the Republic of Serbia, Constitution of the Republic of Serbia and national legislation regulating the protection of child's rights on the one hand and environmental protection, on the other. Strategic documents from which the conclusions about public policies in the field of child's rights protection and environmental conservation are drawn, are also analyzed in this paper, along with reports of relevant international and state bodies.

METHODOLOGY

Two methodological approaches are applied in this paper. Normative method is applied for the purpose of interpretation of relevant national and international legislation pertinent to child's rights protection and environmental conservation as well as on strategic documents setting directions and goals for future normative

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and practical steps in these areas. Qualitative study is applied on relevant reports with the aim to obtain the information about current courses in policies regarding these two areas in the Republic of Serbia as well as to identify key challenges in these fields.

RESULTS

The analysis of the aforementioned material is aimed at estimating whether child's rights are sufficiently taken into consideration in relevant legislative, strategic and policy documents dedicated to environmental protection in the Republic of Serbia. These findings are also compared with the data obtained from relevant reports describing current state of both – environmental and child's rights protection in Serbia.

DISCUSSION / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The results of these analysis indicate that there are some serious concerns regarding the respects of child's rights in the context of environmental protection in Serbia. Based upon these findings, it may be assumed that child's rights are not given the sufficient amount of attention in documents regulating environmental protection and sustainable development in the Republic of Serbia. This particularly refers to children from marginalized groups living in substandard settlements.

CONCLUSION

Normative framework of the Republic of Serbia regulating the issue of environmental protection is harmonized with international standards, but actual policies and practice should be more adjusted to specific needs of children, as particularly vulnerable group. Similar to the concept of "child friendly justice" there seems to be the need for something that the authors of this paper would refer to as "child friendly ecology".

KEYWORDS

Child's rights, Environmental protection, International standards, Human rights, Ecology

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