

OPEN PEER REVIEW

# The Role of Economic Sanctions in Violating Children's Rights

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## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The statement "sanctions not only have unavoidable effects on the lives of individuals, particularly children and adolescents..." could be more specific in terms of the different types of sanctions and their respective impacts. It would be helpful to provide specific examples or case studies to illustrate how these sanctions affect children's rights in particular, rather than using general terms like "unavoidable effects."

The claim that the "right to life takes precedence over other rights" could be further substantiated by exploring philosophical or legal perspectives that prioritize this right over others. A more comprehensive discussion on the legal rationale, supported by jurisprudence, would strengthen this assertion.

You mention that "Medicines are a visible and essential aspect of the right to health." This point should be further expanded by exploring the specific types of medicines and medical equipment that are most affected by sanctions, particularly in the context of children's healthcare needs, and why they are critical for children's survival and development.

The claim about "environmental degradation" due to sanctions needs more clarity. What specific sanctions have caused increased pollution or hindered environmental responses? It would be beneficial to include studies or reports linking sanctions to specific environmental crises that disproportionately affect children.

The statement about the "decrease in family living standards" could benefit from an empirical examination. How do sanctions directly affect family structures and living conditions, especially in the context of children's education, nutrition, and healthcare?

The concept of education being "a fundamental human right, an enabler, and a prerequisite for exercising other human rights" is well articulated. However, this section would be strengthened by a deeper exploration of how sanctions specifically disrupt children's access to education, particularly in conflict zones or countries with restricted international aid.

The argument about economic sanctions leading to "increased illiteracy, school dropouts, and destruction of educational infrastructures" should be expanded by specifying the direct effects on children. Are there examples from countries like Iraq or Venezuela that can demonstrate this pattern?

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

You mention the "catastrophic effects of sanctions on the right to life" without specifying the mechanisms by which sanctions lead to these effects. It would be valuable to explain how sanctions directly contribute to issues such as poverty, disease spread, and mortality rates among children, with relevant data and examples.

The reference to Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the right to food is appropriate; however, the section would benefit from a deeper analysis of how sanctions specifically disrupt food supply chains, using real-world instances to illustrate their impact on access to food for children in sanctioned countries.

The statement "States Parties to the present Covenant... shall take, individually and through international cooperation..." lacks a critical discussion on the failures of international cooperation in sanctioned countries. A review of relevant case studies could highlight instances where international cooperation was insufficient or undermined by sanctions.

The connection between access to clean water and health is crucial, but the link between sanctions and the inability to provide clean drinking water could be developed further. How do sanctions hinder the development or maintenance of water infrastructure? More empirical evidence from countries under sanctions would provide more clarity.

The statement regarding the "impact of unilateral and secondary sanctions on making essential and life-saving medicines inaccessible" requires more specific examples. Can you provide data on how such sanctions have hindered access to life-saving vaccines or treatments for children, especially in countries under comprehensive sanctions?

While referencing UNESCO's Convention Against Discrimination in Education, there could be a more direct connection between economic sanctions and the resulting discrimination in access to education. For example, how do sanctions affect educational infrastructure, such as the availability of textbooks, teachers, or school buildings?

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.