Review of Wikipedia Articles

The review is meant to facilitate further improvement of Wikipedia articles. Suggestions about the quality of a Wikipedia articles can be found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Featured_article_criteria.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the reviewer</th>
<th>Stefano Marmorato</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affiliation</td>
<td>Currently: Jembi Health Systems (South African NGO, in Mozambique)</td>
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<td>Previously: Save the Children (in Mozambique), Slum Dwellers</td>
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<td>International and Community Organisation Resource Centre (South</td>
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<td>Africa), Cesvi (Italian NGO, in South Africa)</td>
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<td>Title of the article</td>
<td>Children's Day</td>
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1. Quality of the Summary
   Is the summary of the article a complete, thorough, and concise introduction to the topic? How do you think the summary could be improved? Which meaningful data are missing? Is there something that you find too much detailed for a general overview of the topic?

   There is an introduction which could function as summary, since it mentions both what is described in the following paragraph (Universal Child Day) and the fact that in many countries around the world there are some sort of celebrations of Children’s Day (and many short or longer accounts are given in the rest of the article, distinguishing country by country).

   Maybe a mention of the differences among the interpretations of the meaning or among the elements emphasized from country to country (or better from group of countries to groups of countries) could improve the completeness of the introduction.

2. Structure and style of the article
   Is the article properly presenting the topic for a general public? Does the article provide a complete and easy-to-navigate structure? Which paragraph would you add, unify or split into different parts? Please provide a list of suggestions. Is the article well written and understandable at a high school level?

   The article does present the topic in a simple language for non-specialists/activists, etc. and the contents are giving a picture of the issue across the world which is clear enough to understand its global interest (and the limitation to awareness raising campaigns or celebrations, without aiming at making any effective change or strong political pressure per se).

   The structure is actually too simple and not fully satisfactory according to me: first, the main paragraph is focused on the UN meaning and interpretation, which then is proved as not the only one, even if I confess that the differences are slight and political more than in the very contents of the celebrations.

   Second, there is little effort to group the many cases presented (I guess, by many authors?) into categories (if this is possible) so that the reader can make a sense of the quantity of information. However, the detail can be appreciated by some researchers, according to the goal of the internet research. So I feel that a conclusion or some meaning of all the info provided could be a nice effort.

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3. Content

Is the article comprehensive of major facts related to the topic? Is the article adequately placing the subject in context? What does it miss? Please provide a list of topics you think should be included in the article (suggestions must be related to bibliography). Do you find that some arguments are not meaningful or representative of the topic for a general public. What should be deleted? Please explain why.

Since the aim is giving a general overview of the phenomenon across the world, the task is difficult and the attempt of summarizing information and a glimpse of everything is overall acceptable.

However I think there is a serious problem in the main descriptive paragraph of the Universal Children’s Day: besides some syntax mistakes (see below in red highlight), there is an unnecessary indication of what UNICEF does (see the yellow highlight – either the author is working for this agency and wants to give visibility to the agency, or he/she picked quotes from UNICEF wikipedia article randomly) and it could have at least be complemented by the description of some other agencies complementing the work by UNICEF (which, by the way, rarely DOES the work, so the paragraph is also a bit too boasting).

In 2000, the Millennium Development Goals outlined by world leaders in order to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015.

*UNICEF delivers vaccines*, works with policymakers for
good health care and education and works exclusively to
help children and protect their rights.[6]

Anyway, the paragraph explains very well what is the real meaning of the celebration (at least according to the UN’s - which is in general shared by everyone who cares about this date) and I feel it is very useful for the young reader.

There is a lack of information I detected in the sub-paragraph about South Africa. The article explicitly says that there is not much interest in the date (so someone has been consulted about it) but… does not say that a lot of emphasis is placed on 16th June, YOUTH DAY, and the historical facts and meaning of that Day, which encompasses the need and aim to protect children's rights (and adolescents' rights, youth in general).

I think it is a serious point missing. Most probably similar gaps are there for other countries I have no knowledge about. E.g. Cuba, where I suspect there are special functions on Children’s Day.

In fact in some African countries there is the Children’s “fortnight” (*a Quinzena da Criança*, in Mozambique) between 1st and 16th June, similarly to the 16 days of Activism of South Africa for the run up to World Aids Day (1st December).

Finally, I felt very uncomfortable for the way the “former and current Communist countries” are dealt with (which one is former and which one is current???? The authors are scared to say… as if they want to respect the mystery of this “pathological thing”). Information was clearly so outdated that it was then corrected by mention of what has changed (Czechoslovakia, USSR dismembered, etc.) but not enough.

And, if a chapter on the socialist meaning and interpretation of Children’s Day is deserved… well, let’s have it. But leaving such a group without proper description of what was unifying their vision on the topic is not very useful (actually it perpetuates myths about the Red Danger).

In general there are odd sentences regarding the communist character of countries or practices. I advise update and revision by someone who knows the matter (and is objective even in the language!). The Germany description suffers from the same disease: East Germany appears as stupidly and “manipulately” focused on “games and presents for children” while West Germany was focused on “political rights” etc… frankly we are in 2015 and some more objectivity would be appreciated.

4. International and local dimension

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Is the article neutral (it presents general and acknowledged views fairly and without bias)? Is the article representative of the international dimension and consolidated research about the topic? If applicable, does the article feature examples from all over the world (no localisms)? Please draft a list of what is missing with related references.

This dimension is very well taken care of by the article. For the sake of precision and detail, the article tried to provide as much information as possible. However, as mentioned above, it is not very satisfactory that the only elaboration (grouping) dealt with the “former or current communist countries” in a superficial way, and with non-updated names and alignment of countries (corrected in a sterile way, as if the collective authors wanted to say “we warn you that there is something wrong here, but we cannot touch the matter… it is too hot we could burn our fingers… so we leave to you a superficial and neutral mention”… which becomes not-so-neutral, in the end of the day, it is at best historically acceptable)

5. References (essential to allow the articles to be improved)
Is the list of publications comprehensive and updated? Does it list the fundamental monographs and papers? Please provide primary/generic and secondary/original resources which need to be included and suggest the list of publications which should be removed.

“Día del Niño” (Wikipedia article in Spanish) mentions South African choice for 16th June (I mean the fact that there is political and people’s passion for the date, not the “almost nothing” reported in the article)


These are just random examples of celebrations in Cuba, where the “communist” past (until recently) did not prevent from adopting the UN interpretation and where Children’s rights have been apparently fulfilled (according to UN reports – e.g. education and health!), despite the political regime so much opposed by who thinks and preaches that rights (in general) would be best fulfilled in a “democratic society”… I do not want to make any political statement, but Children’s Rights real fulfilment might be an opportunity to reflect on which regimes really/practically care about them.