Analisi articolo di giornale “Revealed: Industrial Revolution was powered by child slaves”

The article published in 2010 puts into question the vision of academics about the Industrial Revolution. The writer reports the results of a search for an Oxford student. Especially the children worked, being young they adapted more easily. The children earned money and were urged to start a family before they became autonomous.

The newspaper name is "Independent ". It's an argumentative text. Then the writer continues explaining how it came to this new information: through statistical research. He provides quantitative information. In the first half of the nineteenth century in England more than 1 million of children worked, most from 7 to 12 years. Accounted for 15% of the workforce.

The peasants were accustomed to the work in the fields and therefore were not brought for the work in the factories. The bosses opted to hire children who were paid little and learned quickly.

The study shows that only 35% of children were 10 years old. While from 1791 to 1820 the percentage rose to 55%, to then become from 1821 to 1850 of 60%.

The great presence of children was not a novelty, because they were first made to work in the fields or at artisans. The average age at which children began working was from 11 and a half years in 1791 and 10 years from 1791 to 1850.

They were not paid, but they were only given food and a place to sleep.

In 1790 the practice of exploitation became consolidated.

The research took these data from 600 autobiographies.

The Industrial Revolution changed the society: young people were married before, around the age of 20, there was a greater number of families and this allowed an increase in the population and therefore an increase of people who paid taxes.

The number of women who worked was reduced, because they sent their children to their place and stayed at home.

At the beginning of 1800 the fathers abandoned the family in 18% of the cases, others died in accidents (epidemics, wars). So many children ended up in the worhouses. Many mothers were also forced to send their children to work.

Social transformations are always related to the structure of the family.