
6. CONCLUDING: PLANNING ISSUES

The following conclusions can be drawn from the preceding analysis of youth unemployment:

- Because youth form 80% of the rural to urban migrants and the majority of the urban unemployed, a critical strategy of youth programmes will continue to be attempts to alleviate and perhaps eliminate rural to urban drift of school leavers. This implies that youth planners will need to study and hold dialogue with educators, youth and rural development planners to identify the extent to which their programmes can be made complementary to one another, mutually reinforcing and goal specific.
- There is strong bias towards increasing access to jobs by the educated youth. Continued sponsoring of projects which recruit school leavers is further encouraged by many practical problems such as the difficulties involved in training illiterates, the preferences of employer, the speed of learning among educated young, the need for discipline and political expediency of removing the more articulate educated youth from the streets. However, this solves only half of our problem and responds to only half of the mandate of youth ministries.

The problem of illiterate youth can be seen as arising from rural and urban poverty, underdevelopment of rural regions and certain groups in society. This problem should be thrown into the development arena in the same way as the problem of women, as a problem of a very significant population group whose solution must be the goal of more than one Ministry.

In the meantime however, a very careful assessment of the rationale and goals of youth programmes to specifically include illiterate youth, must be undertaken.

Legal studies to change and/or enact legislation to introduce early entry by youth into the control of production resources such as land, oxen, livestock, water, tools, family labour and capital should be undertaken as a matter of urgency. Such a change would make certain programmes such as young farmers clubs, farm enterprise specific projects and even courses such as accounting and book-keeping much more meaningful in the long run.

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