
7. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

Rural development The youth employment problem, even if it appears as an urban phenomenon, must be seen to be rooted in the rural areas. Consequently, the main solution to the problem must be to increase the attractiveness of and the productive opportunities offered in, the rural areas. But this does not exclude the need for measures in the urban areas aimed predominantly at those youths who are truly born and bred town-dwellers.

Agricultural improvement Within the rural areas all possible efforts must be directed to make agriculture more attractive and productive for the young farmer, whether he farms individually or as part of an organised group. Success will depend to a great extent upon the quality of agricultural training and extension (which should produce young farmers competent in farm management, book-keeping and marketing as well as the more traditional agricultural skills) and upon the availability of land and capital as well as more specific agricultural inputs. More research resources will have to be devoted to finding new ways of improving small farmer productivity, simple mechanization, better seeds, techniques etc. - and within this priority field special regard is needed for the requirements of young farmers.

Productivity Wherever possible the young modernising farmer should be encouraged and helped to act as a catalytic agent, promoting better farming practice and organisation throughout the community as a whole. The effectiveness of the various forms of National Youth Service training in this direction should be evaluated and compared with the results of other methods, outside a National Service.

Youth Service Schemes Non-agricultural rural activities are also important. Productivity levels of young people learning traditional crafts and skills must also be raised, through an upgrading of their own and/or their employer-trainer's skills and through the dissemination of better knowledge of the principles of small business organisation and

management. A scheme for using secondary school leavers as catalytic agents to help small rural producers and traders deserves further exploration.

*Rural
infrastructure*

Public works programmes to improve the infrastructure of the rural areas will create a need for new skills, e.g. mechanics to repair equipment used in public works or the vehicles using new roads, etc. Such infrastructure also provides opportunities for improving the acceptability and attractiveness of rural life for young people which should not be ignored.

*Upgrading
the informal
sector*

In the towns far more emphasis should be placed upon the opportunities for productive youth employment in the informal sector, and upon the raising of incomes in that sector as a whole in relation to the 'modern' sector. Skill development and training in small business management will once again be very important in opening up opportunities for young informal sector workers and as a viable alternative to the formal sector. A prime requisite for the development of this sector is seen to be a fairly fundamental change of outlook and policies on the part of governments, who at the moment tend to obstruct or ignore this sector.

The 'modern' sector employs, and is likely to employ in the foreseeable future, only a very small percentage of the labour force. Therefore the main task here is to try to maximise the intake of young workers through incentives for increased labour turnover where this is compatible with maintained or even enhanced productivity, and the setting up of more training opportunities for young workers, both on-the-job and in special courses.

*Employment
of women
and girls*

Finally there are two other considerations which apply in all sectors of the economy. The first is the need to pay special attention to the problem of young women and girls, who usually stand at a disadvantage to young men in terms of opportunities for productive employment. This is particularly important in agriculture, because of the important role that women have traditionally played in that sector; they must not be discriminated against in the movement to train modernising young farmers.

*Participation
of youth*

The second consideration is the need to hear far more from the young people themselves upon all these issues that relate to them, to promote their participation in public life and to recognise and facilitate the role they can play in local and national planning.