

ICT AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

*How Can ICT Assist to Bring About Youth Employment
in Tanzania*

A CLKnet Forum Presentation by:
Dr. Faraja Igira
Senior Lecturer – IFM

8th April 2014

8 April 2014

Youth unemployment refers to the share of the labor force ages between 15-24 that is without work but available for and seeking employment

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) consist of hardware, software, networks, and media for the collection, storage, processing, transmission, and presentation of information (voice, data, text, images), as well as related services.

THIS PRESENTATION ...



- Why is Youth Employment Important?

- The Present Status

- How Can ICT Assist to Bring About Youth Employment in Tanzania

- The Role of the Government and other Agencies

WHY IS YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SO IMPORTANT?

- Youth is a period of transition and vulnerability
 - Vulnerability appears to increase with globalization and increased competition, everywhere
- Long periods of unemployment have a lasting impact on youth:
 - Individual level: self-esteem, respect, sense of achievement
 - Societal: integration, cohesiveness, citizenship

THE PRESENT

○ Tanzania

- 11.7 % in 2012 from 10.7 percent in 2011.
- youths from the age of 15 who are often seeking for their first job in life

○ Global Employment Trends

- 12.6% of youth aged 15-24 were unemployed in 2013,
- rising by around 1.1% since 2007

Source: ILO Key Indicators of the Labour Market, www.ilo.org/kilm. Figures for 2013.

8 April 2014

THE PRESENT... (CONT...)

- Socio-economic differences and ICT capacity
 - Tanzania categorized as 'marginalized' because of low technology diffusion and low levels of skills building.
 - Income per head of population is not necessarily the best indicator of a country's ICT employment potential.
 - Does not take into account the differences in income levels within countries.

ICT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND DIFFERENT INCOME GROUPS

- Income levels as a starting point for distinguishing between types of ICT opportunities related to youth employment.
 - i) those with high tech skills such as software engineering - high income countries
 - ii) Middle income - young people with tertiary qualifications – provide services directly to customers.
 - iii) Low income options – the use of mobile phones, telecenters (faxes and internet services)

ICT GENERATED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Ventures associated with the spread of mobile phone networks – selling telephone based services.
- The widespread use of English on the Internet – Young people as information intermediaries.
 - The need for local content and applications
 - develop websites in their local languages
 - Use their knowledge of how to access the internet and combine it with other forms of communication such as radio
 - Establish local area network, maintain, provide help desk assistance

ENTREPRENEURSHIP...

○ Telecentres

- A number of phone lines, fax machine, photocopier, PCs with printer, internet access, scanner, etc.
- Viable in remote areas.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

- Complex ICT facilities – e.g. Digital villages
 - Computer resource centers – provide the opportunity to develop computer skills in addition to what the telecentres do.
- Growth in remote processing facilities that are located outside the high-income countries.
 - Help lines, technical support, and handling reservations and sales, etc.

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY AND THE INFORMAL SECTOR

- Access to world markets and health care education
 - The need for young people with ICT skills in rural locations
- Marketing pro-poor tourism
 - Tourism directed to poor areas can generate employment opportunities for the youth.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE

- Policies in relation to the key elements required to make the most effective use of ICT to generate employment,
- Young people should view self –employment in ICT related activities as a viable option.
- Additional skills in managing small businesses – e.g. managing cash flow, making decisions , etc.
- National or regional competitions to promote youth enterprises related to ICT,
- Mentor support for starting ICT related enterprises
- The use of micro credit programmes,

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE...

- The use of public-private partnerships in relation to ICT,
- Publicizing young people's production activities
- Putting young people in charge

REFERENCES

- Curtain, R, 2002, 'Generating Youth Employment through information and communication technologies: best practice examples and strategies. Youth Employment Summit (YES2002).
- ILO. 2013. Key Indicators of the Labour Market, www.ilo.org/kilm.
- Jensen, M & Esterhuysen, A; 2001, *The community telecentre Cookbook for Africa Recipes for self-sustainability: How to Establish a Multi-purpose Community Telecentre in Africa*. UNESCO, Paris.
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0012/001230/123004e.pdf>

THANK YOU!