

Determinants of Human Resources Development among Youth in Urban Settlement Communities in Sri Lanka

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In many societies, youth are identified as core of the socio-economic and cultural development of a society. In Sri Lanka, 23.64 per cent of population consisted of young people between the ages of 15-29 years. Urban youth, who live in low economic settings, are the most vulnerable group in terms of education, employment, health and social integration and participation. This paper examines the factors that influence the human resource development among youth in urban settlement communities in Sri Lanka. The systematic sampling procedure was used to draw the sample from youth aged 15-29 and sample size was comprised of 150 youth representing three urban settlement communities in Colombo. The research instruments used for data collection were the questionnaire and in-depth interviews. Multiple regression was the main tool for analysis. The analysis reveals that the key factors that impact significantly on the human resources development among youth are, sex of the youth, parental education, household income, number of children in the family, marital status, and employment status of parent. The results from in-depth interviews show that parents' negative attitudes towards children's education are a common problem faced by the youth in these urban areas. In addition, lack of infrastructure facilities, insufficient awareness on vocational education, and community level discouragements have emerged as negative factors influencing human resource development among youth in urban settlement communities. These results suggest that policy makers should make considerable attention in developing effective mechanisms to enhance opportunities for youth to develop their knowledge and skills. Special attention should be given to introduce vocational educational services within easy reach in the urban community. Special programmes need to be implemented to educate parents and empower youth with regard to continue their tertiary education, vocational training and skills development.

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