

F-22: Opportunities for Post-Secondary education and training for school leavers

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The need to link education to employment is being increasingly emphasised due to educated unemployment and criticisms by employers of the output of the formal education system. More stress is being thus laid on provision of vocational training.

The study focussed on: (1) What proportion of the school leaver population of a district gains access to any form of post-secondary educational training. (2) How the selected types of education/training differ within and between the selected districts of Kandy and Kurunegala in (a) fees levied, (b) infra-structural facilities, (c) technological support, (d) qualifications of trainers and (e) provision of on-the-job or practical training? (3) How the employability of youth who complete the above courses differ?

Data was collected by a document survey, questionnaires to institutions in Kandy & Kurunegala districts and a tracer study of those who had followed training.

The study revealed (a) a paucity of avenues for post-secondary education in the rural areas of the 2 districts, (b) the public sector as mainly providing an elementary training for occupations with low prestige and (c) a high degree of unemployment of those who had followed the courses.