



Impact Opportunities 4: How to improve skills through increased Access to Education and Training?

Investing in Child Education and helping Youth Transition to Productive Adults in Africa

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But wait ...

- Put aside Africa for a moment
- How did other places do it?
- What is “it”?
- Let’s separate investing in education of children with getting youth in ‘productive’ jobs

Investing in Education

- Finland: First phase of education reform launched in 1945 (municipal run compulsive school grades 1 -9 unifying public, private, grammar school, vocational schools), and reform after reform strengthened and expanding the focus on access *and* quality
- Secondary School 'Revolution' in the USA and productivity growth (Claudia Goldin and Lawrence Katz)

Getting Youth into “Productive Employment”

- South Korea: demand from labor-absorbing manufacturing sector; compact between industry clusters, government agencies, and municipalities in continuously tailoring Vocational Training
- Philippines: Migrate (international labor markets); some promising linkages with emerging BPO/Call Centers
- Gulf states: Create fat jobs for youth while the taps are still flowing

Whatever they did to make it work (at least for now) ...

- They did not rely on randomized experiments to guide them – they just did it
- I guess we can do better by being more ‘scientific’ ... Hurray for progress !

So coming back to Africa

- Where can Youth expect to find jobs/earn income?
 - Manufacturing?
 - Medium to High skilled services?
 - Agriculture? Fisheries? Horticulture?
 - Extractive industries (e.g., oil, mining) ?
 - As entrepreneurs (across a range of activities)?
 - ‘Rents’? In Public and Private sectors?

More Access to Education

- Supply side interventions: build more schools, hire more teachers, have an education policy that makes sort of sense ...
- Demand side interventions: Conditional Cash Transfers, Information about returns to edu
- Getting kids to schools, and ensuring equity of access (e.g., gender, ethnicity) still remains a massive challenge
 - Girls in Niger, Boys in Philippines, Tribals in India

Getting Girls to School

- One study in this session is about the impact of a CCT program on female schooling in Kano State, Nigeria
- Lessons to keep in mind from the first large scale CCT program, Female Secondary School Stipend Program in Bangladesh ...

Vocation Training for Youth

- One study in this session is about impact of a vocational training experiment on youth originating from one district in Kenya
- Lessons to keep in mind from the German Apprenticeship/Guild model and Singapore/Taiwan/South Korea industry cluster model – active linkage with employers is essential ... Skeptical about large scale transformative structural changes from atomized entrepreneurs.