

Youth situation and its effect on future of the world

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It is usually said that society's future depends on youth. Nearly 50% of the developing world population is youth and children. There are 1.2 billion 15 to 24 year olds in the world and one billion live in developing countries. According to James D. Wolfensohn by the year 2015, there will be three billion people under the age of 25.

In the 21st century, it is vital to see young people as a resource. They are not a problem. These years because of the current slow economic growth and high unemployment across the many countries in the world, there has been little focus on the plights of youth as they transition to adult life like unemployment and inadequate income across a lifetime. Youth in the 21st century will face challenges in preparing for the enduring tasks. They must be prepared and nurtured if we desire that future to be bright and productive. Many of youth are neither enrolled in school nor participating in the labor market – they are not investing in their human capital or earning income. This represents a significant loss of economic opportunity for the countries. There is a strong belief that vitality of civic and economic life of societies in the 21st century depends upon a population that is young, healthy, technologically-competent, and actively engaged in leadership and service in their communities. In this paper key indicators of youth development like demographic, health, schooling and labor market indicators for the youth workforce will be computed and represented and according to these indicators and comparing some social and economic indexes role of the youth development for world and developing countries and also Asian countries by using econometric or statistical methods will be investigated. Ranking these individual and composite indicators will help decision makers to identify areas that need further attention and compare progress between countries.

Key Words: developing world, development, economic, indicators, unemployment

1. Description

In most of the societies adults disregard real problems of children and youth, unaware that future of societies severely depends on development and efficiency of them.

The needs of youth are similar to others. They need opportunity to prove their abilities. They need affiliation, respect and success. They need contribution. Youth in the 21st century will face challenges in preparing for the enduring tasks. They must be prepared and nurtured if we desired that future to be bright and productive.

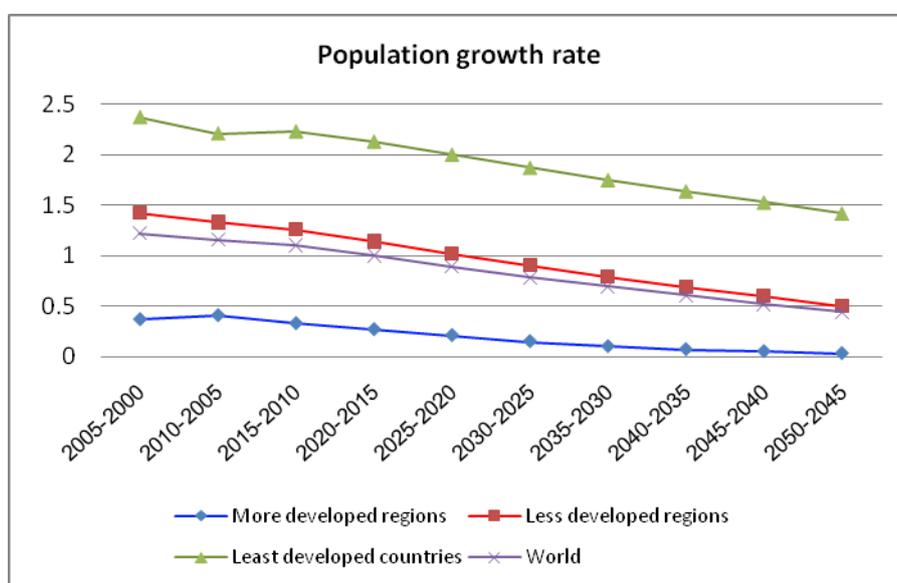
Many of youth are neither enrolled in school nor participating in the labor market - they are not investing in their human capital or earning income. These represent a significant loss of economic opportunity for the countries. There is a strong belief that vitality of civic and economic life of societies in the 21st century depends upon a population that is young, healthy, technologically – component and actively engaged in leadership and service in their communities.

But here, big challenges rise. Unemployment, poverty and lack of confidence besides of bad situation of economies, cause a crisis that we could see its effect on future. Nearly 50% of the developing world population is youth and children. There are 1-2

billion 15 to 24 years old in the world and one billion live in developing countries. According to James Wolfenson by the year 2015 there will be three billion people under the age 25. Young people are not a problem. They are resource, but as said before, because of slow economic growth and high unemployment across the many countries in the world, there has been little focus on the plight of youth as they transition to adult life, like unemployment and in adequate income across a life time.

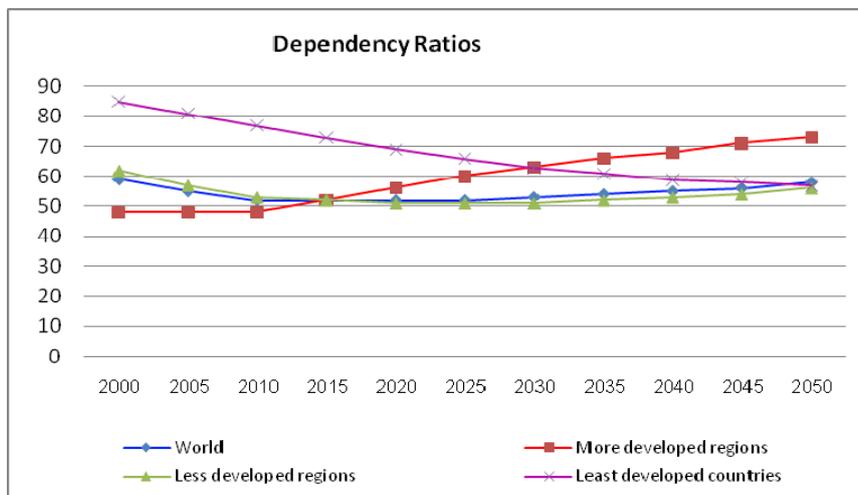
One of the main challenges in 21th century that societies will force is the lack of coordination birth rate in the developed developing countries and on the other hand high birth rate in the developing and especially poor countries. According to the definition of untied nation, 14 countries out of these 48 poor countries with low incomes and poor human development and low levels of education are in Asia. By 2050 in Asia, there are both countries by older population, but high level of education, life style and ..., like Japan and countries by young population, but low level of education, like standard and like Yemen or Bangladesh.

Figure1: Comparing population growth rate between 2000 to 2050



One of the good indicators to measure the pressure on productive population ,i.e. people aged 15-64, is dependency ratio. It is normal that we decompose total dependency ratio to "age dependency" and "child dependency" ratio - here under comparison of these ratio between regions is presented: according to the literature, higher dependency ratio is a sign of increasing burden on the productive people (aged 15-64) which could have direct and indirect effects on economy and social security and rising expenditure on pension, health and etc. if we use this ratio as inverse it could be interpreted as a number of provide workers for one dependent person.

Figure2: Comparing dependency ratio between 2000 to 2050



Surely, as the developing countries need better situation of education, employment and life style, developed countries need work force and youth to keep their economies safe from stagnation, and this will necessitate all countries to have an integrated development program for youth and above all, children, teenagers even newborns.

According to the world youth "report 2005, young people today and in 2015", united nations recognize the necessity of planning, designing and administration of programs for youth development and support them as human capital. There are some plans and programs in UN or some countries, but as it seems they are not sufficient.

One of the most famous programs introduced in 1995 which is called "world program of Action for youth (WPAY)" on the basis of 10 main areas and in 2005 five new area added to it. But monitoring this program is also hard. One of the main problems in this context is differences among types of indicators and lack of statistics. This is one of the needs to obtain suitable data and information about people and especially youth.

So it's suggested that besides of all youth development programs a statistical and survey program be designed to collect needful data and codification and ordain methodology of computing indicators to evaluate these kinds of programs.

2. Main indicators to evaluate youth development indicator

To construct a composite index for youth development indicator, there are some key indicators.

- **Education**

Education is one the most important indicators to evaluate countries and regions for their progress in development of societies. According to the World Bank statistics, education indices show least developed countries and most of the developing countries must be considered severely by United Nations or developed countries. Least and less developed countries must have enough attention to the bases of their youth development needs. For example, school enrollment, primary (%. gross) decreased in 2008 in the world but this index increased in least developed countries, for Middle East and North Africa it has very low increase from 2003 to 2011. For the East Asia and pacific after decreasing in 2006, it rises slowly up to 2011.

In the same way, we have a general increasing in school enrollment secondary (% gross) in least development countries but up to 2011, there is a considerable gap between least development countries and world indices. Middle east and north Africa, and east Asia and pacific indices are more than world indexes and from 2006 , East Asia and pacific exceeds from middle East and north Africa.

Literacy rate, youth total (% of people ages 15-24), represents facts of future situation. This index in 2010 was 90% for the world, but least developed countries rate is 72%. This rate for Middle East and North Africa and East Asia & Africa is 91% and 99% respectively. This could be a key indicator for United Nations youth development programs to concentrate on education as an important part of youth development.

- **Employment**

Employment or better to say, unemployment, is one of the main challenges in the societies. It is affected by many factors. On the other hand, it has a mid and long term effect on present and future of societies, qua some kinds of the problems could not be solved easily. According to the World Bank, in 2010 unemployment rate (% of total labor force), in the world was 5.9%. This rate in Middle East & North Africa was about 10.6%, and for East Asia and pacific it was 4.2%. Unemployment is a strong barrier against youth development and it is no exaggeration if we call it "huge problem" for youth.

In this context there are some indicators that help to evaluate programs, for example labor participation rate as percent of total population ages 15+. In comparison among world, least developed countries, Middle East and North Africa and East Asia & pacific we will see a general constant trend for all with a considerable gap between least developed countries and others. Another index is employment to population ratio 15+ which confirms this constant routine. Meanwhile for all of the mentioned groups, GDP per person employed (constant 1990 PPP \$) especially for least developed countries is less than world index. But East Asia & pacific has a good rise toward world index.

- **Health and HIV**

Youth development programs must consider health as a main factor of social security. Nowadays, HIV is a severe problem for youth which decreases efficiency of economics. Prevalence of HIV is an index that must be considered in youth programs. According to the World Bank statistics (2011), prevalence of HIV as percent of population ages 15-49, in the world is about 0.8%. This ratio for least developed countries is about 2% and for sub Saharan Africa is about 4.9%. This is a real threat for the future of the world and especially for youth development. Because as we said before these regions will have greatest part of youth people in future.

3. Conclusion

strong belief that vitality of civic and economic life of societies in the 21st century depends upon a population that is young, healthy, technologically-competent, and actively engaged in leadership and service in their communities.

Significant and efficient youth development programs serious requirement for societies. This kind of programs at the first step, need statistics or better to say, a statistical system to collecting clean data , evaluating actions and monitoring program.

Least developed countries definitely need United Nation support for their development factors like health, education and preparing job opportunities which is very important in youth programs.

It is suggested that besides of all youth development programs a statistical and survey program be designed to collect needful data and codification and ordain methodology of computing indicators to evaluate these kinds of programs.

United Nations can organize departments in all countries to manage a statistical system for youth development and define main indicators for this purpose.

It must be mentioned that youth development is not an individual fact. Governments and societies must consider an aim " best life style for everybody". Youth could help world if world support them.

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