

Salwa yousof Abd ELGhany
Central agency for public mobilization and statistics, Cairo, Egypt
salwa28eg@yahoo.com

In every society, young people carry the promise of a better future. They are the building blocks of a country's economy and society and it's most essential human resource. In Egypt young people are not only it's most important capital but they also constitute the largest segment of the population. With the right in vestments, this youth bulge will represent a demographic opportunity that will positively shape the country's future. It is worthy to examine the current situation of Egyptian young people. The proposed study will base on the results of “Young people in Egypt Survey 2010”. This survey covered a nationally representative sample, covering all governorates in Egypt including the five frontier governorates

Key words: Health, education, employment, international migration, social, social issues values and civic engagement.

Section One

1.1 Introduction

Around the world, the terms "youth", "adolescent", "teenager", "kid", and "young person" are interchanged, often meaning the same thing, occasionally differentiated. Youth generally refers to a time of life that is neither childhood nor adulthood, but rather somewhere in between. Youth also identifies a particular mindset of attitude, as in "he is very youthful". The term youth is also related to being young. Youth is an alternative word to the scientifically oriented adolescent and the common terms of teen and teenager. Another common title for youth is young person.

1.2 Importance of the study

Young people constitute a formidable and once in a nation's history demographic bulge. This transition_ whereby the youth age group peaks relative to the child and aging segments of the population pyramid is perhaps Egypt's biggest challenge, representing both a risk and an opportunity. On the positive side, it could mean a significant lowering in the dependence rate and the opportunity for more bread winners to earn income within each family.

Youth experience five transition periods namely transition from school to work, to higher education, to citizenship, to marriage and to establishment of independent households. These five transition period, if well guided, will propel young human capital into a significant factor in the growth and the development of the country as a whole. On the other hand, if badly managed, the consequences becomes poorer skill and job outcomes and therefore prolonged periods of unemployment, a fragile understanding of citizenship and its responsibilities and a greater dependency on family prior to and after marriage.

1.3 Objectives of the study

The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- a) To examine socio-economic and demographic characteristics of Egyptian youth aged (15-29) years.
- b) To overview the socio-economic differentials of youth in Egypt.
- c) To identify the level of youth participation in social and political Life in Egypt.

1.4 Source of data

The main source of data in this study is the survey of young people in Egypt (SYPE). The survey covers a nationally representative sample of 15029 young people aged (10-29) years. The sample covered all governorates in Egypt, including the five frontier governorates. The SYPE sample is a stratified, multi-stages cluster sample, selected from the master sample of the central agency of public mobilization and statistics (CAPMAS). The master sample is based on 2006 census.

Section Two

2.1 Background characteristics of Egyptian youth

Egypt is at a stage in its demographic transition with a marked youth bulge, a period in which the proportion of youth in the population increases significantly compared to other age groups. Investment in this crucial age group provides an unprecedented opportunity to accelerate growth and increase quality of life. Success or failure of policies in the areas of education, employment, or health will have a decisive impact on this population group.

Concerning age structure of Egyptian youth, data show that about half (48.6%) of Egyptian youth aged (18-24), about (29%) of them aged (25-29) and about 23% of them aged (15-17). Almost the same pattern was observed for both males and females. With regard to marital status of Egyptian youth, data reveal more than two third of them (68%) never married while about 32% of them ever married and it is noticed that the marriage is more prevailed among females than males.

For place of residence of youth in Egypt, data show that more than half of Egyptian youth (about 55%) are residing in rural areas and (35%) of them are residing in urban areas while (9%) of them are of slum areas' residence. Similar pattern was observed among both males and females.

With regard to regional residence differentials, the highest percentage (about 29%) of Egyptian youth aged (15-29) are residing in rural lower Egypt with slightly higher proportion (16%) of females than males about (13%), followed by those who are residing in rural upper Egypt (about 20%) with the same pattern of females and males in rural lower Egypt .

Data show that about (17%) of Egyptian youth aged (15-29) is residing in urban governorates with almost equal proportion for both males and females (about 8%). The percentage of Egyptian youth who are residing in frontier governorates according to the results of young people in Egypt survey are about (11%), about (8%) residing in urban upper Egypt and about (5%) in urban lower Egypt.

2.2 Education status of Egyptian youth

No one can deny that education critically affects all stages of youth life cycle and the literature indicates that all educational level has a cumulative effect. It is important to consider world educational system produces proactive, value adding, competent and innovative youth that are well engaged in the society, as well as in global economy.

Data of the young people survey in Egypt reveal that about 9% of Egyptian youth aged (15-29) are illiterate, more than half of them (38%) are less than intermediate education, most of those who completed their education are secondary school graduates (about 30% of youth population aged 15-29). only 22% of them are with university or over education.

With regard to youth sex differentials in educational status, data of table (2) show that females have higher proportion of illiteracy 7% compared to that of males about (2%). At the same time, they have lower proportion in different educational attainments.

For the difference in educational attainments of youth with the change in the marital status, data show that never married youth are of better educational level than ever married, as well as the proportion of illiterate youth is higher (about 6%) among ever married compared to never married youth about (4%). concerning the educational differentials with age, data show that only (0.8%) of Egyptian youth aged (15-17), it is (4.3%) among those aged (18-24) and (4%) among those of (25-29) years old. data also show that younger generation have better educational level than that of older ones where about 18% of Egyptian youth aged (18-24) attain intermediate educational level compared to only (11%) of those aged (25-29) and about (15%) of youth aged (18-24) attain university or over education compared to only (6.6%) of those aged (25-29).

Examining the educational differentials with place of residence, data show that rural youth have higher (7.2%) illiteracy level than youth of urban residence (only 2%). (9%) of Egyptian youth in urban areas have intermediate education compared to about (18%) of rural youth. for those who

have university or higher education, (12%) of them are of urban residence compared to about 8% in rural area.

For regional differentials, data show that the highest percentage of illiterate youth are in rural upper Egypt (3.8%) and rural lower Egypt (2.2%) and it is the lowest in urban areas either in lower (0.1%) or upper Egypt (0.4%).

The data also show that the highest proportion of Egyptian youth who have intermediate education are those who reside in rural lower Egypt (10.8%) followed by those who reside in rural upper Egypt (5.5%) then those of frontier governorate residence (3.3%). Egyptian youth who have university education is higher (6.7%) among urban governorate residence followed by those of rural Lower Egypt (5.1%).

2.3 Work status of Egyptian youth

Examining the work status of Egyptian youth is of great importance to highlight.

In general, data show that 27.3% of Egyptian youth aged (15-29) who are in the labor force are wage workers, 1.1% self employed, 1.4% unpaid family workers, 3.1% unemployed and 67.1% are out of labor force which include students, housewivesetc.

With regard to sex differentials in youth work status, data show higher proportion of male wage workers (22.3%) than that of females (only 5.1%). Egyptian youth experienced minor proportion of self employed and unpaid family workers (about 1%) for youth unemployment, data show 3.1% of the total work force are unemployed, among males aged (15-29) it is 1.8% compared to 1.3% of females in the same age group. While the percent of males out of work force is 18.6% compared to 48.5% among females.

With regard to age differentials in work status, it is noticed that the highest proportion of youth wage worker (13.4%) is among those aged (18-24) followed by those aged (25-29) with 12%. Unpaid family workers of youth is the highest among those aged (18-24) with 0.7%, the same youth age group experienced the highest unemployment proportion (2.2% of work force) as well as the proportion of those who are out of work force (31.6%), followed by those aged (15-17) with 20.4% then those aged (25-29) with 15%.

With regard to place of residence of Egyptian youth, data show that urban youth have higher proportion of wage workers (14%) relative to rural youth (about 10.6%) youth unpaid family workers is more prevailed in rural areas (1.1%) compared to that of youth urban residence (0.2%).

Percent of unemployed youth out of total work force is almost the same in both urban and rural areas. While the percent of those who are out of work force is higher (37.7%) in rural areas relative to urban areas (23.3%).

Concerning regional differentials in youth work status, data show that percent of youth wage workers is the highest in rural lower Egypt (8.3%) followed by that of urban residence (5.5%) and rural upper Egypt (4%) percentage of youth out of work force is the highest in rural lower Egypt about (18%) followed by that of rural upper Egypt (about 16%) and urban governorates (10.6%).

2.4 Reasons of Unemployment

Since unemployment is a crucial problem especially for youth, SYPE survey include a question for unemployed youth about the reason of being unemployed. In general, 70% of youth aged (15-29) reported that they don't find work opportunities at all. This percent is slightly higher among males (72.4%) compared to that of females (68.4%).

The second reason of being unemployed from the view of Egyptian youth is the unavailability of work with suitable wage for about (16.6%) of youth. This percent is higher among males (22.5%) than females (8.1%). about (7.5%) of youth respondents report that the inexistence of work suitable to their experience and qualifications as a reason of being unemployed with higher percent among females (12.6%) than males (only 4%). In addition, (3.5%) of the surveyed youth

note that the reason of being unemployed is the unavailability of work with suitable location and (2.1%) reported the unavailability of work in a suitable organization or firm.

2.5 Educational dropout

While absenteeism and repetition are serious problems within the educational system, third serious problem is occurred when young people leave before completing their schooling-i.e. dropout. By examining dropout patterns, we can understand where, in the education system, young people stop their education. The dropout rate measures the number of dropouts as a percent of the population entering the level.

Data of Young People Survey in Egypt 2009 shows that the dropout rate for Egyptian young people increases with the level of education. As the table shows, (4.2 %) of Egyptian young people aged (16-18 year olds) dropped out during primary education and (3.4%) after primary education, (8.5%) of young people aged (18-21 year olds) dropped out during preparatory and (5.1%) dropout afterwards .A relative low rate is noticed (2.1%) among young people aged (25-29 year olds) who entered the secondary stage, dropped out during secondary education.

Examining the youth sex differentials in dropout pattern, data shows that males aged (19-21 year olds) have higher dropout rate during preparatory education (9.6%) compared to that of females (7.3%). In spite of only (4.1%) of males and (6.3%) of females are dropout after this stage.

With regard to youth dropout rate differentials with place of residence, data shows that young people from all place of residences dropout during primary education almost have the same rates. After primary education rural young people have higher (4.3%) dropout rate than young people of urban residence (2.2%). Egyptian young people in rural areas have a higher dropout rate during and after preparatory education (10.0%, 5.7%) compared to that of urban areas (6.1%, 4.8 %).In secondary education, urban young people have the lowest dropout rates (0.9%). Informal urban young people have a higher dropout rate during preparatory education (7.2%) compared to all educational stages.

For regional differentials, the data shows that urban governorate and Lower Egypt have higher (5.1%, 4.6%) rates of dropout during primary education than the frontier governorates or Upper Egypt regions (1.7%, 3.4%) while rural young people residence lower and upper Egypt have higher dropout rates (3.5%, 3.6%) after primary education .Rural upper Egypt and urban upper Egypt have higher (13.4%, 8.6%) Dropout rate during preparatory education compared to that of urban Lower Egypt (3.4%). 10.0% of the preparatory young people in rural upper Egypt leave education followed by 6.4% of the preparatory young people in urban governorate. Dropout rates during secondary education are consistently low.

Regarding the wealth it's clear from the table that the Lower level of wealth dramatically increases dropout rates. Poorest young people have higher (14.0%) Dropout rates during preparatory education compared to that of the highest wealth (0.9%).Similar pattern are found a cross all levels of education.

2.6 Intention to migration

The data shows that among all youth aged (15-29 years), (29.7%) of males youth having intentions to migrate compared with only (6.7%) of females youth.

The second reason for migration out of Egypt, from the viewpoint of Egyptian youth, is to gain international work experience for about (14.9%) of youth. This percent is higher among females (44.8%) than males (8.8%).Also females were more likely than males (9.8%) compared to (5.1% respectively) to report that friends or family living abroad were motivators to migrate.

With regard to age the date shows that migration aspirations decrease as age increase. Among youth aged (15-17 years) (21.8%) planned to migrate, compared with (10.8%) of youth aged (18-24 years) and (14.7%) of youth aged (25-29 years).

For marital status differentials, it clear that unmarried youth has a higher (22.5%) intention to leave Egypt than married youth (7.8%).

Examining the intention to migrate with place of residence and educational levels, data show that educational attainment rises among Egyptian youth, the tendency to aspire to migration increases as educational levels in both urban and rural. In general Egyptian rural youth have higher intention to migrate in all education level than urban youth. The data also show that rural Egyptian youth who have university education or higher education have highest percentage (25.6%) of intention to leave out Egypt compared to (20.8%) of urban youth. It is clear that illiterate urban youth have more than two times (9.7%) intention to migrate than illiterate rural youth (4.5%). For those who residing in urban areas and have general secondary education (21.6%) of them have intention to migrate compared to (23.3%) of rural youth.

Concerning migration intentions according to student status, it is clear from the table that Egyptian student youth aged (15-29 year) are more likely to want to migrate than non-students (16.7%). We did find a significant difference in intention to migrate between urban and rural.

With regard to migration aspiration according to wealth quintiles the data show that the highest percentage of youth (20.5%) intention to live out Egypt are in the fourth quintiles followed by fifth quintile (19.7%). In urban areas the highest percent (20.5%) of youth desire to migrate in fourth quintile while it is in highest quintile (22.6%) for Egyptian rural youth.

Concerning the influence of employment status on migration aspiration, the data show that the desire to migrate was highest among unemployed youth (29.9%). The difference between the employed and unemployed youth is notable in urban areas, with percent (22.9% and 29.2% respectively).

The highest intention to migrate (30.5%, 28.1% respectively) observed in rural areas among employed and unemployed because employed youth residing in rural areas are more likely to have low –quality jobs than employed urban youth. Economically intention youth showed little interest in migration.

2.7 Reasons for migration aspirations

In Egypt low income, unemployment and lack of job opportunities as well as other factors are push factors for migration. The desire to migrate was the highest (73.1%) among both males and females youth where they named low income as the major push factor out of Egypt while (64.1%) of youth also mentioned unavailability of work. There are slight differences in motivations between male and female.

With regard to pull factors, the data shows that in general (84.9%) of youth aged (18-29 years) reported that the highest reason for migration was to earn money. This percent is more than two times that among males (94.6%) compared to that of females.

2.8 Social consciousness

In the survey of young people in Egypt (SYPE) Young people ages (15-29 years) were asked to rate the importance of a number of different issues facing Egypt. In general, the majority of youth reported all the issues given as very important, Data shows the percent of young people reporting each issue as very important, it is clear that the highest percentage of young people (92.2%) is rated poverty reduction as very important issue facing Egypt.

This is followed by fighting rising prices (89.8%) and fighting corruption (88.2%). A strong defense and reforms in education and health were rated as very important by (85-86%) of young people. Strong economic growth comes after reforming the health care system with (78%) rating it as an important issue. As for political freedom and inclusion, three quarters (74.9%) believe protecting freedom of speech is a very important issue and about two third believe protecting political rights (65.1%) and people having a larger role in government (62.5%) are very important.

While the role of religion in politics is ranked the last among the list of issues, more than half of young people (52.9%) believe it is very important issue.