

CAIPD

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Vocational Training and Employment in Senegal

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Established at the initiative of the Directorate of Development Cooperation, CAIPD brings together researchers from LISER and J-PAL Europe to equip the government with methodological tools for impact evaluations and programme monitoring in cooperation projects.



Summary

In many developing countries, the lack of both technical and soft skills translates into high rates of unemployment and poverty among the youth. To overcome this situation, numerous vocational training initiatives have been put in place. Currently, there are more than 700 such programmes actively taking place around the world. Based on data from Senegal, this *policy brief* shows that, on average, these programmes are positively correlated with the employment prospects of young men and women.

Context

In developing countries, youth unemployment rates are high. The precarious situation of young people on the job market is correlated with poverty, where almost a third of young people earn less than \$3.1 per day, as well as with problems of insecurity and social exclusion. On average, this phenomenon is even more pronounced among young women.

Investment in training...

The socio-economic integration of young people, taking into account the specific needs of young women, are the priorities of many low-income countries. The main challenge lies in the need to invest in the human capital and the skills of young people, particularly those with no formal education, in order to unlock their economic potential.

To limit vulnerabilities...

In our study we examine the role of vocational training for the employment of youth in Senegal. Our analysis suggests that participation to such training is positively correlated to employment outcomes. Available data, however, does not allow to rigorously measure access to training centres, a necessary step to further investigate potential causality.

Main Takeaways

From a development policy perspective, our analysis underscores the following findings:

- **Benefits of vocational training for young people:** On average, vocational training is positively correlated with the employment prospects of young people in Senegal.
- **Gender disparities:** Vocational training is correlated with earnings, particularly in the context of formal employment, surpassing its correlation with high-skilled jobs. Moreover, our analysis suggests that women, overall, appear to derive greater benefits from such training than men.
- **Need to maintain and adapt vocational training programmes:** It is crucial to sustain investments in vocational training programmes to improve the employment prospects of young people, and to adapt these programmes to the difficulties encountered by young women.
- **Importance of addressing gender inequalities:** Raising awareness among young women of the benefits of these programmes and improving their accessibility are crucial for reducing gender disparities.

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