

# **Employment and Wealth** **Creation – Caribbean Youth** **Perspectives**

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“Unemployment is not merely a deficiency of income that can be made up through transfers by the state; it is also a source of far reaching debilitating effects on individuals’ freedom, initiative and skills. It contributes to social exclusion, losses of self-reliance, self-confidence and psychological ill-health.” Amartya Sen

# *Commonwealth Caribbean Youth Unemployment Characteristics*

- Lack of areas of interest to youth;*
- Inexperience; and*
- Lack of resources (educational  
qualifications included)*

# *Economic success factors:*

- 1. Proper utilisation of limited resources;*
- 2. Creative and innovative employment culture for wealth creation; and*
- 3. Strategic partnerships.*

# *Improving Employment*

- *Education;*
- *Vocational skillsets;*
- *Market expectations; and*
- *Entrepreneurial capabilities.*

# *The Negative Occurrences*

- 1. Braindrain;*
- 2. Generation gaps due to high turnovers;*
- 3. Alternative methods of livelihood;*
- 4. Erratic economic growth;*
- 5. Loss of cultural norms; and*
- 6. Financial wastage*

# *Considerations for Improvement*

*Re-evaluation of the national educational curriculum;*

*Vocational institutions to complement new job markets;*

*Imposition of irrational requirements;*

*Limited resources for entrepreneurs;*

# *Considerations for Improvement (cont'd)*

*Media forms and agencies;*

*Emphasis on internships and job attachment opportunities; and*

*Professional certifications.*



*“In order to ensure sustained success, public employment programmes must include components that facilitate young participants’ transition to more permanent employment.” World Youth Report 2010*

# *Conclusion*

*Academic and vocational institutions need to be better integrated to increase the youth employment and wealth creation possibilities of a country.*