

Editor's Note

Dear readers,

We are pleased to welcome you to the August 2016 CRPF quarterly newsletter. This edition brings to you a summary of new working paper on educational goals of children and some useful summaries of research pieces presented at the CRPF monthly seminars. We look forward to your comments, suggestions, and contributions. For more information, please contact us via crpf.ethiopia@gmail.com or 011-1-54-01-05/21.



New Working Paper

Aspirations and Educational Attainments of Ethiopian Boys and Girls Marta Favara

Most economic decisions taken by individuals are forward-looking and are therefore shaped by the desire or ambition to achieve a goal; but little is known about how aspirations shape decision-making.

This paper partly addresses this gap, using a rich longitudinal dataset following a cohort of children in Ethiopia for more than a decade between the ages of 8 and 19. The paper investigates the role of early aspirations for human-capital investments in a context of poverty, traditional social expectations and gender roles.

Key findings:

The paper presents the following findings:

- Aspirations have a strong predictive power for later educational attainment, particularly for boys, who are more likely to drop out of school after the age of 15.

- There is a substantial gender gap in aspirations and a steep gradient in aspirations across wealth.
- Parents ground their aspirations on their expectations about their children's future when they are 12 years old.
- Children's aspirations mirror parental aspirations.
- Initial low aspirations might be a mechanism whereby gender inequality is perpetuated among the poorest segments of the population.

Parents and children revise their aspirations over time, adapting to external circumstances and social expectations, so that after the age of 15 the pro-boys gender bias in aspirations is reversed.

Access the full paper here at: <http://www.younglives.org.uk/node/8145>.



Research Summaries

The Contribution of TVET College Graduates for Advancement of Agricultural Productivity in Ethiopia with Particular Reference to Two Selected Woredas in Oromia and Amhara Regional States

Messay Mulugeta and Teferi Mekonnen



Purpose

This research sought to carry out an assessment on the collaboration, engagement and contribution of TVET graduates in the advancement of agricultural production systems and productivity thereby recommending solutions and directions on the possible roles and gaps of National TVET program.

Methodology

To meet the intended objectives, the researchers principally collected, reviewed, assessed and compiled reports/documents related to the educational system of Ethiopia especially on the TVET and of agricultural research outputs. Therefore, the desk review of policies, strategies, regulations, researches, studies, project documents and reports related to TVET and its role in agricultural productivity and of transformation was performed to capture the approaches, progresses and challenges in this aspect.

Likewise, primary data were collected from TVET centers, the graduates, experts, officers and beneficiary farmers found in selected two *woredas* in Oromia and Amhara regions.

Findings

Perception of farmers towards TVET graduates

Most farmers responded that it is a waste of time to train a person who end up in farming. Rather, they want educated children to go to urban areas and engage in other urban-based activities like banking & finance, teaching, etc.

The mismatch between agricultural and education policy and the reality on the ground is indicative that the policy is not deeply entrenched in the farming communities thereby calling for intensive advocacy work.

Views of woreda-level experts and administrators towards TVET graduates

There are no adequately staffed and equipped Farmers Training Centers (FTCs) in both *woredas* and this contributing to graduates' lack of adequate practical knowledge.

The graduates want to join the bureaucratic system of the government to prosper because of the existing corruption, lack of production materials, startup capital, lack of production sheds, market, and raw materials, lack of interest, scarcity of land, lack of basic facilities in rural areas, and the unnecessary socio-psychological setup of the graduates towards rural life.

Joblessness among TVET graduates

Most jobless graduates of TVET agree that TVET as a program is very necessary for our country. The problem lies in proper implementation of the program. It has several problems from the very beginning of the recruitment of potential trainees to employment of the graduates.

The scarcity of basic resources (such as land, livestock and water for irrigation) has forced the TVET graduates not to think back to rural life.

TVET graduates engaged in their own/family agribusiness

Graduates who engage in their own/family agribusiness did so because they couldn't find another employment opportunity. They are still ready to abandon their farming activities whenever they get another employment opportunity in urban areas.

Conclusion and recommendations

The study shows that the role of TVET to structural transformation (from agriculture to industrial sector) is immense in Ethiopia, and that it can play a great role in employment creation, technology transfer, poverty reduction and rural economic growth.

The research uncovered that some instructors at TVET centers lack practical competency. They also tend to emphasize theoretical aspects and they lack practical skills. Therefore, more cooperative training program should be provided to the trainees and there has to be more cooperation between the TVET centers and the industries.

Lack of employment opportunities in the formal job market is frustrating to TVET graduates. Therefore, in an attempt of strengthening self-employment, problems like lack of land and shelter, and lack of seed money need to be carefully handled. Expanding job opportunities require promoting the private sector investment in an attempt to diversifying and developing the manufacturing sector of the economy.

CSOs/NGOs and the development agents should continue investing in key rural infrastructure such as road, education facilities, water supply and sanitation facilities to lay more foundation for the contribution of TVET and sustainable transformation of the rural economy.

Research Summaries

Enhanced Employment and Productivity: Essential Conditions for a Demographic Dividend in Ethiopia

John Cleland, Angela Baschieri and Tassew Woldehanna

Purpose

Ethiopia aspires to become a middle income country within the next 15 years or so, building on and further accelerating the rapid improvements of the past 15 years. The aim of this paper is to assess the potential role of demographic change between now and 2032 in achieving or thwarting this aspiration.

Methodology

The study uses a mixed methods approach. Surveys conducted by different national and international organizations inform its quantitative base. Most of the study's qualitative data also dwells on document reviews.

Findings

Demographic changes 2015-2032

- *The population will continue to grow.* Despite the decline in fertility, the total population will continue to grow by about two million a year for the entire period because the inevitable increase in the number of married couples of reproductive age will maintain a high birth rate.
- *The absolute growth in population numbers will continue to rise despite a falling percent rate of increase.* According to the UN Population Division, the decadal increase in the 1950s was 4 million, rising to 12.8 million in the 1980s and further to 21 million in the first decade of this century. This upward trend will continue with a projected increase of 24.4 million in 2010-20 and 26 million in 2020-2030.
- *The urban population will grow faster than the rural population.* CSA projects that the urban population will increase by 103% (i.e. a doubling) between 2015 and 2032 while the rural population will increase by 25%.
- *The population will become more educated.* Because of the recent expansion of primary and secondary schooling, the gains in education status will be largely confined to younger adults over the next 17 years.
- *The regional distribution of population will change little.* CSA assumes that the level of inter-regional migration observed in the early 2000s will continue, with net in-migration to Addis, Dire Dawa, Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz, balanced by net out-migration mainly from Amhara.
- *Fertility will fall but the number of births per year will remain constant.* The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is expected to fall from 4.0 births per woman in 2015 to about 2.7 births by 2032.
- *Mortality will decline.* CSA expects that life expectancy will improve from 62 to 68 years.

- *Changes in age structure will occur.* The working age segment (15-64 years) will increase by 29.6 million (or nearly 58%) over the next 17 years, from 51 to 81 million.

Opportunities and threats posed by demographic change

- Provided that employment and productivity does not drop, an increase in the proportion of the total population in the prime working ages will be economically beneficial.
- Given the high rate of school dropouts, low primary education and secondary education completion rates, equipping the young with appropriate skills will be a big challenge.
- Official unemployment in rural areas is negligible simply because it is a "luxury" confined to the more educated middle class who can depend on family support while being out of work.
- Despite the recent record of success in reducing urban unemployment, it is uncertain whether similar progress can be maintained for the next 17 years in the face of an urban population increasing annually by 0.8 million rising to 1.3 million towards the end of the period, a percent rate of increase in excess of 4%.
- According to IMF and World Bank sources, FDI into Ethiopia, expressed as a percentage of GDP averaged 2.6% between 2000 and 2013, ranging from over 5% in 2003/4 to 0.4% in 2008, the year of the international financial crash.

Conclusion

Ethiopia faces four challenges. Despite an increased pace of rural-urban migration, the country will remain predominantly agrarian over the next 17 years. The majority of less educated, poor and vulnerable people are farmers.

- The first challenge is to press ahead with agricultural modernization and improved productivity, which in turn will increase off-farm rural livelihoods.
- The second challenge concerns the need for rapid increases in formal sector wage employment, mainly in manufacturing.
- The third challenge is to enhance the productivity of the informal sector, with the ultimate goal of ensuring that some young people succeed in creating businesses that grow and provide employment for others.
- The fourth challenge is the prospect of increased public expenditure on education, health and other services for children under 15 years of age.

Research Summaries

Violence Affecting Children in Ethiopia: A Review of the Qualitative Evidence from Young Lives

Alula Pankhurst and Nathan Nigussie

Purpose

The review looks into trends of violence affecting children in Ethiopia based on the qualitative evidence from Young Lives in its five study sites – Addis Ababa, SNNPR, Amhara, Tigray and Oromiya.

Methodology

The review chose to use the qualitative research methodology and that was framed broadly, and research teams were encouraged to follow what children want to or are willing to talk about, within a broad set of topics. In addition, a range of qualitative research methods were used, including one-to-one interviews, group discussions and creative activities.

Findings

Children, of all age groups, reported on numerous occasions that violence happens to them at three settings: home, school and community.

Violence at home

In the home environment, children most commonly reported corporal punishment and verbal admonishment. Family stress associated with the challenges of poverty inevitably affects intra-family relationships – which relates with violence. According to both girls and boys, a task refused or performed below standards can easily result in beatings.

Violence in schools

In schools, the reasons for disciplining children are linked to a pedagogical style that emphasizes that children should work on their own quietly rather than in groups. Failure to provide correct responses was another reason that could incite beatings along with incomplete homework and arriving late or missing classes.

Violence affecting Children in Communities

Physical violence mentioned by children in their neighborhoods and communities mainly involved fights between children. Children reported that non-physical (or emotional) violence, in the form of insults between children, sometimes led to fights. Boys appear more likely to describe physical fights, and if the fight is between a younger boy and an older one, the former may give in or accept being beaten.

Regarding sexual violence against girls, they are generally at a higher risk of sexual violence than boys. In all five communities and in both rural and urban contexts, teenage (post-pubertal) girls expressed a sense of not feeling safe and at risk of harassment from boys, particularly on the way to or from school. This was most common in the site in Tigray.

Conclusions and recommendations

Violence against children was found to be widespread in both rural and urban settings in all the 5 sites in 5 regions. Most reports were of physical violence, mainly beating, whereas reprimanding, insults, and other non-physical violence or emotional violence were less common.

Corporal punishment seems more common in middle childhood. Younger children in pre-school and older children from their mid-teens seemed less likely to experience physical violence.

Children experience punishment for failing to undertake household work, and may miss school due to work and face punishments.

Children often accept corporal punishment as long as they consider it to be fair and linked to a wrongdoing.

There is a need for greater inter-sectoral coordination on violence affecting children by creating awareness and implementing existing National Policies, Strategies and Action Plans, and finalising and updating draft legislation.

Coordination of initiatives addressing violence affecting women and children needs to involve greater collaboration between government, alliances and networks such as the National Alliance to end Child Marriage and FGM, the Child Protection Civil Society Organisations Advisory Group, the Child Protection and Gender-Based-Violence Sub-Cluster and the Child Research and Practice Forum.

Initiatives to encourage positive parenting have also been shown to be effective and pilot approaches should be up-scaled and mainstreamed.

Research institutions should focus on under-researched topics such as the longer term consequences of violence, differential children and young people's experiences of violence, forms of emotional violence, and changing norms and values that condone violence.

