

Youths and labor: challenges and consequences

A field study

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Abstract

The current research aims at recognizing the challenges the Egyptian youths face in their endeavors to get employment opportunities and the consequences on youth, family and community as a whole. This requires us to explore the social, economic and political dominant realities and the challenges they pose on young people in their endeavors to get employment opportunities. The research poses the following main question: what are the challenges the Egyptian youths face in their endeavors to get employment opportunities and their consequences? In attempt to answer this question, the interview was employed as a tool to collect data as being a suitable tool to this qualitative descriptive research. The evidence of the interview involved main elements: the challenges to get an employment opportunity, the consequences of the hardships the youths face in their endeavors and the future perspectives. The data, then, were analyzed through content analysis. The sample consisted of 20 subjects (10 employed and 10 unemployed) of graduate youths in the age period 22-30 years old of both sexes. The study took place in March 2004 in Kom-Hamada (a small town in Al-Behera county, Egypt) where the researcher was born and brought up and has strong relations with its people. The results showed that there are varied challenges that affect the number of available employment opportunities, including: high technology, the increasing dependence on machine instead of people, especially in the large investments, the highly competitiveness in labor

market and the unsuitable education product to the labor market demands. A percent of 70% of the case studied stated that the climate of globalization adversely affect on local investments which focus on providing employment opportunities for young people to achieve social security rather than profit and competition. The results also showed no differences between the sexes in the awareness of the challenges and their implications, (in all axes), but the difference emerged in favor of not working versus working in the awareness of the challenges of globalization.

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