

Empowering Young People in Disempowering Times *Fighting Inequality through Capability Oriented Policy*

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INTRODUCTION

While preparing the Handbook of Youth Economy, Buheji (2017), I came across the work of Otto et al (2017) that focus on the importance of “Youth Empowerment” as a means for better socio-economic development. As an author of similar book and exciting revolving subject, this book a review is perceived to be of utmost importance and it target audiences beyond the academic community, where practitioners and decision makers related to youth planning, strategies, programs are designing the future of the societies that depend on youth in one way or another.

Mitigation of Youth Inequality and Deteriorating Situation

The work of Otto et al. (2017) focus on mitigating the risk against the deteriorating youth employment and training opportunities in all over the world with more focus on Europe. Otto and his colleagues seen that levels of poverty with low social exclusion would increase among youth, unless European policies and strategies are developed fast enough to meet youth rising demands and conditions. Therefore, the editors use the sub-title “Fighting Inequality through Capability Oriented Policy”. Their goal is raise the capability of the policies, even though one might differ that in this era we might work on raising youth capacity to meet the turbulence of the instable market.

Book with Number-crunch

The book is full with numbers that reflects youth disadvantages. For example, in order to give a clear judgement, Otto et al. (2017) used the EU survey data and in-depth qualitative research to examine the education, employment experiences and quality of life of young people in Europe.

The results of the survey help the editors to develop focused critique of best approaches suitable for Europe, that would help youth to tackle their challenges re-engineering human capital integration approaches.

Youth Social Disadvantage

Youth of 15-29 years old have challenging and complex educational experience specially after 2008. The good thing about Otto et.al.(2017) is that gone beyond issues of unemployment or low income, to go further towards social integration.

To overcome low youth motivation and aspiration, can come from projection of their future life and life meaningfulness and purposefulness. social integration helps to family formation and lifestyle choices. The other social disadvantage is youth inequality.

However, the book focus on the most critical stage for youth empowerment that is the transition stage from education to employment.

CONCLUSION

This book is highly important of those involved with youth, i.e. mentors, trainers, educators and decision or policy makers. It is divided based on the interest variety of those concerned with youth development. The descriptive capabilities of youth are followed by youth enhancement and how to create their transformative capabilities. Since it is evidence base, the analysis on this book help to develop further studies which aim to develop new and progressive ways to assess the situation of socially disadvantaged young people in Europe. It is a book that would be handy for those who want to evaluate best practice of youth social inclusion.

References

Buheji, M (2018) Handbook of Youth Economy, AuthorHouse, UK.

Otto, H; Egdell, V; Bonvin, J and Atzmuller, R (2017) Empowering Young People in Disempowering Times, Fighting Inequality through Capability Oriented Policy. Elgar.