

## **Determinants of youth unemployment in Sri Lanka**

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Youth unemployment is one of the most pressing economic and social problems in Sri Lanka. Recent levels of youth unemployment are found in the context of reduced labour market inflexibilities, an expansion of manpower development through training and development opportunities and higher education as well as social, emotional and economical support of long-term unemployed youth in the country. This study examines the determinants of unemployment among youth in Sri Lanka. A cross sectional research design and a mixed methodological approach was applied to use qualitative and quantitative methods as sources of primary and secondary data. Data for this study were mainly obtained from the Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey 2012 collected by the Department of Census and Statistics of Sri Lanka. In addition, qualitative data gathered from case studies were also employed. The sample size was 5768 and it contains both males and females who were in age group of 15-29. Binary logistic regression model was used to examine the determinants of unemployment among youth. The dependent variable of the model is a dummy of being unemployed (740) or employed (5028) at the time of the survey. Selected socio-demographic and economic variables are used as independent variables. The study found that unemployment level is significantly higher (16.8%) among the youth in age group of 20-24. It is also evident that females youth those had advanced level or higher education have higher unemployment rate (6.2). Further, the study explains that the relative importance of vocational training for the youth. Based on the findings from both qualitative and quantitative analysis, it shows the need of introducing a gender-friendly, region oriented policy to address the constraints faced by youth and to strength the maximum participation and manpower development in the labour market which will enhance the wellbeing of the young generation as well as their families and the economy of Sri Lanka.

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