

Chapter 15

Technology Adoption for Addressing Precarious Youth Employment Issue

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ABSTRACT

This study critically analyzes precarious youth employment in Bangladesh having a specific focus on her tourism industry. Traditionally, the tourism economy of Bangladesh is considered as promising. This research arguably identifies the tourism industry of Bangladesh encouraging conceptual precarious youth employment. From theoretical perspective, this chapter addresses the Theory of Scientific Management of Frederick Taylor (1911) and the Systems Theory of Dunlop (1958) in this context. This conceptual study understands precarious youth employment in the Bangladesh tourism and relates relevance of the two theories mentioned. Based on arguments, this study outlines the role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as a latent option to minimize issues generated from precarious youth employment. An in-depth analysis offers policy suggestions for the betterment of youth employment in the Bangladesh tourism industry.

INTRODUCTION

Employment in any area or any economic sector can be granted as rewarding as long as this can produce a positive outcome and can meet the demand of many beneficiary types. However, employment can be precarious and can take diverse shapes and patterns. Youths are a very important part of the national economy of

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-7998-0437-6.ch015

any country, and this is why they deserve regular employment in diverse economic areas. Precarious youth employment is a regular fact and remains present in almost every country of the world including Bangladesh, a South Asian country. Precarious youth employment gets wider attention due to the recent global economic meltdown involving the 'zero hour contract'. Tourism is a rapidly expanding industry and in many cases, acts as the leading economic sector in many countries across the world. In Bangladesh, youth unemployment rate is quite high when the youths occupy a considerable part of the national workforce. Over the last decade, tourism in Bangladesh has flourished due to elevated spending capacities of the peoples, supportive policy implantation and both private and public investments (Hassan & Burns, 2014). This conceptual study aims to explore diverse factors of precarious youth employment in the tourism sector with particular focus on Bangladesh. From a more generic perspective, the country is helping entrepreneurs to come forward and get supported. Literacy rate and the quality of education are massive favors for the development of ICT in a country like Bangladesh. The 'Digital Bangladesh' campaign is an officially supporting this sector to flourish and get expanded to many areas including Small and Medium Enterprises development. The Cabinet of Bangladesh approved a citizen-centric ICT Policy 2009 with 306 action items for all agencies of the government (Government of Bangladesh, 2002). Also, the study seeks to justify information and communication technology (ICT) as a possible solution to the persistent precarious youth employment situation in Bangladesh. This study identifies a knowledge gap in this regard. Thus, the contribution of this study is significant through filling to narrow down this knowledge gap.

METHODOLOGY

The study follows general desk research to collect information and data from internet and library sources. An extensive literature review was performed on the thematic areas including but not limited to areas of precarious job situations, youth unemployment, ethics in workplace, the Theory of Scientific Management of Frederick Taylor (1911), the Systems Theory Dunlop (1958) as relevant theories of this study, information and communication technology (ICT) and policy suggestions. An exercise of scoping with the exploration of key issues and aspects of the research was made to get tourism sector based data on the economic situation and precarious youth employment situation in the identified country of Bangladesh. The research was conducted to collect official data and statistics from the governmental and non-governmental agencies responsible for the tourism sector of Bangladesh. There was a combination of intensive literature reviews followed by personal available

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