



Act for a resilient youth and celebrate young women's and girls skills with GWI on

World Youth Skills Day

15 July 2020

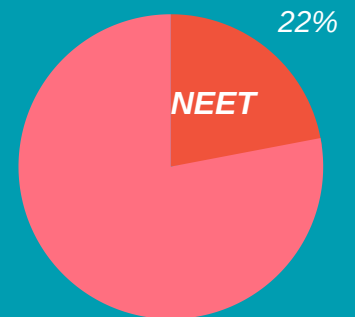


With the aim to raise awareness of the importance of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) to reduce youth unemployment, the United Nations General Assembly adopted at the end of the year 2014 a resolution declaring **15th July** as **World Youth Skills Day (WYSD)**. The observance day insists on the role of Member States and civil society in meeting the needs and aspirations of youth, particularly in developing countries. GWI joins the global community in celebrating WYSD, in line with its longstanding commitment to promote women's and girls' access to education and vocational training up to the highest levels.

Did You Know?

267 million young people (aged 15-24) are not in employment, education or training (NEET), and many more endure substandard working conditions.

(ILO 2020)



The global NEET rate for young women (**31.1 %**) is still **more than double** that for young men (**13.9 %**).

(ILO 2020)

Young people aged 15-24 are almost **3 times more likely to be unemployed** than adults and continuously exposed to lower quality of jobs, greater labor market inequalities, and longer and more insecure school-to-work transitions.

(ILO 2020)



In addition, women are more likely to be **underemployed and underpaid**, and to **undertake part-time jobs** or **work under temporary contracts**.

(ILO 2020)

Gender norms affect the likelihood of a young woman entering and participating in the labour market, **which types of jobs** she can pursue, **how much** she will be paid and **how far** she can advance in her career.

(Plan International)



A **one percentage point increase in female education** raises the average gross domestic product (GDP) **by 0.3 percentage points** and raises annual GDP growth rates **by 0.2 percentage points**.

(Global Partnership for Education)

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World Youth Skills Day 2020



Sustainable Development Goals

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Reduce inequality within and among countries

Skills: A Valuable Asset For A Resilient Youth

In times of pandemic crisis, it is urgent to acknowledge **young people's skills as central to all countries' possibility of resilience**. A specific focus must be put on young women and girls, **whose immense potential remains highly neglected**. Investing in education and especially in **technical and vocational education and training (TVET)** is critical to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular *SDG 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5 targets*.



Accordingly, GWI calls on states to **encourage women and girls to undertake high quality university studies or TVET** in all fields, and especially those with the highest gender gaps, in order to reduce the vast inequalities in employment. This will provide them with **critical skills for employment or entrepreneurship**, preparing them for the labour market and reducing the unemployment rate.



GWI Actions for Women's Skills

GWI is committed to empowering women and girls through the acquisition of new skills with the **Bina Roy Partners in Development (BRPID) Programme**, which awards grants to GWI National Federations and Associations (NFAs) from developing countries on a competitive basis. As example, the 2019-2020 BRPID projects include:

- Empowerment of schoolgirls in Kinkole rural area in Kinshasa through a mentorship programme
Congolese Association of University Women (ACOFDU)
- Harnessing girls potential in Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) in High Schools in the Central Region of Ghana
Ghana Association of University Women (GAUW)
- Enhancing employability skills for the empowerment of girls and young women
Indian Federation of University Women's Association (IFUWA)



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Contribution by GWI intern, Sophie Husser

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