



Secretaria de Estado da
Formação Profissional e Emprego
(SEFOPE)



Fact Sheet

Entrepreneurship Education

Attitude of Timorese Youth towards Entrepreneurship

The 2007 Youth Employment Study showed the Timor-Leste youth's preference for waged employment particularly in the civil service sector and their common misconception about entrepreneurship. Youth view self-employment activities with disdain as they narrowly relate self-employment with petty trades in small kiosks and stalls along the beach and road sides. The existing education and skills training system does not have appropriate mechanisms and personnel to promote a vibrant entrepreneurial culture and business acumen amongst youth.

Entrepreneurship Education

Preparing Timorese youth to face the employment challenges in the labour market is, therefore, critical to address national widespread poverty and prevent civil unrest instigated by youth who are frustrated by the lack of jobs and income. International experience has shown



entrepreneurship education in schools and community learning centers can effectively assist youth to identify earning opportunities in a labour market that has limited waged employment to offer. When introduced and exposed to the opportunities, challenges, procedures and characteristics and other information relevant to self-employment and starting a small business, youth can



make critical economic contribution to their families and communities.

ILO's contribution to Timor-Leste

The ILO's international *Know About Business* (KAB) training programme has been adapted to the Timor-Leste reality and introduced as a subject in the national curriculum for secondary and technical education. The Timor-Leste KAB package consists of 9 training modules which together give orientation about enterprises and entrepreneurship, practical guidance and exercises on becoming an entrepreneurs and starting a business. During the course students are assisted in developing a business plan and implementing it. A business simulation game is part of the KAB package. In the game, the students learn about basic business management principles while they run virtual business ventures.

The Timor-Leste KAB training materials are available in both Tetun and Portuguese languages.

National Interventions

Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, and the Secretariat of State for Vocational Training and Employment with technical assistance from the ILO's Youth Employment Promotion Project currently implements an entrepreneurship curricular in secondary, technical, and agriculture schools.

- All of Timor-Leste's 13 secondary technical schools and 4 secondary agriculture schools offer KAB courses.

- Four officials from the Ministry of Education and the Secretariat of State for Vocational Training and Employment are trained KAB facilitators.
- 38 school teachers use the KAB package.
- 3,500 students in secondary technical and agriculture schools attend KAB courses every year.

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