



COOPERATIVES AND THE WORLD OF WORK

Issue Brief Series

Formed by producers, consumers, workers and business people worldwide, cooperatives have demonstrated their great potential for creating and consolidating employment opportunities, empowering people, providing protection and alleviating poverty. The ILO's "*Cooperatives and the world of work*" issue brief series highlights how cooperative model engages in the changing world of the work.

1. Leveraging the cooperative advantage for women's empowerment and gender equality

Inequalities between women and men exist in the world of work, both in quantity of job opportunities and quality of employment. Gender equality in the world of work signifies equality of opportunity and treatment quality of remuneration and access to safe and healthy working environments, equality in association and collective bargaining, equality in obtaining meaningful career development, maternity protection, and a balance between work and home life that is fair to both men and women. This brief provides insights into questions such as: How can cooperative enterprises help promote gender equality? What ways women can make use of the cooperative advantage to access opportunities that are otherwise denied to them?

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---coop/documents/publication/wcms_307217.pdf

2. Cooperating out of isolation: Domestic workers' cooperatives

The International Labour Organization estimates that, worldwide, there are at least 52.6 million domestic workers. Often domestic workers face isolation due to their workplaces and restrictions on their movement by their employers. Also, domestic workers frequently work outside their home countries as migrant workers. This brief provides how cooperatives can provide a way out of precarious and informal working arrangements, which can be a feature of working life for many migrant workers.

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---coop/documents/publication/wcms_307218.pdf

3. At work together: The cooperative advantage for people with disabilities

Worldwide, there are at least 785 million women and men of working age with disabilities. They often face enormous obstacles to equal opportunities in the world of work, ranging from attitudinal and physical to informational barriers. A recent report estimates that worldwide more than 26 million people work in cooperative enterprises as employees or worker-members. This brief looks at how cooperative model encourage active involvement of people with disabilities in their enterprises and how cooperatives have demonstrated an understanding of, and a determination to meet, disability related needs of their customers and employees.

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---coop/documents/publication/wcms_378237.pdf

4. Rediscovering cooperatives: Young people finding work the cooperative way

Across the world young women and men face real and increasing difficulty in finding decent work opportunities. At a time when young people are disproportionately affected by unemployment and the lack of decent work, cooperatives can create work opportunities and better working conditions. This brief provides insights into questions such as: why young people may find solution for the cooperative business model? What challenges holds back the development both of cooperatives and of young people's participation in cooperatives in particular?



http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---coop/documents/publication/wcms_391216.pdf

5. Securing rights, creating jobs and ensuring sustainability: A cooperative way for empowering indigenous peoples (Forthcoming)

The year 2014 marked 25 years of the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), which has played an instrumental role in furthering the rights of indigenous peoples across the world. Historically, indigenous peoples have long bore the weight of multiple forms of marginalization. ". It is estimated that although indigenous peoples constitute about 5 per cent of the world's population, they account for 15 per cent of the world's poor. This brief overview potential and challenges of cooperatives on securing livelihoods, creating jobs, enhancing protection and ensuring sustainability through close alignment with the guiding principles and the spirit underlying the rights of indigenous peoples.