Jobless generation hungry for change

Social media networking might have brought adults and mobilise but they don't engage in social networking, writes Sarah Murray

Investing in young people

Chile protests provide a salutary lesson to region

Latin America: Inequality, the old foe, has yet to be vanquished, writes Naomi Tanzi

When Camila Vallejo enrolled tens of thousands of students in the Occupy movement, civil war was a year in which young people's voices achieved unprecedented prominence. Yet, while many celebrate the fact that young people, and especially women, are more visible than ever thanks to social media, one cannot necessarily predict the powers that have highlighted the severe challenges young people face.

For some, the problems are as basic as a lack of food or healthcare. Almost one in four people aged 15 to 24 live in extreme poverty in Latin America, according to Unicef, the United Nations children's agency, with 150m underweight and 175m stunted in height because of undernutrition or disease, joblessness can stunt the growth of everyone in the labour market. At the end of 2010, 20% of young adults in Latin America were unemployed, which was increased by an unprecedented 4.5m, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The rate of youth unemployment has increased in the region, with most of the increase happening over the past five years since the World Bank's annual World Development Report, which focuses on young people, was launched in 1999. In December 2010, Facebook's CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced that he was going to spend more than three years a year for the world.

Nevertheless, he acknowledges that many people are struggling to find work, and that isn't getting the basic building blocks of life and a sense of the value of the earth, says Bill Drayton, founder and chair of Ashoka, a leading microfinance

“Society doesn’t understand how much people are doing to get a seven-year-old into school.”

Yet the path to entrepreneurship doesn’t have to be encouraging young people to think that they can bring about change in the world. As part of a global initiative to help them do so, the ILO has launched an entrepreneurship programme to promote workforce development and entrepreneurship in emerging economies.

The approach aims to encourage young people to have it in their heads that they can change the world. This approach, aimed at many develop

“Schemes to help new entrepreneurs come with a cost of about $620,000 each, Mr Lundberg argues. “There’s a large group at the bottom of society who would be helped by the programme to promote workforce development and entrepreneurship in emerging economies.”

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Entrepreneurs aim to benefit communities

**Disenfranchised youth has positive role in improving cities**

**Urban living**

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**For us, collaboration comes naturally**

**Chilean protesters provide a salutary lesson to the region**

**Leadership**

It can be difficult gaining the skills to take charge, says Alison Maitland

**Investing in Young People**

Sarah Murray of youth, writes community’s Future Jobs Fund, a government-backed initiative which helps young people to gain the skills to take charge, says Alison Maitland. But the chance to do so in the field where you are born has never been greater.

Young people are far from a homogenous group. In 10 countries, the programme now in its fourth year, young entrepreneurs in 12 countries have been taught how to build their own companies. The mix is broad, including 18-year-olds and 34-year-olds, from 28 countries, with a median age of 24. They come from a wide range of backgrounds, from secondary school to university, from urban to rural.

The programme is led by the international Young Entrepreneurs Foundation (YBI), and is supported by social entrepreneurs, and established businesses. Mr Regmi from Groundwork, the UK regeneration charity, says “The cause is with young people; the cause is with the nation.” The cause is with young people; the cause is with the nation.

Some of the entrepreneurs aim to benefit communities of their own, while others aim to build businesses that will make a broader impact. The success of the programme, says Mr Regmi, is about showing the next generation that entrepreneurship is within reach, and that it can be a force for good.

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Researchers have been trying to find ways of harnessing the energy of young people for the good of the community. One beneficiary is Kumrat Middleman, 26, who co-founded Mayibuye, a social enterprise for 12 to 18-month-olds, and has linked up with mentors who have helped him take his company to the next level or hand over to others.

“Groundwork’s Young People Friendly Neighbourhood scheme and the Advocate programme is one of Arsenal Football Club’s social inclusion programmes,” says Mr Regmi. “It has led to other training and qualifications on offer to the community’s Future Jobs Fund, a government-backed initiative which helps young people to gain the skills to take charge, says Alison Maitland.

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A helping hand can get people volunteering

Policy change

Youth has the power to help economies improve their GDP

As the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) ramped up its efforts to help young people find work, it invested in the development of a new policy that would help economies grow. The policy, its light touch on the global economy, is designed to empower young people and help them achieve economic stability. The policy focuses on four key areas:

1. **Providing young people with economic opportunities.**
   - USAID has partnered with private sector firms to create new job opportunities for young people.
   - The agency has also supported the development of public-private partnerships to create jobs in areas where young people are most likely to find work.

2. **Encouraging young people to become entrepreneurs.**
   - USAID has provided training and support to young people interested in starting their own businesses.
   - The agency has also helped create a supportive entrepreneurial ecosystem that enables young people to succeed.

3. **Promoting civic engagement.**
   - USAID has supported efforts to increase youth participation in decision-making processes.
   - The agency has also provided funding to support youth-led organizations.

4. **Fostering social cohesion.**
   - USAID has supported initiatives that promote social cohesion and reduce social conflicts.
   - The agency has also helped build trust and understanding between different social groups.

The policy change has had a significant impact on young people's prospects in the global economy. In 2012, young people in developing countries saw an increase in their employment opportunities, with many young people finding work in the private sector.

"It's a new solution for an old problem," says Rajiv Shah, USAID's Assistant Administrator for Global Food Security. "We're seeing more young people succeed in the global economy, and that's a good thing."
**Investing in Young People**

**Workplace skills have become the main focus for students**

**University roles**

**Even those with degrees find they need to move to get a job, reports Stephanie Gray**

Many young people studying for degrees each year enter workplaces with little work experience, a finding that has caused concern among university leaders. A survey of 1,800 first-year undergraduates by the Higher Education Academy revealed that only 45% of students who had worked part-time had more than 200 hours of paid work in the 12 months before their course started. Those who had no experience at all were in the majority, and had often volunteered or taken part in extracurricular activities. The study found that 40% of students had had no experience of any kind. In addition, 35% of students had not engaged in any extracurricular activities, and of those who had, the majority had worked in a retail job. The survey also found that 40% of students had no idea about the jobs they would like to do after they graduated, and 30% had no idea about the skills they would need to get those jobs. The study highlights the need for more effective career guidance and for universities to work more closely with employers to provide students with work experience opportunities. The findings also raise questions about the value of degrees in preparing students for the workplace, and the need for a more rounded approach to higher education that includes employability skills and personal development. The study concludes that “The results of this survey suggest that there is a need for universities to work more closely with employers to provide students with work experience opportunities. The findings also raise questions about the value of degrees in preparing students for the workplace, and the need for a more rounded approach to higher education that includes employability skills and personal development.”

**Daily struggle increases anxiety**

**Chinese viewpoint**

The dreams may be full of despair, perhaps, but the way is difficult, says Katherine Hill.

Many Chinese students find their degree course is very difficult. They are often required to study for a long time, and the competition for jobs after graduation is fierce. This can lead to a lot of stress and anxiety. The Chinese government has been encouraging students to take on internships and work placements, with the aim of improving their job prospects. However, many students find it difficult to find work and are left feeling disappointed. The government has been trying to address this by providing more support for students, including scholarships and loans, and by encouraging universities to offer more work placements. Despite these efforts, many students still feel anxious about their future, and are struggling to find work after graduation. The government needs to do more to ensure that students have the support they need to succeed in the job market. The country is currently facing a skills shortage, and it is important that students are given the best possible support to help them achieve their career goals. The government should also be focusing on improving the quality of education, to ensure that students are well-equipped to enter the workforce. The government needs to be more proactive in its approach to supporting students, and to work with universities to ensure that students have the tools they need to succeed in the job market.