

## **Education and Employment**

On leaving school, college or university, it is the dream of most students to find suitable employment. The trend is that most pursue the option of working in the public or private sector. On the other hand, there is a percentage which has an interest in being self-employed and have an interest in the creation of their own form of employment. The latter either are interested in engaging in entrepreneurship and/or in micro or small business operations. Unfortunately, there are those who have no ambition and probably no desire of working in any traditional jobs or in the existing employment sectors. The fact remains that those who have an interest in working must prepare themselves for the recruitment opportunities or for developing their business ideas. To do any of this, there must be a foundation on which individuals prepare themselves. It is for this reason that education and training become important, and for young persons ought to see the value of education and training.

Some mistakenly believe that neither of these is important in their development, and hence there is the lack of a serious approach which is taken to their studies. The problem arises for those who are so minded when they leave school, as their limited preparation hinders them from either securing quality jobs and from accessing formal training opportunities. The point must be stressed that there is the utmost importance attached to having a basic education. Every individual would want to know that they can read, write, add, subtract and multiple. These are basic requirements that everyone should have to make them employable. The added value to this is that it gives the individual some form of independence.

While our societies promote and glamourize academic achievement, it does not mean that this should be a deterrent to any individual who does not have the lofty academic qualifications. All members of our societies will not be high flyers, and therefore members of our societies have to respect that fact. Those who are at the bottom must be prepared to accept that despite their limited academic attainment, they none the less have a contribution to make. They ought to be proud to do. Those who recognized that they have academic limitations must look to see if they either have skills or talents which can be developed.

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There are many success stories of those who have been late developers. They may not have had excelled academically, but were able to identify their talents and skills, and through either formal or informal training have established themselves in their chosen fields. There are numerous persons who have excelled as businessmen, artisans, entertainment and sports. It is unfortunate that in our societies, they are those who are not academic achievers or who are drop outs of the educational system, who are written off without being given a chance.

Those with talents and special skills have the comfort of knowing that with an increasing emphasis on skills and competencies, they have the opportunity to increase their chances in either creating employment opportunities or making themselves employable. This category of person should avail themselves to every possible training opportunity.

As our societies become more conscious of the importance of every citizen's contribution to national development, then this should underline the need to have training programmes which are pitched at the level of low achievers.

The advice to every student is that there is an advantage to being an educated worker. Having a sound education enables each individual to be able to compete favourably for an advertised job for which they are suitably qualified. It also exposes each person to be in a better position to earn a higher wage or salary, and positions them, once employed, to gain promotion in your job.