

The Opportunities of Vocational Training for Youth Employment

The first piece of evidence-based research from the think tank was published by the HKFYG Youth Research Centre in the summer. It reports findings of an online survey about vocational training and the value it offers compared to that of and academic education for employment. 950 people aged 14-25 were interviewed.

Key findings on vocational training

Lack of confidence 32% thought that vocational training was for those who failed to get a place at university or were “academic losers.” 44.8% thought that if they pursued vocational training their opportunities for further studies would be worse.

Negative attitude to technical work 58.8% thought jobs in the construction industry, aircraft maintenance, or care of the elderly were “not meaningful or not suitable.” 86.2% thought that the hard work involved was the main reason for labour shortage in this field.

Vocational training good for job/career prospects 41.9% thought that employment and career prospects were better with vocational training than with a purely academic education, but only 18.2% believed that vocational training educational credentials received enough recognition in Hong Kong to make them a worthwhile pursuit.

Recommendations

- Set up a matching fund for vocational education to encourage employers to subsidize enrollment of employees and provide technical work practitioners with paths to further study.
- Provide secondary school students, parents and teachers with more diversified information on all forms of education and employment.
- Devote more resources in government, industrial and training sectors to enhance the professional image and improve professional quality in fields such as primary care and mechanical maintenance.
- Promote the Qualifications Framework which to date has received insufficient attention from employers, making its adoption in various industries unpopular.

- Accelerate the development of Specification of Competency Standards and the implementation of the Recognition of Prior Learning mechanism and encourage employers to include such qualifications in job advertisements.
- Provide incentives for tertiary institutes to offer vocational education programmes and extend the coverage of disciplines and levels of programmes subsidized by the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/Sectors.

Full report: [Serial No 1 \(in Chinese\)](#)

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Youth Research Centre

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