



Bringing you snippets of youth trends and issues compiled from diverse sources such as news reports, journals and press releases. Y+ is a bi-monthly e-newsletter that aims to help you stay in touch with the constantly evolving youth scene.

YOUTH AND GLOBALISATION

Globalisation describes the increased interconnectedness and interdependence of people and countries. It is generally understood in terms of the increased mobility of goods, services, finance, people and ideas across borders. It affects not only economic but also political, cultural, environmental and security activities. It has increased rapidly in recent years, driven by advances in technology and the increased mobility of capital ([World Health Organization, 2014](#)).

Globalisation is a double-edged sword. It brings with it both opportunities and challenges. Many youths are migrating for better work and education opportunities which allow them to acquire greater knowledge and skills and expand their networks ([United Nations, 2010](#)). While youths benefit from the immense opportunities that accompany employment and education options available internationally, competition has also stiffened. They now need to compete with a global pool of talents, and ensure that they remain competitive internationally. A survey done in 2013 across four countries (the United States, Brazil, Switzerland and Singapore) by [Credit Suisse](#) found youths in Singapore concerned over the issue of immigration from the increased competition for jobs and housing. In the United States, organisations such as [World Savvy](#) had started pushing for students to gain [global competence](#). Tensions may rise amongst youths who miss out on the benefits of globalisation ([Brown, 2014](#)).

Globalisation brings with it diversity. The society is more diverse culturally than a generation ago. Youth culture and identity are being changed. Rather than pledging allegiance to a single national identity, youths today are embracing hybrid cultural identities. This is part of the influence from the global youth culture facilitated by the internet. This issue of Y+ highlights selected articles related to youths and the globalisation phenomenon.

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Michael Kroboth, *Journalist*
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1. Global Youth Step Over the Ethnic Fence [Australia, South Africa, Malaysia and Italy]

With globalisation, communities are getting more culturally diverse. Young people sense of identity and affiliations stretches across global networks. An international four-year research project studying how young people deal with cultural diversity and manage conflict and change, found young people to be more accepting of diversity than the older generation. For them, diversity is the norm, and the acceptance comes with the right to mix (or not) with others within and across cultural groups. It is a choice. Young people resist an allegiance to a single national identity but embrace hybrid cultural identities which allow them to be part of many groups at the same time. The flow of a global youth culture via the internet further enhances their ability to do so. Read more [here](#).

(Source: Delivering Impact Monash Magazine. Accessed on 30 July 2014)

<http://monash.edu/monashmag/articles/issue6/global-youth-step-over-the-ethnic-fence.html#.U9itlOOSyul>

2. Youth Barometer 2013 – Switzerland: Young People are Feeling the Competition [Switzerland, Brazil, United States and Singapore]

An interview with political scientist Markus Freitag sought to shed light on the state of youth across four countries: Brazil, Singapore, Switzerland, and the USA. Commenting on the findings of the Youth Barometer Survey 2013, Freitag noted that there exists a certain global culture among youths. Specifically, he noted that youths are practically “digital natives” regardless of their country of origin, and subscribe to a combination of materialistic and non-materialistic desires. Youths have aspirations and dreams, but also realise they need a certain level of material attainment to achieve these aspirations.

The survey also found that optimism across all four countries had declined. Freitag attributed to the lower levels of optimism among youths to globalisation and the recent financial crisis. With a restructuring economy and increased competition stemming from immigration, youths are concerned over their ability to maintain their present lifestyles. He noted that immigration became a problem for Swiss youths when their cultural identity and economic

status were threatened. He highlighted that youths in Singapore were similarly concerned over the issue of immigration, with increased competition for jobs and housing.

(Source: Credit Suisse website. Accessed on 24 July 2014)

<https://www.credit-suisse.com/sg/en/news-and-expertise/publications/bulletin/barometer/youth-barometer/2013.article.html/article/pwp/news-and-expertise/2013/10/en/young-people-are-feeling-the-global-competition.html>

3. UN World Youth Report: Youth and Migration [United Nations]

Globalisation and social networks facilitate youth migration. Faster and lower cost transport, as well as the development of information and communications technology (ICT) has improved human mobility, particularly among youths. Young people could stay connected with their communities of origin easier than before. The United Nations released the [United Nations World Youth Report 2013](#) in February 2014. This year's report centred on the phenomenon of youth migration. The views and experiences of youths from all over the world who have migrated or whose lives have been affected by migration were gathered in early 2013 through online consultation exercises and an online survey. The findings of the report are laid out in five chapters.

Chapter one details the statistics and trends on youth migration while Chapter 2 elaborates on the factors which influenced youth migration. A large proportion of international and internal migrants are youths. These young people are likely to be better educated. Youths possess diverse motivations for migrating and the most common motivation for them to leave their country for another is better social and economic prospects.

Chapter three focuses on transit migration, a situation where young migrants may stay in the interim country on a short or long term basis before reaching their destination. Youths may not always have a choice on the transition. Factors influencing their decision to transit through certain countries include cost, visa regulations and support. It presents both challenges and opportunities. Various forms of support received can help these young migrants ease transit migration experiences.

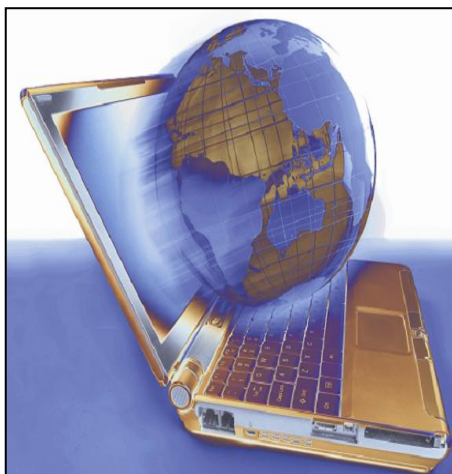
Chapter four shares the challenges that young migrants face when they reach their destination country. While internal migrants may experience an "*ambivalent sense of personal identity*", international migrants may face more severe challenges like discrimination and abuse, which limit their adjustments and advancement opportunities.

Chapter five concludes by emphasizing the importance of raising awareness on migration-related issues and information, as well as engaging youth migrants. Awareness and engagement would help facilitate young migrants' integration into their destination countries.

(Source: United Nations World Youth Report website. Accessed on 23 July 2014)

<http://www.unworldyouthreport.org/images/docs/fullreport.pdf>

4. Why 'World Savvy' Education Will Better Prepare Students and Make the U.S. More Competitive [United States]



Academic excellence alone is insufficient for youths to succeed in a globalised environment. It is important for youths to acquire skills and abilities to help them cope with rapidly rising population diversity and increasing jobs in international trade. Ashoka Fellow Dana Mortensen is a strong proponent for boosting global competence among students. Global competence is defined as the *"knowledge, skills, and dispositions that are necessary to navigate the complexities of... today's global society"* amongst youths. For example, a globally competent individual possesses the ability to appreciate cultural differences, understand and consider multiple perspectives. Mortensen is the co-founder of [World Savvy](http://www.worldsavvy.org), a non-profit organisation that aims to increase the availability

of global competence learning in K-12 schools. World Savvy provides professional development services such as the [Global Competence Certificate \(GCC\)](http://www.worldsavvy.org/global-competence-certificate) programme which aims to greatly increase the number of teachers equipped to practice and teach global competence. World Savvy hopes to expand their efforts across the United States in order to transform K-12 education and build a "globally competent citizenry".

(Source: Forbes website. Accessed on 29 July 2014)

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/ashoka/2014/03/13/why-world-savvy-education-will-better-prepare-students-and-make-the-u-s-more-competitive/>

5. They've Got the Whole World in Their Hands: Millennials are Plugged In and Connected Worldwide [United States]

American's Millennials are described as the "First Globals" (global citizenship) in this article. They are more connected than ever across borders and cultures with the help of technology. A new poll conducted by Zogby Analytics on 1,019 young people aged 18-34 found that two in three young people considered themselves as "social networkers". 39% of those polled reported having someone from Asia in their network and 48% said that they had someone from Europe. More than half indicated that they are likely to live and work in a foreign country at some point in time. They care about the environment and are concerned about the human rights beyond the U.S. They are also more respectful and empathetic towards people from other countries.



(Source: Forbes website. Accessed on 21 July 2014)

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/johnzogby/2014/06/19/theyve-got-the-whole-world-in-their-hands-millennials-are-plugged-in-and-connected-worldwide/>

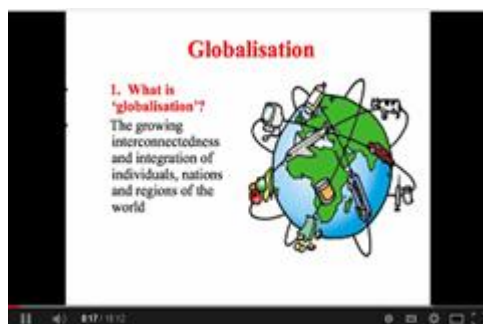
6. Out of School: Globalization's Children are Being Abandoned [United States]

The [Education For All Global Monitoring Report 2013/4](#) revealed that "globalisation's children", or youths born around the new millennium, are facing massive inequalities in opportunities. Although one of the Millennium Development Goals was for all children to receive primary education by 2015, the report showed that developing countries are still very far from attaining this goal. If progress continues at its current speed, underprivileged boys in sub-Saharan Africa would only achieve universal primary education in 2069 while underprivileged girls will only achieve the same in 2086. Gender and income inequalities also hinder youths' access to educational opportunities. Economic inequality is the main reason for unrest amongst people around the world, and has resulted in major protests like the Arab Spring and Occupy movement. The rise in availability of information and communications technology (ICT) will make it apparent to these out of school youths in developing countries that they are missing out on opportunities by no fault of their own. Not only did globalisation not deliver on its promise of "opportunity for all", it could also create awareness of the lack of equal opportunity. Efforts should be renewed to ensure education for all youths and to reduce inequality. If the status quo were to be maintained, it would foster unrest and discontent in the next generation of youths.

(Source: The Huffington Post website. Accessed on 1 August 2014)

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/gordon-brown/globalization-hurts-children-_b_4697544.html

7. Introduction to Globalisation and Youth Culture



How does globalisation influence the youth culture?
Watch the [video](#) to find out how.

8. Further Readings

- [Gen Y at Work: Rewarding the Global Generation](#)
- [Employment for Youth – A Growing Challenge for the Global Economy](#)
- [Educating for Global Competence: Preparing Our Youth to Engage the World](#)
- [London: A Tale of Two Cities – Addressing the Youth Employment Challenge](#)

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