

Module 14 - Role play by “Working age” group

The working age group presented itself as a multi-stakeholder group comprising an academician, a specialist from the UN, an economist from the Ministry of Finance, a statistician, and employers’ and workers’ representatives. Their selected scenario consisted of providing vocational training for 90 days along with an allowance to poor and near poor informal economy workers. This would target about 2 million people and cost 0.58 per cent of GDP.

Different stakeholders expressed their support for the scenario and put forward arguments to convince the other stakeholders from their own perspectives. A representative of rural female workers said that she was very happy and would wait for the scenario to be adopted. The academician presented his case from a statistical point of view, indicating that an investment in training at a cost of 0.58 per cent of GDP will ultimately give a return of 7 per cent of GDP. They have conducted surveys to determine the demand for skills from employers and have a rough design in mind.

The group was then given 15 minutes to accept and reply to questions from the audience. A representative from the World Bank asked that the target group be clarified along with the training activities. She also asked the group to explain how the scheme would ensure that beneficiaries have income security after the training ends. The group replied that they were targeting 100 per cent of the poor and near poor population for training activities. The training would be demand-led, comprised of both theory and practical training, and developed together with technical experts. They also clarified that the daily allowance during training would be provided keeping in mind the minimum wage of Coresian Dine 250.

A representative from the Planning Agency remarked that after listening to the presentation, the government would only be able to finance the training for four years. From the Ministry of Finance, a commenter observed that the government seemed to be subsidising firms for hiring and questioned why the firms do not look for workers themselves. A member of the employers’ confederation raised his questions on how beneficiaries of informal training activities would finally be absorbed by the formal economy and which government agencies would be involved in the training.