

26 September 2018

Topic: How to get private sector into schools and schools into private sector

by Mr Matthew Simon, teacher at Catholic University Juba, South Sudan

At secondary level students go for a practical attachment (arranged by themselves) without any learning objective or any manual that will help them and the company/ organization during these 6 month period. At the same time, companies don't play an active role in the schools; they are not invited for a guest lecture or to be a guest instructor during practical hours. The other way around, teachers and management of schools don't visit companies and organizations to find out how their students perform during practical attachments or to discuss about what companies and organizations expect from employees in the world of work.

Objective of this workshop is to brainstorm with the participants and create a picture of what could be a realistic way to get the private sector into the schools and the schools into the private sector.

Introduction

For effective education aimed at economic growth, private and public sectors (government) should collectively work hand in hand to avoid what we call "Coordination Failure". Coordination Failure in this case is a situation in which public sector and the private sector or even private sector and private sector don't work together to realize which skills and knowledge each other needs for efficient running of the sector in question (Private or public sector). The presenter in this case will examine how to get private sector into schools and schools into private sector.

Objectives

- To brain storm on how private sector get into schools and schools into private sector.
- To suggest the best curriculum that fits in the current job market.
- To suggest ways of how schools can send students for attachments or internship to build their capacities to meet the current skills and knowledge requirement in the job market.
- To suggest ways of how schools, government and the private sector can work collaboratively in training the required workforce.

Coordination

To avoid a situation of Coordination Failure in which one institution does what is not relevant to the growth of the other; schools should understand the knowledge and the skills needed by the private sector and train students towards that. This means, school administrations should have regular ***academic tour*** to companies and organizations with the students or sometimes the teachers alone. This is to relate what the students learn to the real world of practicality. And the teachers on the other hand, should look for companies or organizations that can accept students for attachment or internship. This is to allow students put in practice whatever they have learnt in class. School administrations should also carry out an R&D exercise to know the knowledge and the skills companies or organizations expect of the students after the completion of their studies. The R&D results help school administrations keep updated with what the private sector expect of them and train the students accordingly.

Another way of getting private sector in to schools and schools into private sector is by inviting private sector personal as a guest facilitator (s) more especially during practical classes to relate exactly the theoretical knowledge students learn in class to the real world. The facilitator should as well explain the skills and knowledge needed by the company or organization in question. This gesture will create a sense of confidence in the students and the possibility of employment after the completion of their studies. All these depends largely on the coordination between companies and organizations .For instance, Construction companies need people with the relevant skills and knowledge the same with Insurance companies, Aviation companies, engineering companies, hospitality or hotel services and many others leave alone the public sector. Addressing these volumes of skills and knowledge requirements, there must be a real coordination between the schools and the private sector alike. Some schools after having understood the nature of organizations and companies, they established training centres to respond to these challenges. For example in Kopoeta, we have St. Joseph Vocational Training Centre; in Lologo we have St. Vincent De Paul Vocational Training Centre, in Gumbo we have St. Don Bosco Vocational Training Centre. These church based-schools or centres among others prepare people in different fields including but not limited to carpentry, mechanics, building, plumbing, electricity.

The role of the government

The role of the government in regulating and redirecting institutions to function for their (schools and the private sector) mutual benefits should include the following among others:

- 1) Curriculum development.
- 2) Financing schools.
- 3) Policies to overcome coordination failure.
- 4) Ensure shared growth.
- 5) Provision of conducive environment for education and the companies or organizations.
- 6) Provision of the fundamental public goods.

Small Group discussion

1. What should the government do to help get private sector into the schools and the schools into the private sector?

2. What should the private sector do to help schools impart knowledge and skills they (private sector) need?

3. What should the school administrations do to effectively train their students to the expectations of the companies and organizations?