

Introductory Note

During the course of the Commonwealth Secretariat's studies on youth and development it became clear that "youth" problems rarely originate in factors intrinsic to young people, but are rather the effects of developments and changes which are taking place in countries with predominantly youthful populations.

The problem which appeared to be of crucial importance especially because of its demoralising effects on young people was unemployment. This issue, which is a matter of major concern to most Commonwealth governments, is not only enormous in scale but also extremely complex in nature.

In part, this complexity derives from an increasing recognition of the extent to which established patterns of international aid and trade sometimes operate against the pace of economic development envisaged by individual countries. The wider issues are constantly being re-examined in appropriate fora, but progress here is inevitably slow. Meanwhile the situation requires that solutions be found in the shorter term at national level for today's young people.

In this volume some approaches to the problems of unemployment in Africa and Asia are described. The authors served as consultants to the Commonwealth Secretariat in the earlier seminars and the views expressed are personal to them. It is hoped, however, that member countries may recognise herein some pointers to purposeful action.