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THE PROBLEM OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN GEORGIA

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The problem of youth unemployment is one of the characteristic and important problem in Georgia.

By the end of 80's of previous century, the youth employment coefficient was rather high. On the whole, 33,6% of employed population was youth under the age of 30 in 1989. Among them 15,6 % were with higher education and 18,0 % - with special education.

Though at that period job provided only the level of elementary social protection only. Salaries often were fixed on the living wage. (80 - 100 USD per month). Young specialists had no possibility to rise the level of their educational skill at the West European leading universities.

Georgia was always considered as an agricultural industrial country. About 30 % GDP was created in our country at the end of 80's. (The share increased until 35-40% for the time being). 25 % were employed from the youth under the age of 30. In addition to this there were metallurgical, machine building and other factories in Georgia, where thousands of qualified youth were employed.

In the beginning of 90's, processes of economic disintegration that took place in former Soviet Union caused disruption of economic relations between former soviet republics, which had negative impact on economic development of Georgia. Our country's GDP has sharply reduced, which by 1995 amounted to 24,0 % compared with 1989.

According to the data of the state employment service, in 2001 the number of registered unemployed people amounted to 120,0 thousand. 33,4 % of them are under the age of 30. Unemployed youth has no stimulus to be registered, as the prospect of getting a job is too low. Only a small amount of unemployed people is registered. That's why official data doesn't meet reality.

According to the informal data, in 2001 the number of employed youth under the age of 30 amounted 12% in Georgia. Among them 7-8 % were of higher education.

From the second part of 90's the educational reform that started in Georgia provided preparation of high-qualified specialists in our country. In addition to this Georgian youth is given possibility to receive education in Europe and US leading universities. Nevertheless, unemployment is still problematic in our country, as stimulation of the economy hasn't been managed on a proper level. It would provide new working places in the country and attract young specialists in different branches of economy.

The result of unemployment causes the "youth" crime in the country. The number of crime committed by the youth under the age of 30 has increased more than 7 times in Georgia from 1991 till 2001. Most of drug users are young people from 20 till 25. The number of them is big. Above mentioned could be a menace for economic and democratic development in our country, stabilization of Caucasian region in the nearest 5-10 years. Georgia has already considered as the important corridor for drug transportation from Asia to the West. It's quite easy to attract unemployed youth in this kind of transportation.

The result of above mentioned is that the flow of youth emigration to foreign countries is big. Only in Russia 150,0 thousand young people under the age of 30 emigrated from

Georgia to find a job in 2001. More than 200,0 thousand young people emigrated in different countries of the world on the whole.

In order to solve this problem it's necessary to create and realize supporting programs for business where the vital role should be given to the employment of young specialists. There are lots of possibilities of functioning of food processing industry in Georgia. Special attention should be paid to this issue.

It's impossible to find necessary funds for elaborating and financing youth programs because of difficult economic situation in our country. That's why international donor organizations should pay special attention to this problem. It's necessary to elaborate and realize international programs which will consider the youth employment problem in the nearest future.

Implementing this kind of program will be the decisive step for creating democratic society in our country and for its economic, cultural and political development.