

Inter-regional Knowledge Sharing Series on the 2007 WDR

19 April 2007



What are the key issues in WDR'07?

Progresses and Challenges in
Thailand

Setting up the goals - 3 Youth Lens
Analysis

Suggestions

I. What are the key issues in WDR 2007 context?

5 transitions of life

- Learning for work and life
- Going to work
- Growing up healthy
- Forming family
- Exercising citizenship



Why 'Exercising Citizenship'?

- To address youth problems, it is necessary to include young people in decision-making process.
- Young people possess capacity and full potential to constructively engage in their generation development.
- Give them more room = increase tendency to increase their awareness.
- And ...youth participation is not yet highly recognized in Asian cultures!

II. Where are we now? – Progresses and challenges identified in Thailand

Progresses

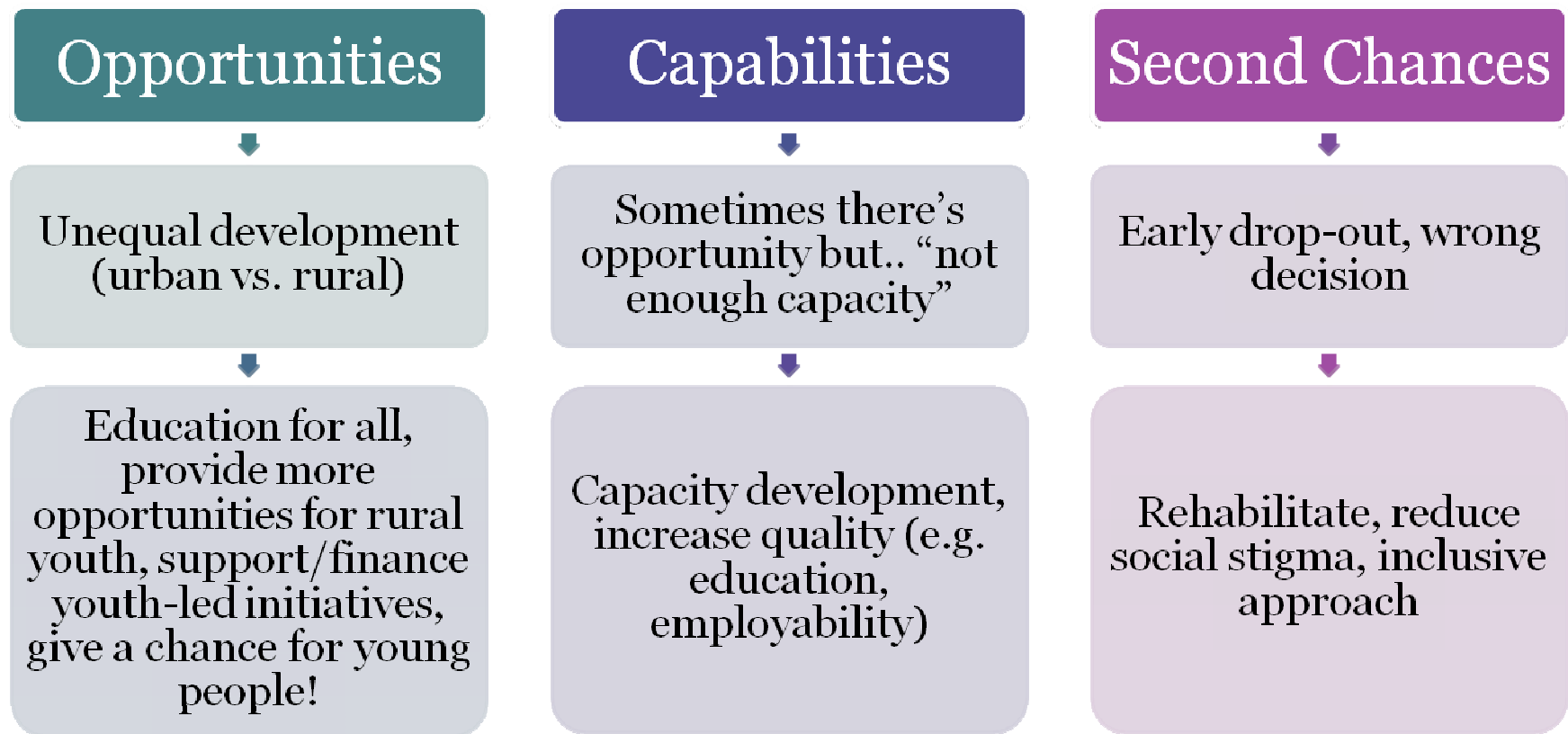
- Increase importance of youth participation e.g. 2 young people are elected as members of constitution drafting committee, increase numbers of elected MPs under the age of 30.
- More involvement of young people in expressing their voice e.g. education/ political reform etc.
- More youth space from different sectors such as the World Bank youth club etc.



Challenges

- .. Still at very low ratio.
- Culture – follow adults, over-value something else (such as education – study all the time).
- Globalization – value other (personal) activities e.g. IM, Music downloads, ipod culture.
- Political environment – not encourage youth participation e.g. lack of funding for NGOs/ youth-led initiatives, not enough youth space.
- And some young people do not see the benefits of participation in social activities.


III. Where do we want to go? - Analyzing through 3 Youth Lens





That means...

- The need to have more youth policies that correspond with their needs.. (applied through 3 youth lens)
- The need to create a new culture of youth participation/ how to trust and invest in young people



IV. How we can achieve our goals? - Suggestions

- Urgent need to diminish culture of fear, mindset of adults – learning to trust young people
- Triggered by top-down approach – government to take initiatives such as provide more space for young people/ finance, education reform (balance between study and life, IQ vs. EQ), develop capacity of young people etc.
- Support youth-led initiatives and youth platforms

Additional suggestions

- Encourage + intensify networks for knowledge sharing of best practices
- Engage all sectors equally; public-private partnerships, youth NGOs, youth platforms etc.
- And...last but not least... issue of sustainability – how to continue the commitment or **post-WDR'07** -- especially from government and the World Bank

Case study - WBYC in Bangkok

- Attempt to engage youth participation and provide more space for young people – influence from WDR focusing on youth
- Estimated 150 members from major universities and youth clubs
- Participations at international level e.g. the 2006 World Bank Annual Meeting in Singapore, YDS Series.
- National initiatives – concert in the park, condom vs. abstinence debate, open space etc.
- Future plan – engagement in political reform, WDR dissemination.

Some activities done by the world bank youth club in Bangkok - examples of youth-led initiatives

