

Peer Review

Review of: "Enhancing Vocational Education and Training in the UK Through Youth Mobility Schemes"

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This study offers a comprehensive analysis of the persistent challenges facing Vocational Education and Training (VET) in the UK and makes a compelling argument for the potential of Youth Mobility Schemes (YMS) to address these issues. The problems that the study addresses are very well contextualized and argued in the introductory section, within a persistent and still ongoing discourse that, on one hand, understands and highlights the role of VET for a healthy and prosperous economy, but on the other hand, at the level of political measures, expresses only a helpless observation of the decline in the attractiveness of VET compared to general education.

The author meticulously outlines the deep-rooted problems within the UK's VET system. The paper effectively traces the history of policy failures and the enduring stigma associated with vocational education, demonstrating a strong grasp of the complexities involved. I appreciate the expertly grounded debate on the issue of using the concept of skills in the field of vocational education and training. The author factually, but within important social, economic, and political contexts, points out the risks of promoting the concept of skills under the increasing influence of an economic perspective on human potential.

The author also draws attention to the discrepancy between general and vocational education, to the problems caused by the insufficient interest of young people in entering vocational (technical) education and training, even though the reality of the labour market clearly calls for an increase in the number of professionally trained, especially technically oriented, specialists from secondary vocational education. The author aptly points out the shortcomings of education policy, which fails to purposefully address this problem in Britain, and at the same time offers good practices from selected countries where it is succeeding in reducing the rate of young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET). In

conclusion, the author summarises the reasons why Youth Mobility Schemes should be more strongly supported by the government, because, as she writes, Britain has lost a lot by interrupting the mobility of young people after the country's departure from the EU.

The arguments presented are well-supported by a wealth of relevant academic sources and policy documents. The author demonstrates impressive erudition, drawing on key works in the field to bolster their analysis and critique.

The study is highly relevant to current policy debates, particularly in the context of Brexit and ongoing discussions about immigration and educational reform. The recommendations are timely and potentially impactful. While the paper extensively discusses the potential benefits of YMS, it would be strengthened by more concrete empirical evidence demonstrating the direct positive impact of existing YMS on VET outcomes. The reliance is largely on theoretical arguments and related benefits rather than specific data. While further empirical investigation into the direct impact of YMS on VET would be beneficial, the paper provides a strong foundation for advocating the expansion of these schemes as a means of enhancing vocational education.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.