

Mobilities in Early Youth: Schooling, vocational training and work

May 2021

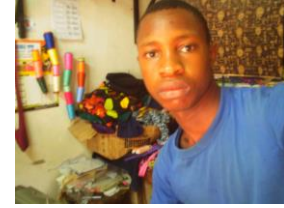
**Dorte Thorsen, Research Fellow
Institute of Development Studies**

**d.thorsen@ids.ac.uk
@dorte_thorsen**

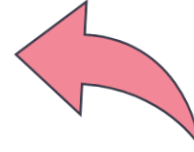


Secondary school student,
living with aunt since young
age

Fosterage



Tailoring apprentice, living
with uncle since early teens



Who decides?

**Network of
kin**



Secondary school student,
relocating during school
holidays to work

**Mobilities on own
initiative**



Tailoring apprentice, living
with aunt due to training



Mobilities, work and education

- Young people from poor families travel to work during the long school holidays
- Contribution to own and/or siblings' school expenses
- Experience
- Frustration over lack of access to revision courses



Mobilities for training in non-farm occupations

Vocational training in technical schools tends to be for urban youth

Modes of informal learning / apprenticeships

- Placement organised by an adult
- No fees / no regular remuneration
- Gradual learning: at least 5 years

Inclusive hybrid programmes run by NGOs



Routes into tailoring and dress-making



- Rooted in a vision of a better future
- The status of education within the family shape choices between formal and informal TVET
 - Different models of success: profession vs. academic
- The opening of space for earning money and starting a workshop is new for young women in Casamance, Senegal

Inequalities in learning pathways



Navigating transitions and social mobilities

Occupational paths are structured
around learning demonstrating a
shift towards better skilled work

Gender and socio-economic class
intersect, ethnicity/migrant status
less so, but more knowledge is
needed

