

Once 'NEET', Always 'NEET'? Experiences of Employment and  
Unemployment of Youth Participating in a Job Training Program in  
Taiwan

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## ***Abstract***

*In response to the increasing 'NEET' phenomenon, the government in Taiwan launched a trial program (the Flying Young Program, FYP) targeting the young 'NEET.' The focus of this study is to interview youth participating in this program, to examine their reasons and experiences of being the 'NEET,' their experiences with and opinions about the FYP, as well as their ideas about work. Data were collected via face to face interviews with 6 previous program participants aged 15 to 20. Results of this study indicated that most young people did not choose to become the 'NEET,' because they could not afford it. With regard to the experiences of being in the program, most respondents agreed that this program helped them; however, it was not much about increasing their chances of being employed, but to help them get social and emotional support and to feel better about self. Many agreed that the allowance offered by the program was a good incentive for participation. Given the above research findings, implications to social policies and programs are suggested. Policy makers should recognize that the 'NEET' group is not necessarily composed by a group of problematic or delinquent youth; these young people wanted to work and enjoyed working. A good job training program should be able to teach them their rights in the work force, raise their sense of self-value and social support, as well as provide apprenticeships and financial support.*