

CHAPTER X: CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The handing down of a society depends on the best offer given and available to children; as such, it is imperative that good economic planning considers their size and distribution. This chapter is devoted to the children and youths because of this importance. The specific objectives include:

- Distribution of dependent children and youths at both regional and household headship levels;
- Age and economic dependency ratios;
- Educational enrolment of children and youths; and
- The influence of school attendance and educational level on youths labour force participation.

10.1 Distribution of Dependent Children and Youth

10.1.1 Regional Distribution of Dependents

Earlier in chapter 1, we presented the regional distribution of the population, and re-emphasized further in chapter 3; stressing on the regional growth rates and impact of internal migration. In this section, the emphasis will be on regional distribution of children and youths; particularly, with the view of identifying the pattern which is necessary for socio-economic development planning.

Table 10.1 displays both the absolute and percentage distribution of dependent children and youths in 2002. In all, there were 264,096 (69 percent) dependent children, aged 0-14 years and 118,552 (31 percent) dependent youths, aged 15-24 years in 2002. As the table shows, slightly there were more boy children aged 0-14 years than girls; and conversely, a slight higher number of female youths than males. This is a usual demographic phenomenon, where there have always been more boy children at birth, but the deficit of girls is overcome and girls outnumber boys as they grow from infancy to adolescence.

Region 4 has the highest percentage of the two categories of dependent children groups - about 38.3 and 42.7 percent of young children and youths respectively, and in ranking order, Regions 6, 3, 2, 5 and 10 came next. Due to the sparse population distribution in the hinterland regions, less than 5 percent of either the children or the adolescent are found in each of the regions. The concentration of the dependent children and youths in Region 4 is no doubt a surprise, because both the economic functionaries as well as majority of educational facilities, such as the University of Guyana and other higher institutions of learning are located there. The reason for concentration of children and youths in the remaining regions is more likely similar to prevailing situation in Region 4.

Table 10.1: Distribution of Dependent Children and Youth by Broad Age Groups, Sex and Administrative Region, Guyana: 2002

Region	Males		Females		Both sexes	
	0-14	15-24	0-14	15-24	0-14	15-24
Region 1	5,975	1,488	5,861	1,601	11,836	3,089
Region 2	9,405	3,751	9,112	4,080	18,517	7,831
Region 3	17,979	7,697	17,259	8,663	35,238	16,360
Region 4	51,044	24,198	50,018	26,447	101,062	50,645
Region 5	9,704	3,857	9,501	4,348	19,205	8,205
Region 6	21,926	8,803	21,033	9,947	42,959	18,750
Region 7	3,433	1,282	3,311	1,326	6,744	2,608
Region 8	2,136	899	1,963	711	4,099	1,610
Region 9	4,655	1,428	4,532	1,473	9,187	2,901
Region 10	7,806	3,096	7,443	3,457	15,249	6,553
Total	134,063	56,499	130,033	62,053	264,096	118,552
Percent						
Region 1	4.5	2.6	4.5	2.6	4.5	2.6
Region 2	7.0	6.6	7.0	6.6	7.0	6.6
Region 3	13.4	13.6	13.3	14.0	13.3	13.8
Region 4	38.1	42.8	38.5	42.6	38.3	42.7
Region 5	7.2	6.8	7.3	7.0	7.3	6.9
Region 6	16.4	15.6	16.2	16.0	16.3	15.8
Region 7	2.6	2.3	2.5	2.1	2.6	2.2
Region 8	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.1	1.6	1.4
Region 9	3.5	2.5	3.5	2.4	3.5	2.4
Region 10	5.8	5.5	5.7	5.6	5.8	5.5
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Note: Youth 15-24 years (9,871) who were heads of households are treated as responsible adults, hence excluded from the dependent population.

10.1.2 Dependent Children by Gender of Head Households

Whereas, the preceding section dealt with the regional distribution of dependent children, this section will focus on the distribution by gender of the head of households; with the view of gauging circumstances under which children live.

In 2002, about 28.5 percent of the dependent children in Guyana resided in households headed by females, and 71.5 percent resided in male-headed households. Also, substantial proportions (65.2 percent) of those in the female-headed households were aged below 15 years (Table 10.2).

It is important to note that the proportion of dependent children in male-headed households decreases with the age of children, and inversely increases in the case of dependent children in female-headed households. Nonetheless, even among youths aged 20-24 years, we observe that more than two out of every three of them still lived in male-headed households.

Table 10.2: Distribution of Dependent Children and Youth by Age and Gender of Heads of Households, Guyana: 2002

Age of Children	Gender of Hh. Heads		Total
	Male	Female	
Under 5	66,354	21,886	88,240
5 - 9	70,290	25,478	95,768
10 - 14	56,329	23,759	80,088
15 - 19	43,593	20,592	64,185
20 - 24	37,038	17,329	54,367
Total	273,604	109,044	382,648
	Percent		
Under 5	75.2	24.8	100
5 - 9	73.4	26.6	100
10 - 14	70.3	29.7	100
15 - 19	67.9	32.1	100
20 - 24	68.1	31.9	100
Total	71.5	28.5	100

Note: Youth 15-24 years (9,871) who were heads of households are treated as responsible adults, hence excluded from the dependent population.

Tables 10.3A and B expanded on the distribution of dependent children by linking the age of the household heads. As reflected, a bulk of the dependent children and youths were headed by adults in their prime working ages, that is, 25-44 years, followed by 45-64 years.

The pattern of the distribution was somehow identical for both males and females, with less percentage being controlled by households headed by youths or adolescent, and the elderly, 65 years and over (Tables 10.3A & B).

However, in the case of female-headed households, the proportion of dependent children headed by elderly 65 years and over was about twice higher than that of male-headed households. Furthermore, a relatively high proportion of the adolescent children were found in the elderly female-headed households. One plausibly suspected reason could be that these elderly women may be living as single-parents, whose marriage may have been dissolved by divorced or death of the partners, and to seek protection and assistance in supplementing the home's income, they persuaded these bigger children to still remain part of the household.

Table 10.3A: Distribution of Dependent Children and Youths by Age and Age Group of Household Heads, Guyana: 2002

Age of Hh. Heads	Number of Dependent Headed by Both Sexes					
	Under 5	Aged 5-9	Aged 10-14	Aged 15-19	Aged 20-24	Total
15-19	485	168	222	418	279	1,572
20-24	6,759	1,848	789	2,196	3,228	14,820
25-44	57,302	64,801	49,145	31,333	20,846	223,427
45-64	18,809	22,713	23,944	25,109	25,564	116,139
65+	4,665	6,007	5,770	4,961	4,276	25,679
Not stated	220	231	218	168	174	1,011
Total	88,240	95,768	80,088	64,185	54,367	382,648
Number of Dependent Headed by Males						
15-19	195	96	131	297	153	872
20-24	4,762	973	530	1,808	2,680	10,753
25-44	46,375	50,373	35,752	21,034	14,752	168,286
45-64	12,243	15,335	16,825	17,800	17,030	79,233
65+	2,611	3,333	2,929	2,534	2,298	13,705
Not stated	168	180	162	120	125	755
Total	66,354	70,290	56,329	43,593	37,038	273,604
Number of Dependent Headed by Females						
15-19	290	72	91	121	126	700
20-24	1,997	875	259	388	548	4,067
25-44	10,927	14,428	13,393	10,299	6,094	55,141
45-64	6,566	7,378	7,119	7,309	8,534	36,906
65+	2,054	2,674	2,841	2,427	1,978	11,974
Not stated	52	51	56	48	49	256
Total	21,886	25,478	23,759	20,592	17,329	109,044

Note: Youth 15-24 years (9,871) who were heads of households are treated as responsible adults, hence excluded from the dependent population.

What still remains unanswered from the preceding argument is whether these women were, in fact, not living below minimum standard with high degree of vulnerability. In Guyana for example, in a typical couple-married household, at most, the male is the head, regardless of his income status. Any addition outside of married-couple headed household may more likely be formed by parents affected by dissolution either by death, divorced or separation, and children born out of wedlock, where the care and support becomes the burden of these women, or one person household with no dependent child.

Table 10.3B: Percent Distribution of Dependent Children and Youths by Age and Age group of Household Heads, Guyana: 2002

Age of Hh. Heads	Percent of Dependent Headed by Both Sexes					
	Under 5	Aged 5-9	Aged 10-14	Aged 15-19	Aged 20-24	Total
15-19	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.4
20-24	7.7	1.9	1.0	3.4	5.9	3.9
25-44	64.9	67.7	61.4	48.8	38.3	58.4
45-64	21.3	23.7	29.9	39.1	47.0	30.4
65+	5.3	6.3	7.2	7.7	7.9	6.7
Not stated	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Percent of Dependent Headed by Males						
15-19	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.7	0.4	0.3
20-24	7.2	1.4	0.9	4.1	7.2	3.9
25-44	69.9	71.7	63.5	48.3	39.8	61.5
45-64	18.5	21.8	29.9	40.8	46.0	29.0
65+	3.9	4.7	5.2	5.8	6.2	5.0
Not stated	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Percent of Dependent Headed by Females						
15-19	1.3	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.6
20-24	9.1	3.4	1.1	1.9	3.2	3.7
25-44	49.9	56.6	56.4	50.0	35.2	50.6
45-64	30.0	29.0	30.0	35.5	49.2	33.8
65+	9.4	10.5	12.0	11.8	11.4	11.0
Not stated	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Note: Youths 15-24 years (9,871) who were heads of households are treated as responsible adults, hence are excluded from the dependent population.

10.2 Dependency Ratios

Dependency ratios are mainly categorized into two, namely: age dependency ratio and economic dependency ratio. While the age dependency ratio is related to the age structure of the population, and measures the population aging index, the economic dependency ratio is concerned with the number of working persons in relation to the population.

There is, of course, high relationship between the two ratios but they are not identical. For instance, the higher the proportion of persons in age groups 15-64 years, the lower the proportion of children and elderly or age dependency ratio, but this does not mean that all of those reported in these adult age groups are capable of working. There are some who may be students, disabled, retired or even in the house keeping duties. But on the one hand, there will be relatively low economic dependency ratio, if the high number reported is equally engaged in the production of economic goods and services.

10.2.1 Age Dependency Ratios (ADR)

Age dependency ratios derived using the 2002 census is displayed in Table 10.4. For convenience, working ages start at age 15 years in Guyana, although increasing proportions of individuals pursue their education beyond that age and remain financially dependents, either on the state or parents. The retired, (65 years and over) are also added to the dependent children 0-14 years, hence, our denominator is the sum of the age groups 15-64 years who are in the real productive ages.

For the entire country, the age dependency ratio was 67 to every 100 persons in the main productive ages; varied across the regions by sex. Regions 1 and 9 registered the highest, with ADR averaging 115 and 108 per every 100 productive aged persons.

Table 10.4: Age-Sex Dependency Ratio by Region, Guyana: 2002

Region	Males	Females	Both sexes
Region 1	106	126	115
Region 2	74	75	75
Region 3	63	62	63
Region 4	62	59	60
Region 5	71	70	71
Region 6	66	65	65
Region 7	72	86	78
Region 8	70	104	83
Region 9	104	112	108
Region 10	74	72	73
Total	67	66	67

Age dependency ratios also varied by sex, but the significant difference was in Region 8, where ADR for males and females were 70 and 104 dependents to every 100 adults respectively. This can be explained by in-migration of adult males there for mining and quarrying activities as earlier discussed.

The remaining regions, though high, were within the range of the national average. The high ADR in Region 1 and 9 was expected, in that these two regions, along with Region 8, recorded the highest estimates of total fertility rates (see Chapter 4: Infant mortality and fertility), and correspondingly, recorded the highest growth rates during the intercensal period (see Chapter 3: Population redistribution and internal migration).

10.2.2 Economic Dependency Ratios (EDR)

From a social point of view, persons who are not in the labour force may be regarded as dependents, in the sense that they consume, but do not produce, though they may be independent financially, that is, receiving personal incomes in the form of pensions, rents, dividends, remittances from abroad and so on. The number of such persons not in the

labour force including children per 100 of the labour force is economic dependency ratio¹.

In 2002, the economic dependency ratio for Guyana was 187 dependents per 100 working persons, while that for children was estimated as 101, that, to every working adult, there was at least one dependent child, aged 0-14 years to support (Table 10.5). This implies that children alone accounted for 54 percent of the total dependency burden in Guyana in 2002.

Regions with total economic dependency ratio exceeding 200 dependents to every 100 working persons includes, Regions 1, 2, 5, 6, and 9, while regions with the highest ratios of children to working population were Regions 1 and 9, and to lesser extent in Regions 5 and 2. The lowest children EDR were reported in Regions 4 and 3 (see Figure 10.1).

Table 10.5: Economic Dependency Ratio (EDR) by Administrative Region, and Contribution of Children to Total Dependency Ratios,

Region	Dependent Population		Economic Dependency Ratios		% Children's contribution to total	
	Labour Force	Children 0-14	Total dep. popn	Children	Total Popn.	Children's contribution to total
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Region 1	6,640	11,836	17,635	178	266	67.1
Region 2	16,250	18,517	33,004	114	203	56.1
Region 3	35,790	35,238	67,271	98	188	52.4
Region 4	118,731	101,062	191,589	85	161	52.7
Region 5	15,863	19,205	36,565	121	231	52.5
Region 6	38,729	42,959	84,965	111	219	50.6
Region 7	6,267	6,744	11,330	108	181	59.5
Region 8	3,518	4,099	6,577	117	187	62.3
Region 9	6,065	9,187	13,322	151	220	69.0
Region 10	14,107	15,249	27,005	108	191	56.5
Total	261,960	264,096	489,263	101	187	54.0

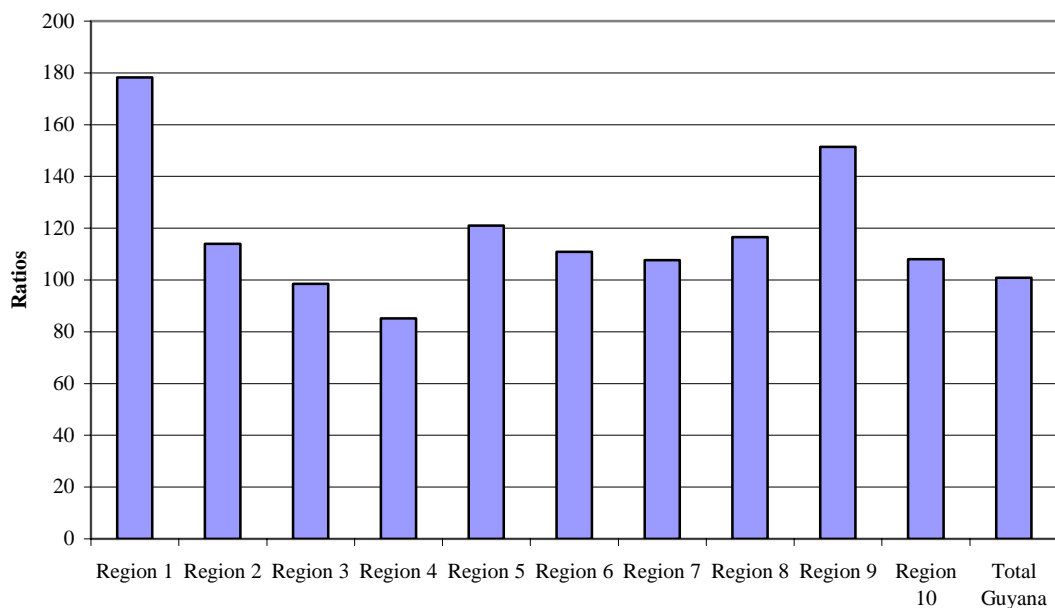
Note: a) EDR = (# of dependents/labour force) x 100

b) Children's contribution or col.6 = (col.2/col.3) x 100

The high EDR in Regions 1 and 9 also coincided with high age dependency ratio derived earlier in the previous section, as well as high proportion of children in the total population discussed in chapter two. In all the regions, the contributions of children to the EDR range from as high as 69 percent in Region 9 to as low as 50.6 percent in Region 6, indicating that, since, the children were not anybody to allude to under reporting of their economic activities, they play a significant role in bringing about the overall economic dependency in the country.

¹United Nations (1968) Methods of Analysing Census Data on Economic Activities of the Population, Population studies, No. 43 United Nations Publication

Fig. 10.1: Ratio of Dependent Children to Working Population, Guyana: 2002



10.3 Educational Enrolment of Children and Youths

10.3.1 Early Childhood Education

The compulsory school age in Guyana officially commences for a child who has at least attained the age of five years before the beginning of the academic year, but to prepare the child for academic excellence, most parents enroll their children in pre-school for early childhood education. Table 10.6 presents the distribution of pre-school children by gender of household heads. Generally, the apparent desire of parents to enroll their children in school is evidenced in the table. Either within the male-headed or female-headed households, pre-school enrollment increases with age of children, and was slightly better across all ages for households headed by females as compared to male-headed households. However, in absolute term, the number of pre-school children in male-headed households was almost thrice that of female-headed households.

Table 10.6: Early Childhood Education by Gender of Head of Household, Guyana: 2002

Enrolment within Male-headed Households					
Age	Not		Total	%	
	Attending	Attending		Attending	Attending
2	504	12,895	13,399	3.8	96.2
3	4,651	8,468	13,119	35.5	64.5
4	13,110	1,498	14,608	89.7	10.3
5	13,004	815	13,819	94.1	5.9
6	13,377	500	13,877	96.4	3.6
Total	44,648	24,174	68,822	64.9	35.1
Enrolment within Female-headed Households					
Age	Not		Total	%	
	Attending	Attending		Attending	Attending
2	221	4,147	4,368	5.1	94.9
3	1,622	2,760	4,382	37.0	63.0
4	4,669	367	5,036	92.7	7.3
5	4,444	208	4,652	95.5	4.5
6	4,783	136	4,919	97.2	2.8
Total	15,739	7,618	23,357	67.4	32.6

Besides, the effect of the compulsory school enrolment is evidenced in the table, that by the time the children attain the age five and up to six years; nearly all of them were in school, as compared to very young children (two years old), where only 3.8 percent was enrolled in pre-school in households headed by males and 5.1 percent in female-headed households.

The difference in pre-school enrolment within male and female-headed households, though less, but in part, could be explained by gender disparities in the use and allocation of earnings. Chant² noted, “whereas women frequently devote all they earn to household needs, this is less so among men”. In stating empirical evidence, Chant mentioned that from a range of contexts, more money in relative terms may be available for common expenditure within households headed by women, with positive effects for members’ nutritional intake, health care and education³. This finding is more identical to Guyana, particularly in the urban sector, where many working mothers are concerned with the well-being of their young children by giving them early child-hood education beginning with “day care” or pre-school.

² Sylvia Chant (2003), Female Household Headship and the Feminization of Poverty: Facts, Fictions and Forward Strategies. London Institute of Economics, Gender Institute

³ Ibid

10.3.2 School Attendance of Children and Youths by Occupational Status of Parents

The cross-classification of occupational status of the head of households by enrolment of children and youths within the household in school is presented in Table 10.7 by sex of head of household. By and large, the pattern of enrolment as shown in the table does not diverge from the general school enrolment in Guyana described earlier under education and training, where until after the compulsory school age, nearly all the children were in school. For children between 5-14 years, only 5 percent was not attending as compared to the youths 15-24 years, where as expected, 75.9 percent reported not attending.

School attendance by occupational status of head of household, does not vary significantly, but indicates that occupations which are believed to earn higher level of income or connected one way or other to higher educational qualification, exhibited the highest likelihood of child's enrolment in school. For example, within the household headed by professionals, about 99.2 percent of children there attended school compared to those with elementary or agricultural and related occupations.

Similarly, the school attendance rates by gender of head of household were slightly higher in female-headed households, reason which could be identical to pre-school enrolment as earlier discussed. The difference in the attendance rates in either female-headed or male-headed households was not significant for children 5-14 years compared to the youth 15-24 years (see Table 10.7).

Comparison of enrolment of children and youths reflected in the table indicates also that the rates for children attending school were three times higher than the youths in either households headed by females or males. As indicated earlier in chapter five, it was not possible to have all the youths 15-24 years in school because after primary and secondary education, not all of them can proceed to enroll for tertiary education. In fact, some of them were already heads of households managing their dependents.

Table 10.7: Number of Dependent Children Attending School by Age and Occupational Status of Household Heads and Sex, Guyana: 2002

Occupational Status of Household Heads	Children 5-14 Years			Youth 15 - 24 Years		
	Attend	Not attend	Total	Attend	Not attend	Total
	Number of dependent in male headed households					
Legislators, Senior Officials & Managers	3,238	86	3,324	1,079	1,823	2,901
Professionals	1,448	12	1,460	733	603	1,337
Technicians & Associate Professionals	3,695	92	3,787	1,298	1,917	3,215
Clerks	1,858	47	1,905	551	1,164	1,715
Service Wrkrs, Shop & Market Sales Wrkrs	10,530	366	10,896	2,300	6,430	8,730
Agricultural & Fishery Workers/Farmers	19,074	1,541	20,615	2,589	10,370	12,959
Craft and Related Trades Workers	18,937	648	19,585	3,289	10,229	13,518
Plant & Machine Operators & Assemblers	14,275	485	14,760	2,588	7,437	10,025
Elementary Occupation & Not stated	47,244	3,043	50,287	6,721	26,566	33,287
Total	120,299	6,320	126,619	21,147	66,540	87,687
Number of dependent in female headed households						
Legislators, Senior Officials & Managers	438	9	447	193	312	505
Professionals	512	4	516	316	303	619
Technicians & Associate Professionals	1,965	26	1,991	846	1,274	2,121
Clerks	1,797	35	1,832	796	1,239	2,035
Service, Shop & Market Sales Wrkrs	5,576	137	5,713	1,553	3,624	5,177
Agricultural & Fishery Workers/Farmers	821	83	904	127	523	650
Craft and Related Trades Workers	1,170	47	1,217	360	811	1,171
Plant & Machine Operators & Assemblers	254	15	269	80	174	254
Elementary Occupation & Not stated	34,701	1,647	36,348	7,643	20,561	28,204
Total	47,234	2,003	49,237	11,914	28,822	40,736
Percent dependent in male headed households						
Legislators, Senior Officials & Managers	97.4	2.6	100	37.2	62.8	100
Professionals	99.2	0.8	100	54.9	45.1	100
Technicians & Associate Professionals	97.6	2.4	100	40.4	59.6	100
Clerks	97.5	2.5	100	32.1	67.9	100
Service Wrkrs, Shop & Market Sales Wrkrs	96.6	3.4	100	26.3	73.7	100
Agricultural & Fishery Workers/Farmers	92.5	7.5	100	20.0	80.0	100
Craft and Related Trades Workers	96.7	3.3	100	24.3	75.7	100
Plant & Machine Operators & Assemblers	96.7	3.3	100	25.8	74.2	100
Elementary Occupation & Not stated	93.9	6.1	100	20.2	79.8	100
Total	95.0	5.0	100	24.1	75.9	100
Percent dependent in female headed households						
Legislators, Senior Officials & Managers	98.0	2.0	100	38.2	61.8	100
Professionals	99.2	0.8	100	51.0	49.0	100
Technicians & Associate Professionals	98.7	1.3	100	39.9	60.1	100
Clerks	98.1	1.9	100	39.1	60.9	100
Service, Shop & Market Sales Wrkrs	97.6	2.4	100	30.0	70.0	100
Agricultural & Fishery Workers/Farmers	90.8	9.2	100	19.5	80.5	100
Craft and Related Trades Workers	96.1	3.9	100	30.8	69.2	100
Plant & Machine Operators & Assemblers	94.4	5.6	100	31.5	68.5	100
Elementary Occupation & Not stated	95.5	4.5	100	27.1	72.9	100
Total	95.9	4.1	100	29.2	70.8	100

10.3.3 School Attendance of Children and Youths by Educational Attainment of Parents

The interrelationship between educational status of parents or heads of households and enrolment of their dependent children and youths is discussed in this section. The analytical approach is similar to the relationship between occupation of household heads and school attendance rates as presented in the preceding section.

Educational qualification of parents as an imperative factor to educate dependent children is evidenced in Table 10.8. In any of the household headship types, the higher the level of education reached, the higher the percentage of dependent children and youths attended school in 2002. In the female-headed households, the “other category” reported that the entire (99 percent) children there attended school, something questionably contested to be true. This deviation could be due to small size of children involved in this category, and does not base on the notion that the desire to educate dependent children was better among those who qualification was not even clearly defined and grouped under “other category”.

However, it is unrealistic to conclude that people with no education have less desire to enroll their children to school. Perhaps, majority of the people in this range are living below the minimum poverty line; hence cannot afford to send their children to school.

Table 10.8: Number of Dependent Children Attending School by Age and Educational Status of Household Heads and Sex, Guyana: 2002

Status of Household Heads	Children 5-14 Years			Youth 15 - 24 Years		
	Attend	Not Attend		Attend	Not Attend	Total
		Attend	Total			
Number of dependents (male-headed households)						
None/Nursery	2,854	627	3,481	269	2,014	2,283
Primary	39,659	2,812	42,471	5,512	23,250	28,762
Secondary	67,447	2,607	70,054	11,793	35,991	47,784
Post Secondary	2,719	31	2,750	880	1,401	2,281
University/Tertiary	4,188	54	4,242	2,098	1,981	4,079
Other	310	12	322	88	183	271
Not Stated	3,120	179	3,299	506	1,721	2,227
Total	120,298	6,321	126,619	21,145	66,542	87,687
Number of dependents (female-headed households)						
None/Nursery	1,218	199	1,417	178	810	988
Primary	12,653	779	13,432	2,545	8,595	11,140
Secondary	28,817	921	29,738	7,143	16,684	23,827
Post Secondary	1,798	41	1,839	718	978	1,696
University/Tertiary	1,786	27	1,813	1,064	1,095	2,159
Other	226	2	228	68	124	192
Not Stated	735	35	770	197	537	734
Total	47,233	2,004	49,237	11,913	28,823	40,736
Percent of dependents (male-headed households)						
None/Nursery	82.0	18.0	100	11.8	88.2	100
Primary	93.4	6.6	100	19.2	80.8	100
Secondary	96.3	3.7	100	24.7	75.3	100
Post Secondary	98.9	1.1	100	38.6	61.4	100
University/Tertiary	98.7	1.3	100	51.4	48.6	100
Other	96.3	3.7	100	32.6	67.4	100
Not Stated	94.6	5.4	100	22.7	77.3	100
Total	95.0	5.0	100	24.1	75.9	100
Percent of dependents (female-headed households)						
None/Nursery	85.9	14.1	100	18.0	82.0	100
Primary	94.2	5.8	100	22.8	77.2	100
Secondary	96.9	3.1	100	30.0	70.0	100
Post Secondary	97.8	2.2	100	42.3	57.7	100
University/Tertiary	98.5	1.5	100	49.3	50.7	100
Other	99.1	0.9	100	35.3	64.7	100
Not Stated	95.5	4.5	100	26.8	73.2	100
Total	95.9	4.1	100	29.2	70.8	100

10.4 The Influence of School Attendance and Educational Level on Labour Force Participation of Youths

10.4.1 School Attendance and Activity Rates of Youths

The extent in which non-participation of young people in economic activities is accounted for by their attendance at school is discussed in this section. In Table 10.9, age-sex specific school attendance rates and economic activity rates for the corresponding age groups are reflected and compared with the variations between the two to understand the association.

The summation of the rates is also given in the last column of the table to study the effect of combining school attendance with economic activities. A minimal estimate of the proportion of the population in the given category that is neither in school nor economically active is given if the sum is below 100 percent, and conversely, an excess over 100 percent is a minimal estimate of the proportion of persons combining school attendance with economic activity.

Table 10.9: Comparison of Economic Activity and School Attendance Rates of Persons Aged 15-24 Years, by Sex, Guyana: 2002

Age Group	Population	Labour Force	Persons attending school	Economic activity rate	School attending rate	Sum of rates
Males						
15-19	32,618	15,215	13,461	46.6	41.3	87.9
20-24	30,937	26,654	1,508	86.2	4.9	91.0
Total	63,555	41,869	14,969	65.9	23.6	89.4
Females						
15-19	32,798	7,454	13,839	22.7	42.2	64.9
20-24	32,069	12,912	1,508	40.3	4.7	45.0
Total	64,867	20,366	15,347	31.4	23.7	55.1

To better present the concept, first, the reported number of youths attending school full-time or part-time is given in Table 10.10 and compared with those classified as “persons attending school” in Table 10.9. Accordingly, the number of persons attending school for age group 15-19 years in Table 10.9 is slightly higher than school attending figures reported in Table 10.10; but in reverse, the number of persons classified as persons attending school is higher (almost twice) than the reported figures in Table 10.9 for age group 20-24 years. All these are symbolic effect of combining school with economic activities, but the number being insignificant, the activity rates did not exceed 100 percent.

Table 10.10: Number of Youths Attending School, Guyana: 2002

Age group	Males	Females	Total
15 - 19	13,301	14,113	27,414
20 - 24	2,378	3,270	5,648
Total	15,679	17,383	33,062

Also, as reflected in Table 10.9, economic activity rate increases with age, and conversely decreases with attendance. For example, about two-fifths of both males and females in age group 15-19 years attended school, compared to labour force rates of 46.6 and 22.7 percent respectively; but by age 20-24 years, labour force rates had increased nearly twice, while the proportion attending school had decreased to less than 5 percent.

Females who were neither in school nor economically active were not necessarily a problem, because as highlighted in chapter eleven, young females who were not in school, were mostly occupied with domestic duties; at least helping their mothers, if they were not yet married. In the case of males, though not significant, but is a waste of potential labour resources, for instance, persons 15-19 years should not be in the category of retired/too old to work. This signifies a disquieting social problem.

10.4.2 Educational level and Activity Rates of Youths

How the level of education affects the likelihood of youths to be in labour force is the focus of this section. To facilitate the process, cross-classification of youths in labour force with highest education reached by employment and unemployment status is shown in Table 10.11.

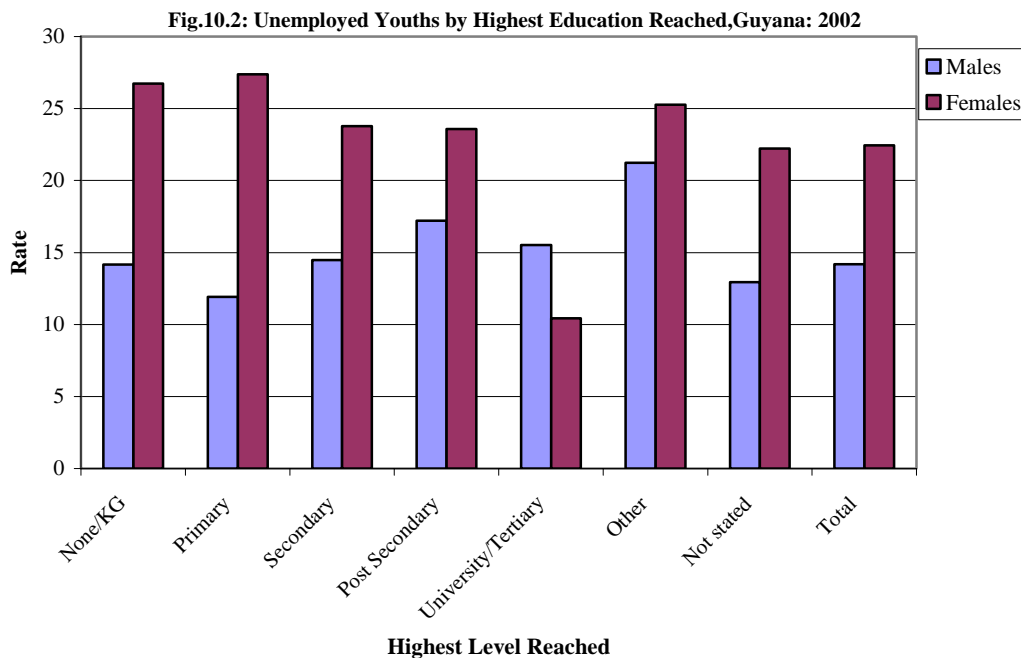


Table 10.11: Employment and Unemployment Among Youths Classified by Highest Level of Education, age and Sex, Guyana: 2002

Highest Level Reached	15-19 Years				
	Labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
Males					
None/KG	276	200	76	72.5	27.5
Primary	2,795	2,080	715	74.4	25.6
Secondary	11,369	7,652	3,717	67.3	32.7
Post Secondary	473	288	185	60.9	39.1
University/Tertiary	206	139	67	67.5	32.5
Other	71	43	28	60.6	39.4
Not stated	25	21	4	84.0	16.0
Total	15,215	10,423	4,792	68.5	31.5
Females					
None/KG	62	38	24	61.3	38.7
Primary	510	309	201	60.6	39.4
Secondary	6,200	3,269	2,931	52.7	47.3
Post Secondary	391	196	195	50.1	49.9
University/Tertiary	244	174	70	71.3	28.7
Other	41	17	24	41.5	58.5
Not stated	6	3	3	50.0	50.0
Total	7,454	4,006	3,448	53.7	46.3
20-24 Years					
Males					
None/KG	487	418	69	85.8	14.2
Primary	5,334	4,698	636	88.1	11.9
Secondary	18,064	15,448	2,616	85.5	14.5
Post Secondary	1,372	1,136	236	82.8	17.2
University/Tertiary	1,166	985	181	84.5	15.5
Other	146	115	31	78.8	21.2
Not stated	85	74	11	87.1	12.9
Total	26,654	22,874	3,780	85.8	14.2
Females					
None/KG	101	74	27	73.3	26.7
Primary	818	594	224	72.6	27.4
Secondary	9,222	7,029	2,193	76.2	23.8
Post Secondary	1,153	881	272	76.4	23.6
University/Tertiary	1,514	1,356	158	89.6	10.4
Other	95	71	24	74.7	25.3
Not stated	9	7	2	77.8	22.2
Total	12,912	10,012	2,900	77.5	22.5

Here, the traditional problem, where young school graduates seem to have waiting period to find their first job due to lack of work-experience is apparently reflected. The unemployment rate is higher for the teen age group (15-19 years), but declined by half for adolescent, 20-24 years at all levels of highest education reached.

There was also sex differential in the unemployment pattern by level of education. At all levels of highest education reached, females exhibited the highest unemployment rate (see Figure 10.2). A possible reason for early abatement in male unemployment could be that males at all ages are more likely than females to accept 'odd jobs' as a mean of ending their unemployment. High unemployment among secondary and post secondary youths as compared to no education may likely be due to job preference against educational training.