



**Jo Boyden**

**‘Who succeeds in the world of work and why?  
Evidence from a longitudinal study in 4 low- and  
middle-income countries’**

**Panel: What Big Data and Longitudinal Research Tell Us about  
Effective Youth Investments,  
Global Youth Economic Opportunities Summit  
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# Evidence from Young Lives: a longitudinal study of child poverty

- 15 years of mixed methods research, started 2001
- 12,000 children in Ethiopia, India (Andhra Pradesh & Telangana), Peru & Vietnam - 80 sites - rural & urban
- Pro-poor sample, equal numbers of boys & girls, diverse socially
- 5 survey rounds & 4 of qualitative data -  
Children, caregivers  
& community representatives
- Since 2010, examining the effectiveness of different kinds of schools. 30,000 children, including from the household sample, and their classroom peers.



# What shapes transitions into which kinds of work?

- **Education is vital for getting good jobs:** Aptitude matters, but the environment around the adolescent is key to school success
- **Some young people are significantly disadvantaged** even before starting school
- **Low quality and inequitable education is a major part of the problem,** except in Vietnam - but even there, adolescents are not taught important 21st century skills
- **Gender and wealth are major drivers of young people's employment options,** but the picture is complex
- **Unemployment among the young is rare, but so are decent jobs**
- **Most employed young people are dependent workers,** more so as they grow up, except in Ethiopia, where self-employment is more common
- **Working conditions are generally poor** and only in Vietnam do the young have written contracts and social security