

Tensions and Interrelations between the modern and the traditional sector of TVET

some insights from the construction industry in Egypt

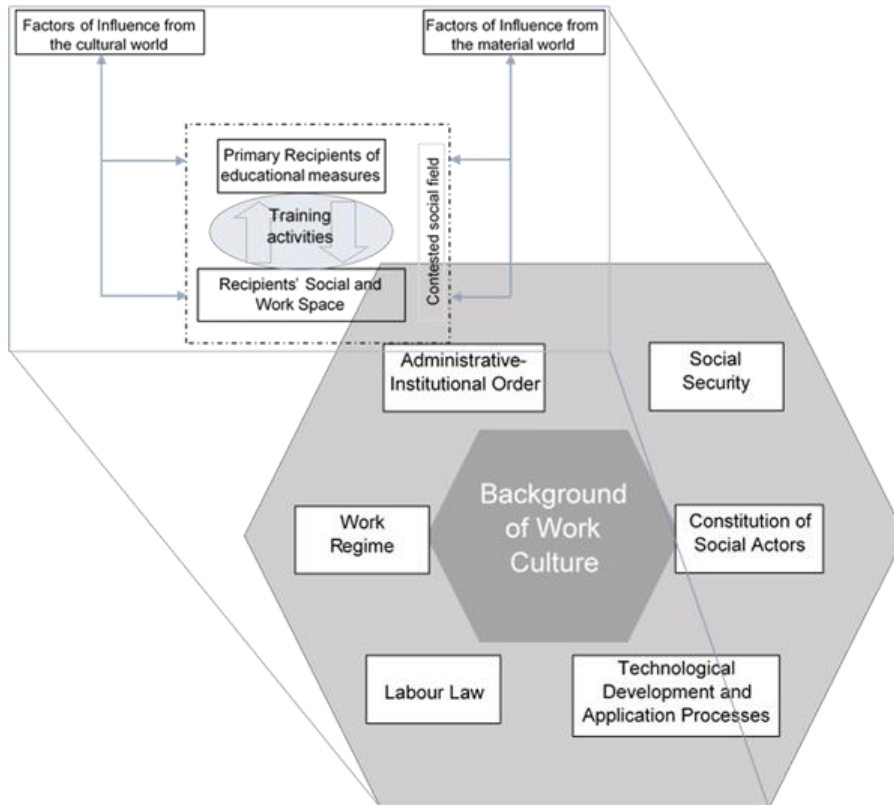
Content

- Culture as an analytic background of TVET Research
- The social actors and the TVET rules and regulations
- In general the relation between the modern and the traditional
- Conclusion and debate

Culture as an analytic background

- In general we understand culture as an expression of social activities
 - in a highly competitive social arena of negotiation compete in order to secure a position in society (Bourdieu, 2004)
 - requirement to interpret and process external influences, both material and cultural, individual and collective
 - social actors create new systems of meaning, a new symbolic order or also an innovative individual style
- The concept of work culture clarify the interrelations between the TVET and the culture of a society

Work Culture Approach



- vocational education or training interrelates with other social areas of society
- Six dimensions to clarify the areas of society with clear influences to TVET
- Successfully used as a toolkit to understand deeper a foreign TVET system
- Explication of what is meant by environments in which TVET systems are embedded (Phillips and Ochs, 2003, 2004)

The constitution of collective actors

- Collective social actors and individual social actors to distinct
- it is important to observe individual actors, their worlds, cultural systems of meaning, as well as their imaginations of a good life
- Individual subject is interrelated to vocational education by his/her socialisation. The training and succeeding professional activities have a powerful effect on the constitution of the self and identity

The collective social actor

Germany

strong and formalised roles of the self-organisational structure of actors from economy

- Labour unions
- Employers associations
- Professional associations (Fachverbände)
- Chambers of commerce and industry as well as of arts and crafts
- Public administration

Egypt

strong role of the public but weak of the self-organisations and strong roles of the traditional side of society on TVET

- No trade nor labour unions
- Employers associations are organised by the Egyptian state
- Only a small employers associations (EFIA) is common with the TVET
- Strong influence of the central state in TVET
- Informal involvement of the workers into the TVET

Relation between the modern and the traditional part of societies

preliminarily remarks

- Very often the traditional sector of a society is signalled as informal sector or informal economy, but simultaneously with this naming, prejudice and discrimination from the side of modern society and the state agencies occur
- No clear theoretical based concept of the informal sector so Elwert et al. (1983) express that it means “a social stratum of the unsecured (“Schicht der Ungesicherten”) attempts, by utilisation of economic niches, through mobility in job search and the combination of different sources of production and income to secure their survival and their reproduction”

Relation between the modern and the traditional part of societies



General notes on the intertwining

- Every economic activity must be socially embedded (K. Polanyi, 1944)
- Economic activity can be distinguished in four types of action:
 - Reciprocity
 - Redistribution
 - Subsistence
 - Market exchange
- With F. Braudel we can differentiate three sectors of economy
 - Market economy which based on
 - Non-economy, the deep ground of human societies and not dominated by markets
 - Capitalistic economy which developed in clear contradiction to market economy

Experiences of intertwining of modern and traditional

German history

- Base of the industrial development was the skilled workforce from the traditional craft sector
- Labour force were mostly recruited by traditional socialised rural youth or lower classes
- Strong interchanging economic and social relations have existed during the time of industrial modernity (Lutz, 1984)

Egypt present

- More than 2.8 mil labourers are working in the Egyptian construction field
- Recruited directly from stable communities with clear and strong inner-regulations to secure the cohesion
- Socio-historical reverberation of former guild structures in the Egyptian construction industry
- Recruitments for modern companies and also the training activities based on traditional regulations

Conclusions

- The intertwining of modern and traditional is very common in our history but to some extent forgotten
- Egypt grounded on an old, complex traditional society, despite some modernity
 - the maintenance of beneficiary social relation and the care of social networks with the demonstration of loyalty to the influential representative is important.
- These social networks are on one hand the framework for recognition and the social positioning of the own person and on the other hand they are the traditional basis for social advancement by social relations but also the conditions of emotional subjection.
- The challenge is for Egypt to bring both, modern and tradition closer together and to promote of a nearer dovetailing of modern forms of employment training with the traditional forms of craft teaching
- The German history gives us an example for reconciling modernity with tradition shaping a modern and effective TVET system