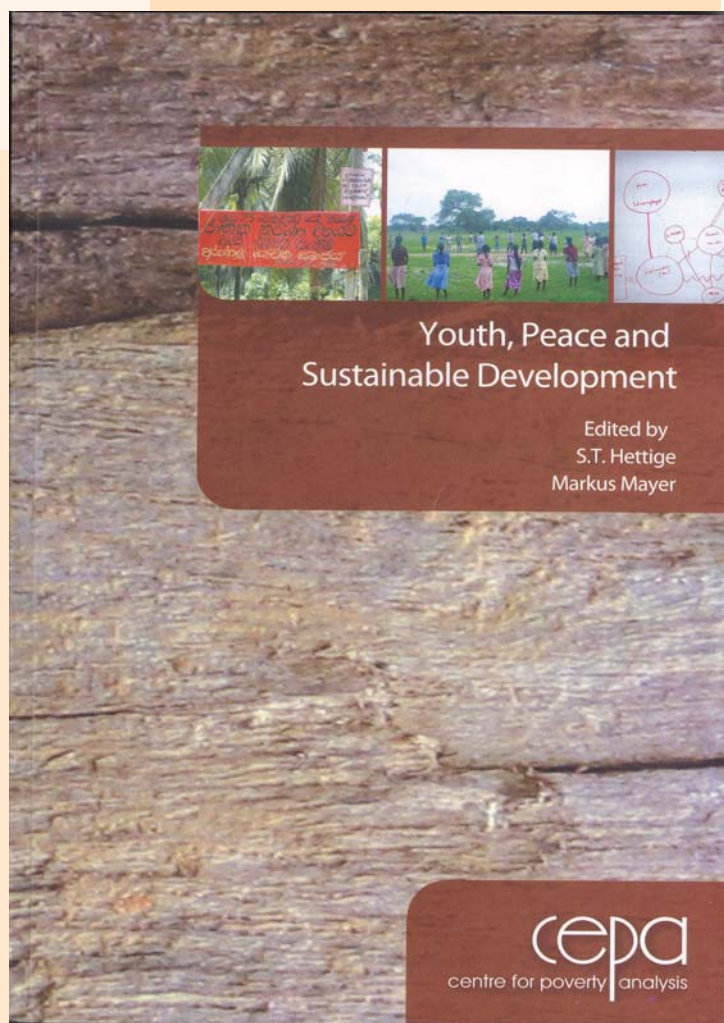


YOUTH, PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Conference on Youth in Sustainable and Peaceful Development

The papers examine the role of youth in sustainable development, the importance of school learning in preparing youth to tackle problems prevalent in society today, youth employment and finally, conflict and its effects on marginalisation and social cohesion.

The publication notes that peace is a pre-requisite for sustainable development. However, it is not the sole criterion, as there are other factors that facilitate or hinder development. If a sizable segment of the youthful population is disillusioned and turns to violence to achieve their objectives, they are likely to be sceptical about resolving conflict through peaceful means. Similarly, if disaffected youth feel that their problems are caused by discrimination, they are unlikely to perceive the lack of economic development or under-development as the main reason for the lack of opportunities. When such perceptions persist, young people are less likely to be pre-occupied with peace and development.



The International Youth Conference was held on October 2004 at the Colombo Plaza in Colombo. The conference was co-organised by the Centre for Poverty Analysis, Social Policy Analysis and Research Centre with financial support from the German Technical Cooperation. The conference on creating an intergenerational dialogue on the role of youth in sustainable and peaceful development focusing on key issues related to youth education, employability and empowerment.