

Report: Young Jamaicans unemployable

by UPI

KINGSTON, Jamaica - A survey published Wednesday showed 44 percent of 18-24 year-old unemployed Jamaicans lack the skills to work at anything, the Jamaica Gleaner reported.

Under the headline "No jobs for slobs -- Lack of education, skills, wrong attitude render youth unemployable," the newspaper noted its commissioned poll also found 8 percent of young people in that age range had given up looking for a job entirely.

Commenting on the findings, Dr. Leachim Semaj, chief executive officer of the Job Bank, told the newspaper he blamed parents for failing to motivate their children to want to succeed.

"Some may have some analytical skills but I find that their work attitude is atrocious," Semaj said. "One week on the job, they want a corner office and a company car."

He went on to say the social problems would multiply if social changes weren't made.

"On the other side of it, 70 percent of the prison population is functionally illiterate," he told the Gleaner. "You see the parallel. So that is what they are being prepared for."

The newspaper didn't publish the number of people surveyed.

Copyright © 2007, by United Press International. All Rights Reserved.

Report: Young Jamaicans unemployable by UPI