

Research Article:

*A Study on Problems of Malagasy Graduates to leave
Madagascar*



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ABSTRACT

Background: The study described in this paper explores that the lack of job opportunities and business plans are the reason why young Malagasy (people) graduates are leaving Madagascar. In addition, extreme poverty also is the second motivation for Malagasy diploma looking for an opportunity abroad. Life in Madagascar is hard and everyone is searching for a new opportunity to make a good life. Madagascar's high rates of poverty, reaching over 80 percent of the population, are closely associated with its inability to create and sustain productive employment for its workforce.

The Causes: There are two roots causes why Malagasy people leave Madagascar?

At the First the difficulties to find a job and the second the facts of poverty facing Malagasy societies.

Strategic Method: The strategy of this article is to address the Madagascar government and the authorities to create a job opportunity for Malagasy people who have a diploma, and give them a job immediately instead of escaping abroad (Brain Drain).

The Objective:

Malagasy graduates must have a job after completing their education and then they remain in Madagascar if they work. For the development of Madagascar, Government must create job opportunity for graduate students. This is only way to sort out the poverty and social insecurity.

Discussion: Malagasy graduates Struggling to find a jobs

Conclusion: It is very difficult for Malagasy people have a diploma to live in Madagascar because they jobless. The extreme poverty in Malagasy society as well. This cases it belongs the most of Malagasy young have a diploma are unemployed. The government and those in authority do not care regarding this affair. Because of that, tons of Malagasy people are suffering and starving from the effects of being extremely poor. This is the reason why they are looking for a way to go abroad and seeking for a good life.

Keyword: Poverty, graduate, brain drain

Note - (Malagasy): A people who living in Madagascar and it also an official language.

I-INTRODUCTION

In the current situation, tons of Malagasy people are looking for a way to work abroad and create a new life there. All Malagasy people who struggle to find a job because of lack of job opportunity. This affair is one of the first crises to Malagasy graduates who cannot finding a job. In other word many people who have a degree but no job; this is the main problem that pushes them to exit Madagascar.

Due to mass and chronic malnutrition, 65% of the Malagasy population lives in mostly rural and poor conditions. The gross domestic product (GDP) for 2020 was \$13,056 million and the debt-to-GDP ratio was 46.02%. Madagascar had a GDP of \$523 per capita in 2021, which put them in the lower quartile of countries in the world. They also have a poverty rate of 97.5%. As result, many Malagasy graduates often seek job opportunities in neighbouring countries or abroad due to unemployment, lack of resources and environmental changes in Madagascar. This produces a complex migration pattern in Madagascar country.

1.1 Madagascar Profile

Before I explain that the reasons for this article, I would like to show you who Madagascar is and where it is located? So here is some information about Madagascar.

1.2 Basic Information

Madagascar is an island country located in the Indian Ocean.

It has a total surface area of 587,041 sq. km. The population in 2022 was a little over 28.9 million people. The currency used is known as Malagasy Ariary (MGA) and the official languages are Malagasy (99.9%), French (23.6%), English (8.2%), and others (0.6%). In recent years, the country has experienced different political crises, but is steadily improving; however, there are still many developmental challenges. The birth rate is 4.11 births per woman, which is putting an enormous strain on the country. The economy has not been growing, and health care and education standards are poor. Most of the population lives on the eastern half of the island, while clusters can be found in the central highlands, as well as on the eastern coastline. Religions practiced in Madagascar are Christianity (41%) and Islam

(7%). Most Malagasy are multi-ethnic, including Malayo-Indonesian, coastal (mixed African, Malayo-Indonesian, and Arab ancestry), French, Indian, Creole, Comoros.

The Republic of Madagascar gained its independence in 1960. It is located on an island in the Indian Ocean, 400 km away from Mozambique, and has a total surface area of 587,041 sq. km. 71% of the land on the island is used for agriculture, 21.5% for forest, and 7.4% for other purposes. Most of the population lives on the eastern side of the island, and clusters of communities can be found in the central highlands and eastern coastline. Due to Madagascar's isolation, 90% of its flora and fauna are indigenous and are not found anywhere else in the world.

Madagascar has a population of 28.9 million people and its largest age group is in the 24-54 age bracket (30.8% of the total population). The next biggest age group is between 15 and 24, which accounts for an additional 20.6%. This shows that the Malagasy population is largely made up of young people, indicating the availability of a large labour force. However, 3.4% of them are unemployed and the majority leave school prematurely to assist their families financially.

II-THE CAUSES

This study discovers, the two cause that pushes Malagasy graduate to leave Madagascar:

- The top 05 reasons that pushes Malagasy (people) graduates to leave Madagascar
- The top 10 factors poverty in Madagascar societies

So, let's deep understand the two roots causes for escaping in Madagascar:

a) [The top 05 reasons that pushes Malagasy graduates to leave Madagascar](#)

1-Lack of job opportunities in Madagascar but several Malagasy people graduate

Due to insufficient, "job opportunities" in Madagascar have remained a problem for Malagasy citizen since the dawn of time. Madagascar is full of young people who have completed their studies with diplomas, but without work. The problem is when looking for work, in Madagascar; all companies need at least five years of experience. However, most

of Malagasy graduates do not have ones. All these cases become a big obstacle for Malagasy young today. In addition, HR managers, Business managers, Directors and leaders in one company requires them for money to be hired; that is completely unjust called “corruption, grease someone’s palm and the famous bribe”.

Firstly, when the person obtains a diploma higher than theirs or the diploma comes from abroad, they are afraid that this person will become their boss afterwards. In this case, they prefer to hire less perceptive people because they can guide them as they see fit.

Secondly, the state and members of government do not pay attention to the problems that young graduates face. In other words, many young people end up doing bad things like: “starting taking drugs, violence, stealing, prostitution, snatch in the street, drug trafficking, pick pockets, street vagabonds”, that is life in Madagascar.

2-Madagascar: A weak currency country (value of the money decrease)

About 85% of Malagasy graduate today are mired in poverty, because employers cannot have enough money even, they have work, which often causes them in trouble. The boss does not care about his or her employees, but in his mind is that you have to work even if you are sick. Currently, the difficulty of Malagasy young is not finding a job. Because of that, they have to do something else to make money.

The cost of living also is very expensive, but the salary they get at the end of the month is not adequate to live on. For example: a single room to rent here in Madagascar is almost \$50 or\$100, however the salaries obtained too insufficient, that is why some people leave their home, because we cannot afford to pay the rent.

3-The prevalence of corruption

The rampant of corruption is one of the biggest reasons why Madagascar has not developed for a long time despite the lack of work and job opportunity. Even both private or public companies are corrupt. For example, when you are preparing an identity card you have to pay first, however doing an identity card is free but they took the money from you if want to get it quickly and especially the preparation of: “Passport and Visa”.

No matter what you do in Madagascar so, if you want to get something with speed, you have

to pay first. This is the main reason why many people engage in corruption to get what they want quickly.

4. The Malagasy community is destroyed.

Life in Madagascar is not going, as it should. Due to poverty stricken, various conflicts to start gaining momentum both at the family and societal levels. Madagascar society was not like before. Everyone is doing his or her best to make money. Today's Madagascar society is not as before anymore. The conciliation between Malagasy people is completely devastated, because there is no trust between people who live in the same society. Malagasy people fighting, killing each other and no longer meet with others. Everyone makes a way to live normally life. The unity of Malagasy in the past, which was commendable at that time, is destroyed now.

5. Discomfort in social situations

a-Family conflict

Because of Madagascar's poverty, siblings fight, if there is one, two do not work at home. All the problems arise when one of the family members is working. Because of this, it causes conflict between family members and those who are still studying and those who are still unable to work are always blamed. This is the situation in Madagascar because there is no more love even siblings.

b-The conflict of generations

Madagascar is a low-income country. The main cause when one of the parents is absence at home is it a problem for their children. For example: parents usually arrive home late, the children are already asleep, and they leave very early in the morning. As a result, the absence of parents can be detrimental to children, it causes suffer the kids because the lack of affection and tenderness from both mother and Father. In addition, they feel lost, depressed, the chaos of life, some become stuck in a painful atmosphere. That is why; the parents do everything for the benefit of their children. This is motive the parents decide to leave Madagascar because the income is not enough here in Madagascar. This decision becomes a problem for the family, especially the children.

b) Top 10 Factors Poverty in Madagascar societies

Below is a timeline of facts showing that Madagascar societies have been living in higher poverty since 2000 and 2024:

- 1.** The majority of people in Madagascar live in extreme poverty. Currently, over 75% of the population of Madagascar lives on less than \$1.90 per day. This means that three-fourths of the 25.6 million inhabitants of Madagascar live beneath the international poverty line as defined by the World Bank.
- 2.** Poverty in Madagascar hits children the hardest. In fact, more than 80% of those under 18 in Madagascar live in extreme poverty. Additionally, UNICEF declares that chronic malnutrition affects almost half of children under 5-years-old, with stunted growth being a major concern.
- 3.** Extreme poverty pushes children in Madagascar into child labour. Approximately 5.7 million children, about half of the population under 18, participate in labour of some kind. Many of these children work instead of attending school.
- 4.** The island nation's unique and isolated geography is also a contributing factor to poverty. For the country's rural poor, who largely subsist on farming and fishing, environmental challenges have been particularly detrimental. Water levels continue to rise, and Madagascar's location makes it very susceptible to cyclones. These factors lead to drought and food insecurity in the already poor nation.
- 5.** Though 80% of Madagascar's residents live in rural areas, the country is not currently able to sustain itself. Madagascar has to import 15% of essentials like rice and milk. Slash and burn farming techniques and over-farming have led to deforestation on a large scale. Only 10% of Madagascar's original rainforest is still intact.
- 6.** Madagascar's poor infrastructure also negatively affects its economy. More than 30,000 miles of roads in the country, only about 11% are paved. Many of these roads become impossible to pass during the nation's rainy season. Furthermore, railroads are not in much better shape; there are two unconnected lines in poor condition.
- 7.** Despite the above-named hardships, Madagascar has seen rapid growth in recent years. It grew by 5.1% in 2018, with per capita income rising by two percentage points.
- 8.** Lack of water and disinfection are significant problems in Madagascar. Only about half of Madagascar's population has access to clean water. In Southern Madagascar, 90% of houses lack basic sanitization needs. Open defecation is common, leading to

the prevalence of waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea.

9. Still, more than 30 percent of the population in Madagascar is illiterate. The highest prevalence in the illiteracy in 2010 was among elderly population of 64+ years old (50 percent), generally uneducated people 52 percent, poor and extremely poor (40 percent), and inhabitants of Toliara region 54 percent.
10. The labor market in Madagascar is similar to that of low-income countries, and the dynamics of poverty and inequality clearly reflect the structure and changes in employment and income. As is typical in low-income countries, a large proportion of the population is active — close to 90 percent of the population in the working age group of 15 to 64 years is active.

III-Primary data and Analysis with statistical tools and techniques

1. Data and Analysis

According INSTAT- Institute Nationale de la Statistique (National Institute of Statistics of Madagascar) of this study found that, many Malagasy people with diplomas end up doing things they shouldn't do after finishing their education, but the main reason is no job opportunities. There are many Malagasy people with diplomas today, but most of them can hardly find work. Corruption and political conflicts are on the one hand, and this is what really affects the Malagasy people.

The second analysis is that the government does not take responsibility for this issue, which leads to civil war among Malagasy people. The Malagasy peace that was once cherished no longer exists. Therefore, insecurity is rampant in Madagascar, both in the countryside and in the town. Many of these people do illegal activities, break into houses or bank, kidnap, pickpocket on the street. On the other hand, most of women become prostitutes.

That is, what is happening in Madagascar today, and their human dignity is being lost. Young people with diplomas suffer because they are not able to work after completing their studies. However, this is the main reason for the poverty in Madagascar, where everyone is looking for a job. Once they found an opportunity abroad, leave and never come back. Therefore, all the skilled people that the country is looking for leave due to the lack of infrastructure.

Due to a lack of infrastructure and sustainable development, Malagasy experts and young people who have completed their studies are leaving Madagascar

2. The rate of Poverty

The poverty rate in Madagascar has been high around 85 percent.

Table 1 shows the World Bank's revised poverty estimates (Malagasy Graduates without jobs and percentage of population in poverty), national poverty rates by year with available consumption data: 2005, 2015, 2020, and 2024. The poverty rate for graduates with no job is as follows: 68.7 percent in 2010, to 69.7 percent in 2015, to 76.5 percent in 2020 and finally to 85.2 percent in 2024.

Table1: World Bank Revised Headcount Poverty Estimates (Malagasy Graduate no Jobs and Percent of population poverty),

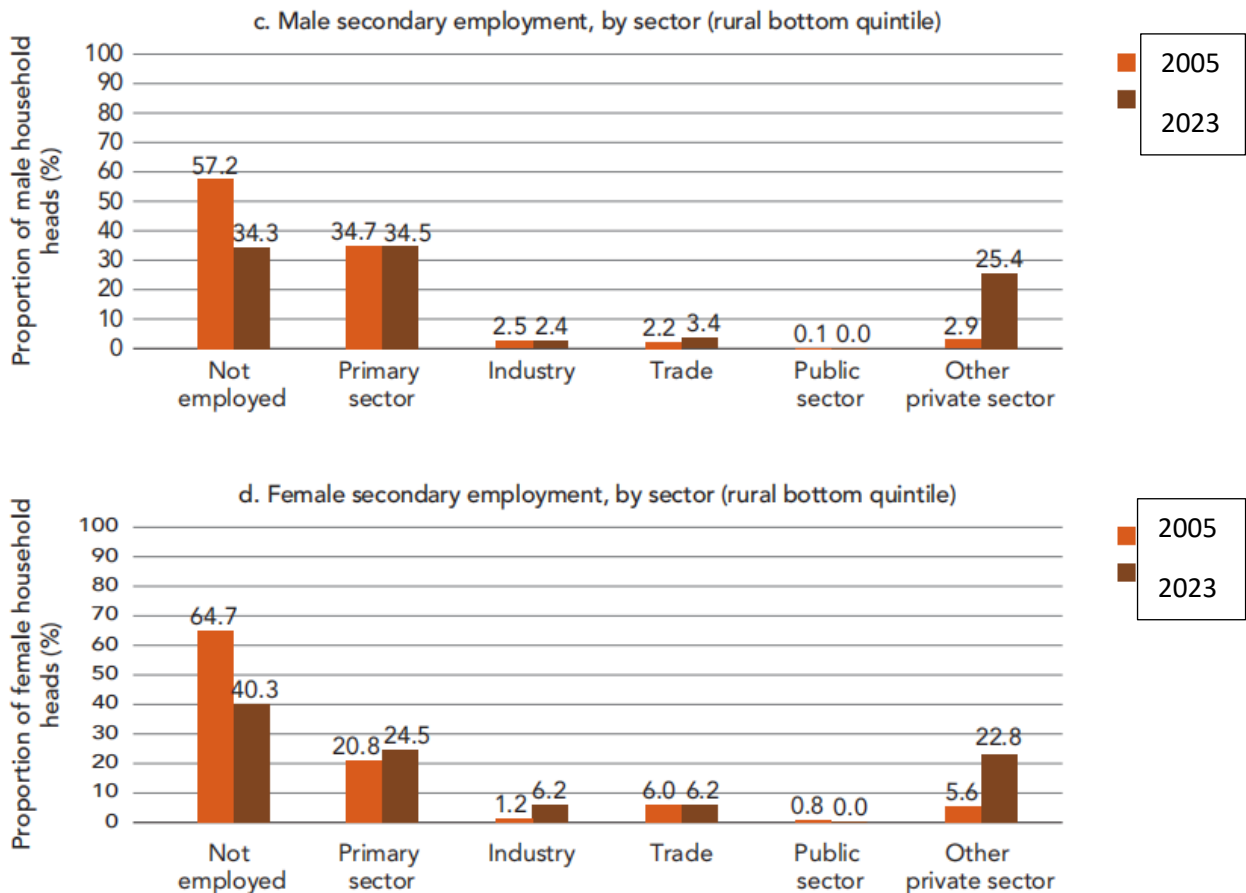
<i>Years</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2024</i>
Malagasy(people) Graduates no Jobs	68.7%	69.7%	76.5%	85.2%
Percent of population in poverty, earlier estimates (World Bank 2010 to 2024)	70.8%	75.0%	75.3%	87%
Total (percent of population) in absolute poverty, final revised	70.8%	73.2%	71.7%	85%

Sources: Bank staff using Enquête Périodique auprès les Ménages (EPM), Enquête Nationale sur les Objectifs Millénaire du Développement

(ENSOMD), and World Development Indicators (WDI).

Note: Poverty line is estimated using 2010-2024 EPM survey and adjusted for inflation in each year.

Figure 1: Employment of Household Heads in the Bottom Quintile in Rural Areas (by Sector) In this figure both proportion male and female household in the Year 2005 up to 2023



Reference format:

Title of article: *Isolation, Crisis, and Vulnerability: A Decomposition Analysis of Inequality and Deepening Poverty in Madagascar (2005–2023)*
Author name: Theresa Osborne
Year of publication: June 2016
Journal International: *AFR Poverty Practice, World Bank Group*
Place of publication: Madagascar
Country: Madagascar, and page: 69

3. Techniques and strategies

This strategy planning is to address to the Malagasy government. Several potential strategies can be implemented to tackle this issue and retain highly skilled individuals.

To prevent them from escaping abroad:

- Accelerating Economic growth: Stimulate economic activity and increase investments in key areas of the economy.

- Improve quality of life: Improve resources like housing and health care, and offer affordable housing solutions.
- Improve education: Create a better educational system so that citizens do not have to go overseas for higher education.
- Improve political institutions: Make legal and social reforms and ensure that citizens feel safe.
- Improve technology infrastructure: Invest in science and technology infrastructure.
- Prioritize healthcare workers: Craft and implement policies that prioritize the remuneration of health workers.

- Creating a Favourable Environment: Governments can work towards creating a favourable environment that attracts and retains talent.
- Provide free education: Governments can equip their citizens with the necessary knowledge and skills to thrive in a competitive global market by investing in quality education systems. This includes focusing on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and providing scholarships.
- Governments should prioritize improving working conditions and creating a positive work-life balance. By creating an environment that values employee well-being and provides a healthy work culture.
- One of the major challenges for the country is to have a skilled and educated people, especially those with work experience who are the foundation of the country's development. Losing them can have a significant impact on the country's development.
- Malagasy Governments urgently requires a sustained period of robust economic growth spanning multiple years, which would enable the country to accumulate assets and build a solid foundation for its economic transformation.
- These reforms, bringing more market competition and transparency, are at the core of addressing elite capture and unlocking the door for jobs and private sector investment.

- The Malagasy government needs to increase its capital, which is currently two to four times less than other countries.

IV-THE OBJECTIVES

- To create jobs for Malagasy graduates and providing them training to get more knowledge and work experience.
- To ensure the development of Madagascar, Malagasy people educated must work to avoid poverty and social insecurity.
- To ameliorate and the development of competition and transparency in the market are the basis for combating elite capture and opening the door to employment.
- To Establish a pro-growth coalition that prioritizes building the strong institutional framework needed for a dynamic and competitive private sector. This requires a stable, reliable and efficient public administration that can provide infrastructure and services while respecting only legal and regulatory requirements.
- To Improve working conditions: The government should prioritize improving working conditions and creating a good work-life balance.

V.DISCUSSIONS

There are several reasons why Malagasy graduate might not be able to find a job in Madagascar. The discussion is open why Malagasy people with a degree have a difficult to find a job can vary depending on the individual's situation. Some common reasons include:

- Lack of job opportunity
- Lack of experience: Some jobs require a certain amount of experience, and if you do not have that experience, you may not be considered for the job.
- Lack of qualifications: Some jobs require specific qualifications, such as a degree or certification. If you do not have the required qualifications, you may not be considered for the job.
- Poor interview skills: Even if you have the experience and qualifications, if you do not interview well, you may not get the job.
- Bad timing: Sometimes, the timing of your job search is simply bad. If you are looking for a job in a recession, it may be more difficult to find one.
- Discrimination: Unfortunately, discrimination still exists in the workplace. If you are

being discriminated against, it may be more difficult to find a job.

- Poverty in Madagascar is rampant, and the situation will not improve anymore. Economic growth and organizations like SEED Madagascar and Water Aid are taking important steps, but the issue must continue to be addressed.
- Madagascar has a high poverty rate, with more than 24 million people living on less than \$0.89 per day in 2022. This translates to a national poverty rate of just over 75%.
- Madagascar is the world's fifth largest island, situated in the Indian Ocean off the coast of southern Africa. Despite considerable natural resources, however, its population of about 28 million (2020) has one of the world's highest poverty rates.
- Economic Situation: For decades, Madagascar has struggled with sluggish growth and persistent poverty, largely due to weak governance, inadequate human and physical capital development, and slow structural transformation. In case, weak economic growth combined with rapid population growth has resulted in Madagascar having one of the highest poverty rates in the world, reaching 75% in 2022 using the national poverty line.

CONCLUSION

Currently, it is difficult for Malagasy graduates to live in Madagascar because they are unemployed. Extreme poverty throughout Madagascar society is also the main problem. The government and authorities do not care about these issues. According to the World Bank Group, Madagascar has one of the highest poverty rates in the world, with more than 80% of its population living below the poverty line, 85% of which are in rural areas. In 2021, 68.4% of the population was multidimensionally poor and an additional 15.4% were vulnerable to multidimensional poverty. More than two-thirds of Malagasy children live in multidimensional poverty, meaning they do not have access to education, health, housing, nutrition, unemployment, sanitation, or clean water.

The reality is that all Malagasy people who have completed their studies are looking for a way to go abroad for having a good life because of extreme poverty. What they have in mind is that they will not return to Madagascar because they will not survive there...

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