Validation of Prior Learning in Trinidad and Tobago: Regional and National Policy and Legislation Considerations

Presented by:

Eduardo Ali, Ed.D.

**Consultant-International Education & Skills Policy and Strategy**

Presentation Outline

- Regional Postcolonialism Context

- National Education System: Policy Trends

- Education and Training Data in Trinidad and Tobago

- Regional and National Qualifications Frameworks

- Vocational Qualifications Systems

- Prior Learning Assessment

- Final Thoughts
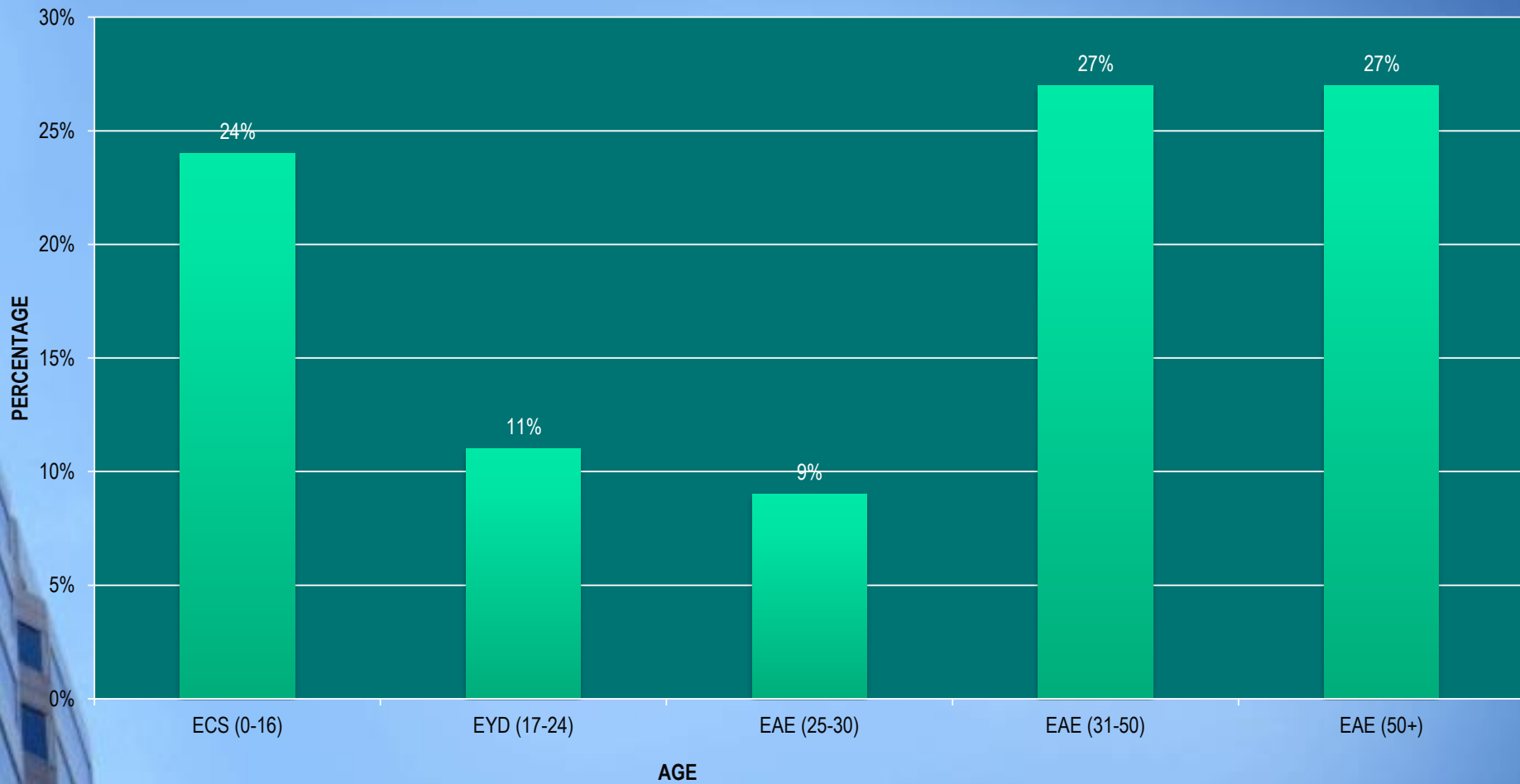
Postcolonial Anglophone Caribbean

Eligible Population for Formal and Non-Formal Education & Training (2015/2016)
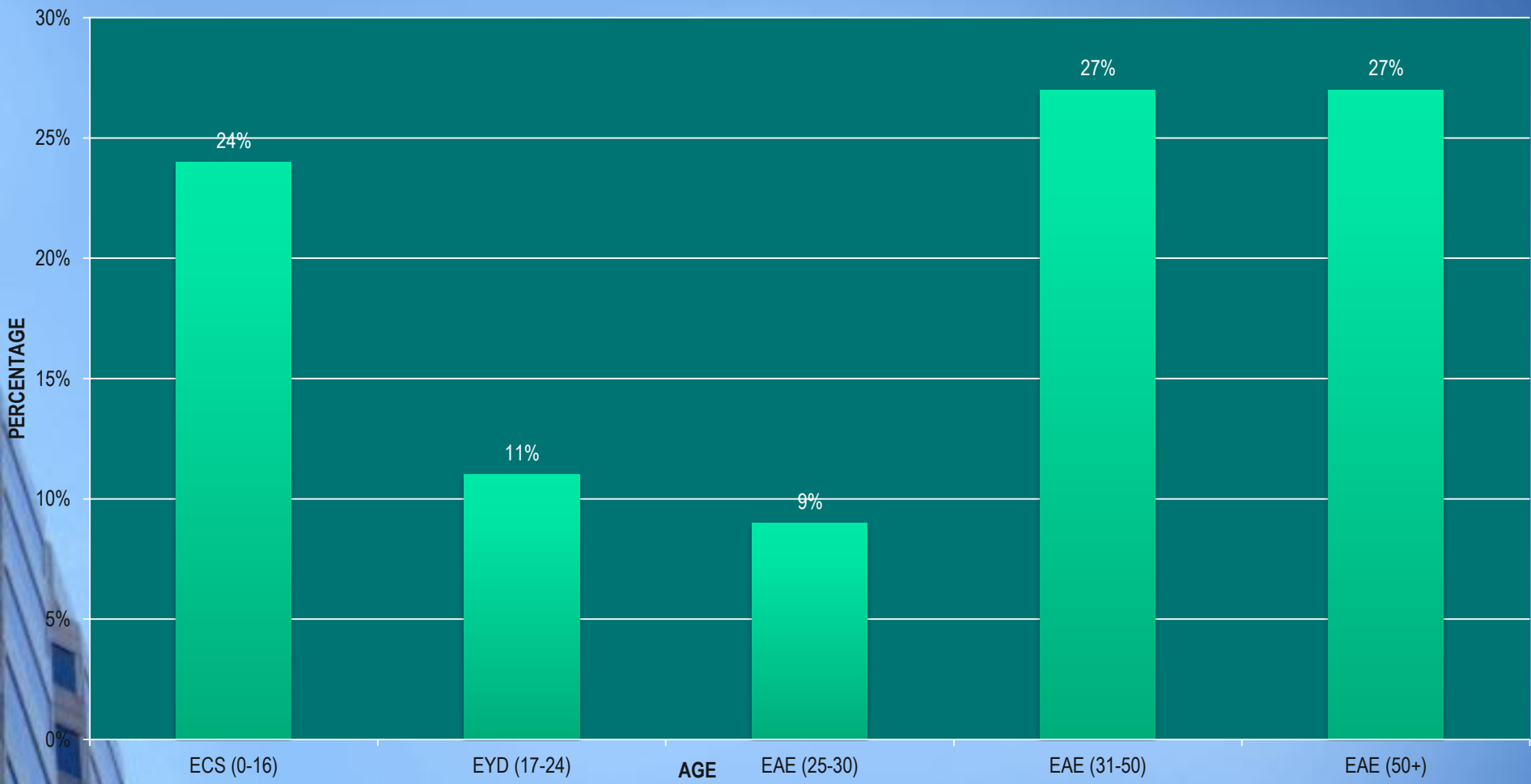
- Population Census
- 1,353,900
- Male- 679,300
- Female- 674,600

Gross Enrolment Ratios for Formal and Non-Formal Education & Training (2013/2015)

Bar chart. X-axis: AGE. Y-axis: PERCENTAGE.

- ECS (0-16): 24%
- EYD (17-24): 11%
- EAE (25-30): 9%
- EAE (31-50): 27%
- EAE (50+): 27%

- Population Census
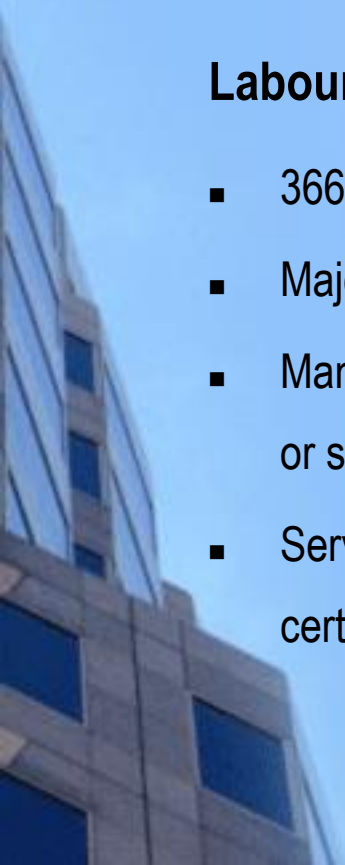- 1353.9
- Male- 679.3
- Female- 674.6

Employment and Employability

Unemployment Rate:

- Total 5.1%
- Male-4.2%
- Female-6.2%

Labour force:

- 366,100 or 27% of population

- Majority skilled labour (58%) requiring vocational and technical education and training

- Managerial and professional workers (13.1%) requiring academic and vocational education or skilled certifications

- Service workers and clerks (14.6%) requiring academic and vocational education or skilled certifications

National Education System

- Formal/Non-formal education and training provisions

- Formal compulsory and youth education (Eligible population is 35%)

- Formal and non-formal education and training for adults (eligible

  population is 63% employed and unemployed)

Paradigms/Policy Trends

Period	Educational Paradigm/Policy
1989	Post-secondary education and training review
1996	Advent of TVET sector and policy for regulation of TVET by NTA
1998	Introduction of the National Distance Learning (lifelong learning) system
2000	Development of first TVET qualifications framework
2002	Establishment of the formal tertiary education system
2002-2004	Move to seamless education system and formalization of ECCE
2004	Establishment of modernized qualifications recognition, registration and accreditation system and ACTT legislation for regulation of post-secondary education and training
2005	Articulation of first draft of T&T Qualifications Framework with proposed Caribbean Qualifications Framework
2006-2019	Registration of post-secondary education and training institutions
	Accreditation of post-secondary institutions
	Recognition of awarding bodies
	Evaluation and approval of TNE qualifications
	Approval of TVET or workforce assessment centres

Legislations

- Act 16 of 2004 and amendments for ACTT

- Proposed NTA Bill and Higher Education and Training Bills (2019-2020)

- Introduction of state-led regulatory systems and frameworks-

    - Post-secondary education and training institution/provider registration/approvals;

    - Qualification registrations and approvals;

    - Programme approvals;

    - Institutional accreditations;

    - Awarding body approvals;

    - Foreign qualifications recognitions

- Legislation and policy engages consultative processes with stakeholders

- MOE, MOLSED, providers; institutions, employer bodies; professional networks, professional standards bodies, awarding/certifying entities; NGOs; international agencies

Qualifications Frameworks

CARICOM Qualifications Framework	
Level 10	Doctoral Degree
Level 9	Master's Degree
Level 8	Postgraduate Certificate and Diploma
Level 7	Bachelor's Degree
Level 6	Associate Degree/ Higher Diploma Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) Diploma
Level 5	Diploma Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) Diploma
Level 4	Advanced Certificate Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) Grades 1-3
Level 3	Certificate III
Level 2	Certificate II Caribbean Primary Exit Assessment (CPEA)
Level 1	Certificate I

Caribbean Vocational Qualifications - Occupational Standards

CVQs-Qualifications Development, Approval and QA

- Processes for development of TTNVQs/CVQs

- Processes for approval of CVQs

- Processes for quality assurance of CVQs

CVQs- Center Standards and Approvals

- Centre approval process including WACs

- Multi-level validation methods and practices which includes PLA

Management of PLA

- PLA concept and practices

- Mature entry routes and TEIs (diagnosis/validation)

- Validation and assessment in WACs