



Addressing Sustainable Development from a Family Lens

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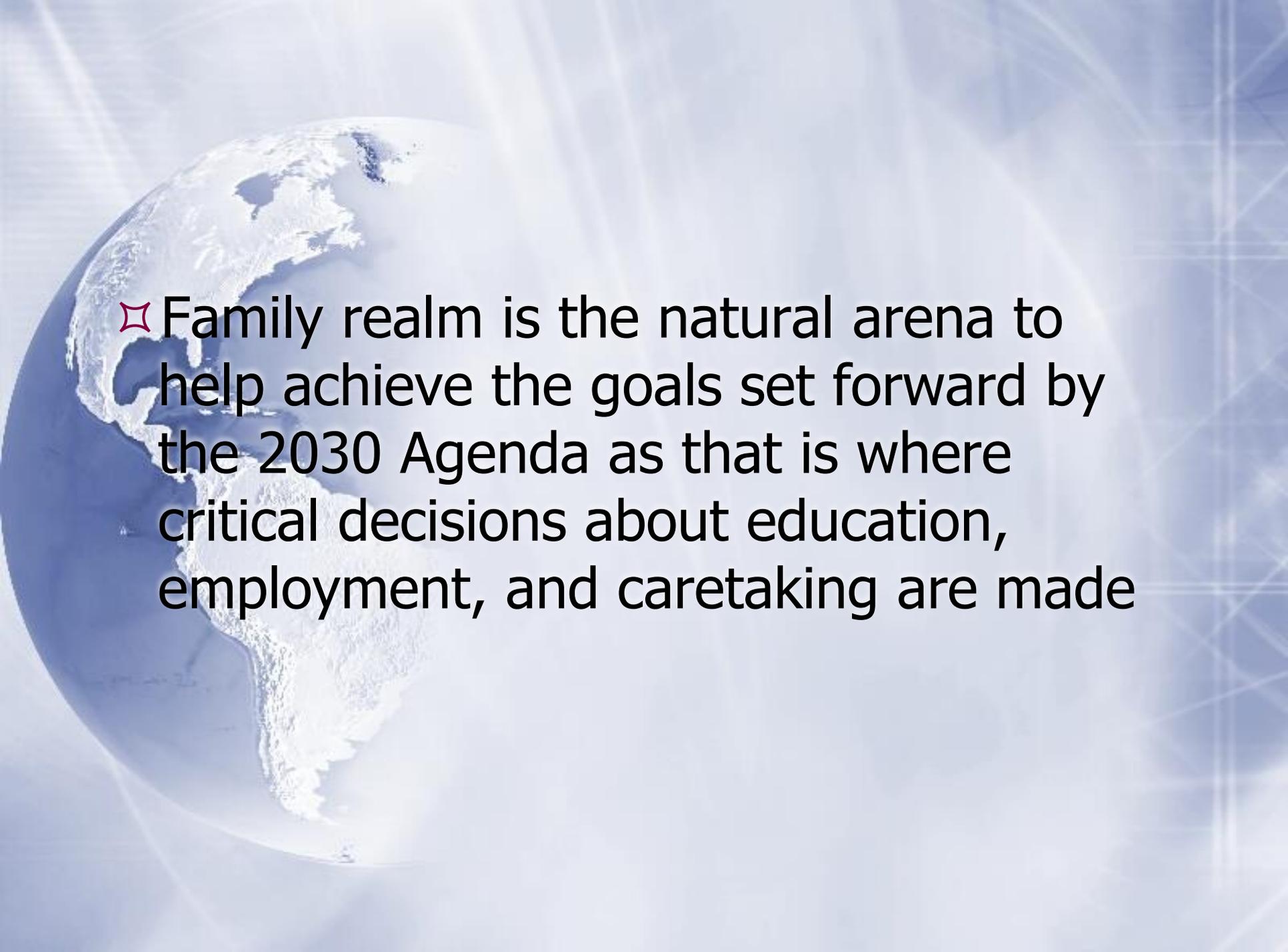
❖ *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*

❖ September 2015

❖ Ending poverty, increasing gender equality, and promoting shared economic prosperity, social development and people's well-being, while also protecting the environment



✧ Importantly, the agenda stresses the importance of creating and adapting policies that are appropriate to specific national and cultural contexts, in order to achieve sustainability (United Nations General Assembly, 2016).



✧ Family realm is the natural arena to help achieve the goals set forward by the 2030 Agenda as that is where critical decisions about education, employment, and caretaking are made



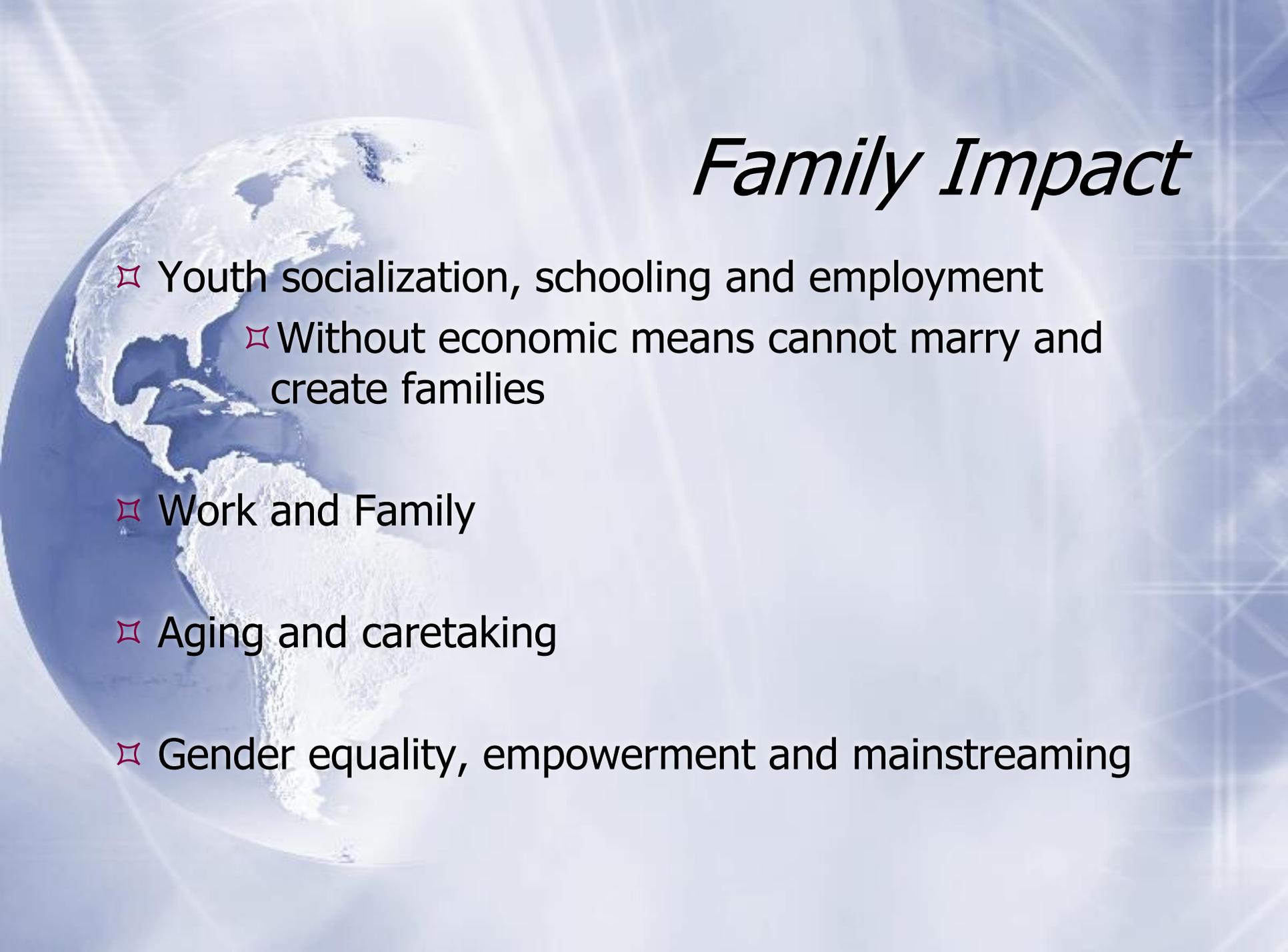
Contemporary Scholarship

- ✧ Stress on Western experience of social life
- ✧ Unsustainable in contexts where very different belief systems, ideologies and cultural practices are at play (Trask, 2010; Trask 2014)



Family As Central

- ✧ Families remain at the center of social life and continue to be the primary mechanism for coping with social, economic and political adversity;
- ✧ Socialization and education of children;
- ✧ Gender issues;
- ✧ Caretaking

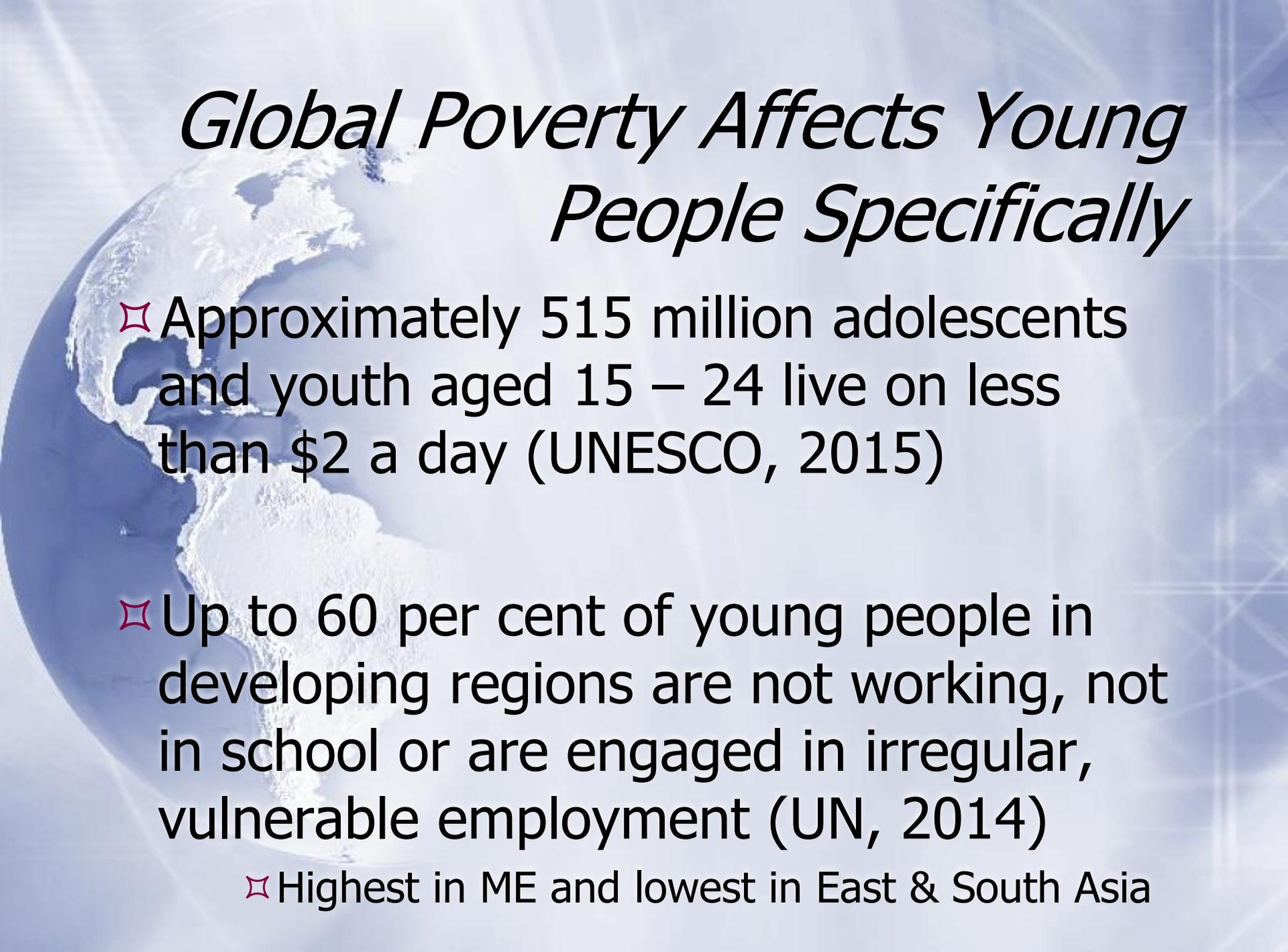


Family Impact

- ✧ Youth socialization, schooling and employment
 - ✧ Without economic means cannot marry and create families
- ✧ Work and Family
- ✧ Aging and caretaking
- ✧ Gender equality, empowerment and mainstreaming

Never Before: So Many Young People 😊

- ✧ 1.8 billion young people worldwide
- ✧ One in six persons is an adolescent
- ✧ 89% or nine out of ten live in the developing world (UN, 2014)
- ✧ India today has 560 million young people under the age of 25 and 243 million are between the ages of 10 and 19
 - ✧ This is equivalent to 21 percent of the population



Global Poverty Affects Young People Specifically

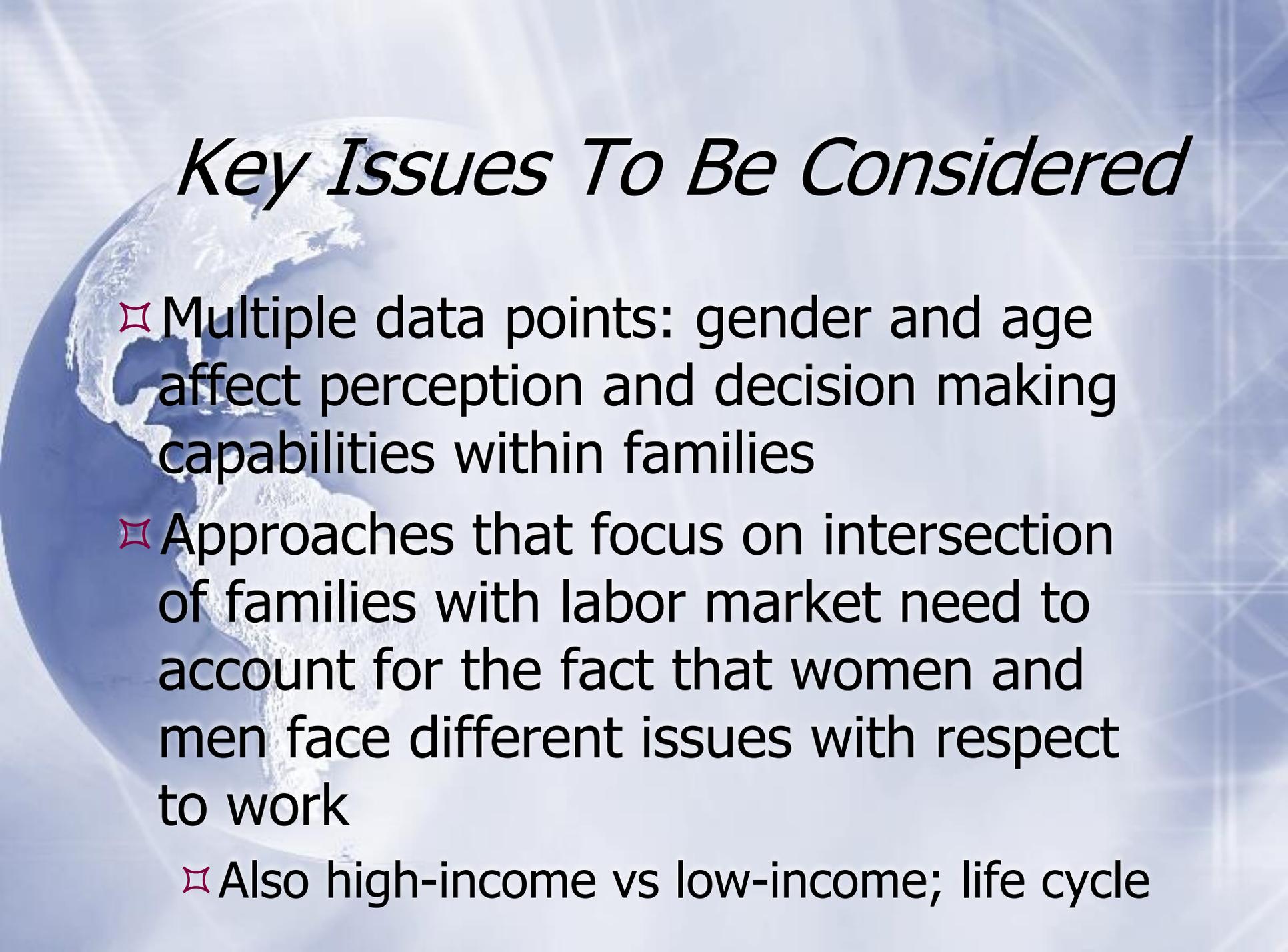
- ✧ Approximately 515 million adolescents and youth aged 15 – 24 live on less than \$2 a day (UNESCO, 2015)
- ✧ Up to 60 per cent of young people in developing regions are not working, not in school or are engaged in irregular, vulnerable employment (UN, 2014)
 - ✧ Highest in ME and lowest in East & South Asia



Why Do These Statistics Matter?

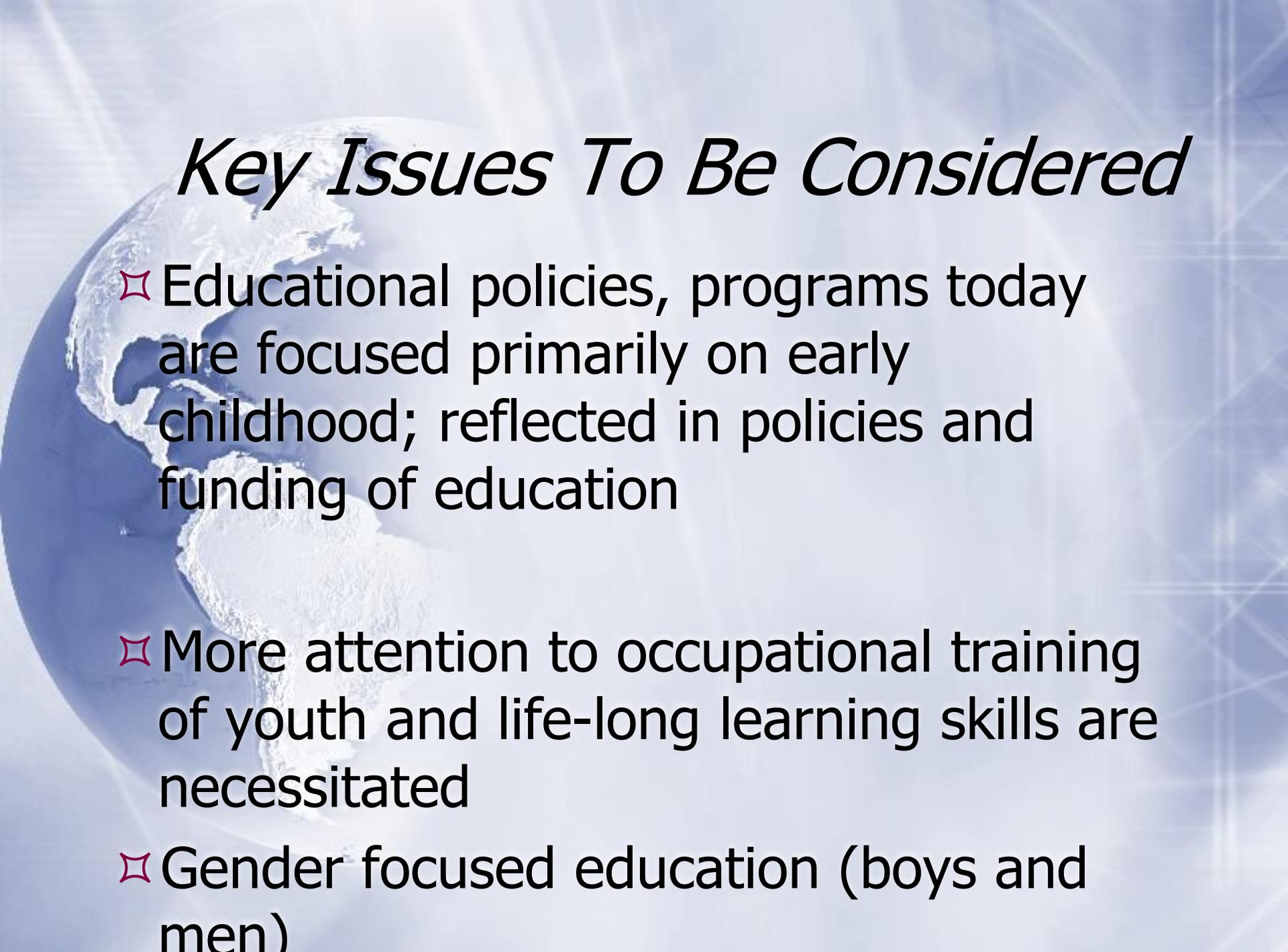
- ✧ Next generation is experiencing very different world than we are:
 - ✧ **Disruptive changes** even in traditional cultures
 - ✧ **Speed of changes** unprecedented
- ✧ Paths and obstacles for young people differ between and within societies
- ✧ **Greater challenges** for poorer, rural, less educated, socially excluded, those who are denied human rights
- ✧ More easily **left behind** / Lack of meaningful work is leading to **social unrest** / unmanaged migration

(The Power of 1.8 Billion U.N.)



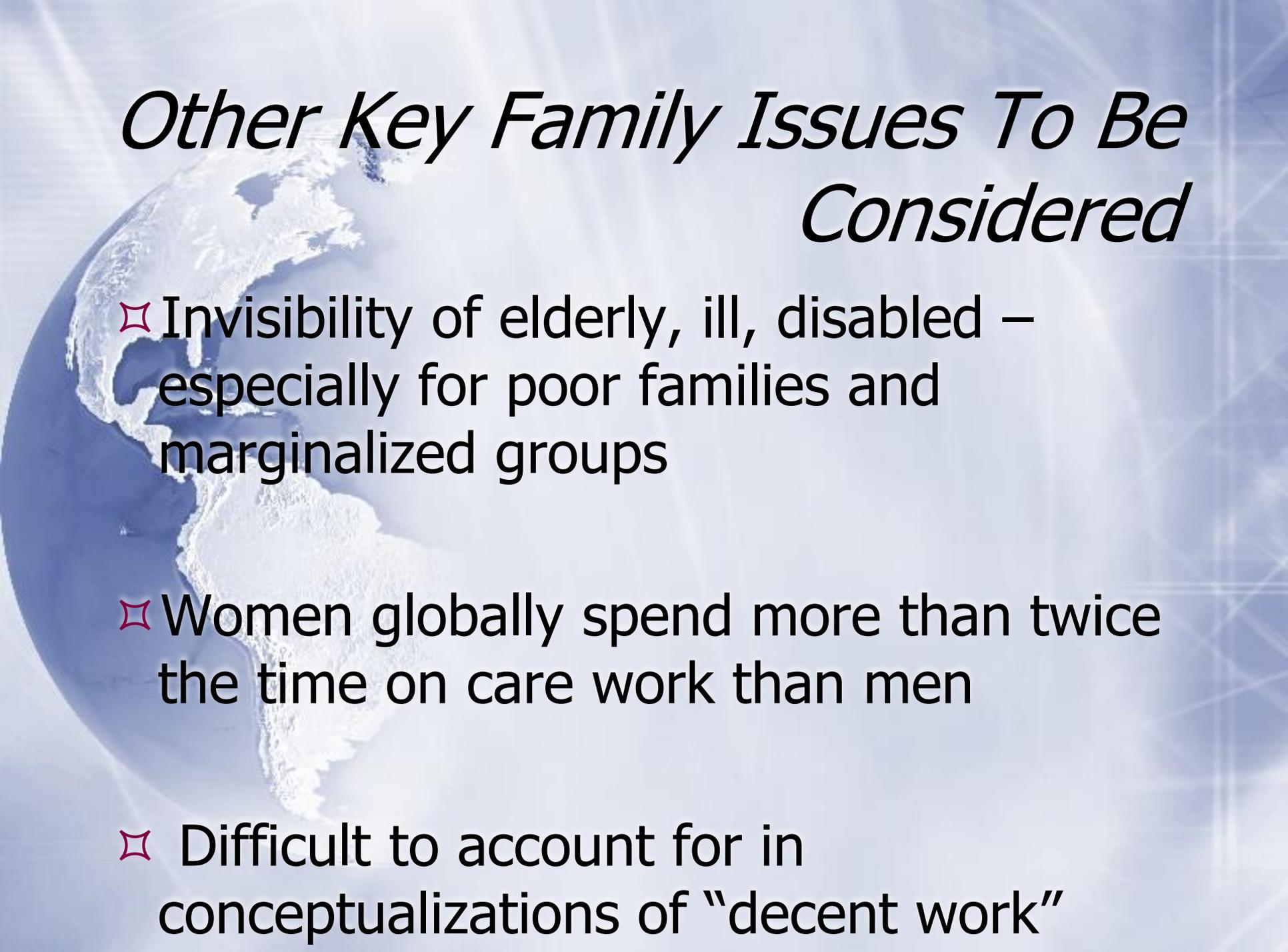
Key Issues To Be Considered

- ✧ Multiple data points: gender and age affect perception and decision making capabilities within families
- ✧ Approaches that focus on intersection of families with labor market need to account for the fact that women and men face different issues with respect to work
 - ✧ Also high-income vs low-income; life cycle



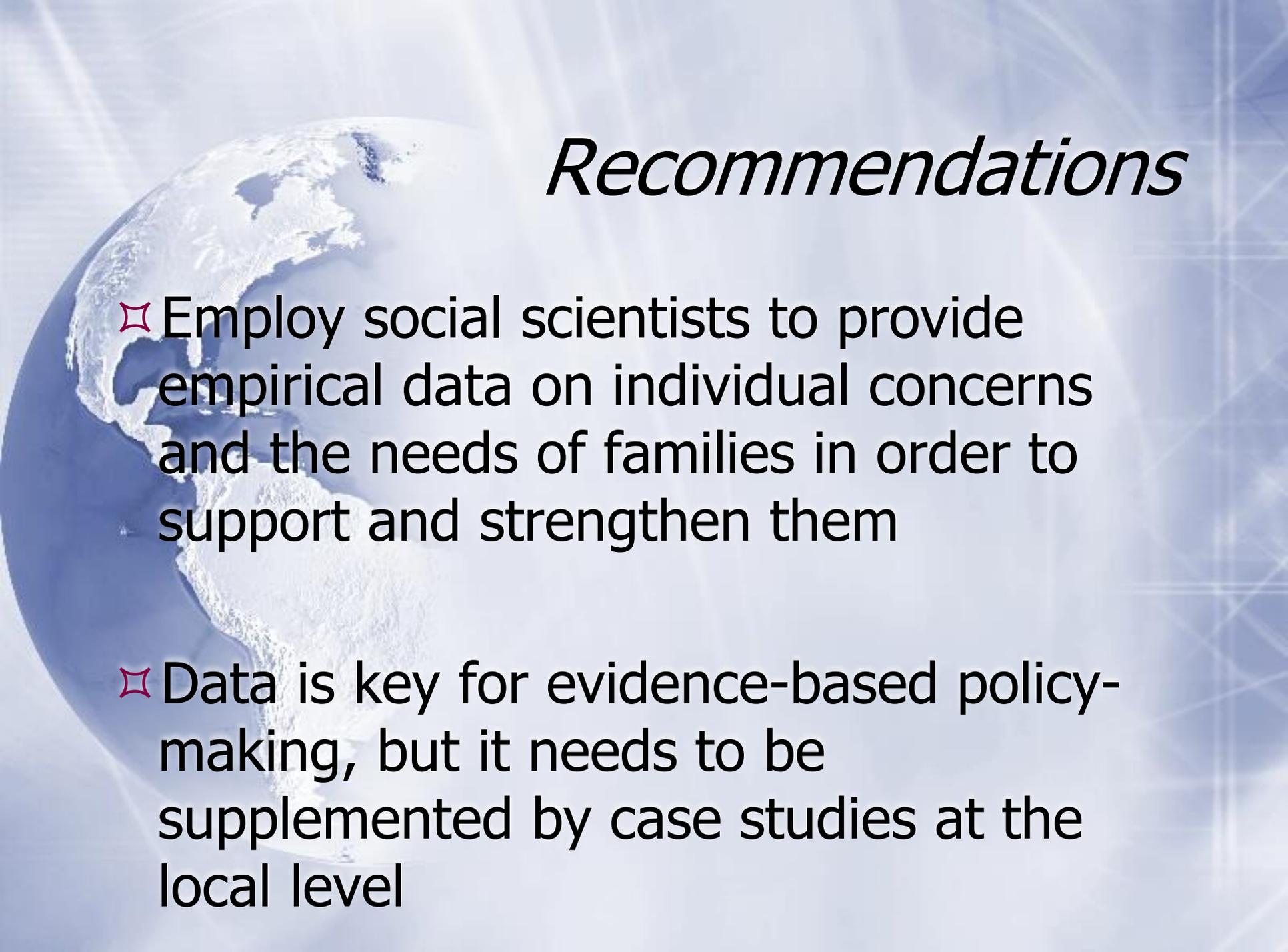
Key Issues To Be Considered

- ✧ Educational policies, programs today are focused primarily on early childhood; reflected in policies and funding of education
- ✧ More attention to occupational training of youth and life-long learning skills are necessitated
- ✧ Gender focused education (boys and men)



Other Key Family Issues To Be Considered

- ✧ Invisibility of elderly, ill, disabled – especially for poor families and marginalized groups
- ✧ Women globally spend more than twice the time on care work than men
- ✧ Difficult to account for in conceptualizations of “decent work”



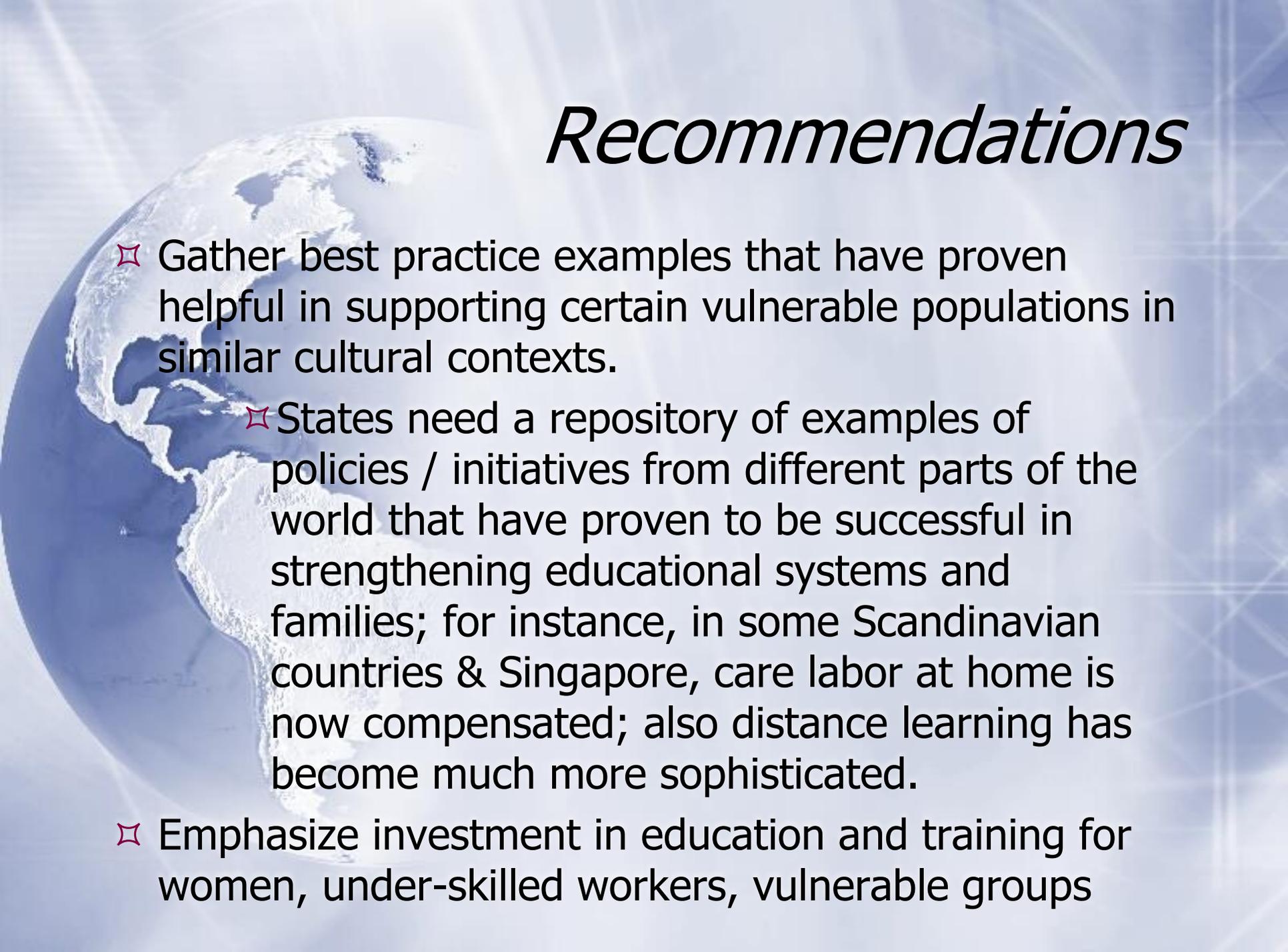
Recommendations

- ✧ Employ social scientists to provide empirical data on individual concerns and the needs of families in order to support and strengthen them
- ✧ Data is key for evidence-based policy-making, but it needs to be supplemented by case studies at the local level



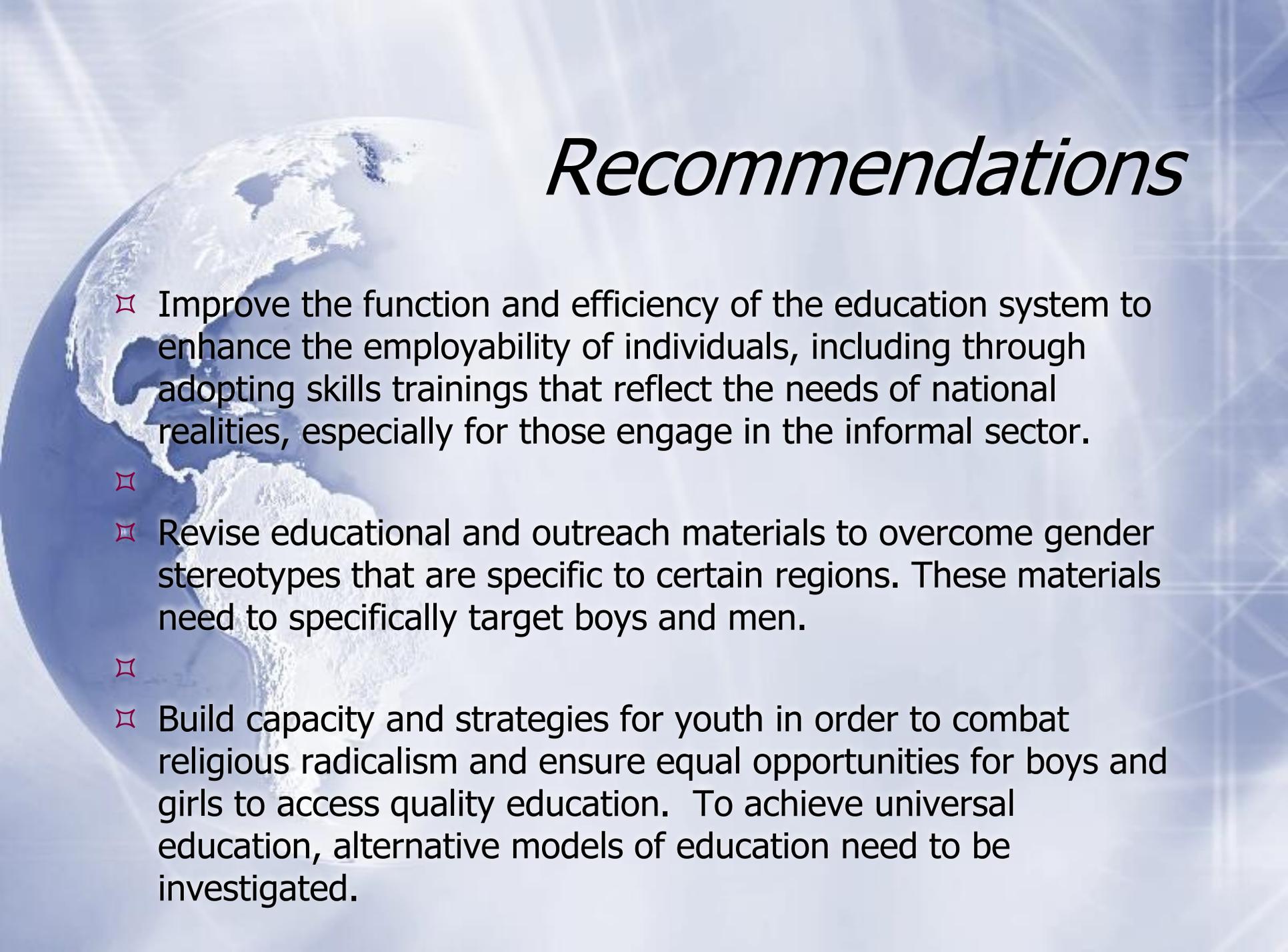
Recommendations

- ✧ Acknowledge and create policies that take into account that families exist within the same society but often within very different cultural contexts; factors include social class, regionality, social exclusion, environmental and / or human crisis



Recommendations

- ✧ Gather best practice examples that have proven helpful in supporting certain vulnerable populations in similar cultural contexts.
- ✧ States need a repository of examples of policies / initiatives from different parts of the world that have proven to be successful in strengthening educational systems and families; for instance, in some Scandinavian countries & Singapore, care labor at home is now compensated; also distance learning has become much more sophisticated.
- ✧ Emphasize investment in education and training for women, under-skilled workers, vulnerable groups



Recommendations

- ✧ Improve the function and efficiency of the education system to enhance the employability of individuals, including through adopting skills trainings that reflect the needs of national realities, especially for those engage in the informal sector.
- ✧
- ✧ Revise educational and outreach materials to overcome gender stereotypes that are specific to certain regions. These materials need to specifically target boys and men.
- ✧
- ✧ Build capacity and strategies for youth in order to combat religious radicalism and ensure equal opportunities for boys and girls to access quality education. To achieve universal education, alternative models of education need to be investigated.



Recommendations

- ✧ Institute initiatives to promote access to decent jobs for working-age youth and adults with access to health and pension benefits needs to be prioritized. Simultaneously, there is a need to promote a social protection floor that is inclusive of the social inclusion of entire populations.
- ✧ Access to quality social services (health, education, water and sanitation, etc.) needs to be guaranteed in order to provide a minimum level of welfare for all however, vulnerable populations need to be targeted especially.
- ✧



Recommendations

- ✧ Ensure a social protection system that ensures that individuals can exit from poverty reduction programs but do not forfeit their rights to social protection. This necessitates data that supports the impact of these types of investments.
- ✧
- ✧ Agree on a *regional* social contract – ie. the countries that self-identify as being part of a language or cultural group (ie. the Arab countries) should come together and agree on a basic social contract that focuses on social, economic and environmental protections and policies with a focus on families.

Social Protection for Families

- ✧ Increasing awareness that **social protection** for all families is key

UNICEF has defined child-conditioned social protection as a basic human right

- ✧ Governments have an obligation to provide economic and social support to the most vulnerable segments of their populations, in particular children, the disabled, the elderly
- ✧ Cash and tax transfers
- ✧ Economic support directed at the family
- ✧ Child and social services:
 - ✧ Family and community supports



Strategies for Supporting and Strengthening Families

- ✧ **Prevention:** States need to strengthen their roles in providing services to individuals, families and communities
- ✧ **Collaborations:** Nation-state partnerships with transnational and local NGO's & academics in order to create and evaluate systems and policies
- ✧ **Education:** Educational curricula that stress health, rights, gender equality, advocacy, self-empowerment tailored to culturally specific environments
- ✧ **Communication:** Forums – local and international that bring together various stakeholders for sharing of best practices



Thank you 😊