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THE CONTEMPORARY LANDSCAPE FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS IN THE LABOR MARKET

Today's youth entering the labor market confront a distinctive set of circumstances, marked by significant shifts in recent years. They step into a workforce shaped by the profound technological advancements, evolving economic dynamics, and the changing societal expectations. An overview of the labor market's dynamics concerning young individuals and the requisites for the university graduates includes:

1. **Diverse career trajectories.** Young professionals are forging diverse career paths, extending well beyond traditional options. They exhibit a greater propensity to explore entrepreneurial pursuits, freelancing, and the gig economy. The digital era has afforded them opportunities to market their skills and services online, spawning a new generation of young entrepreneurs.

2. **Technology and skill demands.** The swift march of the technology has elevated the importance of digital literacy skills for young job seekers. Proficiency in software utilization, data analysis, coding, and online communication tools is increasingly regarded as a prerequisite for many roles. Employers are actively seeking candidates capable of adapting to the new technologies and demonstrating a commitment to continuous learning.

3. **The Rise of remote work.** The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the acceptance of remote work. Young professionals now seek flexible work arrangements that enable them to operate from any location. This expanded job horizons, as they can collaborate with companies situated beyond their geographic confines.

4. **Employment rate dynamics.** The employment rate among young individuals is a subject for fluctuation, influenced by factors such as economic conditions, industry trends, and educational level. In certain regions, the youth unemployment remains a concern, while elsewhere, there's a demand for a young talent. The policymaking efforts aimed at curbing youth unemployment and fostering job creation are vital for sustaining a robust job market for young people.

5. **Education and credentials.** The university degrees remain highly regarded by many employers, especially in the fields such as engineering, medicine, and law. Nevertheless, there is a growing acknowledgment that the conventional degrees are not the sole route to success. Skills-based and vocational education programs gain attraction; moreover, practical and job-specific training can lead to lucrative careers without the need for a four-year degree.

6. **Emphasis on the soft skills.** Beyond technical proficiency, employers place a premium on soft skills encompassing communication, adaptability, problem solving, and teamwork. Young individuals who effectively highlight these competencies often gain an edge in the job market.

7. **Global competition.** The labor market has taken on a global dimension, with young professionals competing not only with the local peers but also with the candidates worldwide. This underscores the significance of possessing a robust skill set and being open to the international opportunities.

8. **Diversity and inclusion.** Many young professionals advocate for the workplaces characterized by diversity and inclusivity. They actively seek employers committed to equality and inclusiveness, gravitating towards organizations with a strong dedication to social and environmental responsibility.

In conclusion, the youth labor market represents a distinct segment within the broader employment landscape that takes into consideration the factors influencing young individuals' successful employment. In summary, today's young professionals face a dynamic and ever-evolving job market. To thrive, they must embody adaptability, tech-savviness, and a blend of technical and soft skills. While the traditional university degrees maintain their value, the alternative educational pathways are gaining prominence. The employment rate for young professionals is influenced by an array of factors, and policies supporting youth employment and skill development are pivotal in ensuring their success within the labor market.