



Youth Participation in Tanzanian Business Ventures: An Ecological Analysis

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Abstract

Youth entrepreneurship in Tanzania is increasingly recognised as a significant contributor to economic growth, yet its role and dynamics remain underexplored. A mixed-methods approach combining quantitative survey data with qualitative interviews was employed to gather insights from a diverse sample of youth entrepreneurs across various sectors in three major cities of Tanzania. The findings indicate that approximately 45% of urban youth aged between 18 and 35 are engaged in some form of entrepreneurial activity, with micro-enterprises accounting for the majority of these ventures. Youth entrepreneurs face significant barriers such as limited access to finance, inadequate skills training, and regulatory hurdles. However, they also exhibit high levels of resilience and innovation. Policy recommendations include enhancing youth entrepreneurship support programmes, improving access to financial resources, and streamlining business regulations to foster a more conducive entrepreneurial environment for young Tanzanians.

Keywords: *African youth, entrepreneurship, Tanzanian economy, qualitative research, youth empowerment, microfinance, participatory action research*

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