



Youth Employment Programmes in Dakar Slums: Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Success Rates Reconsidered

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Abstract

Youth unemployment in Dakar slums poses significant economic challenges for both individuals and urban development. In Senegal, various government-sponsored youth employment programmes have been implemented to address this issue. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative data from programme registries with qualitative insights through interviews and focus group discussions. A notable finding is that the majority (60%) of youth who completed programmes reported increased entrepreneurial ventures. However, only one-third achieved sustainable business growth within two years post-programme. Despite initial success in creating new enterprises, long-term sustainability remains a challenge for many participants. Future policy should focus on providing mentorship and financial support to ensure sustained business development among youth beneficiaries of employment programmes.

Keywords: *African Geography, Youth Policy, Empowerment Studies, Entrepreneurial Success, Development Economics, Social Work Theory, Urban Sociology*

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