



Youth Economic Empowerment through Vocational Training Programmes in Nairobi, Kenya: A Mixed Methods Inquiry

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Abstract

Youth unemployment in Nairobi, Kenya, is a significant challenge, particularly among disadvantaged groups such as girls and young adults from low-income backgrounds. Despite efforts to address this issue through various vocational training programmes, there is limited empirical evidence on their effectiveness. The study employs a combination of quantitative surveys ($N = 300$) and qualitative interviews ($N = 50$) to gather data from participants and their employers. Data analysis will involve statistical tests for quantitative results and thematic coding for qualitative insights. Participants reported significant improvements in employability skills, with over 80% indicating enhanced proficiency in computer literacy and basic office software. However, employment opportunities remain limited, with only one-third of participants finding jobs within six months post-training. Vocational training has contributed to skill development but does not fully address the systemic barriers faced by youth in Nairobi's job market, particularly for women and young adults from marginalized communities. Programmes should integrate career counseling and networking opportunities to increase employability rates. Additionally, partnerships with local businesses are recommended to provide more sustained employment outcomes. Youth Empowerment, Vocational Training, Nairobi, Kenya, Mixed Methods Study

Keywords: *African Geography, Youth Empowerment, Qualitative Research, Quantitative Analysis, Mixed Methods, Socioeconomic Factors, Development Studies*

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