



# Participation Levels and Networking Opportunities in Youth Entrepreneurship Development Programmes within South Africa: A Survey Research

Nomsinkosi Motsamai<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Limpopo

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**Correspondence:** [nmotsamai@yahoo.com](mailto:nmotsamai@yahoo.com)

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## Author notes

*Nomsinkosi Motsamai is affiliated with University of Limpopo and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Youth entrepreneurship development programmes in South Africa aim to empower young people by providing resources and support for starting or expanding businesses. A survey was conducted with a sample size representative of youth entrepreneurship programme participants in South Africa to gather data on their experiences and outcomes. Participants reported moderate engagement (65%) in follow-up networking events, which were perceived as crucial for career advancement and business growth. Long-term success rates varied significantly among programmes (20-40%). The survey highlights the importance of effective networking opportunities and ongoing support systems in sustaining youth entrepreneurship initiatives. Programme organizers should prioritise enhancing participant engagement through regular networking events to improve long-term outcomes.

**Keywords:** *African geography, youth engagement, entrepreneurial development, qualitative research, social capital, programme efficacy, community networks*

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