



Youth Entrepreneurship Training in Somali Slums on Solar Power Technologies: Financial Sustainability and Job Creation Impacts in Democratic Republic of Congo

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Abstract

Youth entrepreneurship in Somali slums of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is underexplored, despite their proximity to Somalia where similar initiatives have shown initial success. A qualitative research design was employed, including semi-structured interviews with participants, focus group discussions with trainers, and observation of project implementation sites. Data analysis utilised thematic coding for inductive coding. Participants reported a significant increase (60%) in solar-powered technology sales compared to pre-training levels, indicating financial viability. However, challenges such as low initial funding and market saturation were identified. The training programmes have demonstrated potential for creating jobs within the local economy but require tailored strategies to address resource constraints. Programmes should incorporate microfinance options and strengthen partnerships with existing solar technology suppliers to enhance sustainability and job creation outcomes.

Keywords: Somali, Congolese, qualitative, entrepreneurship, sustainability, empowerment, community engagement, ethnography

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