



Youth Engagement in Community Health Worker Training: A Study from Coastal Kenya Cities

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Abstract

Youth engagement in community health worker training programmes has gained increasing attention as a means to improve healthcare access and quality in underserved communities. This case study employed a mixed-methods approach, including structured interviews with participants ($n=50$) \wedge *focus group discussions* ($n=12$). Data was analysed using thematic analysis for qualitative data and regression analysis for quantitative data. Youth show strong interest in becoming community health workers, with 85% indicating a willingness to participate. However, financial constraints are the most significant barrier to engagement, affecting over half of potential participants (54%). The study highlights the importance of addressing financial barriers and improving training content to enhance youth participation and effectiveness in healthcare delivery. Programme designers should prioritise cost-effective options for training and emphasise benefits beyond financial incentives to attract more youths. Community leaders play a crucial role in facilitating access to these programmes.

Keywords: *African Geography, Community Health Workers, Youth Participation, Participatory Methods, Community Engagement, Public Health Education, Anthropology of Healthcare*

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