



**INFLUENCE OF YOUTH ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FUND ON YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN KANDUYI  
CONSTITUENCY**

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Accepted May 23, 2016

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**ABSTRACT**

*Empowerment of youth is a very important issue in developing countries. Young people are three times more likely to be unemployed than adults and almost 73 million youth worldwide are looking for work. In 2006, The Government of Kenya established Youth Enterprise Development Fund with the purpose of empowering youth who account for over 67 percent of the unemployed. The main objective of this study was to assess the influence of the youth enterprise development fund on youth empowerment in Kanduyi Constituency. The study targeted a population of 181 youth groups' administrators. Using Krejcie and Morgan table the sample size of 118 respondents was obtained. Cluster sampling technique was applied to select respondents in their various locations. Simple random technique was then applied to reach the specific respondents within the cluster. The data was collated using questionnaire. The data was analyzed using SPSS version 21 and presented through frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviation. The study revealed that nature of project, entrepreneurial training, market linkage and monitoring and evaluation were statistically significant to affect youth empowerment, as all the p value (sig) were less than 0.05. The study also found that there was a positive relationship between youth empowerment and nature of project and market linkage as shown by a coefficient of 0.434 and 0.190. There was a negative relationship between youth empowerment and entrepreneurial training and monitoring & evaluation as shown by a coefficient of -0.293 and - 0.946 respectively. The study concluded that the loan which majority of youth groups accessed (< Ksh 50, 000) is very minimal compared to the number of people in each group who expect to benefit from it hence the trickle-down effect becomes difficult to realize. The study further concludes that market linkage has not provided adequate market for goods and services produced by the youth enterprises. Finally, the study concludes that YEDF has actually created jobs among the youth as shown by 73.7 percentages of respondents. The study recommends that The Ministry of Youths and Sports should continuously conduct entrepreneurial training prior to and during the allocation of funds so as to equip the youths with knowledge and skills for successful entrepreneurship. There is also need for the Ministry of Youths and Sports to come up with programs that will assist the young groups to develop and understand market opportunities and link them to value chains.*

**Key Words:** Nature Of Project, Entrepreneurial Training, Market Linkage, Monitoring And Evaluation, Enterprise Development Fund, Youth Empowerment

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### **Background of the study**

Africa has long been known for its abundant mineral and agricultural resources and beautiful wildlife. Currently, this enigmatic region is also being recognized for its abundance in human resources and is being defined as the youngest continent due to its high proportion of young people. Young people are the backbone on which every successful nation has been built. Unfortunately African nations have yet to recognize the treasure they have in their youth and strategize how to tap into this profuse resource. Only by strategizing how effectively to utilize young people's vitality, skills, creativity, and potential, can African nations hope to attain significant economic, social and even political progress. Regrettably, African youth have not only been largely marginalized with regard to proficiencies required for physical and social mobility, but are excluded from the decision making process that affects their wellbeing and that of their communities. The need to understand how young people in sub-Saharan Africa can be empowered to contribute in national development efforts has never been more pressing. This study was thus set with the purpose of exploring youth perspectives on their empowerment in Kenya (ILO,2013).

Empowerment is the process of increasing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes. When youth are empowered, it translates to positive growth both to an individual and the wider society. All leaders should see empowerment as a sure investment which will pay good future dividends (World Bank, 2011). At the beginning of 2012, the world population surpassed 7 billion with people under the age of 30 accounting for more than half of this number (50.5 percent). According to the survey, 89.7 percent of people under 30 lived in emerging and developing economies, particularly in the Middle East and Africa Countries in sub-Saharan

Africa had the youngest proportion of population in the world with over 70 percent of the region's population aged below 30 (Euromonitor, 2012).

According to the 2009 Kenya population and housing census, the total population is 38,610,097 millions of which 19,192,458 millions are male and 19,417,639 millions are female. The youth (age between 18 – 35 years) in Kenya account for more than 37 percent of the total population. In terms of gender, 51.7 percent are female and 48.3 percent are male. Of these, 58.7 percent live in the rural while 12.5 percent live in urban areas. A total 41 percent are employed of which 53 percent are male and 47 percent are female. A total of 12, 824,624 are economically inactive and of which 44 percent are male and 56 percent are female (KNBS, 2010).

### **Global perspective on youth empowerment**

On the global front, the world is facing a worsening youth employment crisis: young people are three times more likely to be unemployed than adults and almost 73 million youth worldwide are looking for work. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has warned of a disenfranchised generation of young people facing a dangerous mix of high unemployment, increased inactivity and precarious work in developed countries, as well as persistently high working poverty in the developing world. In June 2012, the ILO adopted a resolution calling for immediate, targeted and renewed action to tackle the youth unemployment crisis. The resolution provides a portfolio of tested measures in five areas: macro-economic policies, employability, labor market policies, youth entrepreneurship and rights. Most governments and world leaders have realized that the youth hold the key to growth of a country or a region. There are concerted efforts by both the public and private sectors to address the issue of unemployment. Most observers realize that there are not enough jobs in the formal sector to satisfy the demand, and must look to other sectors to seal the loop (ILO, 2013).

Prince's Trust Enterprise Programme initiated in 1986 in Britain is for people who have a business idea they want help to explore, are aged 18-30, unemployed or working less than 16 hours per week. Services provided include; advice on employment options, business skills training, business planning support, start-up loan funding, ongoing support from a volunteer business mentor, access to specialist support, including free legal services. The enterprise programme helps young people interested in self employment to explore and test their ideas (Prince Trust, 2012).

In Africa, the African Union has come up with strategies to empower the youth. In January 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, during the Executive Council meeting, the assembly of Heads of States and Governments of the African Union declared the years 2009 to 2018 as the Decade on Youth Development in Africa. This was a follow-up to the 2006 endorsement of the African Youth Charter in Banjul, Gambia. The Charter is the political and legal document which serves as the strategic framework that gives direction for youth empowerment and development at continental, regional and national levels. This Charter has been signed by at least 37 countries across the continent (NPI Africa, 2008).

In South Africa, the National Youth Development Agency outlines its mandate which include; advancing youth development through guidance and support to initiatives across sectors of society and spheres of government, embarking on initiatives that seek to advance the economic development of young people and developing and coordinating the implementation of the Integrated Youth Development Plan and Strategy for the country. The NYDA activities have propelled young people to reach their personal goals and develop their full capacity. Numerous young people have been assisted since the NYDA's establishment including disbursing loans to microfinance enterprises, disbursing Small and

Medium Enterprise loans, disbursing Business Consultancy Services Vouchers and engaging youth under the National Youth Service Programme (GoK, 2014).

Christina, 2010 points out that in Tanzania a youth development revolving fund was launched in 1994 with the aim of helping the youth in the informal sector to create formal employment and reduce youth unemployment. The government issued a directive that all local government authorities must allocate 5 percent of their revenue for youth development mainly in employment and income generating activities. The national youth revolving fund was established to support youth income generating activities in organized economic production brigades and small entrepreneurs

The Business leaders forum report points out that Uganda has one of the highest youth unemployment figures in the world with job creation lagging significantly below the 300,000 who join the labor force, so the government of Uganda through the Ministry of finance, planning and economic development did launch a youth venture capital in 2012. The fund was meant to target startup businesses and small to medium size enterprises. It was meant to expand the existence of business ventures owned by youths who were defined as persons aged between 18 and 35 years (Business leaders' forum report, 2012).

#### **Kenya's perspective on youth empowerment**

Soon after Kenya gained independence in 1963, there was a shortage of skilled labor to replace those who had left. The government realized that young people would have to be trained to take their place and therefore a strategy was formulated. The National Youth Service was then established in 1973, as an attempt to equip the young people with skills that could translate to greater economic productivity. The objective was to train the youth in practical skills that would enable them work in public and private sector, as well as to facilitate career development. The NYS

also wanted to enhance the youth's contribution to national development. However, due to lack of a comprehensive framework as well as political undertones, the NYS fizzled out after about ten years and was only re-launched in 1995. Other efforts to initiate youth development programme have been made in policy documents, such as Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1992 on Small Scale and Jua Kali Enterprises, the 1997-2001 Development Plan, and the National Poverty Eradication Plan 1999-2015, among others (Kenya National Youth Policy, 2012).

However, the sustainability of programme has been erratic due to lack of a guiding blueprint from the government. The private sector has tried to assist the youth through individual Corporate Social Responsibility programme that sponsor youth groups for ventures such as donating artisan sheds, art exhibitions or even donating greenhouses to various groups. Religious groups and non-profit organizations have tried on a localized scale to provide programme that enable the youth have some income-generating activities. However, most youth empowerment programme for those between 18-35 years have centered mainly on forming self-help groups and lobbying for grants and microloans to enable them start income generating projects. The youth have had to lobby as individuals or groups for funds from the private sector and other donors in order to establish businesses, and there was no sustained effort by the Kenya Government to address the issue until 2006 when the Youth Enterprise Development Fund was formed [GoK 2014].

To address the youth challenges, the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) was introduced in 2006 and later transformed into a State Corporation in 2007 as a strategic move towards arresting unemployment among the youth. The introduction of the Youth Enterprise Fund was a creative strategy toward job creation and income generation for the youth, especially in

rural areas. In the absence of opportunities in the formal labor market, many young people are engaged in the informal sector which is largely unregulated and are subjected to hazardous conditions for low earnings and long working hours, without any formal contract. The fund features include; fund accessible to any youth enterprise in Kenya of age 18 – 35 years, the loan is managed by financial intermediaries, the loan attracts interest of 8% (commercial interests are in the range of 18%), no collateral required, loan amount determined by nature and size of business, maximum loan set at KES 500,000 (Kenya Country report, 2014).

The YEDF fund was established to achieve the following; provide loans to existing micro-finance institutions (MFIs), registered non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in micro financing and savings and credit co-operative organizations (SACCOS) for on-lending to youth enterprises; attract and facilitate investment in micro small and medium enterprises oriented commercial infrastructure such as business or industrial parks, markets or business incubators that will be beneficial to youth enterprises; support youth MSEs to develop business linkages with MLEs; facilitate marketing of products and services of youth enterprises in both domestic and international markets; and provide entrepreneurship training to youth enterprises (YEDF, 2013).

The YEDF achieved the following results over five years (2007 – 2012): financed 157,000 youth enterprises to a tune of KES 5.9 Billion (USD 59.4 Million); trained over 200,000 young people; created over 300,000 jobs; supported 6000 youth to take up jobs overseas through its Youth Employment Scheme Abroad Programme; supported 1,800 youth enterprises to market their products in local trade fairs; supported 32 enterprises exhibit in other African nations; 2,500 youth trained on how to procure from public

sector; and 1,000 youth trained (Kenya Country report, 2014).

### **Statement of the problem**

Youth empowerment is vital for any nation. Most Kenyan youths aspire to get white collar jobs after completing education in order to build self and the nation. To most, achieving their career goals after the 8-4-4 education system is the most critical thing hence they will not settle for anything less than what they have trained for. The Government of Kenya has made efforts over the years to empower the youth by coming up with policies that enable the youth to venture in education as well as create opportunity for income generating projects (Nyongesa, 2014).

These policies and programme established by Government of Kenya to empower the youth, who form 35% of the Kenyan population, include; Kenya National youth policy 2006 - 2015, Kazi Kwa Vijana, Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1992 on Small Scale and Jua Kali Enterprises, National youth service, Youth enterprise development fund, Youth empowerment centers, The National Youth Talent Academy, Affirmative Action Policy for Youth and UWEZO fund (Kenya National Youth Policy, 2012). Indeed, in 2006 The Government of Kenya established Youth Enterprise Development Fund with overall purpose of creating employment for the youth through enterprise development. The fund seek to empower the youth, age 18 – 35 years, by providing loans and business development services to youth enterprises, supporting youth-oriented micro, small and medium enterprises to develop links with large enterprises (YEDF, 2013).

While the effort of the government is commendable and well-meaning, it does not always work to expectations. Unemployment and underemployment have been identified as Kenya's most difficult and persistent problems (SP NO. 4 on employment policy and strategy for Kenya, 2013). 12.7% of the working age population is unemployed. About 67% of Kenya's

unemployed are youth between 15 and 34 years of age. The highest unemployment rates are for people around 20 years old at 35% (KDHS, 2009). Over one million young people enter into the labour market annually without any skills, some having either dropped out of school or completed school and not enrolled in any college. A further 155,000 join the labour market annually after completing vocational training or at the university. A total of over 1.3 million new employment places have to be created annually to meet this demand. It is also noted that, the skills acquired by the college and university graduates often do not meet the expectation of employers (Kenya Country report (2014). It is nowonder the informal sector remains the major employer accounting for over 75 % of total employment in Kenya (KNBS, 2012).

There is indeed urgent need for the Government to strengthen and scale up successful measures targeting quality skill development and employment creation for the youth. For instance, in 2011, Kanduyi constituency disbursed Ksh. 4,188,750 to 118 youth groups but only Ksh. 1,030,404 was effectively recovered, thus 32.6% recovery rate (YEDF report, 2011). This indicates that the businesses or projects initiated by the youth were not doing well to enable servicing of their loans (Mburung'a, 2014). It is against this statement that the researcher sought to carry out a study to assess the influence of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund on youth empowerment in Kanduyi constituency.

### **General Objective**

The general objective of this study was to assess the influence of Youth Enterprise Development Fund on youth empowerment in Kanduyi Constituency.

### **Specific objectives**

The specific objectives of this study was:

- To establish the influence of nature of project on youth empowerment in Kanduyi Constituency.

- To assess the influence of entrepreneurial training on youth empowerment in Kanduyi Constituency.
- To establish the influence of market linkage on youth empowerment in Kanduyi Constituency.
- To examine the influence of monitoring and evaluation of youth projects on youth empowerment in Kanduyi Constituency.

#### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

This chapter contains the literature review of the influence of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) on youth empowerment. The chapter focuses on the review of present and previous researches on YEDF as well as similar projects on the youth. This chapter also contains the theoretical and conceptual framework of the study.

#### **Theoretical review**

Theoretical frameworks according to Kothari (2014) are explanations about the phenomenon under study. It provides the research with the lens to view the world.

#### **The precipitating events theory**

After a long career studying entrepreneurship Shapero (1975) asserts that desirability and feasibility alone are not sufficient to explain whether and when an individual will actively begin to start a business: It requires some event that precipitates a change in the individual's career path. He reports that such events can be the arrival at some cross-roads, such as completing school or leaving military service; negative displacements that include being fired or insulted by one's superior in a company; and positive displacements such as the appearance of an excellent opportunity. These factors may lead to necessity or forced entrepreneurship. Necessity or forced entrepreneurship occurs when individuals start business because that is the best option available. It tends to concentrate in less complex, lower cost and more immediately accessible sectors.

One sees some relationship between this theory and nature of projects implemented by youth in Kenya. In the contemporary Kenya, youths are unemployed due to several factors such as high population growth, imperfections in labor markets, global market recession, inappropriate training system and nepotism among others. These factors have precipitated youths to venture in necessity or forced entrepreneurship such as starting micro enterprise with majority of them being in the informal *jua Kali* sector. They choose this because that is the best option available. Moreover, the GoK established YEDF to boost youth business ventures in sectors such as agriculture, trade, tourism, waste management, mining etc.

#### **Experiential learning theory**

According to Dewey good education should have both a societal purpose and purpose for the individual student. For Dewey, the long-term matters, but so does the short-term quality of an educational experience (Dewey, J. 1997). Youth work theorists such as Jeffs and Smith do at times acknowledge this; for example when they describe informal training, and it is assumed youth work, to involve 'learning in life as it is lived' (Jeffs, 2005). For Dewey experience is always a dynamic two-way process. He referred to this process as a transaction: An experience is always what it is because of a transaction taking place between the individual and, what at the time, constitutes the environment (Dewey, 1997).

Dewey, 1997 says that once we have a theory of experience, then as educators can set about progressively organizing our subject matter in a way that it takes accounts of students' past experiences, and then provides them with experiences which will help to open up, rather than shut down, a person's access to future growth experiences, thereby expanding the person's likely contribution to society. The value of the experience is to be judged by the effect that experience has on the individual's present,

their future, and the extent to which the individual is able to contribute to society.

In Kenya, youth account for 61 percent of unemployed. Many of these youth have no job training other than formal schooling. Hence unemployment is not just lack of jobs but also a lack of job skills due to inadequacy of training as well as means to acquire skills due to poverty (YEDF, 2014). Entrepreneurial training is critical to the young people not only by helping them identify business opportunities but also in the operation of the same (Nyongesa, 2014). The provision of continuous and relevant business development services to young entrepreneurs is essential to the success of enterprise development initiatives in creating long term employment.

#### **Growth theory**

This theory was propounded by Paul Romer in 1980's. The theory holds that economic growth is primarily the result of endogenous and not external forces. Endogenous growth theory holds that investment in human capital, innovation, and knowledge are significant contributors to economic growth. The theory also focuses on positive externalities and spillover effects of a knowledge-based economy which will lead to economic development. The endogenous growth theory primarily holds that the long run growth rate of an economy depends on policy measures.

Romer (1990) also recognizes the importance of research such that the more we conduct research the faster we can invent and grow. An endogenous growth theory implication is that policies which embrace openness, competition, change and innovation will promote growth. Conversely, policies which have the effect of restricting or slowing change by protecting or favouring particular existing industries or firms are likely over time to slow growth to the disadvantage of the community. Economic growth occurs whenever people take resources and rearrange them in ways that are more valuable.

Romer has argued that with better rules and institutions, underdeveloped nations can be set on a different and better trajectory for growth.

In 2006, the GoK established YEDF as a productive model to ensure market linkage for the youths' enterprise. The fund has continued to diversify its product base by focusing on interventions that are more responsive to the needs of the youth and are geared towards addressing specific challenges facing young entrepreneurs. It is essential for GoK to invest in market analysis and research so as to promote marketing and linkage of products.

#### **Systems theory**

Systems theory, propounded by Ludwig Bertalanffy in 1968, is one of the most prominent theories in management today. Systems theory treats an organization as a system. A system is any set of distinct parts that interact to form a complex whole. Think of the universe. Its parts are as small as a subatomic particle and as large as galactic clusters. Each part is distinct but interacts to form the universe. An organization is also a system with parts such as employees, assets, products, resources, and information that form a complex system. A system can be either closed or open, but most approaches treat an organization as an open system (Rice, 2013).

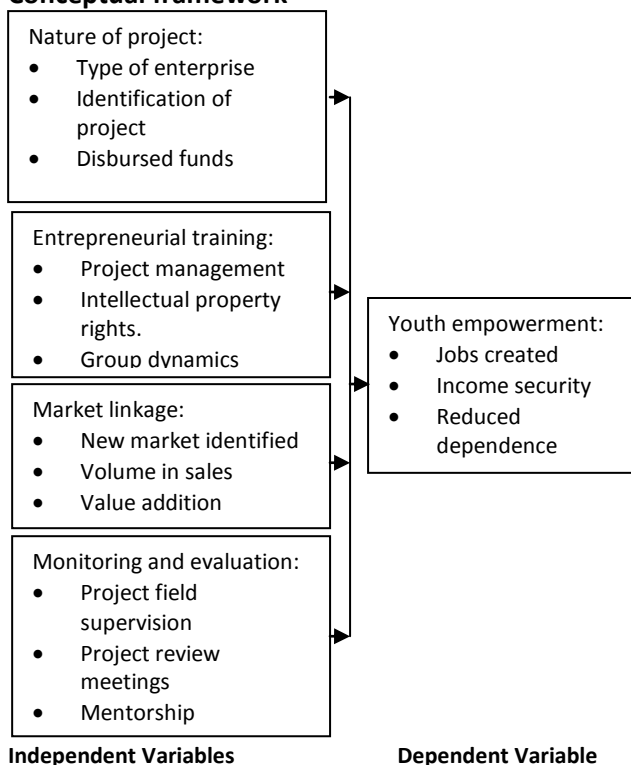
A closed system is not affected by its environment. An open system interacts with its environment by way of inputs, throughputs, and outputs. An open system consists of three essential elements. An organization receives resources such as equipment, natural resources, and the work of employees, referred to as inputs. The inputs are transformed, called throughputs, and then yield products or services called outputs. Outputs are released into the environment. Feedback loops are also an important feature of open systems. They provide information to the organization by connecting the outputs to the inputs. A negative feedback loop indicates a problem that should be corrected. A positive



feedback loop can identify outputs that have worked well. Thus, feedback loops are a means of confirming success or signaling that corrections to the system need to be made (Rice, 2013).

In the contemporary Kenya, several programme previously initiated by the GoK failed to achieve their intended goals due to improper monitoring and evaluation of the system e.g. NYS and Kazi kwa vijana initiative. So as to ensure youth empowerment, YEDF require sound coordination framework through regular monitoring and evaluation at every stage; project identification, planning and budgeting, fund disbursement, execution of project and market linkage. The monitoring and evaluation framework should also attract participation of other departments and agencies related to youth empowerment such as department of youth, gender, trade, training, health, sports and culture.

**Conceptual framework**



**Figure 1: Conceptual frame work**

**Nature of projects**

The World Bank studies indicate that most youth are opting for their own enterprises, but they are

poorly equipped for it (World Bank, 2011). The success of a business is not just in starting one, but in starting the right business. Business performance is measured in terms of short-term profitability, market share, productivity, employee attitude as well as a balance between short-term objectives and long-term goals. The choice of business must therefore take into consideration the market for the product or service on offer. It must also consider how fast the products translate to profits, as well as the sustainability of the business. For the youth who have had no prior business training or exposure, such an evaluation would be difficult. Princeton Creative Research has developed an excellent criteria checklist for evaluating ideas for a business or a product. Among the issues that the criteria checklist addresses include the need for the business; advantages or benefits; originality and adaption of the idea; short-term gains and long-term benefits as well as customer appeal and the issue of competition, among others (Neely,2002).

YEDF has launched an Enterprise Development Unit whose mandate is the provision of business development services to youth -owned and youth- focused enterprises. It is also tasked with establishing a capacity building programme for youth enterprises by identifying skills and competency needs for youth enterprises. In addition, Enterprise Development works alongside market linkages to ensure that youth enterprises receive complete market support based on their products or services, while improving on skills of young entrepreneurs in terms of identifying and targeting sustainable market opportunities globally and pursuing them competitively (YEDF, 2011).

The YEDF Fund has also published several training manuals and information booklets so that the young people can get crucial information on identifying gaps in the market and launching profitable enterprises. Eventually a combined effect of Enterprise Development and Market

Linkages hopes to achieve a market driven production trend or culture among youth enterprises, such that no youth entrepreneur will engage in any production process for profits, being goods or services, without a planned and well analyzed market. This should translate to business ventures that bring in revenues for the youth and empowers them for the future (YEDF, 2011).

### **Entrepreneurial training**

According to (Bruton et al. 2006) entrepreneurship training generally refers to programme that promote entrepreneurship awareness for career purposes and provide skills and training for business creation and development. Entrepreneurship training can play a major role in changing attitudes of young people and providing them with skills that will enable them to start and manage small enterprises at some point in their lives. In a report developed collaboratively with the United Nations Development Program and the International Labor Organization. Kenya was encouraged to develop a training capacity in entrepreneurship that could lead to the creation of an "enterprise culture" in the country (Amenya et al. 2010).

Studies conducted in Kenya by Omolo (2010) on unemployment in Kenya established that entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial culture is an important ingredient in youth employment in Kenya. Entrepreneurship drives economic development, it breeds competitiveness and innovation. Youth employment interventions should increasingly target the enhancement and promotion of the youth entrepreneurial potential and development of entrepreneurial culture and support by providing needed resources such as capital and technology putting in place supporting commercial infrastructures.

The small enterprise sector is composed of a range of enterprises including: self-employed artisans, microenterprises, cottage industries, and small enterprises in the formal business sector.

These small enterprises may be engaged in trade, commerce, distribution, transport, construction, agribusiness, waste management, manufacturing, maintenance and repair, or other services. As a result of the trend toward the creation of small enterprises, the informal sector has grown to include approximately 60 percent of the labor force in Africa (Sagwe et al. 2011).

According to Awogbenle (2010) entrepreneurship training Programmes can be an important component of economic strategies for fostering job creation. Entrepreneurship training can prepare for new venture initiation by transferring knowledge and developing relevant skills that improve the self-efficacy and effectiveness of the potential entrepreneur. He pointed that education and training programme equip young people with the skills required by the labor market are an important element in facilitating the transition of young people to decent work and also in enterprise development.

The two most binding constraints to small business success amongst Kenyan young entrepreneurs are inadequate business development skills and poor access to credit. Among the youth, the lack of business skills is aggravated by inadequate experience in the work environment. This is the reason for the high failure rates of small enterprises, with up to 80 percent of new business collapsing within their first three years of operation. Embedding entrepreneurship curricula at an early age and in secondary and tertiary schools is an effective way of improving attitudes towards entrepreneurship and enterprise development for the youth (Gudda, 2009).

### **Market linkage**

Youth Enterprise Development Fund Booklet (2009) argues that enterprise development must work alongside market linkage to ensure that youth run enterprises receive complete market support based on their produce and services while improving on the skills of youth entrepreneurs in

terms of identifying and targeting sustainable market opportunities globally and pursuing them competitively. It emphasizes that the youth enterprise development programs should be linked to market opportunities because in an increasingly global economy many products are outside the producing country. Programs can assist the young entrepreneurs develop an understanding of market opportunities and link them to value chains.

Youth entrepreneurship report (2013), argue that the key problems facing the youth run enterprises is limited prospects for value addition because the youth run enterprises in poor countries are concentrated in low value local markets and as a result the youth lack access to information on product and input market. It further observes that the promotion of the viability of the youth run enterprises will require facilitating the access of youth to information on product and input market and linking them to global value chains which requires that the young people to explore the existing global initiatives aimed at promoting trade between developed countries and less developed countries.

According to the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (2011), access to market is one of the biggest challenges that face the youth enterprises because the youth lack the sophistication and network to penetrate the market. It further explains that it is for this reason that the fund organizes trade fairs to give youth entrepreneurs a fighting chance. Youth exhibitors with very outstanding enterprises are then sponsored to attend national and international fairs where they are linked to the export market.

YEDF (2010), states that one of the mandates of the fund is to facilitate marketing of the goods and services of youth enterprises. The government has also committed at least thirty percent of its procurement needs to be sourced from youth enterprises. Finally the booklet notes

that the fund is developing a Youth Enterprise Directory to be distributed to all public entities at county and national levels. The fund is also exploring partnership with several private sectors to support youth entrepreneurs in subcontracting, outsourcing and franchising. It is therefore important to analyze the influence the fund has had on the youth run enterprises so as to determine how much has been achieved or what needs to be done to support the youth run enterprises through the provision of market.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

Monitoring is a continuous process of collecting information at regular intervals about on-going projects or programmes concerning the nature and level of their performance (Nyonje, 2012). Monitoring helps track the progress of a project in relation to the plan earlier determined to ensure that the project is moving towards the right direction. Monitoring should be carried out regularly to ensure proper adherence to the objectives and goals of an organization. This can be done quarterly, biannually or annually. Mulwa (2008) describes monitoring as a process of collecting and managing project data that provides feedback as pertains to the progress of a project. Mulwa adds that the process involves measuring, assessing, recording and analyzing the project information on a continuous basis and communicating the same to those concerned.

In his findings, (Mburu, 2008) established that systematic monitoring and evaluation of youth businesses by the MOYAS was weak and thus need to be strengthened. This indicates the importance of monitoring and evaluation on youth empowerment. Project evaluation is a process that involves systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of project related data that can be used to understand how the project is functioning in relation to its objectives (Nyonje, 2012). Youth projects require evaluation to help them maintain focus. Monitoring and evaluation need to be designed as an intertwined participatory exercise where all stakeholders are

involved. This is made possible through mentorship programs. Although commonly neglected, the role of the mentor, typically someone outside the business circle who can offer their wisdom, experience, and wider insight, or just give time and an ear to the entrepreneur and even seasoned business lender at key business or personal inflection points (Naqvi, 2011).

According to (Nyonje, Ndunge and Mulwa, 2012), Project M&E is important to different people for various reasons. Some of the reasons they provide as need for M&E include but not limited to the following: First, M&E is important to project managers and their stakeholders (including donors/government) because they need to know the extent to which their projects are meeting the set objectives and attaining the desired effects. In the case of the youth projects, it is of great importance to know whether they are creating employment and empowering the youth. Secondly, M&E promotes greater transparency and accountability in terms of use of project resources, which is particularly required by funders or development partners. Third, information developed through the M&E process is vital for improving decision-making. Lastly, M&E can strengthen project design, enrich quality of project interventions and enhance learning.

#### **Youth empowerment**

Empowerment is the process by which youths develop the consciousness and skills necessary to envision social change and understand their role in that change. Youths who are empowered are more likely to take action and exercise their power to transform social conditions. Rather than giving youth power, the literature on youth empowerment emphasizes the importance of providing youth with critical analysis skills and a lens through which to engage with their community. From this perspective, empowerment is focused on developing a set of skills rather than providing youth with actual power. These skills benefit the individual by assisting them in

developing a greater understanding of their community but also provide adolescents with critical analysis skills needed to consciously avoid some of the risks and hazards associated with growing up (Wagaman, 2011).

Group membership can be a positive means for role identification for youth. Group experience can be empowering by enhancing self-acceptance, self-confidence, social and political understanding, and the ability to play an assertive role in controlling one's resources in the community. The development of these positive characteristics is important for youths and membership in groups can promote this type of engagement and personal growth. As youths struggle to identify their place in society, adults can provide the guidance and positive reinforcement to assist in enhancing youths' self-esteem and self-efficacy (Lindsey, 2013).

The government should facilitate entrepreneurship in a non-interventionist way. A smooth running market economy is the best way to encourage entrepreneurship, rather than direct support. Government should create an enabling environment that reduces the barriers to market entry. Creativity and innovation on the part of Educators and other partners are vital way of creating employment and increasing income amongst youths. The state governments should create small pools of funding to help stimulate such innovation. These funds could be managed by a state advocate or advisory council, or by a state department of education. The fund would provide small seeds grants to support development of new entrepreneurship education models that would help advance the field. The fund could operate as a demonstration grant program or as an annual competition (Adegun, 2013).

#### **Empirical review**

Kamau (2013), sought to find out the influence of the nature of projects on youth empowerment. The respondents were asked to indicate the type

of project they engaged in and whether that had helped improve their livelihood, created any jobs and in case it had, the number of people the project(s) had employed. 63.6 percent reported to be engaged in agricultural projects such as rabbit keeping, banana farming and aquaculture with the remaining 36.4 percent working in manufacturing projects, recycling projects or social projects. It was also found that 69 percent of the projects had employed less than five people, 11.9 percent had employed between 5 – 10 people which was a tie with those that had employed between 11 – 16 people. 2.4 percent of the respondents reported that their projects had employed between 17 – 20 people. The youth Fund which is meant to be creating jobs for the unemployed youth seems to be far from this reality

Ndirangu (2014) in a study in Kiambu aimed to assess the influence of youth enterprise development fund on youth empowerment through four variables; loan disbursement, capacity building, timeliness of disbursement and project identification. According to the findings, an overwhelming majority of 97 percent indicated that they received training before they began their new businesses. The findings are consistent with the three key informants who indicated that they normally train a new group six times before they give them the funds to start their businesses. This indicates some forms of skills are imparted during the training. Kamau (2013) sought to establish the role of Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) on growth of MSEs in Kiharu constituency, Murang'a County. The study had four independent variables namely on-lending, linkages with large enterprises, marketing of products and services and business Development Services. On whether YEDF had helped youth enterprises market their products and services, 70 percent of the respondents were negative. The problem is even compounded by the fact that majority of the enterprises had received no training in the area of marketing their

products and services. This was indicated by 60 percent of the respondents. Also, another 60 percent of the respondents stated that they had not attended any market fair organized by YEDF. However, those who had been able to exhibit their products and services during such market fairs responded to have profitability of their enterprises improved. This was indicated by 81 percent of the respondents. This affirmed the conclusion that exposing the enterprises to potential customers is not only vital for their success, but also for growth. This might also have informed the response by 96 percent of the respondents who were of the opinion that much more needed to be done by YEDF in marketing youth enterprises' products and services.

Kamau (2013), sought to find out the influence of monitoring and evaluation on youth empowerment in North Imenti. 118 respondents were asked whether they had been trained on monitoring and evaluation of projects before receiving the loans. The study revealed that 81.4 percent had no skills on monitoring and evaluation thus they could not follow-up on their projects in the right way and hence they could not know how their projects were performing. When asked to rate the effectiveness of monitoring and evaluation skills, majority (65.3 percent) of the respondents said that monitoring and evaluation skills were highly effective in the successful running of their projects.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter elaborates on the research methodology that was employed in this study.

### **Research design**

This study applied a descriptive survey research design.

### **Target population**

The study was carried out in Kanduyi Constituency, Bungoma County. The target population for the study was 181 youth groups that have so far been registered by the Ministry

of Youth Affairs and sports in Kanduyi Constituency from 2011 to 2015.

#### **Sampling technique**

In this study, cluster sampling technique was applied. Simple random sampling was then adopted to get the selected the respondent.

#### **Data collection methods and instruments**

This study used both primary and secondary data. Primary data was obtained through use of structured questionnaire while secondary data was obtained from Government documents, books and existing literature.

#### **Data processing and analysis**

In this research, descriptive statistics was used. The questionnaires were first edited for accuracy, and completeness. Then the responses were coded and analyzed using descriptive statistics to assess the influence of various variables on youth empowerment. The study also used frequency distribution and percentages, and computer software-Statistical Package for Social Scientists as a tool of analyzing data. Quantitative data was analyzed using the general regression and correlation model.

### **DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION**

This chapter focuses on data analysis, presentation and interpretation from the questionnaires administered during the study that sought to assess Influence of Youth Enterprise Development Fund on Youth Empowerment in Kanduyi Constituency.

#### **Questionnaire return rate**

All questionnaires administered to 118 respondents from a target population of 181 youth groups were responded to and returned, giving 100 percent response rate.

#### **Distribution of the respondents by sex**

The sex of the respondents was sought. Majority of the respondents were male at 65.3 percent. This depicts that more males have taken up leadership positions in youth groups than female and have benefited from the youth fund. It is also an indication that group members preferred male leaders as compared to females.

#### **Composition of respondents by Age**

The Age of the respondents was sought and the findings showed that 50.8 percent of respondents were aged between 18-23years, 29.7 percent were aged between 24 - 29 years, 17.8 percent were aged between 30 to 35 years, 1.7 percent were above 35 years. The finding shows that majority of the respondents, 98.3 percent had conformed to the government requirement where beneficiaries of the youth enterprise development fund are required to be between 18 and 35 years.

#### **Level of Education of youth**

The level of education of the respondents was sought and the findings showed that 44.9 percent had attained certificate level of education, 28.0 percent had achieved diploma level, 8.5 percent were degree holders while 0.8 percent had achieved master level. 17.8 percent of the respondents indicated as having not completed basic education. It is therefore evident that majority of group members 82.2 percent had attained basic education. Youths with diplomas and bachelor degrees are mostly interested in seeking formal employment hence YEDF has not been attractive to them.

#### **Composition of respondents by marital status**

The marital status of respondents was sought and the findings indicated that more unmarried than married people were able to participate in the activities of the groups. The high number of single people 61 percent was expected given the ages of the respondents. This is because most youth in this age group were still settling in jobs hence not yet settled in marital matters.

#### **Estimated range of monthly income**

The range of monthly income earned by the respondents was sought and the findings showed majority 73.7 percent of the respondents earned below Ksh 10,000, 22.9 percent earn between Ksh. 10,000 and 50,000. Only 3.3 percent earn above Ksh. 50,000.

### **Composition of respondents by employment status**

The respondents were asked to state their employment status and the findings showed that only 22.0 percent of the respondents are in a formal employment. Majority of the youths group officials 77.1 percent were self employed.

### **Composition of respondents by individual numbers of youth groups enrolled**

The number of groups the respondent is enrolled to was sought and the findings showed that majority 35.6 percent are only in one group while 31.4 percent are in two groups, 16.1 percent are in three groups and 11.9 percent are in more than three groups. However, 5.1 percent did not respond to the question. This indicated most of the officials concentrate with the activities of the groups.

### **Nature of project**

The study sought to establish the influence of the nature of projects on youth empowerment. The respondents were asked to indicate the type and nature of they engaged in and whether they have obtained loan from YEDF. This was analyzed as shown hereafter.

### **Type of project**

The type of preject implemented by respondents was sought and the findings are shown in Table 4.12

### **Type of project operated by the youth groups**

The findings showed that majority 50 percent of the respondents were engaged in farming, 16.9 percent in service business to the community at a given cost and these include garbage collection and operating motorcycle commonly known as bodaboda. 19.5 percent engage in retail business activities while 2.5 percent are engaged in small-scale manufacturing such as jua kali industries and brick making.

### **Nature of job**

The study used several statements to gauge the nature of job. The results were presented in frequencies, mean scores and standard deviations. Majority of the respondents agreed that 47.5 percent that necessity or forced entrepreneurship occurred when individuals start business because that is the best option available while 23 percent strongly disagree (Mean = 2.47, Standard deviation = 1.239). As much as 44.5 percent of the respondents agrees that MOYAS recognizes youths who harbor innovative ideas, 16.9 percent strongly disagree (Mean = 2.67, Standard deviation = 1.294) Indeed 55.1 percent agreed that business incubation and development programme offers practical help to youth who have innovative ideas while 10.2 percent disagree (Mean = 2.67, Standard deviation = 1.294).

### **Amount of loan obtained from YEDF**

The amount of loan obtained from YEDF by the respondents' youth group was sought and the findings are showed that majority 47.5 percent had not received YEDF while 32.2 percent indicated they had received less than Ksh. 50,000. 11 percent had received in the range of ksh 100,000 – 150,000 while 5.9 percent had received in the range of Ksh. 100,000 – 150,000. 3.4 percent of the respondent did not respond to the question.

### **Entrepreneurial training**

This study also sought to assess whether youth receive any form of training to help build their capacity and thereby empower them to take charge of their projects and maximize on the utilization of the loans they receive from MOYAS. The study hence inquired whether they had been offered training before receiving YEDF loan, who conducted the training and also to rate the skills they found to be more beneficial in the day - today running of their projects.

### **Training before a loan**

The study sought to know whether youth groups had been trained prior to receiving the loan and the findings showed that majority of the youth groups 55.1 percent had not been trained prior to receiving the loan.

#### **Facilitator of the training**

The study sought to establish who facilitated the training prior to the loan offer 45.8 percent of the respondents were trained by MOYAS while 6.8 percent by NGOs and 2.5 percent by local CBOs. 44.9 percent of the respondents had not been trained.

#### **Entrepreneurship training**

The study used several statements to gauge the entrepreneurship training. The results of the respondents showed that most of the respondents 28.8 percent agreed and 33.1 percent strongly agreed that Entrepreneurship training from YEDF has helped them manage and operate their business better and Entrepreneurship training from YEDF had equipped them with skills.

#### **Market Linkage**

##### **Response on sales**

The study sought to find out if the sales of their business or profit increased as a result of market linkages offered by YEDF. The findings in showed that majority 55.1 percent indicated that their sales of the business or venture had not increased while 33.1 percent indicated the sales or profit had increased and 11.8 percent were unsure.

##### **Effect of market linkage**

The study used several statements to gauge if youth enterprise development fund has any effect on the market linkage. The results indicated that a majority of respondents, 44 percent disagree with the fact that YEDF has helped market the products/ services of your business (Mean=2.90, standard deviation=1.197). Only 9.3 percent strongly agreed with the statement that YEDF organizes local trade fairs for them to market

their products (Mean=2.70, standard deviation=1.188).

#### **Monitoring and evaluation**

The study sought to establish how monitoring and evaluation of youth projects influenced youth empowerment. In this regard, the study sought to find out whether youth groups are visited by officers from the department of youth services and how often. The study also sought to find out whether the MOYAS officers were linking youth groups with successful entrepreneurs for mentorship purposes. The study also assessed whether groups are required to generate progress reports and how often.

#### **Monitoring of youth groups**

The study requested respondents to indicate whether youth groups had been visited by an official from MOYAS for the purpose of monitoring and evaluation. The findings indicated that 60.2 percent of the respondents confirmed that indeed officers from MOYAS had visited youth groups for monitoring purposes. 39.8 percent of the respondents had not been visited. Monitoring and evaluation by youth officers was still low hence hampering progress of youth groups.

##### **Group's visitation by MOYAS officers**

The researcher asked the respondents to indicate the number of times they had been visited by MOYAS officials' for monitoring and evaluation. The findings indicated that 37.3 percent were visited once per year, 7.6 percent visited after every six months and 4.2 percent visited after every three months. 50.8 percent of the youth group's had never been visited.

#### **Effect of monitoring and evaluation**

The study sought to establish the effect of monitoring and evaluation on the youth groups' projects. Monitoring helps track the progress of a project in relation to the plan earlier determined to ensure that the project is moving towards the right direction. The results indicated that a



majority of respondents, 36.4 percent agreed that they participated in project review meeting convened by MOYAS.

**Report requirement**

The study sought to establish whether youth groups were required to submit project progress report to MOYAS. 51.7 percent of the respondents attested to the fact that they were required to submit reports by MOYAS while 41.5 percent said that they were not required to make any reports.

**Youth Empowerment**

**Job creation**

The study sought to find out if the initiated projects funded by the youth development fund had created employment on the members or youths. From the findings majority 73.7 percent indicated that the projects had actually created jobs among the youth. Job creation was the core reason as to why YEDF was established.

**Number of people employed**

The study sought to find out if the projects initiated had created employment, how many

people it had actually employed to run the project. From the findings majority 38.1 percent indicated they had employed between 5-10 employees while 36.4 percent had employed below 5 people. 3.4 percent indicated they had employed between 11-16 employees.

**Opinion of YEDF programme**

The study sought to get the respondents opinion on YEDF programme in empowering youth in Kanduyi constituency. From the response majority 65.3 percent rated YEDF above average. 34.7 percent noted that the programme was not satisfactory hence poor while only 5.9 percent indicated they were satisfied the youth enterprise development fund programme hence indicated it was excellent.

**Regression analysis**

In this study, a multiple regression analysis was conducted to test the influence among predictor variables. The research used statistical package for social sciences (SPSS V 21.0) to code, enter and compute the measurements of the multiple regressions. The model summary is presented in table

**Table 1 Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.919 <sup>a</sup>	.845	.837	1.07799

a. Predictors: (Constant), X<sub>4</sub>, X<sub>3</sub>, X<sub>2</sub>, X<sub>1</sub>

Predictors: (Constant), Nature of project index; Entrepreneurial training index; Market linkage index; and Monitoring and evaluation index, (R=0.919; R<sup>2</sup> =0.845; Adjusted R<sup>2</sup> = 0.837, F=98.480, df.=4, p=0.000; Durbin Watson=1.885). The study further tested the significance of the model by use of ANOVA technique. Adjusted R squared is coefficient of determination which tells us the variation in the dependent variable due to changes in the independent variable. From the findings in Table 1 the value of adjusted r squared was 0.837 an indication that there was variation

of 83.7 percentage on youth empowerment in Kanduyi constituency due to changes in nature of project, entrepreneurial training, market linkage and monitoring & evaluation at 5% level of significance. This shows that 83.7 percent changes in youth empowerment in Kanduyi constituency could be accounted to nature of project, entrepreneurial training, market linkage and monitoring & evaluation. R is the correlation coefficient which shows the relationship between the study variables and from the findings shown in the Table 1 is notable that there exists strong

positive relationship between the study variables as shown by 0.919.

Additionally, this therefore means that factors not studied in this research contribute 16.3% of youth empowerment in Kanduyi constituency and a further research should be conducted to investigate the other factors (16.3 percent) that

affect youth empowerment in Kanduyi Constituency. This implies that these variables are very significant therefore need to be considered in any effort to boost youth empowerment in the study area. The study therefore identifies variables as critical determinants of youth empowerment of in Kanduyi constituency.

**Table 2 ANOVA<sup>b</sup>**

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	457.760	4	114.440	98.480	.000 <sup>a</sup>
	Residual	83.669	72	1.162		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>541.429</b>	<b>76</b>			

a. Predictors: (Constant), X<sub>4</sub>, X<sub>3</sub>, X<sub>2</sub>, X<sub>1</sub>

b. Dependent Variable: Y

From the ANOVA statistics in table 2, the processed data, which is the population parameters, had a significance level of 0.000% which shows that the data is ideal for making a conclusion on the population parameters as the value of significance (p-value ) is less than 5%. The calculated value was greater than the critical value (98.480>1.3997) an indication that nature of

project, entrepreneurial training, market linkage and monitoring & evaluation all influence youth empowerment in Kanduyi Constituency. The significance value was less than 0.05 indicating that the model was significant.

In addition, the study used the coefficient table to determine the study model. The findings are presented in table 3,

**Table 3 Coefficients<sup>a</sup>**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta	T	
1	(Constant)	53.460	4.104		13.026	.000
	X <sub>1</sub>	.434	.054	1.462	8.091	.000
	X <sub>2</sub>	-.293	.105	-.346	-2.801	.007
	X <sub>3</sub>	.190	.040	.480	4.715	.000
	X <sub>4</sub>	-.946	.072	-1.787	-13.074	.000

a. Dependent variable: Y

Dependent variable: Youth empowerment:

The established regression equation was:

$$Y = 53.46 + 0.434 X_1 + (-0.293 X_2) + (0.190 X_3) + (-0.946 X_4)$$

From the regression equation, holding nature of project, enterprenueral training, market linkage and monitoring and evaluation constant to a

constant zero, youth empowerment would stand at 0.83, a unit increase in nature of project would lead to increased youth empowerment by a factor of 0.434. A unit increase in entrepreneurial training would lead to decrease in youth empowerment by a factor of -0.293. A unit increase in market linkage would lead to increased youth empowerment by a factor of 0.190 and unit increase in monitoring and evaluation would lead to decrease in youth empowerment by -0.946. The study revealed that nature of project, entrepreneurial training, market linkage and monitoring and evaluation were statistically significant to affect youth empowerment, as all the p value (sig) were less than 0.05%. Therefore, youth empowerment in Kanduyi Constituency =  $53.46 + (0.434 \times \text{nature of project}) + (-0.293 \times \text{entrepreneurial training}) + (0.190 \times \text{market linkage}) + (0.946 \times \text{monitoring and evaluation})$ .

From the results of this study in Table 3, nature of project and market linkage contributed more to youth empowerment in Kanduyi Constituency. At 5% level of significance, nature of project had a p-value of 0.000; entrepreneurial training had a p-value of 0.007; market linkage had a p-value of 0.000; monitoring and evaluation had a p-value of 0.000. Therefore, the most significant factor was the nature of project and market linkage.

## **SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This chapter deals with the summary of the findings, the discussion of the study findings, the conclusion and the recommendations that were made after data analysis was made. The chapter also gives suggestions for further research that can be carried out in relation to this research.

### **Summary of findings**

#### **Influence of nature of project on youth empowerment**

Based on the findings on the influence of nature of project on youth empowerment in Kanduyi Constituency, it was established that most youth

groups are engaged in farming 50 percent as their form of project. Others are in the service business involves providing various services to the community at a given cost which include operating motorcycle commonly known as "bodaboda" and garbage collection. Some of the youths also engage in retail business activities. The small-scale manufacturing includes the cottage industries such as jua kali industries, brick making.

#### **Influence of entrepreneurial training on youth empowerment**

Based on the findings on the influence of entrepreneurial training on youth empowerment in Kanduyi Constituency, it was established that there majority of the groups had not been trained prior to receiving the loan which is 55.1 percent of the groups that have access YEDF funds. Moreover, since the loan is repayable, training prior to receiving the loan will help in establishment of successful businesses and enhance ability to repay the loan.

#### **Influence of market linkage on youth empowerment**

Based on the findings on the influence of market linkage on youth empowerment in Kanduyi Constituency, it was clear that majority 55.1 percent indicated their sales of the business or venture has not increase while 33.1 percent indicated the sales or profit had increased. Its clear that access to market is one of the biggest challenges that face the youth enterprises because the youth lack the sophistication and network to penetrate the market.

#### **Influence of monitoring and evaluation of youth projects**

Based on the findings on the influence of monitoring and evaluation of youth projects on youth empowerment in Kanduyi Constituency, it was clear that 60.2 percent of the respondents confirmed that indeed officers from the ministry of youth affairs and sport had visited them for monitoring purposes. 39.8 percent of the respondents had not been visited. Monitoring and evaluation by youth officers is still low hence

hampering progress of youth groups. Hence MOYAS needs to aim at reaching 100 percent in monitoring youth projects.

### **Conclusion**

The study concluded that the loan which majority of youth groups have accessed is less than ksh 50000 is very minimal compared to the number of people in each group who expect to benefit from it hence the trickle-down effect becomes difficult to realize. The Fund has also not considered diversifying the types of projects to fund. Majority of the funded projects still remain farming. Youth are very diverse, innovative and creative and hence should be nurtured through entrepreneurial trainings to develop new ideas and as such should be funded for start-ups and idea development.

The study further concludes that Market linkage services have enabled the youth access new markets. It has resulted into an increase in sales volume. However, it has not provided adequate market for goods and services produced by the youth enterprises. Finally, the study concludes that with proper monitoring, groups can be motivated to repay their loans in order to qualify for successive loans. Regular monitoring should also be implemented to ensure that groups actually engage in what they say they want to do when asking for the loans. From the findings of this study, it is clear that the Fund is yet to empower the youth as it should, many young people are still unemployed with 26.3 percent of the youth still looking for jobs. Youth bulge still poses another major challenge and hence the Fund must be directed to its paramount aim of empowering the youth in order to address youth unemployment in Kenya

### **Recommendations**

The study recommends YEDF to scale up its engagement efforts to all stakeholders in order to build on existing networks, collaboration and partnership in training and provision of infrastructure with the private sector and the local authority in its program implementation in the constituency. Since some of the respondents

belonged to more than one group, the study recommends that MOYAS carry out a verification exercise to help curb this vice, otherwise they could end up supporting only same youth but in different groupings.

The achievement of youth unemployment and vulnerability is a milestone, which requires critical thinking to come up with working solutions to achieve the milestone. The current achievements are baby-steps towards the milestone distance. In this respect, the study recommends a constant review of the policies in relation to the anticipated objectives. The unachieved objectives should not be scrapped from the list, rather there should be a review of the strategies to help achieve the objectives.

The Ministry of Youths and Sports should continuously conduct entrepreneurship training prior to and during the allocation of funds so as to equip the youths with skills and the knowledge to successfully operate and manage the intended projects. Market linkage is key in the growth of an enterprise. There is need for the Ministry of Youths and Sports to come up with programs that will assist the young groups develop an understanding of market opportunities and link them to value chains.

### **Areas for further research**

This study focused mainly on the influence of the youth enterprise development fund on youth empowerment with specific focus on nature of projects, entrepreneurial training, market linkage and monitoring and evaluation. This study recommends further research regarding group vetting process in relation to funding. Further research should also be carried out concerning viability and sustainability of youth entrepreneurial projects. Given the low number of women involved in youth groups affairs, the study recommends further research to assess the factors influencing women participation among youth groups.

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