

THE FACTORS INFLUENCING ACCESSIBILITY OF YOUTH
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FUND IN MIRANGINE SUB
COUNTY NYANDARUA COUNTY, KENYA

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DECLARATION AND APPROVAL

This research report is my original work and has not been presented for academic purposes in the University of Nairobi or any other university.

Signed..... Date.....

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DEDICATION

This research report is dedicated to my beloved wife Margaret for her unwavering support throughout this project work.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

APEJF	Agence Pour l'Emploi (French)
CYEP	Caribbean Youth Empowerment Program
EEF	Economic Empowerment Fund
EFYNGO	Egyptian Federation of Non- Governmental Organizations
ILO	International Labour Organization
IYF	International Youth Foundation
KKV	Kazi KwaVijana
JKF	Jakaya Kikwete Fund
MOYW & S	Ministry of Youth, Women & Sports
NCIDP	Nyandarua County Integrated Development Plan
NYDA	National Youth Development Agency
NCIDP	Nyandarua County Integrated Development Plan
PEV	Post Election Violence
PTEP	Prince Trust Enterprise Program
UN	United Nations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

WB World Bank

WYR World Youth Report

YDF Youth Development Fund

YEDF Youth Enterprise Development Fund

ABSTRACT

The Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) was established in Kenya in 2006 with the aim of assisting the youth enterprises access capital to start up their own businesses or support existing ones. The purpose of this study was to establish the factors that influence accessibility of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund in Mirangine Sub County, Nyandarua County in Kenya. The objectives of the study were to determine the influence of youth training in financial management, youth attitude towards entrepreneurship, group dynamics and funds disbursement procedures on the accessibility of YEDF. The descriptive survey research design was employed in this study. The target population of the study was the youth in Mirangine Sub County and who belong to youth groups, those that have benefitted from the fund and those that have not. There were a total of ten registered youth groups with a total youth membership of 90. The study sought the participation of all the members of the registered youth groups and therefore 90 respondents were issued with questionnaires, which was the tool used to collect data in this study. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the data and presented using frequency tables and percentages. The results of the study showed that the factors that influence accessibility of YEDF were training in financial management, youth attitude towards entrepreneurship, group dynamics and the disbursement procedures. The study recommends that the youth need to be trained in financial management before and after receiving the funds. The application procedures also need to be made more friendly in order to encourage the youth to apply for the funds and to receive them in good time. A lot more sensitization needs to be done in order to bring more women into the groups in order for them also to enjoy the benefits of the youth fund.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is organized along the following topics. Background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, objectives, research questions, significance of the study, delimitations and limitations of the study, assumptions of the study, definition of key terms and organization of the study.

1.1 Background to the study

The most important resource in any country is the human resource. Human resource is the agent of growth which exploits natural resources, accumulates capital, build social, economic and political institutions and activate the growth process (Sadeq, 1991).For this resource to be of use to any nation, it has to be actively involved in production, either in formal employment or in the informal sector. However employment opportunities are not growing as fast as they should. It is estimated that global unemployment stood at 197.3 million in 2012,an increase of 4.2 million over the previous year, and 28.4 million above the level in 2007(ILO, 2013). ILO projects a further deterioration in 2013, with global unemployment rate reaching 6% and a further increase in the number of unemployed around the world of 5.1 million. The world economic recession of 2009 made the situation even worse, with most countries realizing job losses and increase in unemployment. Unemployment occurs when a person who is actively searching for employment is unable to find work. The unemployment rate is used as a measure of unemployment and it stands for the number of unemployed persons divided by the number of people in the labour force (Davidson, 1998).

The youth have borne the blunt of the unemployment crisis. The main indicator of youth unemployment is the youth unemployment rate (Eurostat, 2013). This uses the same standard

definition as the unemployment rate for the population of the working age. This is the number of those unemployed divided by the total number of people in the labor market (employed plus unemployed). According to the Eurostat 2013, youth unemployment rate as at 2012 stood at 19.8% in Luxembourg, 8.6% in Norway and 15.7% in Turkey. Currently, some 73.8 million young people are unemployed globally (ILO, 2013). According to the World Youth Report, WYR (2005), approximately 88 million youth around the world are unemployed and underemployed. In Sub Saharan Africa ILO (2005) projections give youth unemployment at 21%. Though the global figures given by ILO at 73.8 million and WYR at 88 million differ by about 14.2 million, it is clear that youth unemployment is a major concern. North Africa remains among the regions with highest unemployment rates, which stood at 13.2% in 2000 and 10.3% in 2012 (ILO, 2012).

In Kenya, the youth unemployment rate stands at 67%, among the highest in the world (Youth Employment Marshall Plan, 2009). Although poverty in Kenya has declined since 1997, it still remains a serious concern. The violent protests of 2008 P.E.V highlighted the critical importance of addressing the problem of poverty, inequality and in particular youth unemployment. Youth unemployment especially among males was seen as a major contributor to the frustrations and tension and a matter of serious policy concern (Country Social Analysis, 2007). The Kenyan unemployment rate has not been static, but has been changing depending on the state of the economy. Since 1999, the unemployment rate averaged at 22.43%, a record low of 12.7% in December 2006 and a high of 40% in December 2011. 70% of those unemployed are between the ages of 15 to 35 years (Obonyo, 2013). Not surprisingly, the high level of unemployment has been blamed for escalating incidents of crime and insecurity in the country (Obonyo, 2013).

Various initiatives have been put forth to try to address the problem of youth unemployment. These initiatives have had varied degree of success, and are aimed at addressing various issues

affecting the youth. The International Youth Foundation (I.Y.F) launched a program called Caribbean Youth Empowerment Program in 2008 with the support of the U.S. Agency for International Development; USAID (IYF, 2013). The program targets those people aged between 17 and 25 years in Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Jamaica and Saint Lucia. The program equips vulnerable youth with technical, vocational, entrepreneurial and life skills needed to develop sustainable livelihoods. The Prince`s Trust Enterprise Program(P.T.E.P) in U.K is for people who have a business idea they want to explore and are aged between 18 and 30 years, unemployed or working less than 16 hours per week. Services provided include advice on employment options, start-up loan funding, ongoing support from a volunteer business mentor, access to specialist support including free legal services and also access to a wide range of free and discounted products and services (Odhiambo, Simeon, Abind, Maria, Martin & Fredrick, 2013).The Federation of Egyptian Youth NGOs (EFYNGO) is an umbrella of Egyptian youth led NGOs working in the area of youth development in Egypt. It has three main objectives. First it aims to build the capacity of its members and to co-ordinate the development efforts of its member organizations. It`s also aimed at improving the communication and co-ordination between Egypt`s youth civil society and other sectors such as donors, private and governmental sectors in their youth development activities. Egyptian youth is represented through the federation in various local, regional and international events (Anja Erbel, 2006).In Botswana, the Out of School Youth Fund, was established in 2001 and aimed at diversification of Botswana economy. The specific objectives emphasized the creation of income generating projects built on an entrepreneurial culture among the youth thereby diversifying the economy (ILO, 2012).The Tanzania Economic Empowerment Fund (EEF) and Youth Development Fund (YDF), were seen in a political context of fulfilling an election promise. The funds were popularly known as Jakaya

Kikwete Funds (JKF), since they were initiated by the president. Their main objective was to provide credit to adults and youths with business ideas and projects and to promote the culture of banking and savings. Phase one of the YDF was established in 1993 and phase two was launched in 2000. The EEF was launched in 2007 (ILO, 2012). Other youth initiatives have also been established. They include the National Youth Development Agency, formerly Usomburu Youth Fund established in 2001 in South Africa, The APEJ in Mali and Senegal established in 2003 and 2001 respectively (ILO, 2012).

In Kenya, there have been various initiatives towards addressing the youth unemployment. One of these is the Kazi Kwa Vijana Youth Empowerment. It was launched in 2009, with the aim of employing both urban and rural youth in labour intensive public works projects like road maintenance, water harvesting, afforestation and waste collection. The first phase launched in 2009 targeted mainly unskilled labour, thus leaving out a substantial number of youth who have completed tertiary level education. The second phase was launched in 2010, whose objective was to provide the exact content of the program and the conditions of employment in a realistic way. In 2009/10, KKV employed between 200,000 and 300,000 Kenyans, primarily youth, enabling them to buy food and other basic items and to support their families (MOYW&S, 2013). Another initiative is the Youth Enterprise Development Fund, YEDF, established in June 2006. The fund targets young people within the age bracket of 18-35 years. The objectives of the fund include provision of loans to youth owned enterprises, support youth oriented micro, small and medium enterprises to develop linkages with larger enterprises, provide business development services to youth enterprises, among others. It mainly receives funds allocation from the treasury (MOYW&S, 2013). Uwezo fund was set aside as part of the Jubilee campaign promise. It is targeted at women and youth. It aims to provide the youth and women with access to grants and

interest free loans, as well as opportunities to enable them take advantage of the 30% government procurement preference for youth, women and persons with disabilities through its capacity building programs (M.O.D&P, 2013).According to YEDF report of September 2011, the fund has advanced loans worth Kshs 5.2 billion. Out of this, Kshs 54.2 million has been disbursed to 2111 individual youth enterprises at the constituency level and 545.3 million has been advanced to 12,407 group projects country wide. However the accessibility of the fund especially in Mirangine Sub County in Nyandarua County has not been highlighted. This was the main focus of this study.

1.2 Statement of the problem

The YEDF was established in June 2006.It was transformed into a state corporation in 2007.The fund targets the young people within the age bracket of 18-35 years. It has received a total of Kshs 3,315,664,170 from the Kenyan treasury between 2006 and 2011.It has advanced loans worth 5.2 billion to 144,000 youth enterprises country wide. Because the fund is revolving, the cumulative amount advanced as loans is more than what the fund has received from the treasury (YEDF Report, 2011).

Though the country wide figures looks impressive and can be termed as successful, the situation is different in Nyandarua County. According to the YEDF Report (2011), Nyandarua County received Kshs 11, 038, 740, which benefitted 225 youth groups. Individual loans at the constituency level (Ol Kalou Constituency) benefitted 23 individuals, with a total of Kshs 575,000.With a population of 128,498 between the ages of 20-34 years, it can be seen that the number of people accessing the funds, especially the individual loans is quite small. In Mirangine Sub County, there are only 10 registered youth groups. These registered youth groups have a total membership of 90 youths, against a youth population of 53,000 (NCIDP, 2013). This

figure is very small, which means the number of youth accessing the YEDF is even smaller. Hence this study sought to establish the factors influencing accessibility of the YEDF in Mirangine Sub County.

1.3 The purpose of the study

The purpose of this study was to establish the factors influencing accessibility of the YEDF in Mirangine Sub County. This would inform the relevant stake holders on the challenges faced by the youth in accessing the funds, and make the necessary changes to improve on its accessibility.

1.4 Objectives of the study

The study was guided by the following objectives.

- i. To determine the influence of youth training in financial management on accessibility of YEDF in Mirangine Sub County.
- ii. To assess the influence of youth's attitude towards entrepreneurship on the accessibility of the YEDF in Mirangine Sub County.
- iii. To investigate the influence of group dynamics on the accessibility of YEDF in Mirangine Sub County.
- iv. To determine the influence of disbursement procedures on the accessibility of YEDF in Mirangine Sub County.

1.5 Research questions

The study was guided by the following research questions.

- i. To what extent does the youth training in financial management influence the accessibility of YEDF?
- ii. What influence does the youth`s attitude towards entrepreneurship have on the accessibility of the fund?
- iii. To what extent do group dynamics influence the accessibility of YEDF?
- iv. To what extent does the fund disbursement procedure influence the accessibility of YEDF?

1.6 Significance of the study

This study will be of importance to the government through the Ministry of Youth. This is because it will inform on whether the funds objectives are being met, and especially in Mirangine Sub County. The fund is meant to help youth entrepreneurs` access funds for their enterprises and reduce unemployment. The findings of this study will help to know whether that is being achieved.

The study will also help to point out the factors that influence the accessibility of the YEDF in Mirangine Sub County. This will assist the youth in the study area to find ways to overcome the hindrances to the accessibility of YEDF, so that they can benefit from the fund. The youth are the main target of the fund and for success to be achieved they must utilize the money available and take advantage of the opportunities available.

The fund managers will also find this study useful in that it will provide feedback from the ground on the accessibility and utilization of the fund. This study will give them insights into the difficulties the youth especially in Mirangine Sub County experience in accessing the YEDF. This will help them devise ways to make accessibility easier and faster for the youth to be able to take advantage of available opportunities.

1.7 Delimitation of the study

The study was carried out in Mirangine Sub County, Nyandarua County in Kenya. The study area was arrived due to its accessibility and to also take care of time and cost constraints. The target population was the youth in youth groups. The YEDF is meant to help youth entrepreneurs and one of the conditions to accessing the funds is that the youth must belong to a youth group. The study also sought to identify the factors influencing the accessibility of YEDF. One of the variables was group dynamics. Therefore the youths in youth groups provided relevant information to this study. The fund administrators also took part in this study by providing the list of the registered youth groups in the study area. The study focused on the factors influencing accessibility of the YEDF and these were training in financial management, the youth's attitude towards entrepreneurship, group dynamics and the disbursement procedures.

1.8 Limitations of the study

The study was faced with several challenges. The study area is located in the highlands which makes the area receive a lot of rainfall. This made distribution and collection of the questionnaires a bit difficult. This was overcome by using the group officials who helped to distribute and collect the questionnaires from their group members. The location of some of the groups was remote and transport was another challenge faced in the conducting of the survey. However the available means of transport were utilized. Finance was another constraint that this

study faced. This was more so due to high transport costs to reach the respondents. Telephone costs were also a constraint since many calls had to be made to get the directions on how to reach the respondents. Personal savings were used to overcome this challenge.

Delay in responding to the questionnaires was another challenge faced in this study. However the group's officials were persuaded to convince their members of the need to keep time schedule and this helped overcome the challenge. There was also the challenge in obtaining the list of the registered youth groups from the fund administrators in the study area. This was overcome by persistence and also convincing the officials that the information was purely academic research and not for any other purpose.

1.9 Assumptions of the study

The study made the following assumptions. All the questionnaires would be responded to and that the respondents would be truthful in their responses. The analysis was done based on the questionnaires responded to and the response rate was adequate. Also some of the targeted informants were the fund administrators. It was assumed the officials would be cooperative and provide any other information pertinent to the study. The respondents used were assumed to be representative of the whole youth population of Mirangine Sub County.

1.10 Definition of key terms

Accessibility; the process the youth go through in order to obtain the YEDF, starting from group formation, registration, application and receiving the funds.

Group; a number of youth who have come together, formally registered or unregistered with an aim of engaging in income generating activity.

Training; a formal or informal engagement, organized with an aim of instilling knowledge on financial management to the youth.

Youth; a person male or female between the age of 18 years and 35 years and eligible to apply for the youth fund as per the guiding rules.

Youth Fund; this is the Youth Enterprise Development Fund.

1.11 Organization of the study

This study is organized into five chapters. Chapter one is made up of an introduction, background of the study, statement of the problem, the purpose of the study, research objectives, research questions, and significance of the study, delimitation of the study, limitations of the study, assumptions and definition of significant terms. Chapter two is literature review and has the following sub titles, introduction, training in financial management, youth attitude towards entrepreneurship, group dynamics, fund disbursement procedures, theoretical framework, conceptual framework, knowledge gaps and the summary of literature review. The third chapter is the research methodology and it contains an introduction, research design, target population, sample size and sampling procedures, data collection instruments, validity, reliability, data collection procedures, data analysis techniques, ethical issues and operationalization table. Chapter four is the data analysis chapter, and it is divided into introduction, data analysis, interpretation, presentation and discussion. Chapter five contains the introduction, summary of findings, conclusions and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the various themes that make up the objectives of the study. They are discussed along the following sub-headings. The first deals with the relationship between financial management training and accessibility of the youth fund. The second is on the youth's attitude towards the YEDF, the influence of group formation dynamics on the accessibility of the youth fund and finally the disbursement procedures and its influence on the accessibility of the fund. The chapter also has the theoretical framework, conceptual framework and a summary showing the knowledge gaps that forms the basis of this study.

2.2 Training in financial management and accessibility of YEDF

In many countries, policy makers must focus on the problem of youth unemployment (ILO, 2013). In particular, the ILO recommends that the governments should encourage youth entrepreneurship, among other recommendations. This would also entail improving the links between education, training and entrepreneurship. In a research done among black youth in America, Walstad & Kourilsky (1998) found out that the black youth strongly desire to start a business, and also want entrepreneurship taught in schools. They further suggest that an environment that encourages positive and self-enabling perceptions of potential entrepreneurs should be created at early ages and one such intervention can be done through entrepreneurship education.

According to YEDF status report (2011), entrepreneurship training and provision of appropriate business development services are key to the achievement of the fund's mandate. The fund has started a mandatory pre-financing training programme to enhance the sustainability of youth

enterprises and over 200,000 youths have been trained. The world over, the youth funds set up to assist youth entrepreneurship recognizes the importance of training in business skills and financial management. According to the Prince's trust (2012), the Prince's Trust Enterprises programme aims to provide business skills training. The NYDA of South Africa has advancing youth development through guidance as one of its mandates. The Tunisia fund has improvement of support measures for entrepreneurs as one of its objectives(Aila, Awiti, Odera & Ogutu,2013).In Nyandarua county,48.6% of the county's labour force is the youth,(NCIDP,2013). It further asserts that though majority of the youth in the county have basic education, they need addition training for both formal and informal employment. In fact, it cites one of the weaknesses in its swot analysis as lack of entrepreneurial skills. In light of these, it is increasingly clear that youth without entrepreneurial training, which includes financial management training find it increasingly difficult to attract capital and start their own businesses. One of the intervention measures according to NCIDP (2013) is to expand training opportunities in existing institutions in order to equip small traders with the necessary modern skills. It further aims to have business education through seminars to educate people on areas such book keeping and business management skills. "To improve on the viability of the youth enterprises, there was need for the government to aggressively market the youth's products, and engage the youth entrepreneurship training before and after obtaining the loans" (Aila et al, 2013, pg 115).Though this is agreeable to this study, there is still need to find out whether the situation is the same in Mirangine district.

In order to increase economic opportunities for the youth requires a holistic approach (Harrelson et al,2007).This means putting all efforts together to offer the youth the full range of products they require, which includes effective entrepreneurial skills.These are financial knowledge and

training,including basic budgeting,the importance of mobilization and understanding of how to calculate returns on investments and interest costs, among others. Mungai (2013) reveals that entrepreneurial skills positively influenced the uptake of YEDF,in that the youth with these skills are more likely to apply and access the funds.The study recommends that more seminars and workshops on entrepreneurship to equip the youth with skills to run successful enterprises.However there is need to find out whether the youth in Mirangine district face the same challenges and whether training in financial management has any influence on the accessibility of YEDF.

2.3 Youth`s attitude towards entrepreneurship and accessibility of YEDF

Attitude is defined as the way a person views something or tends to behave towards it, often in an evaluative manner (Collins English Dictionary 2009).Psychologists define attitude as learned tendency to evaluate things in a certain way, which includes evaluation of people, issues, objects or events (Cherry,2014).According to Cherry (2014), people are more likely to behave according to their attitudes under certain conditions.Among these conditions are when one expects a favourable outcome and when one stands to win or lose something due to the issue.In line with this therefore it can be said that the youth`s behavior towards YEDF may be influenced by their attitude towards it.The YEDF, established in 2006 was aimed at providing credit and equipping with appropriate skills to creatively engage in economic activities (YEDF status report 2011).However, the success of the fund to achieve its objectives will be determined to a great extent by the youth`s attitude towards it.

A research done by Decode (2008) in Ontario Canada observed that young people have positive attitude towards entrepreneurship. The majority of the young people felt that starting their own business was a desirable thing. However the survey found out that there are significant

financial barriers for young people to start their own businesses. But they do not want to get into debts in the process. This may imply that they have a negative attitude towards loans, which by extension may include the youth fund which is accessed in form of loans. However, it does not show whether the same could be said of the youth in Mirangine district and there is need to carry out a study of the same. This is in line with assertions of Schoof (2006) who argues that there exist five key constraints and barriers to youth entrepreneurship. Among these are social and cultural attitudes towards youth entrepreneurship and access to finance. The youth's attitude towards the available sources of funds will influence their accessibility.

Having a positive attitude makes all the difference in entrepreneurship. Mutuku (2010) asserts that having been born and brought up in abject poverty, most youths have low self-esteem that eats at their confidence. He further argues that success in business and entrepreneurship has no two ways. It calls for one to have confidence to believe that they are able to make a difference. A U.N report (2013) indicated that most youth cited sources of start-up capital are those closely linked to family. This may mean that they will first exhaust family sources of funds before venturing outside the family circle. In Swaziland, the U.N report (2013) on youth entrepreneurship suggests that while well recognized constraints such as the business environment undoubtedly play an important role in fostering or impeding youth entrepreneurship, softer factors such as youth attitudes are also critical. Sieverding (2012), after a study in Egypt highlighted key messages on youth entrepreneurship. Some of these messages among others are that while many youth see self-employment as attractive, few actually start a business. Financing is seen as a major difficulty facing youth who want to start a business. Also, financing and entrepreneurship education should be promoted to reduce fear and misunderstanding of loans, and to help change

the youth`s attitude towards risk.It would however be important to carry out a similar study in Mirangine Sub County to find out whether the same applies there as well.

Krueger and Brazeal (1994) quoted in Wastald and Kounilsky (1995) stress that perceptions and positive attitude about entrepreneurship are extremely important and set the foundation for becoming an entrepreneur long before one makes the decision to become one.It further argues that those who wish to foster entrepreneurship must support and reinforce perceptions and attitudes that it is personally feasible and socially and personally desirable.Thus, entrepreneurship among the youth can be greatly affected by providing an environment that encourages positive and self-enabling perceptions of potential entrepreneurs.From the foregoing, it is clear that positive attitude has a strong influence on entrepreneurship.However, there is need to find out whether it has a similar influence on youth in Mirangine Sub County.

2.4 Group dynamics and accessibility of YEDF

Different definitions of a group have been put forward by different scholars.The Oxford dictionary (2014) defines a group as a number of people or things that are located, gathered or classed together.It further defines it as a number of people that work together or share certain beliefs. Scholars have however defined a group depending on the context of its application.A group is number of people who undertake joint activities, typically initiated around an economic function, though they often have strong social and political roles (Heyer et al, 2003).A group is defined as two or more individuals who are connected to one another by social relationships (Forsyth, 2006).Youth groups considered in this study are those formed for economic purposes and members are in the age bracket of 18 to 35 years.

The function of a group and the reasons why it was formed will determine its cohesion and sustainability. Since group objectives may not be shared by every individual in the group, a critical aspect of group functioning is how individual action within the group is kept in line with group objectives (Heyer, Thorp & Stewart, 2003). Group formation has great potential for enabling the members to reach their goals. Social capital is defined as the norms and networks that enable people to act collectively, and remains a very important source of capital especially in rural areas (Mwangi & Ouma, 2012). These networks according to Mwangi & Ouma (2012) may involve colleagues, neighbourhoods, friends and professionals among others. Social capital in such networks promotes interpersonal trust, provides for sanctions against those who deviate from norms and serves a substitute for institutional deficiencies. These social networks enhance access to financing (YEDF status report, 2011). However, in Mirangine Sub County, it's important to investigate whether such social groups have promoted better access to YEDF. One of the recommendations of Mwangi & Ouma (2012) is that credit institutions should factor in the role of social capital or groups in designing credit products. This is because as it was found out, there is positive relationship between the roles of social capital on access to credit.

Individuals in a group are usually networked or connected to one another (Forsyth, 2006). These connections or bonds according to Forsyth (2006), could be strong or weak ones and can be easily broken with passage of time or occurrence of relationship-damaging events. It is therefore paramount to ensure that events that can lead to break-up of the groups are dealt with. The YEDF in Kenya is mainly focused on groups of youth. Though it has different packages, for one to access the funds, they should belong to a group. Although the figures of the beneficiaries across the country may appear relatively good, there is little information on the accessibility of the funds in Mirangine Sub County.

2.5 Disbursement procedures and accessibility of YEDF

In order to access credit or finance from YEDF, the youth must belong to a group, and engage themselves in economic activity (YEDF status report, 2011). Groups usually offer some kind of safety and eases accessibility to loans. These loans utilize the group as some form of collateral for those with few or no assets, where joint liability for the loan repayment transfers the risks associated with loan from the lender to the group (Heyer et al, 2003). Credit markets in the developing countries, especially in Africa, and Kenya included, have evolved mechanisms that circumvent credit constraints. Borrowers poor in collateralisable assets and for whom lenders have poor information about their creditworthiness have resorted to the use of social capital to improve their accessibility to credit (Mwangi & Ouma, 2012). Social capital refers to connections among individuals that characterize social networks where norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness arise (Putman, 1993). In other words, these are sources that may include friends, family members, and professionals among others, where a social connection exists between the lender and the borrower.

The youth groups in Kenya are eligible to borrow funds depending on their product line (MOY, 2006). These loans include C-Yes Rausha, which targets group start-up business, C-Yes Inua whose main purpose is for business expansion, C-Yes special meant for special business projects across various economic sectors among others. While these funds are available to the youth, accessibility remains a challenge. This agrees with Sieverding (2012), whose study in Egypt found out that youth fail to access funds due to fear of losing the money and not being able to pay back the loan. Others cited complexity of loan processing and the risk entailed in taking a loan in general. It used to take two to three months to process the loan once an application has been made. However, the YEDF board chairman said it will now take one month to process it

(Otuki, 2014). This is an indication that the disbursement procedures are a bit challenging and this may put off some youths from applying for the fund. The ability to access the funding needed at the right time and amount allows one to take advantage of existing opportunities. Signhild Brosvik (2010) found out that access to capital was one of the major obstacles to entrepreneurial growth among the youth. It was observed that the money obtained was insufficient for business development. Governments should ensure that there is an enabling environment for young people to start and run business and improve access to finance, by subsidizing credit, guaranteeing loans and supporting micro credit initiatives (ILO, 2013). This will ensure growth of sustainable youth enterprises, in particular micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. Circumstances need to be made friendlier to remove fear of loans from the youth, for example fear of defaults. The idea of group lending is one such initiative. In group lending, the loan is secured by the co-signature of members within the group and not by micro-finance institution (Armendariz de Aghion, 1999). This group sanction is important in discouraging defaults among members in a group (Van Tassel, 1999).

2.6 Theoretical Framework

This study is about the behavior of youth in youth groups and the accessibility of YEDF. Therefore its theoretical underpinning is the group thinking theory. The theory is about how group process can get in the way of optimal decision making. (McCauley, 1998). Group thinking theory is a theory of how group dynamics can get in the way of effective decision making (Jannis, 1982). The central point in the group thinking theory is group cohesion which according to Jannis (1982) sees as necessary, though not sufficient for group thinking. Other determinants as highlighted by Jannis (1982) are high stress from external threat and low self-esteem from recent failures or decision difficulty. Good decision making requires a systematic search for

possible courses of action and a painstaking evaluation of these alternatives, in light of all relevant information that can be made available (McCauley,1998). The causes of defective decision making are among others, poor information search, selective bias in processing information, incomplete survey of alternatives and failure to develop contingency plan (Jannis & Mann, 1977). A group is composed of individuals who have come together to achieve a common objective. The individuals must be connected in some way. The connection or associations are highlighted in the two basic tenets of constructivism. These are that the structures of human associations are determined primarily by shared ideas rather than material forces and that the identities and interest of purposive actors are constructed by these shared ideas rather than given by nature (Wendt, 1999).In groups, its observed that members will align themselves with allies according to the shared values and what is in their best interest. People tend to be drawn to those who are like them. Therefore, in this study, youth groups will be viewed as adhering to the group theory and cohesion within them is due to shared values and interests.

2.7 Conceptual Framework

A conceptual framework is a diagrammatic representation of the relationship between the independent and dependent variables (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). The dependent variable is the accessibility of YEDF while the independent variables are training in financial management, youth`s attitude towards entrepreneurship, group formation dynamics and funds disbursement procedures.

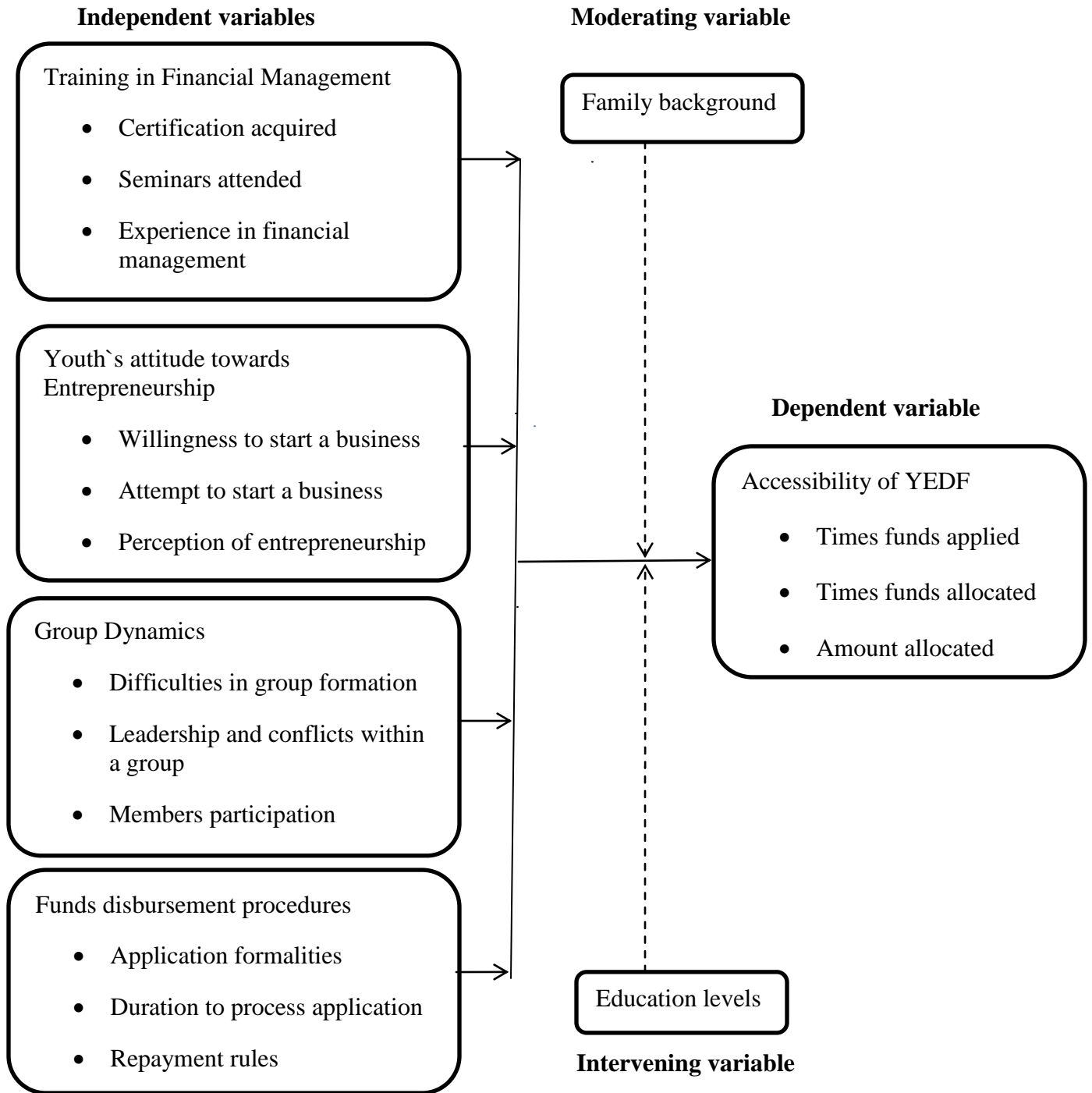


Figure 1 Conceptual framework

2.8 Knowledge Gaps

The YEDF is one of the Kenyan government's initiatives to deal with the problem of youth unemployment. Youth unemployment is a global phenomenon and Kenya is no exception. Many studies have been done on effectiveness of the YEDF in dealing with the unemployment problem and how it enhances entrepreneurship among the youth. Those studies concentrate on the youth groups who have already accessed the youth fund. However, this study is on the accessibility of the youth fund for those that have already accessed the funds and those that have not in Mirangine Sub County. Lack of adequate funds has been cited in many studies as one of the major challenges facing the youth entrepreneurship. In general, the main reason for poverty is believed to be weak or lack of access to initial resources to start a business (Shooder & Karami, 2008). There is therefore a need to study further the factors that influence the accessibility of the youth fund especially in Mirangine Sub County.

2.9 Summary of literature review

The literature reviewed offers insight into the studies done on how different initiatives have been put forward to address the question of youth unemployment. It is noted that youth especially in the developing world face almost similar challenges. The main one is access to funds for entrepreneurship. Though studies show that youth are willing to venture into business and self-employment, lack of capital is a major concern. Various government initiatives have been put in place but the challenge of accessibility of the funds still remains. The funds accessed are not sufficient and it takes a long time to process the same after one has applied for it. The literature reviewed has also shown the importance of training in financial management. This increases the success rate of the youth fund and also eliminates the fear the youth have towards loans.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the procedures that were followed in conducting the study. It explains in details how the data was collected and analyzed. The chapter is divided into the following sub sections, research design, target population, sample size and sampling procedures, research instruments, validity of the instruments, reliability of the instruments, data collection procedures, data analysis techniques, ethical issues and operationalization table.

3.2 Research Design

Research design is the researcher's plan for achieving research objectives. It is a blue print for conducting the research (Crotty, 1994). This study employed the descriptive survey research design. This is because according to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), it is probably the best method available to social scientist and other educators interested in collecting original data for the purposes of describing a population which is too large to observe directly. The design seeks to obtain information that describe existing phenomena by asking individuals about their perceptions, attitudes, behavior or values (Mugenda & Mugenda 2003). The target population in this study was the youth in Mirangine Sub County, which would make observational research design difficult to use.

3.3 Target Population

The target population is that population to which a researcher wants to generalize the results of the study (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). It is the sum total of the group in which the researcher has an interest (Goshi, 1982). It is a set of the entire individuals which has got a given

characteristic (House, 2008). For this study, the target population consisted of the youth who belong to youth groups in Mirangine Sub County. These are the people in the age bracket of 18 to 35 years, both male and female. They also belonged to some form of group meant for economic purposes. This is because according to the YEDF status report (2011), the fund is meant to finance youth enterprises that should be in a group formed for economic purposes.

3.4 Sample size and sampling procedures

A sample is a smaller group of respondents to participate in the survey. The selected group should be as representative of the total population as possible (Kothari, 2004). Sampling is therefore the process employed in selecting the sample for a study in such a way that the individuals selected represent the large group from which they were selected. The list of the registered youth groups formed the sampling frame for this study. A sampling frame is a list from which a sample is drawn (Kothari, 2004).

There were a total of 10 registered youth groups in Mirangine Sub County during the time when this study was carried out. Applying the Krejcie and Morgan table, all the registered groups were included in the study, whether they had received the funds or not. The total members of the registered groups were 90 and the study sought to include all of them as respondents. There were also two youth officers and who provided the list of the registered groups in Mirangine Sub County.

3.5 Data collection instruments

The study employed the questionnaire which was the main data collection tool and documentary analysis. A questionnaire is a set of carefully designed, written down, and tested questions which are asked of individual respondents to gather information in research (Ennon, 1998). The use of the questionnaire was decided since it is appropriate for collecting large amounts of data within a

short period of time. It is also easy to administer especially when the target population is scattered over a wide geographical area. The questionnaire contained structured questions with some unstructured ones. This helped in getting the respondents to give their opinions and elaborate further on the issues in question, which are training in financial management, the attitude of the youth towards YEDF, disbursement procedures of YEDF and group formation difficulties and their influence on the accessibility of YEDF. The main source of secondary data was the list showing the registered youth groups, their membership number and their contacts. This helped in communication and accessibility of the respondents.

3.6 Validity

Validity of the research instruments is the degree to which an instrument measures what it is intended to measure and does so correctly (Amin, 2005). According to Mugenda & Mugenda (2003), it is the degree to which results obtained from the analysis of the data actually represents the phenomenon under study. In order to ascertain the validity of the research instruments, expert advice and guidance was sought from the supervisor and other experts within the department. The officers involved in the funds administration were also consulted so as to assist in validating the questionnaire. It was also piloted on a group of respondents separate from those in the study. The results of the pilot survey helped in modifying the ambiguous items to ensure the data obtained was what was intended.

3.7 Reliability

Reliability is the measure of the degree to which research instruments yield consistent results, and consistent data even after repeated application (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). The reliability of the research instrument was assured by construction of a conceptual framework and proper operationalization of variables. The data collection instruments were piloted on a group of

respondents similar to those in the study. The data collection instruments and the results of the piloting were reviewed with the help of the experts to determine their reliability.

3.8 Data collection procedures

The study used the questionnaire as the main data collection instrument. This contained both closed and open ended items where the respondents were required to give their opinions and perceptions regarding the financial management training, their attitude towards YEDF, the YEDF disbursement procedures, the group dynamics and how the said variables influence the accessibility of YEDF. The youth group leaders were engaged in distributing and collecting the questionnaires from the respondents. The respondents were encouraged to complete the questionnaire themselves. The fund administrators also provided the list of all the registered youth groups in the study area. This helped in contacting the respondents using the contacts provided.

3.9 Data analysis techniques

When data has been obtained from the field by the researcher, it is usually raw and makes no sense. Therefore it has to be cleaned, coded and analyzed for it to have any meaning. It must be systematically organized in a manner that facilitates analysis. In this study, descriptive statistics were used to analyze the data. This is because the descriptive method enables the researcher to meaningfully describe a distribution of scores or measurements using few indices or statistics (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). The method also allows the researcher to obtain information concerning the current phenomenon and wherever possible to draw valid conclusions from facts discussed (Kombo & Tromp, 2007). The data was then presented using frequency tables and percentages. These were easier to use and also the data presented this way is easy to interpret.

3.10 Ethical issues

These are important considerations which any study must take care of in order to ensure high quality results and also protect the integrity of the researcher and also the respondents (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). Proper preparation was done to ensure that all the logistical issues are addressed. An approved research proposal was prepared which guided the research process. A well prepared research proposal makes the process easier and controls the research process to keep within the limits set out. Research assistants were also properly inducted. This is because this study needed the assistants to help in distribution and collection of questionnaires.

A research permit was also obtained before embarking on the research. This authenticated the data and also helped build confidence on the part of the respondents. Also proper collection and analysis of data was done to avoid fraud, a situation where false data is presented and no research was actually conducted. Rapport and trust was built on the part of the respondents. This was done by assuring the respondents of confidentiality and anonymity of their identities. It was well explained in the questionnaire that no names were required on it and the research assistants explained the same to the respondents. The respondents were assured to participate in the study willingly. Before any data was collected from them, their permission was sought and they were assured that no harm will come to them as a result of their participation in the study. The data provided was purely for academic purposes only.

3.11 Operational definition of variables

Table 3.1 Operationalization table

To determine the influence of training in financial management on accessibility of YEDF.	Independent variable. Training in financial management.	Certification acquired. Number of seminars attended. Experience in financial management	Nominal	Descriptive Percentages
To assess the extent to which youth's attitude towards entrepreneurship influence the accessibility of the fund.	Youth's attitude	Willingness to start own business Attempt to start a business Perception of entrepreneurship	Nominal	Descriptive Percentages
To establish the influence of group dynamics on accessibility of YEDF.	Group dynamics	Difficulties in group formation Challenges in leadership and conflicts within a group Level of participation by members in decision making	Nominal	Descriptive Percentages
To determine the influence of funds disbursement procedures on the accessibility of YEDF.	Funds disbursement procedures	Application formalities Duration taken to process the application Repayment rules.	Nominal	Descriptive Percentages
	Dependent Variable. Accessibility of YEDF	Number of times funds applied Number of times funds allocated Amount allocated in each case	Nominal	Descriptive Percentages

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents an analysis of the data that was gathered for the purpose of this study. The study aimed at establishing the factors influencing the accessibility of the YEDF in Mirangine Sub County. The chapter is organized along the following sub topics.

4.2 Questionnaire return rate

This study was about establishing the factors influencing accessibility of the YEDF in Mirangine Sub County. Therefore it was concerned with the youth in registered youth groups. There were a total of 10 registered youth groups with a total membership of 90 youths. The study sought the participation of all the members of the registered youth groups. The response rate is tabulated in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Questionnaire return rate

Return rate	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Returned	65	72.2
Not Returned	25	27.8
Total	90	100

A total of 90 respondents were issued with the questionnaires, where 65 respondents filled and returned the questionnaires, representing a response rate of 72.2%. This response rate was

considered good for this study because Kothari (2005) recommends a 60% rate as sufficient and Mugenda and Mugenda (1999) recommends a return rate of 50% as adequate for analysis and reporting.

4.3 Distribution of the respondents by age

The study sought to establish the distribution of the respondents by age. This was because the study is on the youth fund and it mainly targets the youth. The results are as presented in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2 Age distribution of the respondents

Age in Years	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18 — 23	6	9
24 — 29	34	52
30 — 35	23	36
Above 35	2	3
Total	65	100

The results shows that the respondents aged between 24-29 years represented 52% of all respondents. Those aged 30-35 were 36% and those between the ages of 18-23 years were 9%. However, those above 35 years represented 3%. This was understandable because the study was concerned with the youth, and the youth are taken to be the people in the 18-35 years age bracket.

4.4 Gender Distribution of the Respondents

The study sought to determine the distribution of the respondents by gender. This was to find out if gender sensitivity was a concern in the youth groups. The data obtained is summarized in the Table 4.3.

Table 4.3 Distribution of respondents by Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	48	74
Female	17	26
Total	65	100

Male respondents were 74% and the females were 26%. This shows most of the groups are made up of male respondents. This may cause imbalance in development between men and women. It would be important to identify the challenges the women are facing either in formation of their own groups or in joining already existing ones. The YEDF is meant to benefit all the youth regardless of gender, and if need be some affirmative action can be put in place to address the difference.

4.5 The education levels of the respondents

The respondents were requested to provide information about their highest education level attained. This was because the study was concerned with the accessibility of the YEDF. This means some formal education would be necessary. The results are tabulated in Table 4.4

Table 4.4 Education distribution of respondents

Education levels	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Primary	28	43
Secondary	32	49
Tertiary	5	8
Total	65	100

The respondents who have secondary level education were 49% and primary level was 43%. However those with tertiary level education were 8% and none with no formal education. It was realized that the youth with tertiary education especially formed a small proportion of the respondents. It could be that those with tertiary education shy away from the activities of the YEDF or they are engaged in formal employment. Some survey could be done to establish the levels of education in the study area and then sensitize the youth including the ones with tertiary education not to shy away from the YEDF which could assist them immensely.

4.6 Position in the Group

Respondents were requested to give their position in the group. This is because the leadership within the group is considered crucial in maintaining cohesion and discipline within it and also giving the general direction in the group's activities and influences the group's dynamics. The information obtained is tabulated in Table 4.5.

Table 4.5 Position in the Group

Position in the Group	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Chairperson	8	12
Secretary	8	12
Treasurer	8	12
Member	41	63
Total	65	100

The respondents holding ordinary members position were the majority at 64% and those in the other positions of chairperson, secretary and treasurer held 12% each. The groups are composed of all the necessary office holders. Therefore any issues concerning the group management have a clear and organized way of being addressed adequately. This is important considering that the YEDF is meant for the youth who must belong to a well formed and functioning youth group.

4.7 Training in financial management and accessibility to YEDF

The study sought to establish whether training in financial management influence the accessibility of the YEDF. This is important because the utilization of the youth fund depends on the knowledge in financial management. The respondents were requested to provide information on whether they had attended any course or seminar or received any training in financial management. The responses are shown in the Table 4.6

Table 4.6 Training in financial management

Received Training	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	45	69
No	20	31
Total	65	100

Those that had received some training in financial management were 69% compared to 31% of those that had not received any training. The respondents were further requested to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement on the influence of certificate acquired in financial management on accessibility of YEDF. The responses are recorded in the Table 4.7.

Table 4.7 Certification and accessibility of YEDF

	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	19	29
Agree	24	37
Not sure	6	9
Disagree	7	11
Strongly agree	9	14
Total	65	100

The results show that 37% of the respondents agree that certificate acquired in financial management influenced their accessing of YEDF and 29% strongly agree. Those not sure are 9%, 14% strongly disagree and 11% disagreed. When the respondents were asked whether attendance to seminars influences accessibility of YEDF, the responses obtained are as recorded in the Table 4.8.

Table 4.8 Attendance of seminars and accessibility of YEDF

	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	24	37
Agree	27	42
Not sure	7	11
Disagree	4	6
Strongly disagree	3	5
Total	65	100

From the information in Table 4.8, 37% of the respondents agree strongly that attendance to seminars in financial management influence the accessibility of the YEDF and 42% agree with the statement. Those who disagree are only 6%. Another 5% strongly disagreed and 11% were not sure.

The respondents were requested to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement with the statement that experience in financial management influences the accessibility of the YEDF. The responses obtained are shown in the Table 4.9.

Table 4.9 Experience in financial management

	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	17	27
Agree	30	46
Not sure	6	9
Disagree	8	12
Strongly disagree	4	6
Total	65	100

The data obtained shows that 46% of the respondents agree that experience in financial management influence accessibility of YEDF while 12% disagree. However 27% strongly agree while those that strongly disagree are only 6% and 9% is not sure. In order for the YEDF beneficiaries to get maximum benefits from the fun, they need to have some knowledge in financial management. This will help them realize that the funds received are for generation of income. It will also assist them in book keeping and maintenance of up to date financial records. Defaults in loan repayment may be attributed to poor book keeping where the fund beneficiaries use the income generated from their projects in other things outside their projects, thereby inhibiting the project`s growth. This may lead to their collapsing and eventually non repayment of the fund. The spiral effect will be seen in that the youth will not be able to access further funding. Though respondents indicated that they attended seminars on financial management, it needs to be followed up and monitoring done. Apart from training in financial management, there are those who have some hands on experience, probably acquired from running family businesses. This was also found important and influences accessibility of YEDF, since they have

confidence in managing finances and have no fear of their enterprises collapsing or failing to generate income. Those with no experience will always hesitate to commit themselves which may prevent them from applying for the funds.

4.8 Youth`s attitude towards entrepreneurship and accessibility of YEDF

The study sought to find out the attitude of the youth towards entrepreneurship. The respondents were requested to indicate their opinion concerning the attitude of the youth towards entrepreneurship, and the information obtained is shown in Table 4.10.

Table 4.10 Youth`s attitude and accessibility of YEDF

Youth`s attitude	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Very positive	18	28
Positive	36	55
Not sure	9	14
Negative	2	3
Total	65	100

The analysis shows that 55% of the respondents think that the youth have a positive attitude towards entrepreneurship and 28% have a very positive attitude.14% were not sure while 3% of the respondents thought the youth have a negative attitude.However none thought the youth have a very negative attitude.The participants were also requested to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement with the given statements concerning the influence of willingness to start own business, attempt to start a business and perception of youth towards entrepreneurship on the accessibility of YEDF. The responses are recorded in Table 4.11.

Table 4.11 Entrepreneurship and accessibility of YEDF

	S.A	A	N.S	D	S.D	Total
Willingness to start own business influence accessibility of YEDF	31	37	11	7	14	100
Attempt to start business influence accessibility of YEDF	12	49	19	14	6	100
Perception of youth towards entrepreneurship influence accessibility of YEDF	17	42	17	17	7	100

S.A-strongly agree, A-agree, N.S-not sure, D-disagree, S.D-strongly disagree

From Table 4.11, 37% of the respondents agree that willingness to start own business influence accessibility of youth enterprise development fund and 31% strongly agree. Those not sure were 11%, 7% disagreed and 14% strongly disagreed.

When asked whether attempt to start a business influence the accessibility of youth enterprise development fund, 49% of the respondents agreed and 12% strongly agreed. Those that disagreed and strongly disagreed were 14% and 6% respectively, while 19% indicated that they were not sure. The influence of perception of the youth towards entrepreneurship on accessibility of youth enterprise development fund was also requested of the respondents. The results indicated that 42% of the respondents agreed that the perception of the youth towards entrepreneurship influence accessibility of the YEDF and 17% strongly agree. Those that disagreed were 17% with 7% strongly disagreeing and 17% indicating that they were not sure.

From the findings, it was realized that the youth have a positive attitude towards entrepreneurship. They indicated their willingness to start their own businesses, but their main hindrances are lack of capital. However the YEDF is a good starting point in accessing capital to

start their own businesses. Therefore it would be important to remove all the barriers in accessing the YEDF, in order to realize the fund's objectives. The youth can be self-reliant if they can start their own businesses which can offer employment to their colleagues and therefore reduce unemployment.

4.9 Group dynamics and accessibility of youth enterprise development fund

The study sought to establish whether group dynamics have an influence on the accessibility of the youth enterprise development fund. The indicators used were difficulties in group formation, challenges in leadership and conflicts within the group and level of participation by group members in decision making within the group. The respondents were requested to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement with the given statements. The results are shown in the Table 4.12.

Table 4.12 Group dynamics and accessibility of YEDF

	S.A	A	N.S	D	S.D	TOTAL
Difficulties in group formation						
influence accessibility of YEDF	28	46	5	12	9	100
Challenges in leadership and conflicts						
within the group influence accessibility of						
YEDF	22	43	9	15	11	100
Level of participation by members in decision						
making influence accessibility of YEDF	15	57	6	9	12	100

S.A-Strongly agree, A-Agree, N.S-Not sure, D-Disagree, S.D-Strongly disagree

The results in Table 4.12 show that 46% of the respondents agreed that difficulties in group formation influence accessibility of youth enterprise development fund and 28% strongly agree. However 12% of the respondents disagreed while 9% strongly disagreed and 5% were not sure. The same trend is observed on the influence of the challenges in leadership and conflicts within the group on the accessibility of youth enterprise development fund, with 43% agreeing with the statement while 22% strongly agree. Those that disagreed were 10% and 7% strongly disagreed while 6% were not sure. The level of participation by members in decision making within the group was another factor influencing the accessibility of youth enterprise development fund, with 57% of the respondents agreeing while 15% strongly agreed. However, 12% of the respondents strongly disagreed and 9% disagreed. Those not sure were 6%.

For success to be realized in any group's activities, cohesion is very important. The leadership in the group must ensure participation by the members in decision making. The views of every member must be taken seriously and any differences threatening the unity of the group must be addressed to the satisfaction of all members. Harmony within the group will increase the accessibility of YEDF since all efforts of all members will be harnessed to pull in the same direction and pull together in one direction. It will also help utilize each member's strengths for the benefit of the whole group.

4.10 Funds disbursement procedures and accessibility of youth enterprise fund

The participants were requested to indicate whether they had applied for the YEDF. The information obtained is tabulated in Table 4.13.

Table 4.13 Funds application

Applied for YEDF	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	60	92
No	5	8
Total	65	100

Further, the participants were requested to indicate whether or not they had received the funds applied for. The responses obtained are shown in Table 4.14.

Table 4.14 Funds received

Funds received	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	45	75
No	15	25
Total	60	100

Table 4.13 shows that 92% of the respondents have applied for the YEDF. Only 8% has not applied. Table 4.14 however shows that of those that have applied for the funds, 75% have received the funds and 25% have not yet received it.

The study also sought to establish whether the disbursement procedures influence the accessibility of the YEDF. The respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement with the given statements. The responses are recorded in the Table 4.15.

Table 4.15 Disbursement procedures and accessibility of YEDF

	S.A	A	N.S	D	S.D	Total
Application procedures and formalities						
influence accessibility of YEDF	29	32	8	22	9	100
Duration taken to process the application						
influence the accessibility of YEDF	26	40	3	22	9	100
Repayment rules and procedures						
influence accessibility of YEDF	29	38	6	20	6	100

S.A-Strongly agree, A-Agree, N.S-Not sure, D-Disagree, S.D-Strongly disagree

The respondents felt that the application formalities and procedures influence the accessibility of YEDF, at 32% agreeing and 29% strongly agreed. 22% of the respondents disagreed while 9% strongly disagreed. However, 8% of the respondents were not sure. The duration taken in processing the applications were also seen by 40% of the respondents as influencing the accessibility of YEDF and another 26% felt strongly that it has an influence. Those that disagreed were 22% and 9% strongly disagreed while 3% were not sure. On whether the repayment procedures and rules influence the accessibility of the YEDF, 29% strongly agree and 38% agreed. However 20% disagreed and 6% strongly disagreed. 6% were not sure.

The success of the YEDF depends on easy accessibility of the funds and at the right time and quantity. The study has established that the duration taken in accessing the funds influences its accessibility. It is the feeling of the respondents that the duration taken to process the applications is too long and sometimes the funds are accessed too late. This makes the youth projects be overtaken by time which reduces their viability. This needs to be improved for success of the YEDF. Also the repayment rules should be relaxed to encourage more youths to

apply for the funds. They should be made more friendly and also any changes in the procedures be adequately communicated to the beneficiaries in good time.

4.11 Accessibility of youth enterprise development fund

The study sought to establish the number of times the respondents had applied for the funds and also the number of times they have been successful. The data obtained is recorded in Table 4.16.

Table 4.16 Times funds applied for

Times	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Thrice	3	5
Twice	26	40
Once	31	47
None	5	8
Total	65	100

Table 4.16 shows that 47% of the respondents had applied for the funds once, while those who had applied for the funds twice were 40%. Those that had not applied were 8% and 5% had applied thrice for the funds. Those that had successfully applied for the funds were asked to indicate the number of times they have been successful, and the information obtained is recorded in Table 4.17.

Table 4.17 Successful funds application

Applied Thrice

Successful	Frequency	Percentage (%)
None	1	33
Once	2	67
Total	3	100

Applied twice

Successful	Frequency	Percentage (%)
None	5	19
Once	21	81
Total	26	100

Applied once

Successful	Frequency	Percentage (%)
None	10	33
Once	21	67
Total	31	100

From the information in Table 4.17, all applications that have been successful have received the funds only once. This is regardless of the number of times the applications have been made. The success rate was 48% of the applications made. The amounts obtained after successful application range between Kshs 25,000 to Kshs 50,000. The respondents were asked to indicate the amounts received and the information is recorded in Table 4.18.

Table 4.18 Amounts received

Amount	Frequency	Percentage (%)
25000	4	9
47500	13	30
50000	27	61
Total	44	100

From Table 4.18, 61% of the respondents received Kshs 50,000, 30% received Kshs 47,500 and 9% have received Kshs 25,000. This money is not necessarily on individual basis, but on group basis. From the findings, it was realized that all the applicants have accessed the funds only once, regardless of the times one has applied for it. The amounts allocated are also small and may not adequately meet the needs of the applicants. If this could be improved to ensure that the applicants receive the amounts applied for, more benefits could be realized and more youths would find it worthwhile to apply for the funds.

4.12 Discussion of results

The Youth Enterprise Development Fund is one of the government's innovations in combating the challenges of poverty and unemployment in the country. It was created in 2006 with its main aim being to increase opportunities and participation by the youth in national building, by funding enterprises initiated and ran by the youth. This study sought to establish factors that influence accessibility of the YEDF in Mirangine Sub County.

4.12.1 Influence of training in financial management on the accessibility of YEDF

The study found out that the proportion of the respondents with tertiary education was low, which means that training in financial management was acquired through informal means. These include seminars and also hands on experience in financial management. It was noted that training in financial management influences accessibility of YEDF. Those with formal certificates in financial management or have acquired some financial training through seminars and workshops have a higher success in accessing the funds. This agrees with Aila et al (2003) which assert that the government needs to aggressively engage the youth in entrepreneurship training before and after obtaining the loans in order to gain competitive advantage in their areas of operation. One way the Government may achieve this is by financial training in schools. According to Kourilsky, (1995), education about entrepreneurship and financial management that is conducted in a supportive environment will increase the youth's interest in entrepreneurship and their preparation for it. According to the YEDF status report (2011), entrepreneurship training and provision of appropriate business development services are key to the achievement of the fund's mandate. Knowledge in financial management will boost the youth's confidence and increase the rate of accessibility of the funds. Harrelson et al, (2007)

asserts that the youth need a full range of products, financial knowledge and training, basic budgeting and knowhow to calculate returns on investments in order to increase their economic opportunities. Mungai, (2003) also agrees that entrepreneurship skills positively influenced the uptake of YEDF, in that the youth with these skills are more likely to apply and access the funds. Kimando et al (2012), after a study in Kigumo concluded that skills in entrepreneurship, business planning and financial management must be imparted in the youth before any funds are disbursed.

4.12.2 Influence of youth`s attitude towards entrepreneurship on accessibility of YEDF

The study revealed that the youth have a positive attitude towards entrepreneurship. Many of them desire to have and ran their own business enterprises. This was a facto identified as influencing accessibility of YEDF. Decode (2008) after a study in Canada arrived at the same conclusion that young people have a positive attitude towards entrepreneurship. However any attempt made towards starting their own businesses is hampered by lack of startup capital. Schoof, (2006) observed that the youth`s attitude towards entrepreneurship and available sources of funds will influence the fund`s accessibility. Mutuku, (2010) also observed that success in business and entrepreneurship has no two ways but calls for one to have a positive attitude and confidence to believe that they are able to make a difference. The findings of this study also agrees with the UN Report (2013) on entrepreneurship which suggest that among other well recognized constraints to entrepreneurship, youth`s attitude plays an important role. Kounilsky (1995) emphasizes that perceptions and positive attitude about entrepreneurship are extremely important and set the foundation for becoming an entrepreneur. While the government provides the funds for YEDF, it should also ensure proper follow up is made and effort put in improving and boosting the youth`s attitude towards entrepreneurship.

4.12.3 Influence of group dynamics on accessibility of YEDF

The study revealed that group dynamics influence accessibility of YEDF. The youth are required to form groups in order to access the funds. The main factors under group dynamics identified as influencing accessibility of YEDF were difficulties in group formation, where 74% of the respondents indicated that it influences accessibility of YEDF. As observed by Heyer et al, (2003) groups have great potential in enabling members reach their goals. However, there are difficulties in group formation, due to diversity of interests and personality differences. Groups are fundamental to economic, social and political outcomes. It is in this realization that the government fashioned the YEDF to be accessed by youth in registered youth groups. Leadership problems and internal conflicts within the groups were also identified as influencing accessibility of YEDF, as indicated by 65% of the respondents in this study. This is because individuals in the groups have their interests and these must be in harmony with the interest of the group. These observations are in line with Forsyth, (2006), who holds that individuals in a group are connected to one another. These connections or bonds can however be broken with passage of time or occurrence of relationship damaging events. In accessing the YEDF, it is paramount for the group leadership to ensure internal conflicts are resolved and everyone is working together and in harmony. Leadership in a group is vital in keeping the group intact and avoids conflicts. Selfish interest will most likely hinder the group from realizing its goals. The study also identified the level of participation by the group members in decision making as influencing accessibility of YEDF with 72% of the respondents agreeing. Each group member needs to act voluntarily in the group`s interest, in order to realize the group`s goals, (Heyer et al, 2003).

4.12.4 Influence of disbursement procedures on the accessibility of YEDF

The results of the study showed that disbursement procedures influence accessibility of YEDF. The respondents indicated that 92% had applied for the funds and out of those, 75% had received the funds. However 29% of the respondents that had applied for the funds had applied more than once, but had received it once. This shows that it is not easy to access the funds. The factors identified under disbursement procedures as influencing accessibility of YEDF are application formalities as indicated by 61% of the respondents. Also, the duration taken in processing the application was identified as influencing accessibility of YEDF as shown by 66% of the respondents. Another factor is the repayment rules and procedures, where 67% of the respondents agreed that it influenced accessibility of YEDF. These findings are in agreement with Sieverding (2012), whose study revealed that accessibility of the youth funds by the youth remains a major challenge to them. According to Otuki (2014), the chairperson of the youth fund had indicated that it would take less than one month to process the funds applications. However, this may not be the picture on the ground, as some respondents (29%) had applied for the funds more than once before receiving it. However this observation according to Otuki, (2014) is an admission that disbursement procedures influence accessibility of the YEDF. According to Brosvik, (2010), access to capital was one of the major obstacles to entrepreneurial growth among the youth, and that the money obtained is usually insufficient for business development. This is in agreement with the findings of this study which showed that the funds obtained are between Kshs 25,000 and Kshs 50,000. These funds are insufficient considering the recipients are in groups. Some had applied more than once, which shows that even if they had received the funds, it was not sufficient.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the major findings of the study are highlighted and conclusions drawn from the study are made. In addition, the implications and policy recommendations derived from the study are made, and also areas of further study recommended.

5.2 Summary of findings

The study was intended at establishing the factors the influence accessibility of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund in Mirangine Sub County. It sought to establish the influence of youth training in financial management, the influence of youth`s attitude towards entrepreneurship, the influence of group dynamics and the influence of disbursement procedures on the accessibility of YEDF in Mirangine Sub County. The data was collected using questionnaires and analyzed using descriptive statistics and presented using frequency tables.

The study found out that the majority of the respondents, (88%) who constitute the youth groups are within the age bracket of 24-35 years, which is within the age bracket defined as youth. However, majority of the members, (74%) are males and females were few, (26%). Also most of the respondents (92%) had basic education of up to secondary level. Those with tertiary education were very few, (8%). It was also revealed that 69% agreed to have received some financial management training, mostly informally and through attendance to seminars on financial management. Acquisition of a certificate in financial management was indicated to influence accessibility of YEDF by 66% of the respondents and 25% of the respondents

indicated it does not influence. The study identified attendance to seminars as a factor influencing accessibility of YEDF as indicated by 79% of the respondents. Seminars were seen to be important to the youth to be trained on how to manage the funds received from YEDF. It was also realized that experience in financial management influence accessibility of YEDF, as indicated by the majority of the respondents (73%).

The study further sought to establish whether the youth's attitude towards entrepreneurship influence accessibility of YEDF. Most of the respondents (83%) have a positive attitude towards entrepreneurship. This implies they view entrepreneurship positively. Willingness to start own business was identified as influencing accessibility of the YEDF by the respondents, (68%). However, 21% disagreed. It was also noted that attempt to start a business influence accessibility of the YEDF. This was shown by 61% of the respondents who agreed while 20% of the respondents disagreed. Perception of the youth towards entrepreneurship was identified as influencing accessibility of YEDF, which was shown by 59% of the respondents.

The study also investigated the influence of group dynamics on the accessibility of YEDF. The indicators under investigation were difficulties in group formation, challenges in leadership and conflicts within the group, and the level of participation by members in decision making. It was revealed that majority of the respondents (74%), agreed that difficulties in group formation influences the accessibility of YEDF. Challenges in leadership and conflicts within the group were also identified by 65% of the respondents as influencing accessibility of YEDF, though 26% of the respondents disagreed. Majority of the respondents (72%) agreed that the level of participation by group members in decision making influence accessibility of YEDF.

The study also sought to establish the influence of disbursement procedures on the accessibility of YEDF. The respondents (61%) identified application procedures and formalities as influencing the accessibility of YEDF. The results also revealed that the duration taken to process the applications influence accessibility of YEDF. This was indicated by 66% of the respondents, though 31% disagreed. Most of the respondents (67%) also indicated that repayment rules and procedures influence accessibility of YEDF. However 26% disagreed.

The study further sought to find out how the respondents have attempted to access the funds. It was realized that 47% of the respondents had applied for the funds once, 67% were successful and 33% were not successful. 40% had applied for the funds twice and none had received the funds twice, 81% had received once and 19% had not received at all. There were also those who had applied thrice (5%). Out of those, 67% have only been successful once and 33% have not been successful at all. This meant that 92% of the respondents had applied for the funds and 73% had received the funds once regardless of the number of times they have applied for. In other words, none of the respondents had received the funds more than once. It was also revealed that the highest amount of money received was Kshs 50,000 by 61% of the respondents, 30% had received Kshs 47,500 and 9% got Kshs 25,000.

5.3 Conclusions

The government needs to be applauded for introducing the YEDF, which provides a cheaper way for the youth to access the funds they need for entrepreneurship. However this study has revealed that accessibility of these funds is influenced by training in financial management, the youth's attitude towards entrepreneurship, the group dynamics and the disbursement procedures. The duration taken to process the applications was also shown to influence accessibility of the YEDF

and also the funds are insufficient. The number of the registered youth groups in the study area was small and this lowers the number of youths accessing the funds. This means that training and information on group dynamics is important to help the youth access the funds. Most of the respondents had basic education of up to secondary level. This means that they only have basic knowledge on financial management which may not be adequate to manage a profitable enterprise. They may lack some pertinent knowledge and skills to engage profitably in entrepreneurship. The YEDF is a good idea, but it needs monitoring so that the bottlenecks to its success are identified and dealt with.

5.4 Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that training in financial management before and after the disbursement of the funds is necessary. This is because the target group which is the youth has only basic education, which may not be adequate in managing the funds received, bearing in mind that these funds are loans which have to be repaid. There is need to enlighten the youth more on all the new developments and all packages of the youth fund available in order to increase the number of youths accessing the funds. This is because the youth may not be aware that they could access the funds individually even if they belong to youth groups. The youth also needs to be helped to form youth groups and to sustain them. This was realized due to the small number of registered youth groups in the study area.

It is recommended that the application procedures to be made easier and more friendly for the youth. This is because some of the youth had to apply for the funds more than once and still some failed to access the same. The duration taken to process the applications needs to be made shorter to encourage more youths to apply and also the funds to be sufficient for their

needs. More sensitization is also required to encourage women to join the youth groups or even form their own groups. It was observed that the number of women in the youth groups was small.

5.5 Further research

The study suggests further study to be done on the following areas.

- 1) The factors influencing the formation of the youth groups. This will address the challenges the youth face in formation and maintaining groups.
- 2) The factors influencing women participation in the group activities and attainment of gender parity in the youth groups. This was suggested due to the low number of women in youth groups.
- 3) Further studies should also be done to assess the impact of the YEDF on the livelihood of the youths. This will help shed light on the successes of the fund in creating employment and improvement of livelihoods.

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Appendices

Appendix I: Transmittal letter

Daniel K. Ngechu,
University of Nairobi,
P.O Box 14682-20100,
Nakuru.

Dear Respondent,

Re: Request to participate in a research study

I am a final year student at University of Nairobi, and in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of M.A in Project Planning and Management, am conducting a survey on the factors that influence accessibility of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund in Mirangine Sub County.

You have been selected to participate in this study, as your views are considered important to this survey. Participation in this survey is voluntary and the information provided will be treated with utmost confidentiality and will only be used for the purpose of this survey only. Please do not write your name anywhere on the questionnaire and give as honest an answer as possible.

Thank you for your co-operation

Yours Faithfully,

Daniel Ngechu.

Appendix II: Questionnaire

Please do not write your name anywhere on this questionnaire. Read each question carefully and give your honest response. The information provided will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Use a tick (✓) where appropriate.

Part A; Background Information

1 Your age in years

(a) 18-23 []

(b) 24-29 []

(c) 30-35 []

2 Respondent`s gender

(a) Male []

(b) Female []

3 Highest level of education

(a) Post graduate []

(b) Undergraduate []

(c) Diploma []

(d) Certificate []

(e) Others (*please specify*).....

PART B; Training in financial management

4 Have you attended any course, seminar or received any training in financial management?

(a) Yes []

(b) No []

5 To what extent do you think training in financial management influence accessibility to Youth Enterprise Development Fund?

- (a) Very great extent []
- (b) Great extent []
- (c) Moderate extent []
- (d) Small extent []
- (e) Very small extent []

6 To what extent do the following influence accessibility to Youth Enterprise Development Fund? (*Tick (✓) where appropriate*)

	Very great extent	Great extent	Moderate extent	Small extent	Very small extent
Certificate acquired in financial management					
Attendance to seminars in financial management					
Experience in financial management					

PART C; Youths attitude towards entrepreneurship

7 Have you ever owned a business individually or in a group?

- (a) Yes []
- (b) No []

8 To what extent are you willing to start your own business?

- (a) Very great extent []
- (b) Great extent []
- (c) Moderate extent []
- (d) Small extent []
- (e) Very small extent []

9 What do you think is the opinion of the youth towards entrepreneurship?

- (a) Very positive []
- (b) Positive []
- (c) Not sure []
- (d) Negative []
- (e) Very negative []

10 To what extent do the following influence accessibility to Youth Enterprise Development Fund?

	Very great extent	Great extent	Moderate extent	Small extent	Very small extent
Willingness to start own business					
Attempt to start a business					
Perception of youth entrepreneurship					

PART D; Group formation dynamics

11 It is important for youth to belong to a youth group

- (a) Strongly agree []
- (b) Agree []
- (c) Not sure []
- (d) Disagree []
- (e) Strongly disagree []

12 To what extent do you agree with the following statements concerning the influence of group formation dynamics on the accessibility of Youth Enterprise Development Fund?

[5] Strongly agree [4] Agree [3] Not sure [2] Disagree [1] Strongly disagree

(Please tick (√) appropriately)

	5	4	3	2	1
Youths attitude towards groups influence accessibility to Youth Enterprise Development Fund					
Challenges in leadership and cohesion within a group influence accessibility to Youth Enterprise Development Fund					
Decision making process within a group influence the accessibility to Youth Enterprise Development Fund					
Difficulties in group formation influences accessibility to Youth Enterprise Development Fund					

PART E; Funds disbursement procedures

13 Have you applied for the Youth Enterprise Development Fund either individually or as a group?

(a) Yes []

(b) No []

14 To what extent do you agree with the following statements concerning the influence of the fund disbursement procedures on the accessibility of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund?

[5] Strongly agree [4] Agree [3] Not sure [2] Disagree [1] strongly disagree

(Please tick (✓) appropriately)

	5	4	3	2	1
Application formalities and procedures influence accessibility to Youth Enterprise Development Fund					
Duration taken to process the applications influence the accessibility of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund					
Repayment rules and conditions influence the accessibility of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund					

PART E; Accessibility of Youth Enterprise Development Fund

15 How many times have you applied for the youth enterprise development fund?

16 How many times have you been successful?

17 What is the total amount received?

Thank you for your participation.