

**FACTORS INFLUENCING ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY LEVELS AMONG
EDUCATED YOUTH: THE CASE OF MAKUENI COUNTY, KENYA.**

BY

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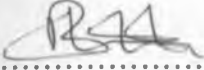
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DECLARATION

This project report is my original work and has not been presented for an award of a degree in any university.

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This project report has been submitted for review with my approval as a university supervisor.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my family, especially Jackson and Elizabeth for their continued and relentless support throughout the research period.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AYF	-	African Youth Foundation
FGD	-	Focus Group Discussion
GoK	-	Government of Kenya
ILFS	-	Integrated Labour Force Survey
ILO	-	International Labour Office
KCSE	-	Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education
KESSP	-	Kenya Education Sector Support Programme
KIHBS	-	Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey
KKV	-	Kazi Kwa Vijana
KNBS	-	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KNDP	-	Kenya National Development Plan
KNHDR	-	Kenya National Human Development Report
MGSD	-	Ministry of Gender and Social Development
MOYAS	-	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organization
NYC	-	National Youth Council
NYP	-	National Youth Policy
SSA	-	Sub-Saharan Africa
TIVET	-	Technical Industrial Vocational Education and Training
WEDF	-	Women Enterprise Development Fund
YEDF	-	Youth Enterprise Development Fund
YEP	-	Youth Empowerment Programme

ABSTRACT

This study sought to assess the influence of the factors that have contributed to the economic dependency among the educated youth in Makueni County. Survey design was employed in this study which endeavored to establish the underlying factors in the ever persistent socio-economic dependency among especially the educated youth, i.e., those who have attained the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education certificate and above. A sample constituting 108 youth aged 20-35 years was drawn from three randomly selected districts in Makueni County. Relevant stakeholders in the youth development sector were also interviewed. Quantitative data was captured from primary sources including, questionnaires, focus group discussions and key informants and secondary sources like desk reviews and internet. The data was edited, coded and eventually subjected to descriptive analysis, using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Qualitative data, obtained from focus discussion groups (FDG) and key informants (KI) was also analyzed and used to back-up survey data. The study findings were meant for all sectors of economy focusing on youth development besides other developmental areas.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the study

The youth transition is one of the key phases in the life cycle. It encompasses the transition from childhood to adulthood, from school to work. It involves developing responsibilities and choosing pathways and carries particular opportunities and risks. The understanding of young people as persons on the verge of moving out of home, becoming more independent and making autonomous decisions is not necessarily true for different communities for whom growing up might stand for increasing interdependence within the family. Some young people often carry additional responsibilities such as financial assistance and advocacy and care for other family members (Bennell, 2000).

In many African societies, the concept of youth has been understood and used differently by different governments, non-governmental organizations(NGO's) and the public in general (Mkandawire,1996). Sociologically, 'Youth' denotes an interface between childhood and adulthood. However, in many African societies, especially rural Africa, the status of adulthood is largely determined by the capacity to sustain a legal marriage. In Mali, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Guinea and Senegal "adulthood" is defined as the capacity to sustain a marriage (Abdullah, 1999).

Youth as a social group are defined in terms of age. Thus, the spectrum of youth has been variously defined as ranging from the ages of 10 or 11 years (as in some cultural traditions in Africa) to as high as 35 years (as in Kenya and South Africa). In most African countries, the tendency to extend the category of youth to 30 years and beyond seems to be a reflection of the emerging phenomenon of prolonged period of youth dependency. In Sierra Leone, for instance, young people have coined a neologism of 'youth man' to describe their status or

anyone who has gone beyond the age customarily associated with 'youth' (Abdullah, 1999). This is a reflection of the inability of many young people to pursue independent or sustainable livelihoods as a consequence of the depressed or stagnant economic situation in contemporary Africa. The youth in contemporary Africa involves a complex set and often a continuum of problems, with a range of characteristics and behaviors that cut across age segments in different social contexts.

Youth accounted for about 20%, 29% and 36% of the population in developed countries, developing and least developed countries respectively at the start of this millenium. In the first decade of this millennium, the Africa labour force was expected to increase to some 16 million and to 25 million by 2015 (Chigunta, 2001). According to the UN, most of the new labour force entrants will be youth grappling with the problem of unemployment. The inability of the African states to provide for young people has led to a situation where the urban youth are not only caught up in economic crises that have blighted most Sub-Saharan Africa(SSA) countries, but are also going through a process of what is described as a process of social dislocation. This results in a loss of basic traditional values that young people in Africa received from their elders and parents (Mkandawire, 1996).

The World Development Report (2007) recognized the challenges posed by the unpredicted bulge in the youth population in developing countries, but also the fact that the same could be a positive force for development. The report noted that the key is to keep the right policy interventions focused on the crucial capabilities and transitions in a young persons' life: learning for life and work, staying healthy, working, forming families and exercising citizenship.

The youth according to the Kenya National youth policy act 2009 are people aged between 18 and 35 years. These include young women and men in learning institutions, work places, unemployed youth, physically challenged and vulnerable youth.

Research and public discourse on youth and adolescence have for a long time concentrated on problem behaviours of young people, portraying them as generally deviant from society's expectations and a social problem that need fixing (Bennell, 2000). A certain perspective today is that young people have never had so many opportunities for their development. Focusing on young people's capacities and well-being instead promises a more fruitful alternative, since it allows addressing the challenges and disadvantages that young people face more than others.

Few countries have had accurate data on young people's needs including unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, unemployment, lack of access to education or gender equality in access to opportunities (McMichael, 2004). In focusing on the needs of young people, youth policies should target groups like young women, youths with disabilities, unemployed youth, out of school youth, youth in rural areas and youth at risk. The policies should support key interventions that will provide for holistic development of the youth along four pillars, that is education, health and well being, economic participation and social cohesion. This will encourage the inclusion and active participation of young people in decision-making processes, policy, programme and project implementation. Therefore, the government in partnership with different development partners must ensure that all young people especially in marginalized communities, access opportunities that enable them to grow, develop and prosper as fully engaged, responsive and productive citizens.

The African youth charter adopted in May 2006 and endorsed by AU heads of states is a political and legal document that serves as a strategic framework that gives direction to youth empowerment and development at continental, regional and national levels. It is in line with the efforts of the African Union (AU) that seek to provide an avenue for effective youth development (Chigunta, 2001).

The government of Kenya in 2005 mooted the idea of establishing a ministry (ministry of youth affairs and sports) that would tackle youth issues as one of the bold and radical interventions to address youth unemployment, marginalization and consequent dependence on relatives and well-wishers for survival. Since the establishment of the ministry of youth affairs and sports (MOYAS) in 2006, the government further proved its commitment to address youth issues by putting in place several other initiatives such as youth enterprise development fund (YEDF) in 2006, youth empowerment program (YEP) in 2009, subsidized youth polytechnic tuition (SYPT) introduced in 2007 and the National Youth Council (NYC) in 2011. These initiatives focused on the critical factors for positive youth outcomes which include the acquisition of wealth; access to education and training; access to labour markets; good personal and reproductive health; longevity of life; access to social services, opportunities and conditions (availability, knowledge, attitudes, access, utilization, perception). These were efforts to lift youth to a reasonable standard of living and reduce the dependency levels, apathy and vulnerability to certain risks.

Kenya's population has been characterized by a high proportion of young adults. This is partly as a result of improvements in healthcare services, which have created the right conditions for high population growth. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, the youth constitute about 32% of the Kenya's estimated forty million people making this group a vital component of the country's political, social and economic development (KNBS,

2009). Such a percentage of youth presents a 'youth bulge', and having a population that is skewed towards the young can be a challenge for a country (UNDP, 2010).

Makueni County consists of nine districts (covering six constituencies). According to the 2009 population and housing census, Makueni County had 884,527 people. The total number of youth stood at 224,335 which accounted for 25.4% of the total population (KNBS, 2010). Generally, youth development in Makueni County continued to face obstacles despite the numerous national resolutions to provide young people with opportunities for participating fully in all aspects of the society. Some of the saddening scenarios included among other things failure of majority of the youth to develop their livelihoods based on their talents and creativity; poor or lack of youth representation in most local socio-economic institutions; sex workers and illicit love affairs involving poor young women (youths) and the old and wealthy men as the young ladies sought alternative ways of earning a living leading to numerous cases of pre-marital pregnancies and out-of-wedlock children, which exacerbated the poverty situation.

The county had inadequate facilities and institutions for empowering and equipping the youth with skills for self-employment to help them lead self-sustaining lives. There were 25 polytechnics in the county (most of which lack modern equipment and thus employ archaic instructional methodologies) and two jua kali sheds which suffered from perpetual mismanagement by the governing authorities. Infrastructural facilities were poorly developed. For instance, electricity had been supplied only to headquarters of the various districts with only a few markets neighbouring the headquarters benefiting. Roads were also poorly developed, a situation that makes it rather tricky to transport agricultural produce from farms located in the interior of most districts. Water is an extremely scarce resource that is not only inadequate for irrigation but also for domestic consumption. The county is prone to frequent droughts that are normally experienced in the extensive lowlands which account for

almost 90% of the total area of land. Rainfall in this area ranged from 300mm to 400mm which was hardly enough to sustain any kind of crop and the only economic activity undertaken by the locals is small-scale livestock rearing. Drought was the major cause of poverty in the county. Many families loosed their livestock during prolonged drought. Funds which would otherwise be spend on gainful development activities were spent on relief food given to the people during periods of famine (Makueni District Development Plan 2008-2012). According to the District Development Plan for Makueni, drought and the cost of relief provision had impacted negatively on the efforts being made to reduce poverty in the county.

Besides the aforementioned initiatives, the government further deployed officers to grass root levels to help address youth issues. These officers also offer technical advice on enterprise development to existing and prospective young entrepreneurs in the various localities. Government efforts have been supplemented by the numerous non-governmental organizations (for profit and non-profit) operating in the area. However, the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) work with the community in general and not with specific age-sets. This worsens the situation of the most vulnerable in the community, especially the youth. Majority of the NGOs, including the World Vision, the Kenya Red-cross, World Food Programme (WFP), offer humanitarian assistance like relief food and also drill boreholes to help enhance access to potable water by the community. Food-for-assets and food-for-work are common programs in the county. Locals are subjected to work in their own farms for food and other materials. However, despite the initiatives and efforts made by the various players, the community had not been able to attain sustainable development and economic independence and the youth were the worst hit by the situation.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Recent statistics attest to the predicament facing young women and men in our nation. According to the Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS, 2005/06), the labour force stood at more than 40% of the total population. The unemployment rate was estimated at 40% of the labour force out of which 67% is youth. The majority of the unemployed youth had formal education but no skills or vocational training. Primary and secondary school graduates accounted for 82% of the unemployed and university graduates for 14%, as indicated in the employment marshal plan.

In the past, the government attempted to address youth unemployment in Kenya through policies, programs and projects. However, high youth population growth rate, low economic growth, poor education system that produces unequipped graduates, inadequate resources, structures and attitudes that fail to provide enabling environment for youth inclusion and lack of harmonization of youth programs and policies by the various stakeholders have derailed the process of implementing youth employment policies strategies and programs.

Despite the numerical strength of young people, they were not well-represented in the national, political, socio-economic, and development processes. The youth lacked the opportunity to earn decent and honest living and had resorted to weird and unhealthy ways of earning their livelihoods. The World Development Report (2007) revealed that some countries were unable to integrate young women and men in the labour market even the well educated youth cohorts. The report recognized the challenges posed by the unprecedented bulge in the youth population in developing countries, but also the fact that the same could be a positive force for development.

The Kenya Youth Parliament, a youth-led, youth-based organization was established (in 2003) with the aim of harnessing the creative and collective aspirations of the Kenyan youth to define a national youth agenda. The parliament also aims to shape and influence the direction and outcome of national debate and discourse on issues affecting the nation at large and young people in particular. It is currently involved in creating awareness among the youth on the Kenya Agenda Four reforms.

Makueni District Development Plan (2002-2008) revealed that majority of youth in Makueni county lack meaningful sources of livelihoods. Most young people in the area were poverty-stricken and dependency levels were high. Studies conducted in most developing countries indicated unemployment, high youth population growth rate, conflicts, poor economies, rurality, lack of access to resources and general youth exclusion as key factors contributing to youth poverty and resultant dependency.

Studies carried out in Kenya concerning youth challenges have only revealed the general issues without drawing the rural-urban dichotomy. The studies also failed to reflect regional differences in terms of resource endowment and youth development issues. Thus, no comprehensive study has been conducted in Makueni County to establish the root causes and the essence of the imposing youth poverty and socio-economic dependency, hence this initiative.

1.3 Purpose of the study

This survey sought to establish the prime factors that influence economic dependency levels among the educated youth in Makueni County. It aimed at identifying and analyzing the economic challenges facing the youth and suggesting possible measures to remedy the

situation. The study was also expected to provide stakeholders in the youth development sector with crucial information to help design appropriate programmes for youth development.

1.4 Objectives of the study

The study was guided by the following specific objectives:

- i. To establish the influence of entrepreneurial skills on dependency levels among youth in Makueni County.
- ii. To assess the influence of access to sources of funds for income generating activities on dependency levels among the youth in Makueni County.
- iii. To establish the influence of welfare provision (donations) on levels of dependency among youth in Makueni County.
- iv. To establish how unemployment influence dependency levels among the youth in Makueni County.

1.5 Research questions

- i. To what extent do entrepreneurial skills contribute to increased dependency levels among youth in Makueni County?
- ii. How does access to funds for income generating activities influence dependency levels among youth in Makueni County?
- iii. To what extent does reliance on welfare (donations) influence dependency levels among youth in Makueni County?

- iv. How does unemployment influence dependency levels among youth in Makueni County?

1.6 Significance of the study

Addressing youth challenges is critical if any economy aspires to progress. Youth in most economies constitute the majority of the labour force. Failure to empower and develop the youth therefore translates to stagnation in production and consequently to economic crisis. In this era of devolved government and resources, every devolved government (county) is expected to develop her economy. The value of existing human resource in every county is paramount if any economic growth is expected.

Based on the earlier provided statistics, it was evident that youth claimed a greater percentage of the local populace. This implied that the economy of Makueni County relied majorly on the contribution of the youth and thus their socio-economic status was vital for economic progress. Given the pathetic situation most of the youth found themselves in within the county, the county government and indeed all stakeholders were expected to institute measures to ensure youths are empowered and developed to participate in the county development processes and programmes.

The study would help establish the contributive factors for poverty and dependency among youths. It would also highlight the role of key players in youth transformation processes as well as suggest necessary intervention to enhance youth development in Makueni County. For the county development planners, the report from the study would also serve as a blue print for youth development. The study would also provide a point of reference for researchers regarding causes of youth dependency in the county.

1.7 Assumption of the study

The study was carried out with the assumption that the respondents would be willing to participate and to volunteer needed information and that the information provided would be accurate, relevant and useful for the study. It was also expected that the objectives of the study would be met.

1.8 Limitations of the study

Though the study focused on the youth in Makueni County, scope and finances were expected to be a hindrance to comprehensive and effective study. The study was limited to examining the economic factors influencing dependency among the youth and may have failed to explore other contributive factors. The survey was also targeting youth aged 20-35 and therefore some socio-economic issues, concerns and factors in other age cohorts may not have been reflected in the study. Makueni County is also vast and some areas are covered by rugged hills and thus devoid of good road network. Therefore, the distances and the rough terrain were expected to hamper access to key respondents.

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1.9 Delimitations of the study

The study was carried out in three of the nine districts forming Makueni County, namely; Kathonzwani, Wote and Makindu. 108 randomly selected youths aged 20 to 35 years and holding a K.C.S.E. certificate and above were targeted during the study. This lessened the enormity of the challenge of distance covered and number of respondents interviewed.

1.10 Definition of key terms

Age Dependency Ratio: This is the ratio of the population considered dependent (aged below 15 years or 65 years and above) to the working age population (aged 15 to 64 years).

Economic Dependency: A state of relying on another person, organization or government for monetary or material support without which one would hardly survive.

Entrepreneurial skills: Is the ability of an individual to exploit an idea and create an Enterprise (small or big) not only for personal gain but also for Social and developmental gain.

Income Generating Activities: Are those productive activities undertaken by people in communities to gain or increase income.

Marginalization: Is the social process of becoming or being made marginal or neglected to the fringe of society. Marginalization at individual level results in an individual's exclusion from meaningful participation in society

Poverty: Is the state of a community lacking a certain amount of material possession or money.

Sustainable development: Is development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs.

Youth: According to the Kenya National Youth Policy Act 2009, a youth is a person aged between 18-35 years.

Youth development: Is the ongoing growth process in which all youths are engaged in attempting to meet their basic personal and social needs to be safe, feel cared for, be valued,

be useful and be spiritually grounded and to build skills and competencies that allow them to function and contribute to their daily lives.

Youth empowerment: Is an attitudinal, structural and cultural process whereby young people gain the ability, authority and agency to make decisions and implement change in their own lives and lives of other people including youth and adults.

Underemployment: Is a situation in which a worker is employed, but not in the desired capacity, whether in terms of compensation, hours or level of skill and experience. While not technically unemployed, the underemployed are often competing for available jobs.

Unemployment: This is also referred to as joblessness- it is an economic condition marked by the fact that individuals actively seeking jobs remain unhired. Unemployment is expressed as a percentage of the total available work force.

Welfare: These are benefits distributed to impoverished persons by government, NGOs or well-wishers to enable them to maintain a minimum standard of well-being. It is given in the form of money or necessities for those in need or poverty-stricken.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

Available literature on socio-economic issues acknowledged the fact that many young people in the global society were still experiencing numerous challenges in their transition from the shelter of their parents to independent lives. This literature review sought to identify the various socio-economic factors that influenced increased dependency levels among the youth. Each factor was treated to a detailed discussion showing its significance to the study. Though the review reflected on the global scenario, the study focused on the factors influencing increased socio-economic dependency among the youth in Makueni County. These are; lack of entrepreneurial skills, lack of access to resources, overreliance on welfare provision, gender disparities and unemployment.

2.2 Entrepreneurial skills

Since time immemorial, man has strived to improve his way and quality of life. The caveman discovered how to make and use tools, develop a logical sequence for activities and evolve processes that added value to his life. Egbogah (2007) notes that the totality of the use and application of the caveman's knowledge, skills, tools and materials constitute what we call innovation and technology today. Entrepreneurial skills help enhance wealth creation, quality of life, economic growth and also bring about transformation of the society.

Entrepreneurship training equips the individual with appropriate skills, abilities and competencies as means for the individual to live on and contribute to the development of the society (FGN, 2004). With the economy being more globalized than ever, it is important to

have a background and a skill set that allows one to become immersed in the global economy right from graduation (Cote, 2007). It is important for these students or graduates to have skills in technological innovation and entrepreneurship to be ready to fit into the global market place on which today's economy depends on.

In order to effectively enhance occupational skills in the present day, entrepreneurs need also to acquire information and communication technology, knowledge and skills. According to Mkposi (1996), a country that is developing and manufacturing its own goods either from Hi-Tech or small/ medium scale industries using indigenous skills and exports some of those goods to other countries is usually economically stable. This could be better achieved through the acquisition of entrepreneurial and occupational skills in Technology and vocational education. Individuals possessing these skills are likely to be self-reliant, self-employed and will fit properly into today's technical, entrepreneurial and business world.

Nwabuona (2004) views entrepreneurship education as the identification of the general characteristics of entrepreneurs and how potential entrepreneurs can be trained in management techniques needed for effective performance of persons for long time survival of personal economic ventures and organizations. Nwabuona identified entrepreneurial skills to include managerial or administrative skills, job/ technical skills, human relations skills, innovative/ enterprising skills, competitive skills, communication skills, conceptual/ planning skills, supervisory/ guidance skills, investigation/ problem solving skills. Ohakwe (2003) tops up this list of skills with bank transaction skills, internet concepts and skills, internet websites knowledge and skills.

The community development approach through community visioning, planning, and especially community investment is central to efforts to turn around distressed area and places where poverty is rampant. Focus should be on the cycle by which education and

employment at the community and individual level interact to create a spiral of disinvestment and decline, while in advancing communities the same factors contributed to growth and well being.

The situation was worse for youth groups at the lower end of the socio-economic ladder including poor rural youth who were marginalized due to barriers to educational attainment and participation in Technical Industrial Vocational Education and Training (TIVET). Those marginalized rural youth had greater exposure to various risks and were endowed with fewer assets and capacities.

Projects aimed at helping youth groups in initializing the credit/loan to develop and expand small micro enterprises into sustainable job growth were necessary. Support should focus on helping youth groups, poor and non-poor, rural and urban, illiterate and literate females and males in turning small livelihood activities into small businesses/ job creation opportunities for themselves and other unemployed job seekers.

The Egypt job readiness and job placement for marginalized youth project created strong impetus for youth entrepreneurship and job creation among marginalized youth and also reduced the risk of emigration to cities and abroad. In the East Asia and Pacific regions, youth programs were tailored to the particular youth issues faced by each country and therefore varied considerably in scope, ranging from communications and outreach functions operationalizing the youth agenda through leading and analytical work. Focus areas included skills development and training, employment, community development, social and political empowerment, capacity building for youth organizations. Each country program was being implemented in close collaboration with youth organizations and associations, government agencies, local universities and a range of civil society partners (Chigunta,2001).

In the Pacific sub-region, young people shared a number of common development challenges: poor educational commitment, access and attainment, steady rural-to-urban migration, a breakdown of traditional systems of social support, a lack of economic competitiveness, high levels of unemployment, poor human development outcomes and a strong perception that the public system is not fair and fails to address their concerns. Young people also suffered from alienation and had virtually no role in many areas of social and political life and the failure of the labour market to absorb them exposed them to numerous risks and vices, including organizing crime and violence and civil unrest, evidenced by youth involvement in the tensions and militaristic violence (Yoshimoto,2002).

Many Kenyan youth lacked the skills and experience to successfully compete for jobs or start their own businesses. The shortage of both a skilled, confident work-force, and the education infrastructure to fuel that work-force are among the critical constraints to economic diversification and the achievement of broad-based economic growth in Kenya (KNHDR, 2009).

Most women lacked entrepreneurship skills and had no idea how to successfully run an enterprise. This rendered them economically handicapped and without the means to educate themselves on business practices. Other women simply lacked the capital to finance their projects while still others were blocked from economic activity by lack of market access. For example, Maasai women are renowned for their expertise in making beautiful beadwork. However, they ended up selling them in already saturated market due to their lack of marketing skills (Gatwiri, 2010).

The two most binding constraints to small business success were inadequate business development skills and poor access to credit by the youth. The lack of business skills was aggravated by inadequate experience in the work environment. Most youth who intended to

go into business had inadequate or no skills to identify the appropriate business lines to invest in and effective product development and marketing.

However, work-related volunteer positions, internships and apprenticeship enabled the youth to build networks by providing them with an opportunity to strengthen their professional experience. This made them more competitive in the market place and gave them the opportunity to be responsible individuals in the community.

The government of Kenya (GOK) had in the recent past embarked on a serious entrepreneurship enhancement programme. Some of the notable milestones achieved were among other things, the establishment of cheap credit to the youth and women through the Youth Enterprise Fund (YEDF) in 2006 and the Women Enterprise Fund (WEDF) in 2009. As one of the components of the economic stimulus programme, the YEDF and WEDF promised to transform the micro and small enterprise sector landscape with both the youth and women (segments of the Kenyan population which had earlier been discriminated economically) finding an avenue into the sector. A substantial number of youths had benefited from the funds (as shown in Table 2.1 below) and their enterprises were already generating significantly to the Kenyan economy. The GoK also initiated entrepreneurship training course in vocational training institutes and youth polytechnics. The Technical Industrial Vocational Education and Training (TIVET) component of the Kenya Education Sector Support Programme (KSSP) enhances hands-on youth education and training for developing self-reliance and entrepreneurship. These among other initiatives were meant to transform the micro and small enterprises sector.

Table 2.1: Youths who have benefited from Youth Enterprise Fund in each province.

	Nairobi	Central	Rift	Nyanza	Western	Eastern	N. Eastern	Coast
			Valley					
Males	3226	6779	4399	2081	1567	6049	471	1572
Females	2471	6078	8447	3623	3210	6220	188	4388
Totals	5696	12887	12846	5704	4768	12269	659	5960

Source: YEDF 2011

2.3 Access to resources

The new youth employment project would further build credentials of these young people and help put in a mechanism whereby even the poorest youth could secure financial assistance and training required to secure a sustainable livelihood.

Micro finance has evolved into a very powerful tool to lift people out of poverty by providing them with access to savings credit and other financial services. By stimulating self-employment, it replaces welfare-oriented programs and provides young people with valuable entrepreneurial skills that can help them improve the life prospects considerably.

The African Youth Foundation (AYF) a non-profit development organization based in Bonn, Germany had been at the forefront in promotion of awareness, building of skills and experiences of the disadvantaged young people in Africa and the Diaspora to effect positive social changes. It was established in 2000 to aid young African people in the Diaspora and in Africa, as well as Europeans with African descent, to undertake projects which will enable them obtain skills necessary for their future livelihoods. The organization specializes in training business institutions. It also promoted self awareness, researches development conditions in African countries, analyses favorable conditions for development and participation of the youth in a full social and secured life.

The World Bank and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) together with the ministries of state for family and population in Egypt embarked on joint project that adopted a holistic approach to tackling youth unemployment and endeavoured to provide marginalized youth an integrated package of financial and non-financial services in both rural and urban areas through access to credits and loans. The ministry embarked on a comprehensive and a unique youth employment program as means to empower families and younger generation towards self sustainability.

Providing financial services and job training, developing institutions, alliances and networks for youth to advance their economic interests, promoting policy and social changes that improve young people's livelihood prospects are critical in improving the livelihood of the young people. Training aspects such as risk management, planning and marketing are professional skills that might have important spillover effects to young people's private and public life, resulting in more responsible behavior towards their families and local communities.

2.4 Reliance on welfare provision

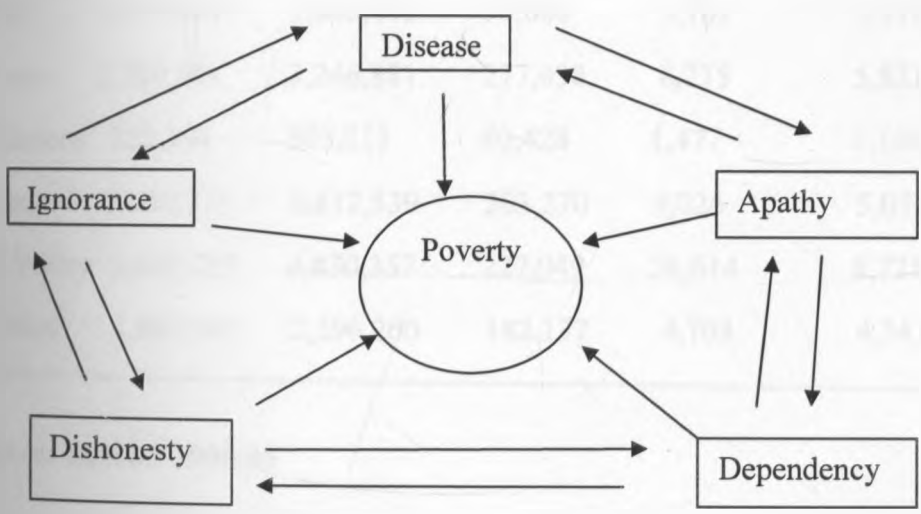
Poverty as a social problem is a deeply embedded wound that permeates every dimension of culture and society. It includes sustained low levels of income for members of a community. It includes a lack of access to services like education, markets, health care, lack of decision making ability, and lack of communal facilities like water, sanitation, roads, transportation and communications. Communities tend to believe in and share despair, hopelessness, apathy and timidity. Poverty is a social problem and calls for a social solution, i.e., clear, conscious and deliberate removal of the factors of poverty.

It is well known that many nations of Europe faced by devastating wars, such as World War I and II, were reduced to bare poverty, where people were reduced to living on handouts and

charity, barely surviving. Within decades they had brought themselves up in terms of real domestic income, to become thriving and influential modern nations of prosperous people. We know also that many other nations have remained among the least developed on the planet, even though billions of dollars of so-called “aid” money was spent on them.

According to the Phil Bartle’s model (Figure 1), factors of poverty (as a social problem) include ignorance, disease, apathy, dishonesty and dependency. These contribute to other factors such as lack of markets, poor infrastructure, poor leadership, bad governance, under-employment, lack of skills, absenteeism, lack of capital and others. All these contribute to the perpetuation of poverty and their eradication is necessary for the removal of poverty.

Figure 1: Phil Bartle’s model



Source: Phil Bartle

Dependency results from being on the receiving end of charity. It is an attitude, a belief, that one is so poor, so helpless, that one cannot help one’s self, that a group cannot help itself; and can only depend on assistance from outside. This becomes the biggest self justifying factor in perpetuating the condition where the self or group must depend on help from outside. Overly, the dependency rate in Kenya declined from 85.4 per cent reported during the 1998/99

Integrated labour force survey(ILFS) to 76.8 per cent in 2005/06 (KIHBS,2005/06). Rural areas recorded a higher dependency rate compared to urban areas as shown in Table 2.2.

Table 2.2 Age dependency ratio of the population by region.

Region						Dependency ratio
	Under 14	15 – 64	Over 64	Not stated	Total	
Kenya	14,115,469	20,049,262	1,283,437	66,374	35,514,542	76.8
Rural	10,996,021	14,357,776	1,153,606	41,317	26,548,720	84.6
Urban	3,119,448	5,691,486	129,831	25,056	8,965,822	57.1
Province						
Nairobi	909,314	1,858,229	30,466	9,147	2,807,155	50.6
Central	1,506,635	2,634,233	233,042	4,006	4,377,915	66.0
Coast	1,317,867	1,865,612	90,008	5,182	3,278,668	75.5
Eastern	2,289,501	3,246,881	277,038	8,215	5,821,635	79.0
N. Eastern	559,191	505,213	40,428	1,477	1,106,309	118.7
Nyanza	2,030,727	2,812,539	203,270	5,025	5,051,561	79.4
Rift Valley	3,642,227	4,830,357	227,049	28,614	8,728,247	80.1
Western	1,860,007	2,296,200	182,137	4,708	4,343,051	88.9

Source: KIHBS 2005/06

The protracted and deep-rooted economic crisis that has affected nearly every country in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has had a profoundly negative impact on the well being of the entire population in the region. However, young people growing up in the midst of the crisis have been particularly affected. During the early years of independence in the 1960s and 1970s, young people in Africa did not pose a serious problem. As a consequence, unemployed and

disadvantaged youth were not a major target for governments and funding agencies (Benell, 2000 Mulenga, 2000).

Since then however, concerns have been rising over the socio-economic situation of young people in much of SSA and the prospects of creating additional livelihoods opportunities for them (Mayor and Binde, 2001; Bennel 2000; curtain 2000; Grierson, 1997; Mkandawire, 1996; Sclinurr, 1998). The economic crisis experienced in SSA led to decline in the welfare of the states owing to a fall in real incomes and declining social sector expenditure per head (Basu and Stewart, 1995).

This fall in welfare, exacerbated by war, civil strife and environmental disasters, was manifest in general decline or reversals in major social indicators of progress as well as the widespread and deepening poverty in much of SSA. Several World Bank, IMF, UNDP and UNICEF reports showed that over 40 percent of the population of SSA were living in absolute poverty or on a purchasing power parity of less than 1 US Dollar per day. The implementation of economic reform programmes had in some cases also worsened the situation of people through closure of companies, civil service reforms and retrenchment of workers (Chigunta, 2001).

Awareness should always be used when a project is aimed at promoting self-reliance, otherwise the recipients will assume and expect that the project is coming just to provide resources for installing a facility or service in the community. If each member of a community made personal commitment to fight the factors of poverty at whatever station in life, then the sum total of all the members doing it, and the multiplier effect of their actions on others, would contribute to the decay of these factors, and the ultimate victory over poverty.

The number of earners in a household is one of the major determinants of the income level and the probability of falling below the poverty line. The key factor that determines whether a poor household shifts out of poverty or deeper in to poverty is the share of household income contributed by the second earner. Many large families in Pakistan depended on one earner (Qureshi and Arif, 2001) There tends to be a positive relationship between poverty and family size . Kazi et, al (2001) shows that poor families tend to be larger families

Makueni County had been a perpetual beneficiary of all the government and NGO relief programmes. The study sought to establish the underlying factors for the continued reliance on relief by residents of Makueni County and possibly suggest lasting solutions to counter the trend.

2.5 Unemployment

Generating productive and remunerative employment is the most effective means of reducing poverty (Parshaand and Palanivel, 2003). However, concentration of workers in the low paid sector implies that employment alone may not provide a guaranteed means of escaping poverty.

In many countries youth faced significant difficulties in their transition to work. Some began working too early, others could not enter the work force, and still others got stuck in low productivity work. Some countries were unable to integrate young men and women in the labour market even the better educated youth cohorts (World Development Report, 2007). According to the report, developing countries which invest in better education, health care, and job training for their young people could produce surging economic growth and sharply reduced poverty.

With more than 1.3 billion young people living in the developing world – the largest ever youth group in history, the report said there had never been a better time to invest in youth because they are healthier and better educated than previous generations, and they would join the workforce with fewer dependants because of changing demographics (WBR 2007). However, failure to seize this opportunity to train them more effectively for the work place, and to be active citizens, could lead to widespread disillusionment and social tensions.

Such large numbers of young people living in developing countries presented great opportunities, but also risks as Francois Bourquignoy (the World Bank's chief economist and senior vice president for development economics) put it. The opportunities are great, as many countries would have a larger, more skilled labour force and fewer dependants but these young people must be well prepared in order to create and find good jobs.

The World Development Report 2007 revealed that young people constituted almost half of world's unemployed. The International Labour Office (ILO) estimated that some 88 million young women and men were unemployed throughout the world, accounting for 47% of all the 186 million unemployed persons globally.

Many more young people worked long hours for low pay, struggling to make a living in the informal economy. There were an estimated 59 million young people between 15 and 17 years of age who were engaged in hazardous forms of work. Young people actively seeking to participate in the labour market were two to three times more likely than older generations to find themselves unemployed (Yoshimoto, 2002).

One billion people were to become of working age within the decade (Yoshimoto, 2002).

While rapid globalization and technological change offered new opportunities for productive work and incomes for the lucky few, for many working age young people, these trends increased the vulnerability inherent in the transition from childhood to adulthood. Across the

planet, millions of young women and men were failing to gain an entry into the work force, and the disadvantage suffered by young women was greater. The vast majority of jobs available to youth were low paid, insecure and had few benefits or prospects for advancement. Youth unemployment can lead to marginalization, exclusion, frustration, low self-esteem and sometimes behavior that impose a burden in the society. Youth employment is both integral part of the millennium declaration and a key contribution to meeting other millennium goals, including those relating to poverty reduction.

Young people are asking that their voices be heard, that their issues be addressed, and that their roles be recognized. Rather than being seen as a target group for which employment must be found, they want to be accepted as partners for development, helping to chart a common course and shaping the future for everyone. The expected inflow of young people into labour market, rather than being viewed as problem, should be recognized as an enormous opportunity and potential for economic and social development. Young people as such should be viewed as an asset, not a threat. In relation to the job market, young people are the solution, while the unemployment is the problem, not vice versa.

With young people particularly at risk of being unemployed and with the negative consequences that this lack of employment and regular income may entail, national youth policies must give considerations to employment issues, just as national employment policies must give particular consideration to youth employment and lack hereof.

Spain has been one of the European countries with the highest proportion of individuals in the working-age population not at work, either because of unemployment or inactivity. It was also the country with highest rate of precarious employment. Unemployment and temporally employment were largely concentrated among the youth. In 1994 youth (below 30years of

age) unemployment rate was 38.9% and those temporarily employed constituted more than 60% of the total youth employed (Cant'o-S'anchez, 1998).

Unsurprisingly, the majority of the Spanish youth lived with their parents. The lack of stable jobs among young men in Spain was an important factor forcing many young people to delay their marriage and childbearing. The family was seen as the main institution defending its members against adverse overall economic and labour market conditions (Sven, 1998). A stable job, access to adequate housing, leaving the parental household and marriage tended to be closely intertwined events and youth would receive protection from their families until they leave for good. The cost of the increased youth dependency is that it had gone in line with having very low portion of youth engaged in their own family life, a fact that had to be related to the very low fertility levels found in southern European countries. A similar scenario is experienced in the Kenyan society whereby majority of the youth delay their marriage until they stabilize economically as witnessed by the statistics in Tables 2.3 and 2.4 below.

Table 2.3. Marital status of male youth of population aged 12 years and above by sex.

Marital Status	Age Group							
	12-17		18-34		35+		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Male Monogamous	6994	0.3	1,691,403	33.2	2,902,172	74.8	4,600,539	39.1
Polygamous	543	0.0	84,520	1.7	522,999	13.5	608,062	5.2
Living together	1060	0.0	44,611	0.9	38,202	1.0	83,873	0.7
Separated	3413	0.1	61,467	1.2	79,606	2.1	144,486	1.2
Divorced			13,903	0.3	40,536	1.0	54,439	0.5
Widow or Widower			16,860	0.3	146,662	3.8	163,522	1.4
Never Married	2,750,462	99.0	3,133,705	61.5	120,386	3.1	6,004,553	51.1
Not Stated	16,248	0.6	51,927	1.0	26,822	0.7	94,996	0.8
Total	2,778,690	100	5,098,394	100	100	100	100	100

Source: KIHBS 2005/06

Table 2.4. Marital status of female youth of population aged 12 years and above by sex.

Marital Status	Age Group							
	12-17		18-34		35+		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Female Monogamous	53,469	1.9	2,530,555	46.9	2,184,743	53.1	4,768,676	38.5
Polygamous	6,060	0.2	258,058	4.8	446,657	10.9	710,774	5.7
Living together	518	0.0	58,028	1.1	22,333	0.5	80,879	0.7
Separated	6,132	0.2	170,408	3.2	132,765	3.2	309,305	2.5
Divorced	324	0.0	62,028	1.1	80,699	2.0	143,050	1.2
Widow or Widower	268	0.0	100,953	1.9	1,065,656	25.9	1,166,877	9.4
Never Married	2,794,267	97.1	2,166,888	40.1	166,727	4.1	5,127,882	41.4
Not Stated	17,883	0.6	54,055	1.0	16,623	0.4	88,560	0.7
Total	2,878,920	100.0	5,400,972	100.0	4,116,203	100.0	12,396,095	

Source: KIHBS 2005/06

However some researchers established that, youth living in relatively well off households might be in a better situation to delay their departure from their parents home. Sven (1998) suggests that there is a positive correlation between the educational attainment of a youth and his/her social-economic background and the age he/she leaves their parental home. He observed that, poverty is generally lower when the head of household is at work and higher for households in which the head is not employed. It is also lower when the youth is employed than when he/she is out of work.

Both unemployment and inactivity at young ages appears to be a burden for the rest of family members, increasing their economic vulnerability. The employment status of both the household head and the youth are key determinants of children's and youth poverty status. Youth employment is as effective as the househead's employment as a poverty relief for children. However, it is important to note that presence of dependent youth in households

with a non-employed head has no effect on the household's probability of falling into poverty while if some of the youths were employed the probability of becoming poor reduces significantly.

Abolition of the youth minimum wage in some countries like Australia and New Zealand (as shown in their minimum wage amendment bill of 2008) placed young people out of the job market. Many young people were just starting out on their career, majority searching for their first job. Their lack of training and experience meant that they had few skills. Youths were forced to compete with adults who had had a lot more time to gain experience and who had more skills. It is obvious that the situation created enhanced youth unemployment. However, opponents of this bill noted that paying young people less to get them into their first job only led to a youth with unskilled future. Young people ought to get into training and skills so that they do not just go for the lowest-paid job they possibly can. That way, a country can make the dynamic change in their economic base that will give her the growth potential needed. To create an economy that has a strong and successful workforce, young people need to get the best skills they can, at the youngest age they can. Easy temporally employment would only provide some financial gain at an early age, but will not deliver long-term benefits for the youth.

The most difficult and harrowing situation for students leaving schools, universities or polytechnics has been achieving that first start in the employment cycle, or for someone who has lost his/her job, find that next job. That nightmare has been brought about partly by the nature of our economic position, which is partly caused by world circumstances, but also because of the need for a stronger and more vibrant economy that can deliver opportunities for young people going forward. This way the youth can see a future in training and in employment so that they can achieve personal growth and the desire that comes with getting a job.

Investing in young people in social and economic policy is an asset of today and tomorrow. Giving young people decent employment is the most effective social policy measure and results in payoffs in terms of economic growth and poverty reduction. It also reduces cost in terms of foregone productivity and direct expenditure to remedy risky behavior that may occur at a later stage as a result of social exclusion, marginalization and disaffection.

Various studies on unemployment problem in Kenya show that this emanates mainly from demographic and inadequate economic growth rate to accommodate the growing labour force. The 1982/83 unemployment report (Wanjigi Report) reinforced the findings of the ILO 1972 Mission's Report on unemployment in Kenya that the problem of unemployment was basically one of lack of access to income earning opportunities on one hand and underemployment and low returns of labour on the other. Job selectivity, especially among school leavers, skills imbalance in the labour market and inappropriate technological applications and failure to institute employment intensive development programmes were among other identified causes of unemployment.

According to the Ndengwa Report on Development and Employment in Kenya, between 1977/78 and 1988, there was little (0.3 per cent of the rural labour force) open unemployment in the rural areas. However, the number of the unemployed in the urban areas rose from about 140,000 to 258,000 with a constant unemployment rate of about 16 per cent of the urban labour force. The Integrated Labour Force Survey of 1998/99 showed that the rate of unemployment in the rural areas had risen to 9.4 per cent compared to 25.4 per cent in the rural areas. It is observed that unemployment has been predominantly a problem of the youth and has grown, creeping up the education ladder from primary school leavers in the 1970s and 1980s, and now to persons with university level of education. Unemployment was also acute among women more so those in the rural areas.

The overall unemployment rate was 12.7 per cent with that of females being higher at 14.3 per cent compared to 11.2 of the males. Unemployment rates were highest 25.0 per cent at the age group 15-19 declining progressively with the rise in age groups. The table below presents unemployment rates by age and sex for the population age group 15-34 (KIHBS, 2005/06).

Table 2.5. Youth Unemployment rates in Kenya by age group and sex.

Age Groups	Rural			Urban			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
15 - 19	18.2	21.1	19.6	42.3	47.8	45.5	22.4	27.7	25.0
20 - 24	16.8	20.3	18.6	30.1	40.8	35.8	21.0	27.3	24.2
25 - 29	11.1	12.1	11.6	17.3	29.1	22.8	13.5	17.9	15.7
30 - 34	5.6	7.2	6.4	6.8	14.3	9.8	6.1	9.2	7.5

Source: KIHBS 2005/06

Also, the survey revealed that unemployment rate for those with primary education stood at 12.3 per cent, those with secondary education at 13.9 while for those with university education stood at 7.5 per cent. For job-seekers with vocational training, unemployment rate was higher for those who had vocational training in commercial colleges at 13.2 per cent compared to 7.1 and 9.4 per cent for government colleges and youth polytechnics as shown in Table 2.6 below.

Table 2.6. Unemployment rates by highest level of education and educational attainment

Educational Attainment	Male	Female	Total
Primary	11.2	13.3	12.3
Secondary	10.6	18.3	13.9
University	5.6	12.2	7.5
None	6.7	-	2.9
Other	2.5	7.0	4.4
Not stated	15.0	11.5	12.9
Total	11.2	14.3	12.7

Source: KIHBS 2005/06

Also inherent in the labour market was underemployment. People were compelled to be without work, to work for shorter hours, or to work in lower skilled or in less productive economic units, thus reducing their income below the level they might normally be able to earn. Also, workers in the informal sector were in the same situation when they were willing and able to work more productively than they were doing, also referred to as “disguised unemployment”.

From 1990 to date, unemployment and poverty remain the two twin development challenges that have to be addressed through formulation and implementation of policies and programmes. The government launched the Kazi Kwa Vijana (KKV) under the Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP) in March 2009 to tackle the twin problems of hunger and unemployment. Some of the KKV projects, particularly those involving irrigation and water were also intended to enhance food production in areas affected by drought. The Kenya National Development Report (KNDR, 2009) revealed that by end of September 2009, 296,000 youths aged between 18 and 35 years had been employed. The youth were expected

to utilize some of their earnings from this programme to start their own businesses. The challenge was to shift KKV from an emergency initiative to a long-term programme that sustainably tackles youth unemployment problems.

2.6 Theoretical framework

The following discussion gives a theoretical background of the subject of poverty exploring the causes and possible remedial measures to curb it.

2.6.1 Dependency theory (and gender relations)

Dependency theorists were concerned with the causes of underdevelopment in developing countries and generally attributed the falling behind of the developing countries to the dynamic contradictory growth of the world capitalist system. Their notion is that underdevelopment resulted from the same world historical process by which advanced capitalist countries become developed. Thus, the development of Europe was based on external destructions; brutal conquest, colonial control and the stripping of non-western societies of their resources and surpluses (Martinussen,1997). Hence, it is the dependency of developing countries on the developed countries that created underdevelopment in the developing countries, and development in the developed ones (Arku and Arku, 2009).

Several strands of dependency theories can be identified as follows:

The structuralists perceived unemployment as a consequence structural condition. According to them, unemployment was a reflection of economic underdevelopment and thus, a problem that could be solved only through structural transformation. They paid particular attention to the barriers that obstructed structural change, which contrast with the growth and modernization theories, which emphasized lack of capital as the major reason for economic

stagnation. The structuralists were more interested in the underlying reasons for the lack of capital for financing industrialization, which they regarded as the principal pathway to development (Hettne, 1995).

Neo-Marxist dependency theorists, like the structuralists, objected the view that imperialism and its contemporarily forms favour developing countries. According to them underdevelopment is caused mainly by class relations and their impact on the utilization of economic surplus (Peet and Hartwick 1999). They also noted that land rent, interest on credit and profits from trade within peripheral countries were appropriated by the economically dominant class who had no real interest in promoting industrialization and its accompanying transformation in the peripheral economies, since that would threaten their access to the traditional sources of economic surplus (Baran,1957). This relationship exists in the rural regions of the peripheral countries, which are linked to the urban regions (Gunder, 1992).

Viewed against the backdrop of gender relations especially in rural societies, dependency theory helps understand the trade scenario within household; a dependent relationship where men principally engage in productive work and trade their goods and services with the reproductive ones that women do. What makes the trade unequal is the value of the products that they exchange. While services that women trade on are considered primary with little or no value men's wares attracted 'greater value' (Arku and Arku, 2005). Peet and Hartwick (1999) wondered why women perform two-thirds of the world's working hours yet own only one hundredth of the world's property. The situation within household is also unfavorable because some of the women's work does not yield tangible, tradable products. Thus, women are incapable of earning incomes commensurate with their long working hours. The little they gain from their activities oftenly is re-used to purchase food, clothing and other household needs (Arku and Arku 2005).

Consequently, men who get greater value for their wares are in a better position to purchase land, capital and consequently earn rent, interests and profits. The structuralists may attribute this skewed state of affairs to the unequal relationship, thereby necessitating fast industrialization' of the nation, in this case, of women. Arku and Arku (2005) observe that the development of the core (men) depends on the periphery (women) and the development of men (core) has caused the underdevelopment of women (periphery). Also, the fact that men who are often in leadership roles have little or no political will to promote gender equality agenda is an indication that men view women's development as a threat to theirs. This corresponds to Baran's view that the core (men) has no intention to develop the periphery (women) because of the related threat to gains. Women are viewed to be more reliable than men in routine assembly work. It is not surprising that patriarchal settings like Asia, central America and Middle eastern regions compete for foreign trade and encourage young women to enter the framework (Mc Michael, 2004).

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Women are said to be docile, work long hours and get paid below minimum wages and their wages are lower than men's (Vogel, 2004). Involving women as contributors of cheap labour, working long hours, lacking union rights, not only has implications for women's incomes, but also their workloads which prevent them from participating in decision-making processes that affect their own development (Prokorpy, 2004). Rural women's already deplorable situation is worsened as their labour is exploited and the environment depleted to their detriment. Women do two-thirds of the world's work, receive 10% of the world's income and own 1% of the means of production (Robbins, 1999). These factors contribute to women economic dependency.

2.6.2 Poverty theory

Authors tend to distinguish between theories that root the cause of poverty in individual deficiencies and those that lay the cause on broader social phenomena. Some tend to blame the victim, while others perceive it as an accident or as structure. The focus on individual attributes as the cause of poverty is misplaced and misdirected. Structural failings of the economic, political and social system are causes instead (Ranks, 2004).

Those who view victims of poverty as responsible for their poverty situation argue that with harder work and better choices, the poor could have avoided (and now can remedy) their problems. They ascribe poverty to lack of genetic qualities, such as intelligence. Religious doctrine that equated wealth with the favour of God was central to protestant reformation (Weber, 2001) and blind, crippled or deformed people were believed to be punished by God for either theirs or their parent's sins. Rainwater (1970) notes that individualistic theorists perceive the poor as afflicted with the mark of Cain. They are meant to suffer, indeed must suffer, because of their moral failings. They live in a deserved hell on earth. The core premise of this dominant paradigm for the study of the conditions leading to poverty is that individuals seek to maximize their own well being by making choices and investments, and that they seek to maximize their well being.

The economic theory depicts the poor as lacking incentives for improving their own conditions; it blames the welfare system's generosity on the perpetuation of poverty. Poverty is said to have increased in the years of war on poverty despite the unprecedented increases in welfare expenditures. The welfare programs introduced a perverse incentive structure, one that penalizes self-improvement and protects individual against the consequence of their own bad choices. Gwartney and McCelab (1985) noted that the problem of poverty continued to

ter not because people were failing to do enough, but because they were doing too much
t is counter-productive.

less widely critiqued version of the individualistic theory of poverty came from American
ues of individualism- the Heratio Alger Myth that any individual can succeed by skills and
d work, and that motivation and persistence are all that are required to achieve success
en, 2002). Self-help literature reinforces the belief that individuals fail because they do
try hard enough. Frank Bettger (1977) in the Dale Carnegie tradition tells how he got a
of self -improvement goals on which to focus and become one of the most successful and
ghly paid salesman in America. Anyone, according to Frame, can succeed by an easy
mula-focused goals and hard work and those who do not succeed must face the fact that
y themselves are responsible for their failure.

e key initiatives today are to push the poor into work as a primary goal. This move is
ompanied by an increasing emphasis on self-help strategies for the poor to pull themselves
m poverty, strategies encouraged by the elimination of other forms of assistance.

however, from a community development perspective, addressing poverty by focusing on
dividual characteristics and bad choices raise fundamental conflict in philosophy and in
at is known to succeed. The compassion of community development shies away from
aming the individual, and individual level programs are usually embedded in community
orts by the very nature of community development. Thus, anti poverty programs in
community development tend to oppose strategies that punish or try to change individuals as
solution to poverty, though working with individual needs and abilities is a constant
jective (Bradshaw, 2006).

According to Bradshaw, many contemporary anti-poverty programs in the US were not designed with compassion in mind but used punishment and the threat of punishment in order to change behavior and get people off public assistance. However, the disabled, elderly, children and even unlucky are part of every community, and without blame, their individual needs can be met by collective action. A safety net, without progressive connotations, is a key to civility.

Another theory of poverty roots its cause in the "Culture of poverty". This theory suggests that poverty is created by the transmission over generation of a set of beliefs, values and skills that are socially generated but individually held. Individuals are not necessarily to blame because they are victims of their dysfunctional subculture or culture. Culture is socially generated and perpetuated, reflecting the interaction of individual and community. This makes the "Culture of poverty" theory different from the individualistic theories that link poverty explicitly to individual abilities and motivation. Technically, the culture of poverty is a subculture of poor people in poor regions or social contexts where they develop a shared set of beliefs, values and norms for behaviors that are separate from but embedded in the culture of the main society.

Oscar Lewis, defining the culture of poverty, wrote that once the culture of poverty has come into existence, it tends to perpetuate itself. By the time slum children are six or seven years old, they have usually observed the basic attitudes and values of their sub-culture. There after they are psychologically unprepared to take full advantages of changing conditions or improving opportunities that may develop in their lifetime. Cultures are socialized and learned and rewards follow those who learn what is intended. However, it is noted that government antipoverty programs reward those who manipulate the policy and stay on welfare. Government welfare perpetuates poverty by permitting a cycle of "welfare dependency" where poor families develop and pass on to others the skills needed to work the

system rather than gain paying employment. Murray (1984) and Asen (2002) summed it up with the phrase "From the war on poverty to the war on welfare."

With determination and hard work, societies can emancipate themselves from political, social-economic and cultural restrictions. For instance, it is worth recalling the efforts of the first Irish and Italian immigrant groups and their willingness to accept hard work and to suffer for long terms socio-economic gains.

From a community development perspective, if the theoretical reason for poverty lies in values and beliefs, transmitted and reinforced in subcultures of disadvantaged persons, then local anti-poverty efforts need to intervene to help change the culture. If one thinks of the culture of poverty as an opportunistic and nonproductive subculture that is perpetuated over generations, then the focus will shift to youth to stop the recreation of the detrimental culture. Head start and many educational programmes can be successful at providing an alternative socialization for the next generation to reduce poverty, though the programs need more coherence and quality. Community developers can help establish after school programs for teens where their peer culture is monitored and positive social values are established, while keeping youth away from gangs and detrimental behaviors. Community developers can also enhance and build upon cultural values within the subcultures of the poor which can become assets for economically developing institutions by which ethnic groups or clans assist each other in creating and financing businesses.

Other poverty theories viewed poverty as a product of economic, political and social systems which causes people to have limited opportunities and resources with which to achieve income and wellbeing. According to them, the economic system is structured in such a way that the poor fall behind regardless of how competent they may be. The problem of the working poor is increasingly seen as a wage problem linked to structural barriers preventing

poor families from getting better jobs, complicated by limited numbers of jobs near workers and lack of growth in sectors supporting lower skilled jobs (tobin, 1994). Fringe benefits including health care and promotions have also become scarce for low skilled workers. The systems have created increasingly difficult problems for those who want to work.

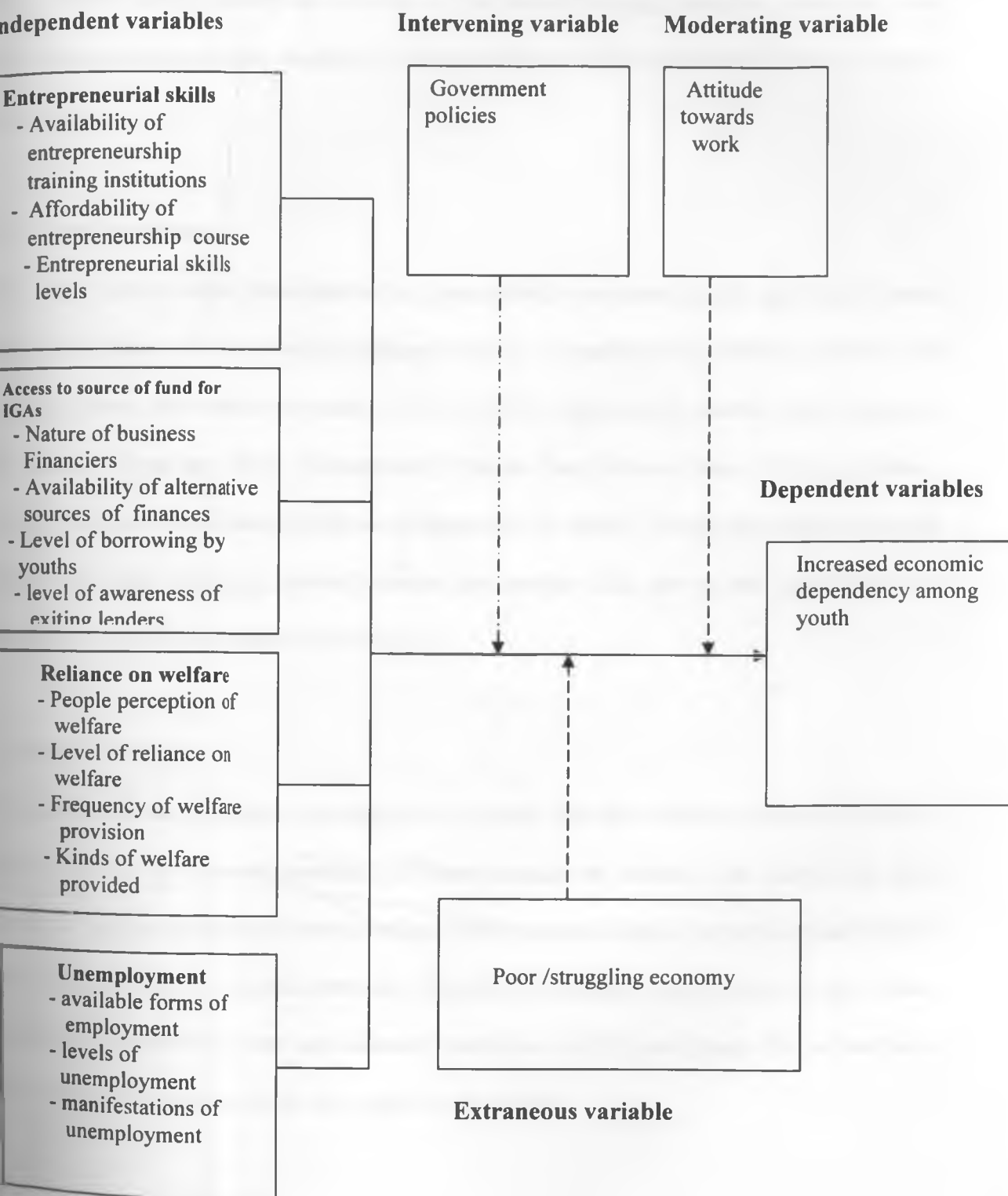
Elimination of structural barriers to better jobs through education and training had been the focus of extensive manpower training and other programs, generating numbers of successes but also perceived failures. A parallel barrier existed with the political system in which the interests and participation of the poor is either impossible or is deceptive. Poor people were less involved in political discussions, and their interests are more vulnerable in the political process, and they were excluded at many levels.

If the problem of poverty is in the system rather in the poor themselves, a community development response must establish initiatives to change the system. This is easily said than done, which may explain why so many policy programs revert to trying to change individual behaviors. How can one get more jobs, improve schooling for the poor, equalize income distributions, remove discrimination bias from housing, banking, education and employment, and assure equal political participation by the poor? None of these tasks are easy and all require interventions into the systems that create the barriers that block a poor person from gaining the benefits of society.

2.7 Conceptual framework

The following is a diagrammatic presentation of the relationship of the variables.

Figure 2. Conceptual framework



Source: Research, 2012

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter mainly presents an overview of the research design, sampling procedure, data collection methods and data analysis. It also provides an outline of the study area and target population.

3.2 Target population

The target group under investigation (i.e., population) constituted youth aged 20-35 years and with at least a K.C.S.E within Makueni County. According to the 2009 population and housing census, the number of youth stood at 224,335 distributed across the nine districts in the county. These are; Wote, Kathonzweni, Mbooni East, Mbooni West, Kilungu, Mukaa, Nzaui, Makindu and Kibwezi as shown on Appendix IV below. Though the sample size was drawn from three randomly selected districts, the results of the survey were generalized on the entire population of youth in the county.

3.3 Research design

A logical structure of inquiry was employed to ensure that the evidence obtained would be able to answer the research questions as unambiguously as possible. The study took on a survey as well as descriptive research design. Survey research design helped to collect data to determine the current economic situation of youth in Makueni County based on the drawn variables. Questionnaires were administered, interviews and focused group discussions were also conducted among the youth age-cohort in the county.

Descriptive research design was also employed in collecting data that sought to answer questions to establish the relationship between unemployment, reliance on welfare, lack of entrepreneurial skills and sources of finances for youth businesses and economic dependency among youth in Makueni County.

3.3.1 Sampling techniques

Purposive sampling method was employed since the survey targeted youth who had obtained at least a high school certificate. The samples were selected randomly from randomly selected locations within Makueni County. Snowball sampling was also used in areas where identifying samples proved challenging to help obtain adequate samples.

Data was drawn from 108 respondents constituting educated youth aged between 20 and 35 years. The samples were randomly selected from three randomly selected districts in Makueni County. One division was randomly selected from each district and then two locations were randomly selected from each selected division. 12 respondents from each of the identified locations were interviewed. Gender balance was ensured in the sample selection. In addition key informants (KI) including officers working with the Youth Affairs and social services departments, NGOs, community based organizations operating in the county were also interviewed. At least one focus group discussion (FGD) was conducted in each chosen district in the county. Information drawn from the development agencies and the FGDs was used to supplement data obtained from the 108 respondents.

3.3.2 Sample size

Sample size can be determined by using a census for small populations, imitating a sample size of similar studies, using published tables, or by applying formulae to calculate a sample size (Israel,1992). However, three criteria usually will need to be specified to determine the appropriate sample size: the level of precision (sampling error), the level of confidence or risk, and the degree of variability in the attributes being measured (Miaoulis and Michener, 1976).

Yamane (1967) provided the simplified formula shown below for calculating sample sizes as adopted by the Agricultural Education and Communication Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida in 2009 (as shown in <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>).

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where; n= sample size, N= population size and e= level of precision.

This survey adopted Table 3.1 which shows appropriate sample sizes for respective population sizes based on the criterion of level of precision as computed by Yamane (1967).

In this survey, a sample constituting 108 respondents (at + 10% precision level) was deemed adequate for provision of required information. Generally, Makueni County is a semi-arid area which had been poorly endowed with infrastructural facilities and the targeted population, that is, the youth were faced with almost similar situations and therefore responses from a well (randomly) selected sample (albeit small) would certainly provide information that could be relied on to make valid inferences and generalizations.

Table 3.1 Determination of sample size

Sample size for $\pm 3\%$ $\pm 5\%$ $\pm 7\%$ and $\pm 10\%$ precision levels where confidence level is 95% and $p=5$

Size of population	Sample size (n) for precision (e) of:			
	$\pm 3\%$	$\pm 5\%$	$\pm 7\%$	$\pm 10\%$
500	a	222	145	83
600	a	240	152	86
700	a	255	158	88
800	a	267	163	89
900	a	277	166	90
1000	a	286	169	91
2000	714	333	185	95
3000	811	353	191	97
4000	870	364	194	98
5000	909	370	196	98
6000	938	375	197	98
7000	959	378	198	98
8000	976	381	199	99
9000	989	383	200	99
10000	1000	385	200	99
15000	1034	390	201	99
20000	1053	392	204	100
25000	1064	394	204	100
50000	1087	397	204	100
100000	1099	398	204	100
>100000	1111	400	204	100

a = Assumption of normal population is poor (Yamane, 1997).

The entire population should be sampled.

A sample constituting 36 respondents was obtained from each of the three districts namely; Kathonzwani, Wote and Makindu as shown on Appendix V. 108 randomly selected youths (54 men and 54 women) with at least a Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education and aged between 20-35 years were involved in the study. The sample also constituted both employed and unemployed (idle) youth based on sex and age cohorts as shown in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2. Sample size per age cohort.

Age	Number of male and female respondents from each of the two locations in a district		Total number of respondents from each district
	Males	Females	
20-24	3	3	12
25-29	3	3	12
30-35	3	3	12
TOTAL	9	9	36

Source: Research data, 2012

3.4 Data collection methods

For a field survey/research to be successful, proper planning and formulation of suitable data collection instruments is paramount. The following discussion highlights on the various data collection tools and methods employed in this study.

3.4.1 Data collection

This study employed both primary and secondary data collection methods though it sought to utilize majorly data from primary sources. Some of the primary data collection tools that this study utilized included questionnaires which were administered directly to individual respondents. The respondents filled the questionnaires assisted by the interviewer. This helped clarify all the questions as well as capture precisely all responses, opinions and views from individual respondents. It also ensured that all questionnaires were filled well and

submitted on time for analysis. The questionnaire that this study used had well structured questions both closed and open-ended to ensure that all required data, views and opinions were captured.

Focus group discussions were also organized. The participants were encouraged to discuss some focused questions and give their views and opinions. This helped to generate detailed information that individuals could not produce during the one-on-one interviews. Issues were also clarified during the discussions.

Key informants (personalities who are well versed in youth development issues list on Appendix VI) were also contacted to give certain classified information along the study themes. The informants were selected based on their relevance to the objectives of the study. Information obtained from the KI interviews was used to supplement data obtained from other primary sources.

The survey employed both desk reviews of relevant publications and internet as secondary data collection tools. Published and unpublished information materials containing relevant information were reviewed to extract data and other information concerning this survey.

Survey questionnaire (Appendix II) was administered individually to 108 youths in Makueni County over a period of two months (February to March, 2012). This coupled with the secondary sources were utilized to capture and reveal information on the degree, nature and causes of economic dependency among youth in Makueni.

4.2 Validity and reliability

To ensure that the information collected was relevant to the purpose of the study, a review of variables was done. To augment the same, the research instruments were formulated in a manner to ensure clarity and precision in capturing required data. A pilot study was conducted to test the suitability and effectiveness of the instruments before the actual study was done.

Test reliability (consistency) is an essential requirement for test validity. Consistency of the results or scores obtained was paramount in this study as in any other research work. In this sense, split-half reliability was used as a measure of the reliability of the research instrument used in this survey. This is an evaluation of the internal consistency of a test by splitting test items randomly into two halves and comparing participants' performance on the two halves. If the two scores correlated highly as a proof that the test was internally reliable. It is a useful measure when it is impractical or undesirable to assess reliability with two tests or to have two test administrations (Cohen & Swerdlik, 2002).

The researcher ensured proper understanding of the research instruments among those involved in the data collection (interviewers). Moreover, the interviews were conducted in a manner to allow the respondents to provide the information freely avoiding any possible biases from either party.

4.3 Methods of data analysis

The study assumed that unemployment, limited access to sources of funds for income generating activities, gender disparity, reliance on relief, lack of entrepreneurial skills were the causes for the persistent economic dependency among the youth in Makueni County. Therefore, the data obtained was analyzed with the aim of answering the emerging research

stions based on the study objectives. The quantitative data collected was edited, coded and analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The results were presented using frequency tables, percentages and bar graphs.

Qualitative information obtained from individual respondents, FGD's and key informants was transcribed and analyzed along the study themes to supplement and back up the survey data. Secondary information captured during the survey was utilized to augment and confirm the conjectural viewpoint and conclusions drawn along the study themes. The foregoing was based on the data collection methods and aligned with the operationalization of variables shown in Table 3.3.

Table 3.3: Operationalization of variables

Objective	Variable	Indicators	Measurement
To establish the influence that lack of entrepreneurial skills has on dependency levels among youth in Makueni	Independent variables:-Lack of entrepreneurial skills	Availability of entrepreneurial training institutions Affordability of entrepreneurial training Entrepreneurial skills levels	Nominal Ordinal
To assess the influence of limited access to sources of funds for income generating activities on dependency levels among the youth in Makueni County	Independent variables:- Limited access to sources of funds for income generating activities	Nature of business financiers Availability of alternative sources of finances Level of borrowing by youths Level of awareness of existing lenders	Nominal Nominal Ordinal Ordinal
To establish the influence of reliance on welfare (donations) on levels of dependency among youth in Makueni county	Independent variables reliance on welfare (donations)	People’s perception of welfare (donations) Level of reliance on welfare	Nominal Ordinal Interval

		Frequency of welfare provision	Nominal
		Kinds of welfare provided	
To establish how unemployment influence dependency levels among the youth in Makeni	Independent variables: Unemployment	Available forms of employment	Nominal
		Level of unemployment sectors in the county	Ordinal
		Manifestations of under employment	Nominal

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1. Introduction

This chapter focuses on the findings of the study undertaken through various methods of data collection. The presentation and analysis of the data collected from the youths in Makueni County is as shown below. A total of 108 questionnaires were issued to youth who were the respondents. Other questionnaires were also issued to key informants, with a response rate of 100%. The key informants included people like NGO officers, Social services officers and CBO officials.

The analysis is structured in the manner in which the questionnaire was structured. It begins with a presentation of the respondents' characteristics such as age, family background, and respondents' socio economic characteristics. This is followed by a presentation on the findings on the factors which influence the levels of economic dependency among youth in Makueni County. These include reliance on welfare, unemployment, access to sources of funds for income generating activities and entrepreneurial skills. The data on the research questions will be presented along with a discussion on how the aspects contribute to the economic dependency levels among youth in Makueni County. The chapter also discusses the relationship between the independent variables (reliance on welfare, unemployment, access to sources of funds for income generating activities and entrepreneurial skills) with the dependent variable (economic dependency).

4.2. Respondents' characteristics

4.2.1 Age and education

As indicated in the methodology chapter, the target population for this study was youth aged 20-35 years with at least a KCSE qualification. The results indicated that most of the respondents (70.4%) interviewed were aged between 20 to 29 years and only a few (29.6%) were aged 30 years and above. The results further revealed that 43% of the respondents had secondary education, 44.9% had college education and a lower percentage (12.1%) had university education. The results therefore implied that majority of the youth (57%) in Makueni County were well educated as shown in table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Age and education level of the respondents

Age bracket in years	Percentage of total respondents
20-24	32.4
25-29	38
30-35	29.6
Education level	Percentage of total respondents
Secondary school (KCSE)	43
College	44.9
University	12.1

Source: Research data, 2012

4.2.2 Age at marriage

The results of the study revealed that 84.5% of the respondents married when they were 20-29 years as shown on table 4.2. This is the age at which most youth pursue their careers through education. Most of the youth at this age have hardly stabilized in terms of completing their education and settling down with a reliable employment. They are therefore not better placed to fend for their families, which come with additional responsibilities. This could be one of the reasons why most of the youths (85.1%) supplemented their income from their parents and/or siblings. The age at marriage can therefore be a cause for the youths to become dependent on others. If the youth delayed marriage up to 30 years, they would be in a better position to fend for their families because at this age, they would have defined their career and obtained reliable and sustainable means of income for themselves and their families

Table 4.2 Age of respondents at marriage

Age At Marriage In Years	Percentage
Below 19	2.2
20-24	35.6
25-29	48.9
30-35	13.3

Source: Research data, 2012

4.2.3 Family background

Regarding the family backgrounds of the youth, most of their parents were peasant farmers with 44.2% of the respondents having fathers who were peasant farmers while 50.5% had

others who were peasant farmers. 32.2% of those interviewed had self-employed fathers while 24.3% had self-employed mothers. Moreover, the self-employed parents were running small-scale enterprises with meager incomes as reported during focus group discussions. Only a few of the youth had parents who were in permanent salaried jobs as shown in tables 4.3 and 4.4. The foregoing portrayed a poverty situation and a reason for the prevailing situation whereby majority of the youth were economically dependent while those in any form of employment had several dependants who included parents and siblings.

Table 4.3 Fathers' occupation

Type of occupation	Percentage
None	7
Peasant farmer	44.2
Self employed	32.2
Public servant	16.3

Source: Research data, 2012

Table 4.4 Mothers' occupation

Type of occupation	percentage
None	15.3
Peasant farmer	50.5
Self employed	24.3
Public servant	9.7

Source: Research data, 2012

Those with 5-7 siblings took the lion's share of 41%. When asked whether their parents or siblings got any financial assistance from them, 64.8% said yes while 35.2% said no. Most of the respondents provided financial assistance to their parents/siblings. That could be attributed to the fact that most of the parents were peasant farmers, who earned very little if any from it. Because the youth came from poor families, who consumed the little income they got, it implied that the family background had a bearing on youth dependency because the more the youth gave financial assistance to their parents or siblings, the more they become prone to dependency because of the increased financial burden and the constant or decreasing sources of income. Information obtained from focus group discussions revealed that those who came from well up families depended on their parents and siblings to supplement their income as explained later in this chapter. The results of the survey also indicated that 62.7% of the youth interviewed were living independently in their own homes while 37.3% were still housed by their parents. This implied that still a significant number of youth in Makueni County could not live independently from their parents.

Regarding the age at which the employed youth got their first employment, the survey revealed that 78% of the respondents entered the job market while at 20 to 29 years of age as shown on table 4.5. This could be a reason why a big percentage of the respondents (61.1%) said that they were not with their first employer due to the search for what is popularly known as greener pastures or better employment.

Table 4.5 Age (of respondents) at first job

Age In Years For The First Job	Percentage
Below 20 years	11
20-24	61.6
25-29	16.4
Over 30 years	11

Source: Research data, 2012

Reliance on welfare

This section sought to establish the association between four variables namely; people's perception of welfare, level of reliance on welfare, frequency of welfare provision, kinds of welfare and dependency level. Reliance on welfare was taken to mean the tendency of the youth to depend on other sources of income other than what they are able to generate for themselves. It also connotes the tendency of expecting some assistance either in monetary form or otherwise for one's day to day living. The study aimed at gathering data and information on how the youth rely on assistance for their life, from whom and the kind of assistance. Majority of the respondents (83.3%) said that their monthly income was not enough to sustain them. An 85% majority of the respondents said that they relied on their parents or siblings to supplement their monthly incomes in order to survive, an indication that the youth were not satisfied with their monthly income. In contrast, majority of the respondents (66.6%) said that the residents of the area did not often get relief provisions. Other 68.3% said that members of the community could do without relief. However, when asked the kind of relief they often got either from the government or NGOs, they said that

constituted the greatest percentage at 61.3%. A whopping 58% believed that the members of the community were used to getting relief.

When asked why the youths were used to getting welfare, majority said that they were unable to meet their daily needs due to the limited income as well as due to occasional rain failure, which rendered most of the agricultural activities unsuccessful. In regards to dependence on social funds, majority (66%) said that they did not depend on any social fund for survival, with the government leading in the provision of social funds to the youth at 56.8% against 43.2% by the private sector. The data gathered on reliance on welfare did not confirm that reliance on welfare had contributed to economic dependency among youth in Makueni County. The fact that majority (58%) said that young members of the community were used to getting relief does not mean that this had led to economic dependency among the members of the community.

This is because majority of the youth relied mostly on food relief and farm tools but not other forms of welfare. This can be confirmed by the fact that majority (68.3%) said that they were unable to survive without relief, an indication that the youth and the population in general had lost the capacity and potential of helping themselves, only that they had limited opportunities for maximizing their income, and that is why they were of the view that their income was not enough to sustain them. What this meant was that if the youth in Makueni County had the means of maximizing their income, then they would not rely on any kind of relief or social funds. If they had access to social funds, they would engage in productive activities, including small scale irrigation farming. Opinions from focus group discussions emphasized that instead of the government giving occasional relief food, it, or other players should consider equipping the youth and other beneficiaries with funds to engage in business as well

in food production. To this end therefore, the study found no relationship between the independent variable of reliance on welfare and the dependent variable of increased economic dependency among youths in Makueni County, reason being that the welfare which was provided to the youths and the community in general was food, which was hardly enough. A person cannot rely on something which is not enough and not sustainable.

Unemployment

Unemployment was another factor under investigation in the study, which sought to find out how unemployment influenced economic dependency levels among youth in Makueni County. Unemployment status is a key factor in determining one's socio-economic status. Three variables namely; available forms of employment, level of unemployment and manifestations of underemployment were assessed to establish their influence on youth economic dependency in Makueni County. The survey results indicated that commodity business was a leading sector in terms of employment provision (26.4%), followed by the transport sector (23%) as shown on Table 4.6

Table 4.6: Forms of employment available to youth in Makueni County

Employment sector	Percentage of respondents
Commercial farming	19
Commodity business	26.4
Public/private sector jobs	22.6
Transport services	23
Entertainment	9

Source: Research data, 2012

From Table 4.6, it is evident that majority of youth (26.4%) in the county engage themselves in commodity business, meaning that if they were adequately facilitated, they would be able and willing to work and generate enough income for themselves and avoid dependency. The fact that commercial farming did not attract many youths in the county could be attributed to the occasional rain failure, because most of the agriculture in the county is rain fed. This underscored the fact that relief food topped the kind of relief given to the people in Makueni county as indicated earlier.

Those who said that they were working either in the public or the private sector, i.e., those who were salaried expressed dissatisfaction with their employment with 63% saying that they were not satisfied with their current job and another 57.3% saying that they felt at risk at their current workplace. In contrast, majority of the youths were not ready to quit their jobs, majority saying that they were not able to do without the jobs despite the fact that they were dissatisfied with them. When asked the number of hours they worked in a day, their response was as shown on Table 4.7.

Table 4.7: Number of hours worked per day

Number of hours in a day	Percentage of respondents
Less than 8 hours	4.7
8 hours	38
More than 8 hours	57.3

Source: Research data, 2012

From Table 4.7, it was clear that the youths were actually hard working but the rewards from their work simply did not match their efforts, meaning that they worked for long hours for less money and therefore the income was not enough to sustain them, thus prompting them to rely on other sources to survive. When asked the rate of unemployment in Makueni County, their responses were as shown on Table 4.8.

Table 4.8 Rate of Unemployment

Rate	Percentage
Very high	54.8
High	30.7
Moderate	3.0
Low	6.7
Very low	4.8

Source: Research data, 2012

Yoshimoto (2000) observes that young people actively seeking employment were two to three times more likely to miss jobs compared to the older generation. From Table 4.8, it is clear that the levels of unemployment in the county were very high because if those who said it was very high were combined with those who said it was high, the total percentage was 85.5%, meaning that majority of the youth were not employed in the County. Moreover, 63.5% of the youth said that they were not satisfied with their current jobs as well as a whopping majority of 61% who said that they were not with their first employer and another 73% who revealed that they had changed jobs more than once. When asked the kind of employment they were engaged in, those who were self employed claimed a greater percentage at 36%, against 33.7% and 30.3% in the public sector and private sector

spectively. However, when looked at from the perspective of salaried employment, those with salary were majority at 64% i.e., 33.7% for the public sector and 30.3% in the private sector as shown on Table 4.9.

Table 4.9 Kind of employment

Types of Employment	Percentage of respondents
Public sector	33.7
Private sector	30.3
Self-employed	36

Source: Research data, 2012

When asked whether they aspired to get better jobs, majority of the respondents (93.5%) said yes against 6.5% who said no. That reinforced the 63.5 % who said that they were not satisfied with their current job. 85.7% of those who aspired to get better jobs said that they had the relevant skills and qualifications. Despite the efforts made by the government to tame the problem of unemployment in the country, an overwhelming majority of the youth (90.6%) in the county said that they had not benefited from any of the government economic stimulus programs such as KKV, with 60% of those who said they had benefited saying that the programs did not bring any change in their lives.

The problem of unemployment among the youth in Makueni County is therefore real and prominent. This can be said to have contributed to the high economic dependency among the youth in the county. This is because majority of the youth were either unemployed or underemployed i.e., underutilized or working many hours in a day for little pay. That pushed

the youth to look for other sources of income so as to survive. That made them depended on assistance from their siblings and parents as well as the government and NGOs. The relationship between the dependent variable (dependency) and the independent variable (unemployment) is therefore evident, meaning that the higher the rates of unemployment, the higher the dependency levels. This is because employment forms the core of lives of the youth and with good employment they are able to sustain themselves and live decent lives as opposed to those who are not employed.

Since the youth have to survive irrespective of whether they are employed or not, they have to look for alternatives of sustaining themselves, and this makes them to be depended on others by default. If the youth were to have good employment opportunities, which match their skills, training and qualifications, then dependency in the county among the youth would be a thing of the past. This is because as highlighted above, majority of the youths (93.5%) did aspire to get better jobs which matched their qualifications. There is therefore, need for the government to come up with a new and more effective strategy to deal with the problem of unemployment in the country in general and in Makueni County in particular. This is because majority of the youth in the county had attained adequate education up to college level but they were not able to secure reliable forms of employment.

4.5 Access to sources of funds for income generating activities

The study also endeavoured to assess how access to funds for income generating activities influenced economic dependency among the youth in Makueni County, the idea being to establish whether there was any relationship between accessibility to the funds and levels of dependency. Data was collected on various aspects regarding this research question to establish the nature of business financiers, availability of alternative sources of finances, level

of borrowing by youth and level of awareness of existing lenders. This data is as presented and discussed below. When asked the available sources of capital, the respondents gave the following information as presented in Table 4.10.

Table 4.10: Available sources of capital

Source Of Capital	Percentage of respondents
Commercial banks	23.3
Micro-finance institutions	27
Table banking/merry-go-round	30.1
Shylock	8
Government	11.6

Source: Research data, 2012

As shown on Table 4.10, merry go rounds were major sources (30.1%) of capital to do business in the county. The other key sources of capital were micro-finance institutions (27%) and commercial banks (23.3%). The government and shylock sources had not gained popularity among the youths as sources of capital since only a few had benefited from them (11.6% and 8% respectively). The results further revealed that, 61.8% of the respondents were engaged in income generating activities while 38.2% were not.

Majority of those who said they were engaged in income generating activities (IGAs) revealed that they got the capital from personal savings (40.6%). Women enterprise fund and youth enterprise fund were also key capital sources utilized by the youth and had been

utilized by 23% and 13.5% of the respondents respectively. Loans from micro-finance institutions were the least utilized with only 3.1% of the respondents having accessed them as shown in Table 4.11.

Table 4.11. Sources of funds for existing youth IGAs

Source of funds for existing youth IGAs	Percentage of respondents
Personal savings	40.6
Parents/siblings	7.3
Friends	7.3
Micro-finance loan	3.1
Youth enterprise fund	13.6
Merry-go-round	5.2
Women enterprise fund	23

Source: Research data, 2012

The survey results further revealed that, 62.2% of the respondents reported that, most of the youths were willing to get loans to run their businesses, while 37.6% felt that they were not. When asked how accessible credit to start business was in the area, 53.5% of the respondents felt that, they were inaccessible while 30.3% felt that the loans were accessible. 9.1% and 7.1% of the sample were of the opinion that the loans were highly inaccessible and highly accessible respectively as shown on Table 4.12.

Table 4.12: Rate of accessibility of credit

Accessibility	Percentage
Highly accessible	7.1
Accessible	30.3
Inaccessible	53.5
Highly inaccessible	9.1

Source: Research data, 2012

Majority of the respondents (64.1%) said they had information about the available credit facilities against 35.9% who said they had no information. Majority (55.5%) of those who had that they had information regarding availability of credit facilities, said that the information was availed to them oftenly.

From this information, it can be deduced that the youth in the county were willing to get credit to start businesses as sources of income. The youth were also much aware about the availability of credit facilities for starting or financing income generating activities. In contrast, majority of them did not access the funds especially from the banks, microfinance institutions and the government, with majority starting their income generating activities with finances obtained from personal savings and from friends as observed earlier. It should be noted that banks and microfinance institutions are the ones which are in a better position to provide adequate loans or credit to start business than friends and personal savings. However, many youths did not access the funds from the institutions but preferred their personal savings. The reason for such a state of affairs as established after further probe was that the

banks and microfinance institutions had other requirements like collaterals or guarantors, which the youths were unable to provide. The government loans like the youth fund and women fund were also channeled through the same microfinance intuitions, which did not have friendly terms and conditions for accessing credit especially by the youth. Since many income generating activities were established using personal savings, they were not stable since the savings were hardly enough, reason being that much of the youths' income was hardly enough to meet their needs and have some surplus to save. It could therefore be argued that the youth in Makueni County did not have access to reliable sources of credit to start income generating activities. Those who managed to save some money to start some income generating activities however did not maximize on their businesses because the savings were hardly enough to establish stable income generating activities to supplement the little income they got from either employment or other sources.

The study therefore found out that poor access to credit for income generating activities had led to economic dependency among the youth in the county. If the youths were able to access reliable means of credit, they would be able to establish stable income generating activities, which would enable them increase their income, thus reducing the rates of dependency. There was therefore a clear evidence that poor access to credit for starting income generating activities had contributed to economic dependency among the youth, meaning that the more the youths failed to get credit to start income generating activities, the more they were prone to dependency because of the need to supplement their little income, either from salaried employment or from self employment.

4.6. Entrepreneurial skills

The study also aimed at assessing the extent to which entrepreneurial skills contributed to economic dependency among youth in Makueni County. This section sought to establish the association between availability of entrepreneurship training institutions, affordability of entrepreneurship training, entrepreneurial skill levels and economic dependency among youth in Makueni County.

The results of the study revealed that majority of the youth (76.1%) who were interviewed said that the few institutions offering entrepreneurial courses imposed very high charges beyond the reach of many youths. That was what most of them (81.8%) thought was the reason why majority of the youth in the county did not have the necessary entrepreneurial skills. Most of the respondents (57.1%) said that the entrepreneurial courses offered at the institutions were below the market standards. In regards to business skills, few of the respondents (22%) said that they possessed business skills, with 72.2% of those with such skills saying that they acquired them through formal training.

The results of the survey showed that a higher percentage of the youth with entrepreneurial skills had acquired the skills up to diploma level (39.4%) and through seminars (29.4%). Others had acquired the skills up to certificate level (24.7%) and only a few had degrees (6.5%) in the field as shown on Table 4.13.

Table 4.13: Level at which the business skills were acquired

Level of business skills training	Percentage of respondents
Seminar	29.4
Certificate	24.7
Diploma	39.5
Degree	6.4

Source: Research data, 2012

The results indicated that majority of the respondents (78%) lacked business skills which emerged the leading cause of failure of youth run businesses. Information obtained from focus group discussions also revealed that even those endowed with entrepreneurial skills had little to show in terms of enterprises. This meant that more needed to be done in equipping the youth with entrepreneurial skills and resources to boost the enterprises. When asked the causes of failure by youth run-businesses in the area, the responses from the youth were as shown on Table 4.14.

Table 4.14: Causes of business failure

Causes of business failure	Percentage of respondents
High local authority levies	11.1
High cost of running business	13.1
Lack of family support	6.1
Poor government policies	3.4
Poor infrastructure	8.7
Lack of motivation to run business	10.2
Competition	6.1
Lack of market	9.6
Poor entrepreneurial skills	17.2
Lack of access to credit	14.5

Source: Research data, 2012

As indicated on Table 4.14, it is evident that majority of youths in Makueni County did not have entrepreneurial skills. This problem, when combined with lack of access to credit and low quality training on entrepreneurship and high cost for the same had a combined effect of making the youth become dependent, thus leading to increased dependency levels among the youth in the county. Though majority of youths (61.8%) were engaged in income generating activities, the leading cause of failure of businesses run by the youth in the county was lack of entrepreneurial skills. This meant that the more the youths lacked entrepreneurial skills, the more the businesses failed and the lesser the income they got on monthly basis. This led to increased levels of dependency among the youth as they tried to make ends meet. Even though some of the respondents said they had business skills up to diploma levels, this could

not make the youth run businesses survive due to the challenge of poor access to credit to start and sustain the businesses.

In regards to the relationship between poor entrepreneurial skills and access to funds for IGAs, the study found out that lack of entrepreneurial skills could be a likely reason why many youths could not access credit for IGAs. This is because a person may shun borrowing money if he or she does not have the entrepreneurial skills to invest the money in a manner in which it can yield profit so as to repay the money and still sustain the business. However, both poor entrepreneurial skills and poor access to credit had a combined effect of making the youth in the county become more dependent because they made the youths depend on the little income available. The two were also the leading causes of failure of youth-run businesses as shown in Table 4.14.

4.7. Key Informants

The study also obtained data and information from key informants who included people like NGO officers, Social services officers and CBO officials. The key informants seemed to share similar views with the respondents. In regards to the issue of reliance on welfare, majority of the key informants said that the youth had the capacity and potential of freeing themselves from reliance on welfare, which they acknowledged was not enough. They described the youth of the county as well educated, aggressive and willing to engage in income generating activities so as to avoid reliance on any form of welfare provided either by the government or the private sector. To them therefore, reliance on welfare had nothing to do with economic dependency levels among the youths in the county because the welfare provided to the youth was mainly in form of relief food, which was hardly enough for any youth to rely on for his or her survival.

Regarding the issue of unemployment, the key informants said that unemployment was a real challenge to youth in the county. They said that most youths were either unemployed or underemployed. They attributed this to the lack of a proper government policy on employment for the youth, with majority dismissing the efforts made by the government to address the problem of unemployment in the country and in the county in particular and instead calling for a radical approach to the problem. Those who dismissed the government's efforts said that majority of youth in the county were properly educated and therefore better placed to secure good jobs as well as to establish their own businesses, especially in the agriculture sector due to the availability of vast land for agricultural activities. They said the youth needed to be equipped with adequate resources so as to engage in income generating activities. To them, the problem of unemployment was the leading cause of increased youth dependency in the county and to that end therefore, stakeholders in all relevant sectors needed to devise home grown solutions to address the problem of unemployment if the youth in the county were to be freed from economic dependency.

As pertains the issue of access to credit to start income generating activities, the key informants said that the county lacked adequate credit facilities which were friendly to the youth. They also seemed to dismiss the government credit initiatives like youth fund and women fund as too little and too sophisticated for the youths to access. They said that the government should consider revising the policy on youth fund and women fund to make the funds highly accessible to majority of youth. They also said that most of the youth run-businesses were established using other financial resources but not the youth or women funds. They described the youth in the county as capable of engaging in income generating activities if provided with the funds to do so and to that end called for provision of credit, both in monetary form and in kind to the youth so as to ensure that youth run-businesses or

income generating activities did not fail. According to them therefore, provision of credit to start income generating activities by the youth was a way forward in addressing the problem of youth dependency in the county.

In regard to entrepreneurial skills, the key informants said that the county lacked 'up to market standard institutions offering entrepreneurship courses to the youth. They described the few which were there as not doing enough to equip the youth with entrepreneurial skills. However, according to them, lack of entrepreneurial skills was not a major cause of youth dependency because majority of the youth in the area were well educated. They said that what the youths lacked was adequate employment and lack of credit to establish income generating activities so as to liberate themselves from dependency.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Summary of Findings

The survey sought to investigate the prime factors that influenced economic dependency levels among the educated youth in Makueni County. The objectives of the study were to establish the influence of entrepreneurial skills, access to sources of funds for income generating activities, welfare provision and unemployment on economic dependency levels among educated youth in Makueni County.

Descriptive research design was employed targeting educated youth aged between 20 to 35 years. The youth were drawn from three randomly selected districts within the county. Data and information was obtained from 108 randomly selected youth, focus group discussions and also from key informants from the three districts. Respondents were selected through purposive sampling by snowball sampling to randomly select the targeted youth. Questionnaires, focus group discussions and key informants were utilized to provide data and information required from the survey. The data was analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences and results presented in statistical form using frequency tables and percentages.

From the data collected from the respondents and the key informants, the study established that the problem of economic dependency among the youth in the county can be attributed to all the factors under investigation at varying degrees. It was clear that unemployment was a key contributor to economic dependency among the youth in Makueni County with 85.5% of those interviewed expressing the enormity of the challenge of unemployment. According to

Information from the interviewed youth and key informants, majority of the youth spent much of their time idling at shopping centres seeking to grasp the latest gossip, abusing "hard drugs" and other local drugs, and only a few made efforts to do some manual work to earn their living. Those with at least a college certificate faced more challenges due to the high expectations the community placed on them. It is unusual for a college or university graduate to do manual work. The study also revealed that majority worked many hours daily though they earned less and were unsatisfied with their jobs as observed earlier.

Lack of credit to start income generating activities by the youth was also rated high as a cause for youth economic dependency in the county. 62.6% of the respondents felt that credit for enterprise development was inaccessible in the county. Further probe established that the youth shied away from the existing credit facilities because they perceived them as exploitative and that the institutions offering credit were hell bent towards making fortunes from such a poor segment of the community through high interest rates and stringent collateral requirements.

Lack of entrepreneurial skills hampered the process of emancipation from poverty and economic dependency by the youth in the county. An incredible number of youth lacked business skills and as many confessed, it was hard for them to initiate any kind of business and see it through to fruition. As indicated in earlier discussions 78% of those interviewed lacked entrepreneurial skills and were doing little with their lives.

The youth were not benefiting from any kind of financial relief as indicated earlier. The only available form of relief was food provisions and farm tools from both the government and NGOs. However, the constant assurance of relief food provision might have lured some

into the pit of dependency. This is because many farmlands went untilled seasons-on-
due to the reassurance of food relief and still more enrolled under the existing food relief
programmes every year. However, the attitude of majority was positive since they believed
it was possible to do without relief.

Another key finding of the study was that the government was not doing enough to deal
with the problem of unemployment and lack of credit to start income generating activities by
youth in the county. The respondents and key informants were of the view that the
government should revise its policy on unemployment and lack of credit to make them more
effective. The study therefore was able to attain its main objective because it managed to
provide answers to the research questions.

Conclusion

The particular study aimed at assessing the factors that influence economic dependency
among youths in Makueni County. From the study, it emerged that unemployment and lack
of available and youth friendly credit facilities were the leading cause of youth dependency in
the county. This is despite the government's initiatives to deal with the problem of
unemployment and lack of credit to the youths in the country in general and Makueni County
in particular. The respondents and the key informants said that the government initiatives to
address unemployment such as KKV were ill equipped and inadequate to address the
problem of unemployment in the county. They also said that the government's credit
initiatives such as the youth fund and women's fund were not of great help to the youths in
the county as far as reducing dependency is concerned. It seemed that there was a missing
link between the government and the youth when it came to addressing the problem of youth
dependency. It should be noted that any sustainable development initiative must involve all

stakeholders, meaning that they should all participate in finding solutions to the problems. The initiatives should also factor in the unique socio cultural and education levels of the target population. This is what is popularly known as the bottom up approach instead of the top down approach (Abate & Maples, 2005). The idea of coming up with a generalized approach to the problem of youth dependency seems to have failed to yield good results especially in Makueni County.

Recommendations

It will be fair to acknowledge government's efforts in trying to alleviate poverty in the country and especially in marginal areas. The benefits of the programmes trickle to all the segments of the societies especially to the young members of the communities. The government drew a youth employment marshal plan in the first decade of the millennium to help focus the policy on youth employment. The plan explores the various sectors of the economy which can create significant employment opportunities to the youth. The Youth Enterprise Development Fund and Women Enterprise Development Fund discussed earlier are also great government initiatives aimed at revamping moribund youth-run enterprises as well as start-up businesses. The Youth Empowerment Programme was also a move in the right direction. These among other programmes targeting the youth were bold and vital ideas but they have lacked a bottom-up approach hence the failure experienced in quite a number of them. This therefore calls for involvement of all stakeholders and especially the beneficiaries (the youth) at every stage of the programmes. This way the youth will own the programmes and their outputs.

The survey established the need for cheap credit to enhance access by the youth who own little in terms of assets. The government attempted to provide a solution by establishing the YEDF and WEDF. However, the youth have been unable to access the funds due to the nature of the credit provided through these establishments. The small amounts loaned to youth groups have been unable to boost their enterprises. The components channeled through micro-financiers are almost inaccessible due to the requirements attached. There is need for the government to restructure the products considering the situation of the youth.

The study also found out that entrepreneurial skill levels among the youth in the county were wanting. The few available institutions offered substandard courses and the course charges were exorbitant. That called for an urgent intervention by the government and other stakeholders to ensure that the courses offered by the existing institutions are enhanced to match the market expectations and the capacities of the institutions are improved to absorb more trainees. That would improve enrolment and revenue and hence lead to reduced course costs.

In addition to equipping the youth with entrepreneurial skills, the government and indeed all relevant stakeholders needed to help the youth acquire necessary equipment for value addition and storage of their farm produce. Much of the farm produce from the county went to waste or was sold at throw-away prices because it was usually in raw material form or due to lack of modern technology storage facilities especially for storing highly perishable produce. This would also ensure prolonged supply and income generation and hence reduce economic dependency among the youth in the county.

The government has been on the forefront in making market linkages for producers in the country. Also through the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the government has been linking the youth with overseas consumers of certain unique products. However, these efforts need to be supplemented with financial support and marketing skills to help the youth be able to market their products effectively.

It is one of the key mandates of the government to ensure infrastructural development all over the country. Information obtained from the survey revealed that Makueni County has all along been poorly endowed with infrastructural facilities. For instance, the road network was poor especially in most interior localities within the county. Electricity was a rare utility in most parts of the county. The county also borders the River Athi basin which was underutilized. Only few small scale irrigation units individually owned by a few able residents produced for the local markets. The government needed to step in and establish extensive irrigation schemes since there was a vast idle land along the river basin. This would offer an opportunity to the youth to work and earn. This coupled with the value addition and storage equipment would ensure constant flow of income in the county.

With the right combination of motivation, ideas and opportunities, young people are able to establish productive and creative business ventures and shift themselves from the status of job seekers to job creators. If the government and all relevant stakeholders ensured provision of the necessary skills, funds, equipment and infrastructure, then much would be achieved through this energetic and vibrant segment of the county community and the country in general.

5.4 Suggestions for further study

Based on the foregoing, this study recommends a further survey to be carried out to establish the best approach to channel any kind of funds or resources to the youth in the county either by the government or other relevant stakeholders. This is because the funds, especially those provided by the government end up staying at the banks because majority of the youth fail to meet the requirements set by the banks.

Little is known about the situation of the young women in Makueni County in terms of their general socio-economic status. This study recommends a further investigation on gender disparities in resource endowment and whether there are differences in economic dependency levels along gender lines among the youth in the county.

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APPENDIX I

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND EXTERNAL STUDIES
SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND DISTANCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES
NAIROBI EXTRA-MURAL CENTRE

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Main Campus
Gandhi Wing, Ground Floor
P.O. Box 30197
NAIROBI

Our Ref:

Telephone: 318262 Ext. 120

REF: UON/CEES /NEMC/11/283

10th February, 2012

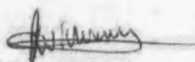
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

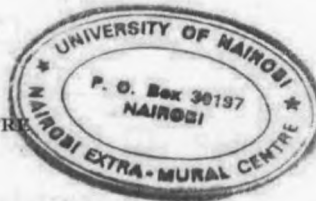
RE: BENJAMIN MONI MUSAU - REG NO L50/60854/10

This is to confirm that the above named is a student at the University of Nairobi College of Education and External Studies, School of Continuing and Distance Education, Department of Extra- Mural Studies pursuing Master of Arts in Project Planning and Management

he is proceeding for research entitled "economic dependency among youth in Makueni".

Any assistance given to him will be appreciated.


CAREN AWILLY
CENTRE ORGANIZER
NAIROBI EXTRA-MURAL CENTRE



APPENDIX II

RESEARCH INSTRUMENT (QUESTIONNAIRE)

My name is Benjamin Musau and I am conducting on behalf of the University of Nairobi a survey that seeks to assess the factors that influence the increased socio-economic dependency among the youth in your community. The data obtained will be utilized in enhancing the responsiveness of players in various sectors of economy as well as the youth to the challenges facing young people and possibly aid in identifying interventionary measures to their problems.

Participation in this study is absolutely voluntary and the information provided will be treated with utmost confidentiality and will only be utilized for the purpose of this study. Your participation will be highly appreciated

Instructions: Tick the appropriate choice where asked.

District; Division;..... Location;

Respondents' characteristics

- 1.Age 20-24 25-29 30-35
- 2.Sex Male Female
- 3.Current marital status Single Married Separated Divorced

Parents' characteristics (Family background)

4. Your father's education level
- None Primary Secondary College /university
- 5.Yours Mother's education level
- None Primary Secondary College /university
6. Your father's occupation
- None peanut farmer Self employed Public servant
- Other specify _____

7. Your mother's occupation

None peasant farmer Self employed Public servant

Other specify _____

8. Number of siblings

2-4 5-7 8-10 Above 10

9. Do your parents/ siblings get any financial assistance from you?

Yes No

Respondent's socio-economic characteristics

10. Respondent's education level

Secondary College University

11. If married, spouse's level of education

None Primary Secondary College /university

Others specify _____

12. Age at marriage

<19 20-24 25-29 30-35

13. Respondent's occupation

None peasant farmer Self employed Employed (salaried)

Other specify _____

14. If married, spouse's occupation

None Self employed Salaried Other specify _____

15. Where are you living?

Parents' house

Own separate house

16. How many children do you have?

17. How many dependants do you have

Reliance on welfare

18. Is your monthly income enough to sustain you? Yes / No

19. If NO, how do you supplement your income?

Donations / Handouts from the government

Assistance from parents / Siblings

Donations from NGOs

Other (Specify) _____

20. In your opinion, do you think young members of this community are used to getting relief and donations? Yes/ No

21. If 20 is Yes, what do you think are the reasons for the prevailing situation? _____

22. How often do youth in this area get relief provisions? _____

23. What kind of relief do people (youth) in this area get?

Food

Tools and equipment

Finances

Water

Other, specify _____

24. Do you think people in this area (including yourself) can do without relief? Yes/ No

25. Do you benefit from any social fund? Yes / No

26. If 25 is Yes, what is the source of the funds?

G.O.K

NGOs

Other (Specify) _____

27. In your opinion, what should be done to better the existing welfare services ?

Unemployment

28. What forms of employment are available to youth in Makueni County?

Commercial farming

Commodity business

Private/ public sector job

Transport services

Entertainment

Other, specify _____

29. How can you rate the general level of unemployment in Makueni County?

Very high

High

Moderate

Low Very low

30. What do you think are the causes of youth unemployment in this area? State briefly.

31. What kind of employment are you engaged in?

In the public sector (Salary)

In the Private Sector (Salary)

Self employed

Other (Specify) _____

32. If salaried what was your age at your first employment (Job)?

Below 20 years

20 – 24 years

25 – 29 years

Over 30 years

33. Are you still with your first employer? Yes /No

34. If 33 is No, how many times have you changed jobs?

Once

Twice

More than twice (Specify) _____

35. Are you satisfied with your current job? Yes / No

36. Do you feel at risk at your workplace? Yes /No

37. If 36 is Yes, why is it not reasonable to quit?

- I am not likely to get another job
- It is well paying
- I cannot do without it

38. How many hours do you work in a day?

- Less than 8 hours
- 8 hours
- More than 8 hours

39. How many employers do you work for?

- One
- More than one

40. If more than one give reasons

41. Do you aspire to get a better job? Yes / No

42. If yes , are your aspirations supported by relevant skills or qualifications ?Yes /No

43. If 42 is No, what in your opinion do you need to do?

44. Have you ever benefited from any of the government economic stimulus programmes e.g. Kazi KwaVijana (KKV)? Yes / No

45. Did the programme bring any change in your life? Yes / No

Access to sources of funds for income generating activities

46. What are the available sources of business finance (capital) in your area? Tick appropriately.

- Commercial banks
- Micro-finance institutions
- Table banking/ Merry-go-round
- Shylock
- Government

47. In your opinion, do you think the youth in this area are willing to take loans to run their businesses? Yes/ No

If No, state briefly the reasons.

48. Are you engaged in any income generating activity?

- Yes
- No

49. If Yes, how did you raise the capital to start the business?

- Personal savings
- Parents / Siblings
- Friends
- Microfinance loan

Youth enterprise fund

Merry – go – round

Women enterprise fund

Other (Specify) _____

50. In your own opinion, how accessible is credit (loan) in your area?

Highly accessible Highly inaccessible

Accessible

Inaccessible

51. Do you get information on available credit facilities? Yes / No

52. If Yes, how often is the information availed?

Very often

Often

Less often

Never

Entrepreneurship

53. How many institutions are you aware of where youth can acquire entrepreneurial skills? _____

54. In your opinion are the charges for entrepreneurship courses affordable to youth in your area? Yes/ No

55. Do you think majority of youth in your area have the necessary entrepreneurship skills? Yes/ No

56. Do you think the entrepreneurship courses offered in the available institutions are up to the market (requirements) standards? Yes / No

57. Do you have any business skills? Yes / No

58. How did you acquire the skills?

Apprenticeship

Formal training

59. If through formal training, to what level?

Seminar

Career certificate

Diploma

Degree

Other (Specify) _____

60. What is the cause for failure of youth – run businesses in the county / your district?

Tick appropriately.

Lack of access to credit

Poor entrepreneurial skills

Lack of market

Replication of businesses

Poor infrastructure

Lack of motivation to run the business

Poor government policies

Lack of motivation to run the business

Poor government policies

- Lack of support from family
- High cost of running the business
- High local authority levies

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION!

APPENDIX III

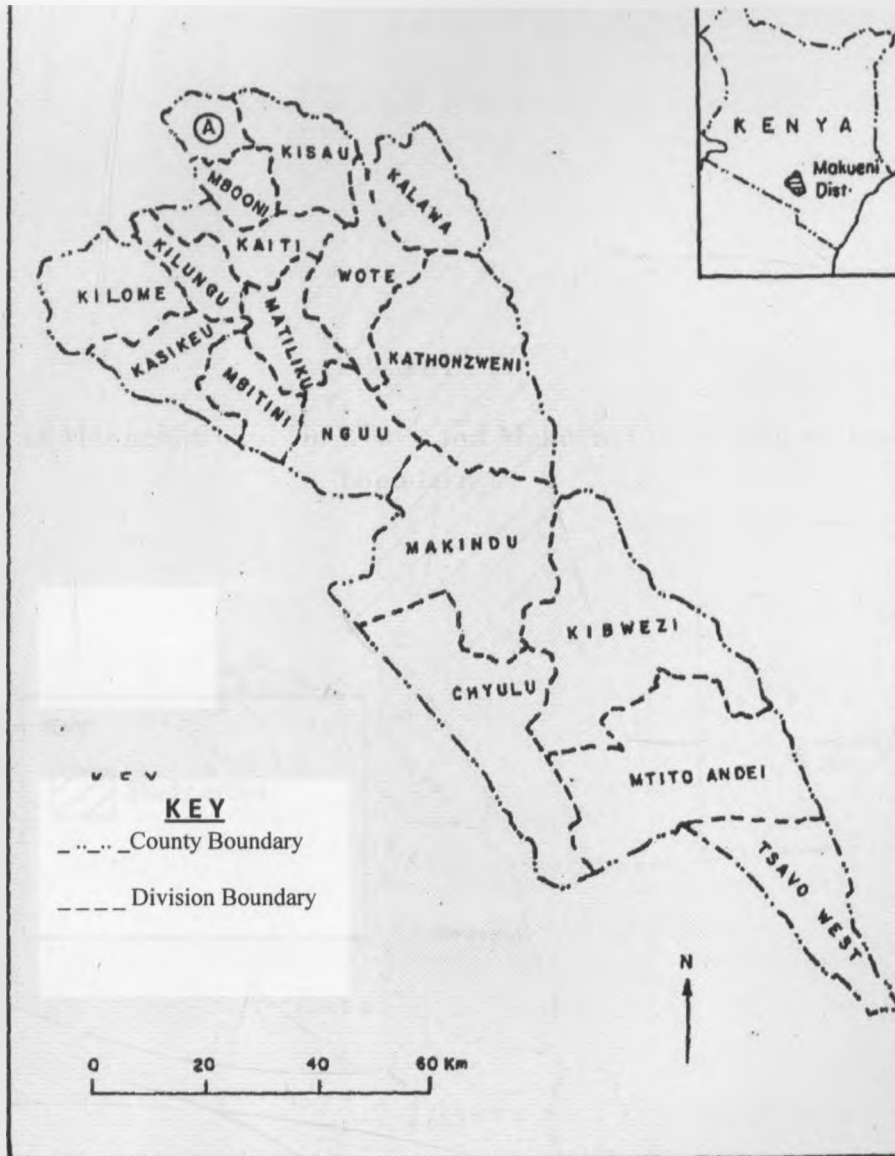
INTERVIEW GUIDE

1. What are the major causes of poverty in your area?
2. In your view do young people in this area rely so much on relief?
3. What can be done to bring about youth independence?
4. What forms of welfare services are available in Makueni County?
5. Which sectors provide employment opportunities to the youth in Makueni County?
6. In which forms do unemployment and underemployment take?
7. Are there sources of affordable credit to finance youth-run businesses?
8. Do young people in Makueni have access to entrepreneurship skills training?
9. What can be done at both household and county level to enhance youth independence in Makueni County?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVALUABLE INPUT!

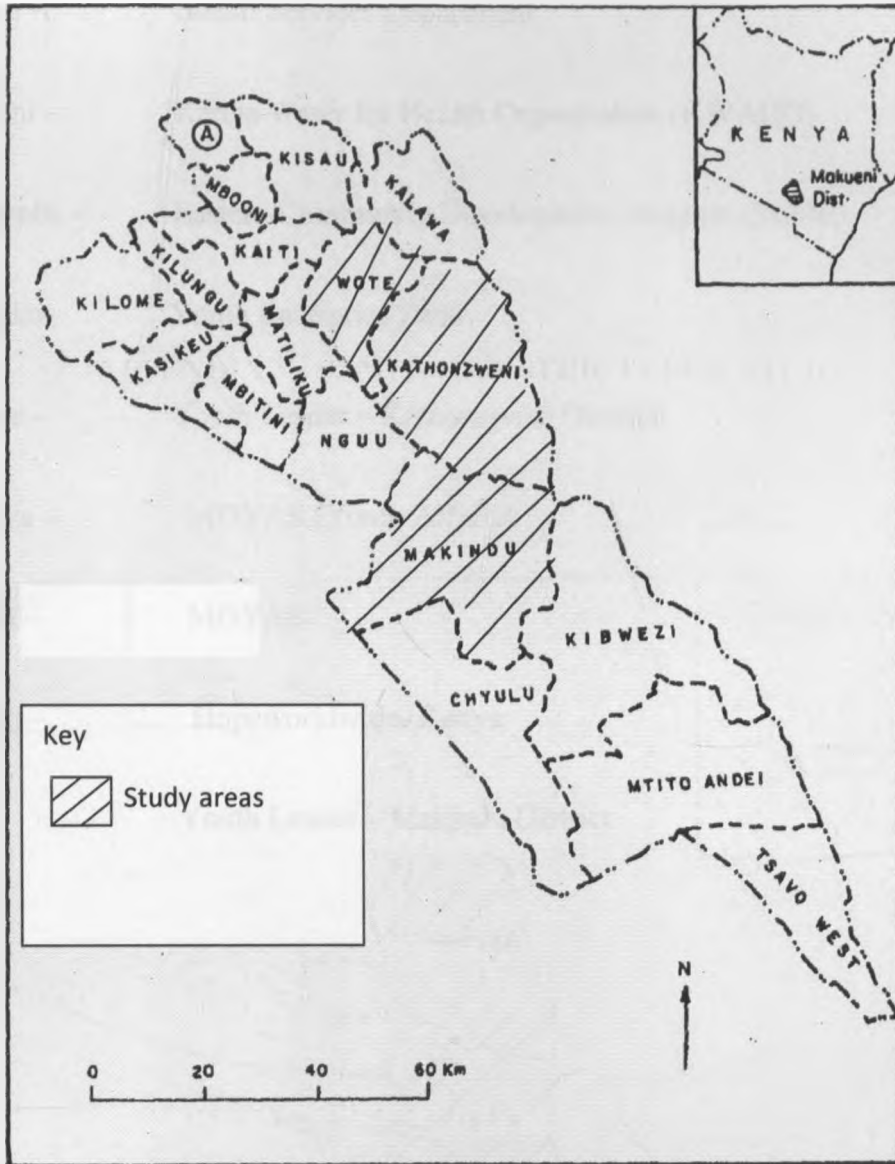
APPENDIX IV

Location of Makueni County in Kenya and Makueni County administrative boundaries



Source: Makueni District Development plan 2002-2008

APPENDIX V: SAMPLED DISTRICTS FOR STUDY



APPENDIX VI
KEY INFORMANTS

Mr. D. Mulu –	Social Services Department
Mr. P. Musyimi –	Kenya Water for Health Organization (KWAHO)
MR. D. Musembi –	Eastern Community Development Program (ECDP)
Ms. A. Mualuko-	Youth Enterprise Fund
Mr. L. Ndongye –	Youth Leader – Kathonzwani District
Mr. M. Muasya –	MOYAS (Youth Affairs)
Mr. V. Maina –	MOYAS
Mr. W. Otieno –	Hopeworldwide- Kenya
Mr. Nzuki -	Youth Leader – Makindu District

APPENDIX VII

TIME FRAME

This study will follow the timelines shown on the schedule below from proposal formulation stage up to the final report submission. However the schedule is subject to adjustments depending on the prevailing circumstances.

Activity	Timeline in months							
	JULY, 2011	AUGUST, 2011	SEPT., 2011	OCT, 2011	NOV, 2011	FEB, 2012	MAR, 2012	MAY TO NOV. 2012
Formulation of research proposal								
Proposal writing and defense								
Training of research assistants and data collection								
Data entry analysis and compilation								
Report writing and defense								
Review and final report submission								
Preparation for graduation								

APPENDIX VIII
RESEARCH BUDGET

Activity	Description	Quantity	Unit Cost (Ksh)	Total cost (Ksh)
Proposal preparation	Final proposal	5 copies	190	950
Survey questionnaires preparation	Individual questionnaires	144		2592
	Interview guide for FGDs	10		120
Data collection	Research assistant's allowance	2 RAs for 10days	-	4,000
	Transport allowance	2 RAs for 10days	-	2,000
	FGD Lunches	18 persons	-	-
Stationery	Pens, pencils and paper			500
Data entry	Allowance	2 RAs for 2days	-	1,000
Data analysis	Allowance	1 RA for 2 days	-	1,000
Report preparation	Final report	5 copies	-	3,600
Miscellaneous			-	5,000
TOTAL				20,762