

**FACTORS INFLUENCING UPTAKE OF THE YOUTH ENTERPRISE
DEVELOPMENT FUND IN SAMBURU EAST CONSTITUENCY, KENYA**

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**A Research Project Report submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
award of the Degree of Masters of Arts in Project Planning and Management of the
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DECLARATION

This research project report is my original work and has not been presented for award of degree in any other University.

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DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to my parents Samuel Ndiritu and Gladys Nderitu, my siblings David, Carol and Nelson, and to my friends who not only stood by me during the pursuit of this Master's degree but also relentlessly urged me on, prayed for me and encouraged me.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AfDB	African Development Bank
ASAL	Arid and Semi Arid Lands
CFBP	Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
FSD	Financial Sector Deepening
GoK	Government of Kenya
KIHBS	Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KNHRC	Kenya National Human Rights Commission
MSEs	Medium and Small Enterprises
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
WFP	World Food Programme
YEDF	Youth Enterprise Development Fund

ABSTRACT

Driven by the need to address the high levels of youth unemployment in Kenya, the government established the Youth Enterprise Development Fund. The objective of the fund is to provide the youth with access to affordable credit either as individuals or in groups. Since its inception in 2006, it has disbursed billions of shillings countrywide. However, there are huge disparities in uptake of the availed credit across the 47 counties. Among the counties with the lowest uptake is Samburu County. Indeed, according to the 2013 status report of the youth fund, the county was ranked last. The rank is indicative of various challenges which have influenced access in this county. This study has investigated factors which have influenced uptake of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund loans, in Samburu East Constituency, Samburu County and focused on three independent variable being, regional factors, accessibility of information on the YEDF among the youth, and the social-cultural factors. To do so, it has focused on 73 youth groups which have accessed the loans at Constituency level as well as other stakeholders involved in registration of the groups and disbursement of the fund. Out of this, a sample size of 23 was selected for interviewing. Eventually, 15 respondents have been interviewed. Methodologically, the study which was exploratory used descriptive survey design. During data collection, the study used both primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected using an interview schedule so as to enable the researcher explore as many factors as possible. This data has been augmented by secondary data mainly generated through desk study review during analysis. Further, the study adopted a conceptual framework and a theoretical framework so as to enable integration of various factors identified. The framework integrates social-cultural, information access and regional factors which in varying degrees have influenced access to youth fund. Data generated was subjected to both qualitative and quantitative analysis. The mixed analysis enabled the researcher to capture and analyze different types of data depending on the appropriate method of analysis. The study main findings are that lack of economic opportunities, insecurity, poor infrastructure, inadequate information, and social-cultural factors such warrior culture (Moranism), patriarchy have influenced the uptake of Youth Enterprise Development Fund in Samburu East Constituency. The study recommends that there needs to be concerted efforts to improve the infrastructure, electricity and mobile network coverage within Samburu East Constituency to enhance a favorable business environment. It also recommends that in concert with other agencies too, the youth fund should assist in strengthening product value chains through infrastructure development, linking of small business to suppliers and the market and in light of the different realities in the various counties, that the fund may consider addressing this factor and bringing out the gaps where greater attention and support may be required to overcome these barriers as their resolution may not come overnight but is a process during which a lot of time which youth would have benefited if some extra support is offered may be lost. The study has also identified some areas for further research.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Employment marks an important transition period for young people and it is characterized by independence, increased responsibility and active participation in national building as well as social development. A successful transition to work for today's many young people can accelerate poverty reduction and boost economic growth (World Development Report, 2007).

There are indicators that youth unemployment continues to be a development challenge despite the positive economic growth rates experienced in several African countries over the past decade as this growth has not generated sufficient employment opportunities for the youth (UNECA, 2011; AfDB et al., 2012). The demographics indicate that Africa is going through a youth bulge with a large proportion of its population below 25 years of age (Kararach, 2011). This demographic shift presents opportunities for a growth dividend if combined with capital and technology – as the case of East Asia - but it can also represent a major threat (Brooks et al., 2012). The difficulties faced by young people in most developing countries in finding work are attributed to limited expansion of employment opportunities, skills mismatches and limited or no work experience (AfDB et al., 2012). As a result, most African youth engage in low quality informal sector jobs with the informal sector accounting for about 90 percent of the jobs created in the continent (World Bank, 2009).

Because growing up is a transition period that implies complex changes and choices, it does not come as a surprise that there is no universal definition of the term 'youth'. Rather, the various definitions depend heavily on the context and purpose in which they are used. The United Nations, for example, defines youth as individuals between 15 and 24 years of age, signaling maturity and the nurturing and building of skills and knowledge in readiness for integration into the economic, social and political spheres of life. The World Bank, on the other hand, focuses on the age range of 12–24 as the time when important foundations are laid for learning and building skills. (UNDP, 2013)

In Kenya, Government policies have defined the youth as those between the ages of 15 and 30 or even 35. Article 260 of the Constitution of Kenya (2010) defines youth as the collectivity of all individuals in the Republic who have attained the age of 18 years but have not attained the age of 35 years. Kenya's National Youth Policy and the National Action Plan on Youth Employment (2007-2012), defines youth as persons resident in Kenya aged 15-30 years (Ministry of Youth Affairs, 2006). The Sector Plan for Labour, Youth and Human Resource Development (2008-2012) defines youth as those aged between 15 and 35 years. (Omolo, 2012)

According to the Institute of Economic Affairs, Kenya Youth Fact book (2010), it is regrettable to note that majority of Kenya's young people are unemployed, underemployed or underpaid and are therefore in the swelling ranks of the working poor in spite of the benefits and opportunities brought about by employment, with the vast majority of jobs available to youth being lowly paid, insecure, and with few benefits or prospects for advancement.

A large proportion of young adults and a rapid rate of growth in the working-age population tend to exacerbate unemployment, prolong dependency on parents, diminish self-esteem and fuel frustrations, which increase the likelihood of violence or conflict. Unemployment also causes social problems such as crime, drug abuse, vandalism, religious fanaticism and general alienation in the vicious circle of poverty (Cincotta, 2005).

Not surprisingly, the high level of unemployment has been blamed for escalating incidents of crime and insecurity in the country (Obonyo, 2013). The violent protests of 2008 P.E.V highlighted the critical importance of addressing the problem of poverty, inequality and in particular youth unemployment. Youth unemployment especially among males was seen as a major contributor to the frustrations and tension and a matter of serious policy concern (Country Social Analysis, 2007).

Youth unemployment rate in Kenya stands at 67%, among the highest in the world (Youth Employment Marshall Plan, 2009). It has not been static though but has been changing depending on the state of the economy. Since 1999, the unemployment rate averaged at 22.43%,

a record low of 12.7% in December 2006 and a high of 40% in December 2011.70% of those unemployed are between the ages of 15 to 35 years (Obonyo, 2013).

Omolo (2012), notes that just as in many other developing countries, creation of adequate employment opportunities to absorb the rapidly growing labor force remains one of the greatest challenges in Kenya and that during the last four decades, in recognition of the unemployment and underemployment difficulties, successive government administrations have assumed and prioritized employment creation as a core policy. In more recent times, policies aiming at employment creation have also focused on the youth. Important initiatives in this regard are The Sector Plan for Labour, Youth and Human Resource Development Sector (2008–2012), the Kazi Kwa Vijana (KKV) programme, the Youth Enterprise Development Fund, Uwezo fund, and more recently, the Kenya Youth Empowerment Program (KYEP). KYEP is a project implemented by the Government of Kenya (GoK), with the support of the World Bank. It has two main components: private sector internships and training, and capacity building and policy development with an objective of supporting the Government to improve youth employability.

The Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) was introduced on 8th December, 2006 as one of the flagship projects of the Kenya Vision 2030, under the social pillar. Its goal is to address the youth challenges mainly of unemployment by increasing the access to capital by young entrepreneurs in the country. It was later formed into a State Corporation on 11th May, 2007. The fund focuses on enterprise development as a key strategy for increasing economic opportunities for, and participation of Kenyan youth in nation building (YEDF Status report, December 2013).

Currently, the fund is tasked to attract and facilitate investment in micro, small and medium enterprises by providing easily accessible loans and providing trading premises/work sites to young entrepreneurs. It does so by engaging several county governments and other private sector players to partner in establishing commercial infrastructure appropriate for youth enterprise needs. It also supports youth oriented micro, small and medium enterprises to develop linkages with large enterprises as well as facilitate marketing of products and services of youth enterprises both in the domestic and the international markets. More so, it provides business development

services and entrepreneurship training to youth enterprises and facilitate employment of youth in the international labour market (YEDF Status report, December 2013).

The Fund provides loans to youth enterprises through two channels: loans directly to youth who may be in groups or individuals or, through the YEDF constituency offices. The range of loans include: C-YES, a group loan, E-YES, an individual loan, Vuka, a business expansion loan, Agrivijana, a greenhouse loan, Angua Chicks, a poultry incubator loan, and Take 254, a film production loan. The YEDF targets all forms of youth owned enterprises whether individual, companies, groups, cooperatives or otherwise.

The Constituency Youth Enterprise Scheme(C-YES) funds enterprises of youth groups at constituency level, in all constituencies. The loan attracts no interest but includes a 5% management fee payable upfront. The amount loaned to any single group at this level must not exceed 50,000 Kenya shillings. The loan amount is repayable within one year with a three months grace period.

To facilitate the disbursement of funds at constituency level, the Divisional Youth Enterprise Development Fund Committees (Divisional YEDFC) have been formed to effectively identify and recommend viable youth group enterprises for loans. Groups are eligible for C-YES funding if members of the group are aged 18 to 35 years, and in case of mixed group, at least 70% of the members are aged 18 to 35 years and 100% of group leaders are within the preferred age bracket. Further, the group must be registered with the Department of Social Services or the registrar of societies for at least three (3) months before applying for the loan. Also, it should be physically operating within the Constituency, where it is undertaking or proposing to carry out business oriented activity. Equally, the group should have an active bank account. According to the YEDF website, the YEDF has partnered with 15 Financial Intermediaries (FIs) to enable the youth access funds directly either as individuals or as organized entities.

Samburu East Constituency lies in the arid area of Kenya which stretches to northern parts of Kenya and is one of the three constituencies in Samburu County. It is bordered to the North West by Laisamis constituency, to the East by Isiolo North constituency, to the South by Laikipia

North constituency, to the West by Samburu Central and to the North West by Samburu North constituency. The constituency covers an area of 10,141.7 Km² and has a total population of 59,094, 29,011 males and 30,083 females and a population density of 6 persons per Km² (National Housing and Population census, 2009).

The constituency's predominant population is Samburu speaking people. Other minor inhabitants of the constituency are the Turkana and the Rendille. The main economic activity in the constituency is pastoralism. The constituency is home to 937.65KM² of gazetted forest (National Housing and population census, 2009). There are four wards within the constituency; Waso, Wamba East, Wamba West and Wamba North covering 5,088.9, 1,567.5, 999.4 and 2,393.9Km² respectively.

This study assessed the factors influencing the uptake of the YEDF by youth groups in Samburu East particularly informed by the fact that Samburu County has the least number of recipients and lowest amount disbursed so far countrywide. It identified number of factors which have influenced the uptake of the YEDF in the constituency. This was done by analyzing both primary and secondary data and providing main findings.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Despite the efforts made by the government through introduction of the various initiatives aimed at improving the livelihoods of the youth, there is evidence from the UNICEF and IEA Kenya Youth Situation Review and Investment, 2013 report that few young people have been able to access the funds and there is need for equity, access, capacity building and involvement of the youth in the social audits of the fund.

Since its inception, YEDF has been awarded Kshs. 4,425,454,002 by the treasury. A portion of the fund is disbursed equally to the constituencies, another is allocated to the financial intermediaries, and a lesser portion is retained to support capacity building. This is a revolving fund and by December 2013, an estimated Kshs. 9,306,385,519.90 billion had been disbursed to 260,553 groups and individual enterprises all over the country. Out of this amount, Kshs. 1,056,689,653.90 has been advanced to 24,593 group projects while Kshs. 124,359,542 has been

disbursed to 5,124 individual enterprises at the constituency level. Through Financial Intermediaries, the fund has financed 230,836 groups and individual enterprises with Kshs. 8,025,336,324. The fund disbursed is expected to be repaid back to the lending institutions so as to be accessed by other youth enterprises that were unable to access the fund due to limited allocation by treasury (YEDF Status report, December 2013)

Samburu County is classified among the poorest counties. The poverty rate stands at 73.5%. This is very high compared to the national poverty rate of 45.9% (KIHBS, 2005/06). According to the YEDF Status report 2013, published on 10 March 2014, in Samburu County, Kshs.9, 625,700 has been disbursed benefiting 399 youth owned enterprises with Kshs.6, 560,000 being disbursed to 154 youth groups under the C-YES category of loan and only 3 under the E-Yes category which is dependent upon successful repayment of the C-YES loans. This was the lowest number of beneficiaries at county level in this category. Kshs. 3,015,700 has been availed through Financial Intermediaries to 242 beneficiaries. Of the 154 groups, 73 groups were from Samburu East County who accessed Kshs. 3,120,000.

Though the country wide figures on uptake of the YEDF is encouraging, the gains made are highly unequal across the country. There are huge disparities at both county and constituency levels. Nowhere is this more pronounced than in Samburu County.

According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 2009, it is evident that the county has a youthful population with over 80 percent of the population being below 35 years of age in 2009. Considering the high rates of poverty in the County, the YEDF has a critical role to play. This is because in their quest to secure sources of livelihood, the youth have faced an enduring challenge of access to affordable credit. Thus, the low uptake of affordable credit by youth in Samburu East Constituency is a pointer to obstacles in the process of accessing the fund. This study investigated factors which have influenced the uptake of the YEDF loans by the youth in Samburu East Constituency.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to investigate the factors influencing the access of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund loans and services, in Samburu East Constituency, Samburu County.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The study specifically seeks:

- (i) To assess the influence of regional factors on the uptake of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund in Samburu East Constituency.
- (ii) To assess the influence of Youth Enterprise Development Fund information accessibility on the uptake of loans and services among the youth in Samburu East Constituency.
- (iii) To assess the social-cultural factors influencing the uptake of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund in Samburu East Constituency.

1.5 Research Questions of the Study

The study has been guided by the following research questions:

- (i) How do regional factors influence the uptake of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund in Samburu East constituency?
- (ii) How does the information accessibility on the Youth Enterprise Development Fund loans and services among the youth influence uptake of Youth Enterprise Development Fund loans and services in Samburu East Constituency?
- (iii) To what extent do social-cultural factors influence the uptake of Youth Enterprise Development Fund loans and services in Samburu East Constituency?

1.6 Significance of the Study

This research brought to the fore the main factors which influence the youth's uptake of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund loans and services in one of the poorest counties in the country.

To the policy makers, development partners, and key stakeholders in the youth empowerment sector, the study will be beneficial for it contributes to available policy knowledge on factors

influencing youth response to governmental and non-governmental initiatives geared towards addressing challenges facing the youth notably unemployment and lack of opportunities for gainful economic activities.

This knowledge will be fruitful especially in crafting better strategies, regulatory tools and funding conditions to enhance the youth empowerment efforts across the different counties with different backgrounds and orientation. This is important considering that Kenya shall remain a young nation throughout this century and in absence of better strategies, it runs the risk of reaping a demographic curse in place of a demographic dividend.

For other researchers, it provides useful reference material on factors influencing uptake of Youth Enterprise Development Funds in a constituency within the ASALs and expose areas for further research which can be useful in expanding knowledge on the subject of youth empowerment.

1.7 Delimitations of the Study

Geographically, the study was limited to the case of youth groups in Samburu East Constituency Samburu County, Kenya. The target population was the youth in youth groups as well as the fund administrators. The YEDF is meant to help youth entrepreneurs and one of the conditions to accessing the funds is that the youth must belong to a youth group. The research was focused only on the pertinent factors influencing access to the YEDF. Therefore the youths in youth groups provided relevant information to this study and the fund administrators also took part in the study.

1.8 Limitations of the Study

Some of the pertinent issues encountered in the course of this research included:

- (i) Geographical factors considering that that the region is expansive and infrastructure especially roads almost non-existent.
- (ii) Security challenges since the area is characterized by high incidences of insecurity due to banditry and cattle rustling.

1.9 Assumptions of the Study

The study had the following assumptions: That the sample used would be representative of other youth within the constituency, and that the data collected from the respondents for purposes of this study would be accurate and reliable and that all respondents involved in the study would be available and prepared to give accurate and honest responses.

1.10 Definition of Significant Terms

This study has used the following key terms:

Regional factors: These are the conditions of the immediate environment surrounding the entrepreneur, such as economic, demographic and physical features that constitute the regional context, and are likely to shape aspirations and in effect the demand for capital.

Information Access: The extent and ease with which the youth can obtain information on the Youth Enterprise Development Fund at the time when it is needed, and, from their locations

Social cultural factors: These consists all elements, conditions and influences which shape the personality of an individual and potentially affect his attitude, disposition, behavior, decisions and activities. Such elements include beliefs, values, attitudes, habits, forms of behavior and life styles of persons as developed from cultural, religious, educational and social conditioning. These elements are learned and are shared by a society and transmitted from generation to generation within that society

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

Uptake: This is the action of taking up or making use of something that is available

1.11 Organization of the Study

Chapter one of this study covers the background to the study, research problem, purpose and objectives of the study, research questions, the significance, assumptions, limitations and delimitations of the study, and definition of significant terms.

Chapter two covers the literature review of the study focusing scholarly works on regional factors affecting entrepreneurial growth, financial services access and inclusion, and awareness levels of youth on youth funds and social cultural factors influencing uptake of the youth fund.

Chapter three outlines the research design, population, sampling design, data collection method, data analysis and operational definitions of variables.

Chapter four has analyzed the data collected and provided findings of the research.

Chapter five wraps up the study by providing summary, discussion of findings, conclusions and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter contains relevant literature relating to the research problem outlined in the previous chapter and particular focus on the main variables in the study that if addressed would lead to higher uptake of the YEDF hopefully not only in Samburu East Constituency but among youth countrywide. The variables are regional factors, accessibility of information on the YEDF among the youth, and the social-cultural factors. The conceptual framework illustrating the relationship between different variables in the study is also outlined.

2.2 Regional factors and uptake of Youth Enterprise Development Fund

The role of the regional context in entrepreneurial activity is acknowledged in the entrepreneurship and economic geography literatures (e.g. Malecki, 1997; Trettin and Welter, 2011). Individual development and behavior take place in a certain location and in an environment that is partly region specific (Fritsch and Storey, 2014).

Entrepreneurs have a strong tendency to locate their businesses close to their place of residence (Figueiro et al., 2002, Dahl and Sorenson, 2009), which indicates that firm founders will be strongly influenced by the regional context where they live. In this sense, researchers have shown that regional factors affect individual decisions in the entrepreneurial process (Mueller et al., 2008). According to Davidsson (1991), “objective” regional conditions have an impact on cognitive processes, which, in turn, would impact entrepreneurial growth.

In effect, regions differ in their availability of resources and opportunities (Stam et al., 2012), and individuals will encounter regional environments that are more or less benevolent and munificent when aiming to become an ambitious entrepreneur. Hence, depending on the environmental conditions, individuals may aspire to different degrees of growth for their new businesses.

In this study, the conditions of the immediate environment surrounding the entrepreneur, being economic, demographic and physical features that constitute the regional context which are likely to influence aspirations and in effect the demand for capital are considered.

2.2.1 Local economic factors

Local economic factors such as size of the local market, supply & demand generated by local purchasing power influence the entrepreneurs' business decisions. A large accessible market and a growing market are positive for the supply of entrepreneurial opportunities. A large enough accessible market is critical for new firms to be profitable since they all have to carry a burden of fixed start-up costs. For new firms and in particular those producing distance-sensitive products the size of the accessible intra-regional market is critical (Johansson & Karlsson, 2001). For firms not producing distance-sensitive goods it is the total accessible market that matters, i.e. the sum of the accessible intra-regional market and the accessible inter-regional market. The market is made up by households and by firms. Thus, the number of accessible households and their incomes are critical, as are the number of accessible firms and the size of their budgets for buying inputs.

2.2.2. Demographics

Population density has been linked with greater new business formation rates. In general, highly dense regions show more local market opportunities related to the consumer market and necessary inputs (Tödtling and Wanzenböck, 2003; Wagner and Sternberg, 2004) than less dense regions (e.g. Reynolds et al, 1994; Armington and Acs 2002), which facilitates the entry of new firms. Moreover, densely populated regions are often characterized by a more diverse population and more variety in demand, which stimulates new firm start-ups (Bosma et al., 2008; Frenken and Bloschma, 2007). In addition, conditions for entering a market are thought to be more favorable in more densely populated regions (Audretsch and Fritsch, 1994) because of closer proximity to the consumer market, the more developed business infrastructure and the presence of a more skilled workforce. Networking and collaboration with potential customers, suppliers and other organizations are also more likely to occur in regions with a higher population density (Liao and Welsch, 2005; Kibler et al, 2014). All these effects together will stimulate the creation of new firms in densely populated regions. However, these regions can also undermine

entrepreneurial activities, mainly because of intense competition, high barriers to entry and less room for product differentiation (Bosma et al, 2008; Kibler et al, 2014). Nevertheless, as Fritsch and Storey (2014) point out, there is a clear evidence of a positive impact of population density, and in general effects of urbanization/agglomeration, on both service and manufacturing new business formation rates.

2.2.3 Infrastructure

The transport infrastructure conditions determine the accessibility to output markets, customers and purchasing power. Since physical and virtual networks tend to favour industrial diversity, entrepreneurial spirit and resource mobilization (Nijkamp, 2003), it seems as if there is a synergistic relationship between infrastructure and business location. Producers tend to prefer to locate close to their suppliers to take advantage of increasing returns and to economize on transport costs (Fujita, Venables & Krugman (1999). There are evidences that new businesses prefer to locate in areas with well-developed transport services (Holl, 2004) and specialized infrastructure (Porter, 2000). Ombura (1997) agrees noting that infrastructure networks are useful instruments within network economies. Infrastructure and related services help to make things happen, it feeds and it is fed by trade, it fuels foreign direct investment, it backs up the creation and sustainability of industrial clusters, it cuts costs and raises competitiveness.

The economic recovery strategy paper, 2003 has identified poor infrastructure as a critical factor that constrain profitable business in Kenya. Kamunge et al (2014), notes that the inadequacy of the physical infrastructure is a principle cause of low levels of investment and unsatisfactory performance of small and micro enterprises. The infrastructure problem includes poor state of roads, inaccessibility to land, work space, electricity and utility. Lack of allocation of suitable land to SMEs in most urban and rural areas is a major impediment to growth and development. Inaccessibility to land and lack of property rights hamper access to infrastructure and utilities by line SMEs.

2.3 Accessibility of information on the YEDF and uptake of loans.

Information drives options. In this era of the “new fiscal normal”- extending indefinitely if not permanently into the future—the old ways of making decisions no longer work. Using historical

trend extrapolations or “gut instincts” does not serve the pace, scale or scope of challenges confronting the public sector. Borrowing from (or adopting alongside) the private sector, federal, state and local agencies increasingly recognize that greater access to information leads to better decision-making and, ultimately, the improvement of citizen services and government performance (Dennis, 2012)

Decision making process requires information – financial and non-financial information as well (Zager et al., 2006). Young people are vulnerable to misinformation and often make costly mistakes at important financial decision points (CFBP, 2013). Availability of and access to relevant information and the ability to interpret this information is key to decision making.

The advent of the World Wide Web and other communication technologies has significantly changed information accessibility, the amount of information available, and the cost of collecting that information. Individuals and businesses alike collect and interpret information in their decision-making activities and use this information for personal or economic gain. Underlying this description is the assumption that the information needed exists, is freely available, and easy to interpret. Yet in many instances this may not be the case at all. In some situations, information may be hidden, costly to assimilate, or difficult to interpret to one’s own circumstances (Shinnick, 2008)

Obstacles to the accessibility of Internet services (especially in African least developed countries) may be hampered by generally low levels of computer literacy in the population, poor infrastructures, and high costs of Internet services. Power availability is also scarce, with vast rural areas not connected to power grids, as well as frequent blackouts in major urban centers (UNCTAD, 2014)

Financial access points also serve as key sources of knowledge relating especially to financial issues as that is their functional area. According to the Geospatial Surveys undertaken in 2013 by the Central Bank of Kenya and a host of private sector players in Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda and Tanzania to map financial access points, financial access points are more likely to be located in wealthier and densely populated areas. When mapped against the likelihood of poverty, 69%

of financial access points are located in areas with the least likelihood of poverty even though only 30% of the population lives in these areas. On the flipside, only 1% of access points are located in the poorest areas where 13% of the population lives (FSD, 2013).

Kenyan youths seem more exposed to information about mobile money and money transfer services compared to information about other services such as formal commercial savings or borrowing (commercial banks, cooperatives, and savings and credit co-operatives). This is not surprising because these services do not require their users to possess credit or a financial history; therefore the services' advertisers are able to target a wider section of the population. (InterMedia, 2010)

The report further notes that in general, the interest and reach of financial information increases with age which can be attributed to the fact that those aged 20-24 and older are much more likely to be the sole financial decision makers in their household, while for a majority of those aged 15-19 years, parents or guardians were the decision makers. In addition to age, there are geographic factors to consider when evaluating the reach of financial information. For youths living in rural areas, radio and word of mouth through friends and family are the central means of gathering financial information. In urban areas, however, youths have much greater access to information from a variety of mediums. Television plays a much greater role in the urban media environment. Traditional brick and mortar banking centers are more likely to be present in urban areas; hence, 23 percent of urban youth said they have access to formal banking services, versus 11 percent of rural respondents. Conversely, rural youth said they have greater access to informal banking services.

A study by InterMedia, 2010 concluded that there exists a substantive quality or quantity gap between the financial information that youths would like to receive and the information they currently can access, and of course a potential area for intervention to close this gap. One potential cause for concern is that the majority of respondents characterized financial information provided by friends and family as only somewhat trustworthy, yet they are the most widely cited source of information about informal savings/borrowing and the second-most widely cited source for other financial topics (InterMedia, 2010)

In Kenya, despite the implementation of a rigorous policy framework and various development initiatives to empower the youth, the majority of youth are either unaware of the existing pro-youth policies or misinformed of how it relates to them. This fundamental challenge inhibits any successful youth initiatives, as it remains impossible to engage an entire constituency successfully without their support for – let alone awareness of – such programmes. According to Njonjo et al (2009), the current practice is that programmes are often designed and implemented by government agencies, and the youth are only engaged as beneficiaries as opposed to a credible constituency that can frame programmes and policies.

Similarly, Gachuru et al,(2014) postulates that information on the youth fund is not adequately disseminated in Kenya. Amenia et al (2011) agrees noting that most of the youth are not properly informed about the loans which make it a challenge in accessing and there is need to provide the youth with adequate information on YEDF objectives and services.

Ahaibwe (2014), in a study carried out on the youth venture capital fund in Uganda, noted that information asymmetry came out as a strong factor inhibiting youth participation in the fund. That although most (95 percent) of the youth from the control group had ever heard of the youth fund, only 63 percent reported to have information on how to access it. The media (TV, radio and newspapers) and youth leaders were cited as the most common sources of youth fund related information. The study concluded that there is a need to put in place a clear communication strategy so that information from the government and the implementers is harmonized.

Chigunta (2002) notes that youth in poor countries, are concentrated in low value local markets and lack access to information on product and input markets and promoting the viability of youth enterprises will therefore require facilitating the access of youth to information on product and input markets and linking them to global value chains.

The YEDF has partnered with 15 financial intermediaries which include, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs), and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs), from which the youth can access information and the funds to start or expand viable businesses (YEDF Status report,2013).

According to the YEDF 2013 Status Report, as a new initiative to increase service touch points and enhance service delivery to youth at the grassroots, the Fund has employed two officers in every constituency. These officers help the youth form groups, fill in application forms and provide them with business counseling. These officers have also been provided with motorbikes to enable them reach all parts of their respective constituencies and therefore provide youth with services at their localities.

This study sought to establish the likely sources of information on the YEDF, mode of communication used in Samburu East Constituency to sensitize the youth on the YEDF, and the physical presence and spread of Financial Intermediaries in the Constituency.

2.4 Social-cultural factors and uptake of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund loans

The social-cultural environment in broad terms consists of both the social system and the culture of a people. It refers primarily to man created intangible elements which affect people's behavior, relationship, perception and way of life, and their survival and existence.

Thus, social-cultural environment, in relation to entrepreneurship, can be defined as consisting of all the elements of the social system and culture of a people which positively or negatively affect and influence entrepreneurial emergence, behavior and performance, and entrepreneurship development in general. All such elements which condition the values, thinking and action of an individual with respect to entrepreneurship comprise the social-cultural environment of entrepreneurship. This study focuses mainly on the pastoral culture of the Samburu as a predominantly pastoral community and the influence on the uptake of YEDF loans and services.

2.4.1 Pastoral Culture and uptake of Youth Enterprise Development Fund Loans

Pastoral communities in Kenya are found in areas classified as ASAL (Arid and Semi-Arid Lands), regions which make up 80% of Kenya's total land surface and support over 25% of the human population and over half of the livestock production. Up to 70% of the population in these regions is nomads, relying on the pastoral production system for their needs. These regions are characterized by a high poverty rate which manifests itself in the form of hunger, illiteracy and lack of access to basic education, adequate clean drinking water, minimum medical facilities

and shelter. This situation has been caused by lack of resources other than livestock, poor integration with the rest of the economy and drought and has resulted to high Insecurity among these communities. (Republic of Kenya, 2005)

Herskovits (1995) defines culture as the human made part of the environment. Culture incorporates both objective and subjective elements. Objective or tangible aspects of culture include tools, roads, television programming, architecture, and other physical artifacts. Subjective or intangible aspects of culture include norms, values, ideas, customs, and other meaningful symbols.

Culture evolves within each society to characterize its people and to distinguish them from others. First, it captures how the members of the society live for instance, how they feed, clothe, and shelter them. Second, it explains how members behave toward each other and with other groups. Third, it defines the beliefs and values of members and how they perceive the meaning of life (Salacuse, 2004).

Human infants are born without any culture. The general process of acquiring culture is referred to as socialization. Socialization impacts an individual's attitude towards entrepreneurship (Brockhaus et al., 1986; Rodkey et al., 1994). An individual's socialization takes place at home, at the place of education, and in other spheres of interaction. Socialization includes messages about what is good and positive, what lends status, what is valued by others etc. Family background and parental role-modeling has been found to be the most prominent factor that affects early socialization and hence formation of attitude towards entrepreneurship (Moser et al., 1995; Twomey et al., 1988). Early communication received and imbibed by an individual from the family would impact career choices by inducing individuals to choose a career in which they are viewed positively by society (Vohra et al., 2006).

Omiti et al., (2012) notes that pastoralists are people who derive most of their subsistence and income from keeping livestock under natural pastures, with humans and livestock co-existing in a symbiotic relationship. The success of pastoralism stems from well-adapted principles and strategies designed to overcome the harsh and variable conditions dominant in arid areas.

Mobility is a key feature qualifying pastoralism. The term nomadic is used when mobility is high and in irregular patterns; transhumant when there are regular back-and-forth movements between relatively fixed locations; and sedentary for the rest.

To many pastoralists, cattle is seen as a valuable asset, a wealth reserve and a sacrificial gift and a pastoralist can do all it takes to protect and seek for more cattle. Traditionally, having large herds of livestock was seen as a source of a secure livelihood base and a sign of prestige. A very high premium is placed on the ownership of cattle, which is an integral part of the pastoralists' culture. High pressure is therefore placed on pastoral communities as culture demands that a successful member of community is one who has the biggest herd of cattle (KNHRC, 2010)

This has hence resulted to the practice of cattle-rustling which remains a major cause of insecurity and conflict amongst the pastoral communities in Kenya. It was traditionally considered to be a deeply entrenched cultural practice where young men, known as “morans” would steal livestock as a means of re-stocking or acquiring more heads of cattle for various purposes, which included raising enough animals for the payment of dowry, or as a show of heroism and/or a means to wealth enhancement. However, the motive behind cattle-rustling and its *modus operandi* has significantly changed, in the past three decades where the traditional practice, involved the use of arrows and bows and forbade the targeting of women and children, has been increasingly replaced by the criminal activities of livestock theft, which rely on the use of guns and bullets and which are equally indiscriminate in their execution as they target all the members (men, women and children) of the rival community.(KNHRC, 2010).

This rampant insecurity resulting from cattle rustling and banditry besides other factors such as limited productive resources, and poor physical and financial infrastructure have led to low coverage by commercial banks and microfinance institutions from which MSEs can access credit and other formal financial services (FARM-Africa, 2002)

Among the pastoralists however, there remains a culture of predominantly informal use of financial services such as saving in kind through investing in livestock for men and the use of Merry Go Rounds for women, and accessing credit from traders with the majority having not yet

interacted with any formal financial institutions with the need for credit being seasonal as households' peak expenditures are typically driven by school fees, festivals, and intermittent medical expenses (WFP, 2012).

Gender identities and gender relations are critical aspects of culture because they shape the way daily life is lived in the family, but also in the wider community and the workplace. Gender, (like race or ethnicity) functions as an organizing principle for society because of the cultural meanings given to being male or female. This is evident in the division of labor according to gender. In most societies there are clear patterns of "women's work" and "men's work" both in the household and in the wider community – and cultural explanations of why this should be so. The patterns and the explanations differ among societies and change over time (Johanna, 2000).

FARM-Africa, (2002) notes that though the problems facing MSEs affect both men and women in pastoral areas, they are different because of factors related to gender. For women, lack of collateral security is much more serious than it is for men. Women rarely own livestock or have other tangible resources. Therefore, microfinance for women is limited. Another factor affecting women in enterprise development in the pastoral areas is their low level of literacy and numeracy, both of which are necessary for good enterprise performance as an enterprises run by literate, numerate persons tend to perform better as record- and bookkeeping are easier.

2.5 Theoretical Framework

Resource-based Entrepreneurship Theory

This study was guided by the Resource-based entrepreneurship theory framework which encompasses a number of theories; all attesting to the fact that resource availability to the founders is an all important factor in opportunity-based entrepreneurship and new venture creation (Alvarez and Busenitz, 2001). Davidsson and Honig, (2003) note that an individual's ability to detect or even act upon opportunities is enhanced by the availability of resources. Under the Resource-based entrepreneurship theory there are three classes that help explain the connection between entrepreneurship and resources. These include the Financial Capital theory, the Social Capital theory and the Human Capital Entrepreneurship Theory.

The financial capital theory is based on the understanding that the founding of new business is more common when people have access to capital as evidenced by empirical research (Evans and Jovanovich, 1989; Holtz- Eakin et al., 1994; Blanchflower et al., 2001). The theory, however, is under dispute following studies that have reported that financial capital is not significantly related to the probability of starting a new venture by nascent entrepreneurs (Aldrich 1999; Davidsson and Honig, 2003; Hurst and Lusardi, 2004). The theory articulates that some individuals have individual specific resources that facilitate acquisition and recognition of new opportunities for an emerging new venture (Alvarez and Busenitz, 2001). Nonetheless, it is also observed that some persons have been able to exploit resources and opportunities due to the better knowledge and information available to them, other than finances or liquidity (Aldrich, 1999; Shane and Venkataraman, 2000 in Simpeh, 2011; Shane, 2003; Anderson and Miller, 2003).

The social capital theory supports the understanding that stronger social ties to resource providers can enhance the probability of opportunity exploitation as well as facilitate resource acquisition processes (Aldrich and Zimmers. 1986). In connecting the understanding between opportunity recognition and business startup, Shane and Eckhardt (2003:333) state that: ‘an individual may have the ability to recognize that a given entrepreneurial opportunity exists, but might lack the connections to transform the opportunity into a business startup. It is thought that access to larger social network might help overcome this problem’. Research has also supported this claim that nascent entrepreneurs would do well to have access to entrepreneurs in their social network so that the competencies of their cultural capital can be drawn on in detecting opportunities (Aldrich and Cliff, 2003; Kim et al., 2003; Gartner et al., 2004)

According to Becker, (1975), two factors have been considered as underlying the entrepreneurship capital theory: education and experience under the Human capital entrepreneurship theory noting that for opportunity identification to be effectively done it is necessary to centre on the knowledge gained from education and experience. This type of resource is said to be heterogeneously distributed to individuals (Chandler and Hanks, 1998; Shane and Venkataraman, 2000; Anderson and Miller, 2003). The relationship between human

capital and nascent entrepreneurship has been empirically verified (as noted by Kim et al., 2003; Davidsson and Honig, 2003; Korunka et al., 2003).

2.6 Conceptual Framework

A conceptual framework is a representation, either graphically or in narrative form, of the main concepts or variables, and their presumed relationship with each other. It is usually shown best as a diagram. Often it helps in the development of the research questions to make this conceptual framework explicit and in such cases, the two go hand in hand (Keith, 2005). The dependent variable in this study is uptake of YEDF loans whilst the independent variables are the critical success factors. The independent variables are regional factors, information access, and social-cultural factors. The argument was that these factors have major influence on whether youth will access loans and other services from the YEDF.

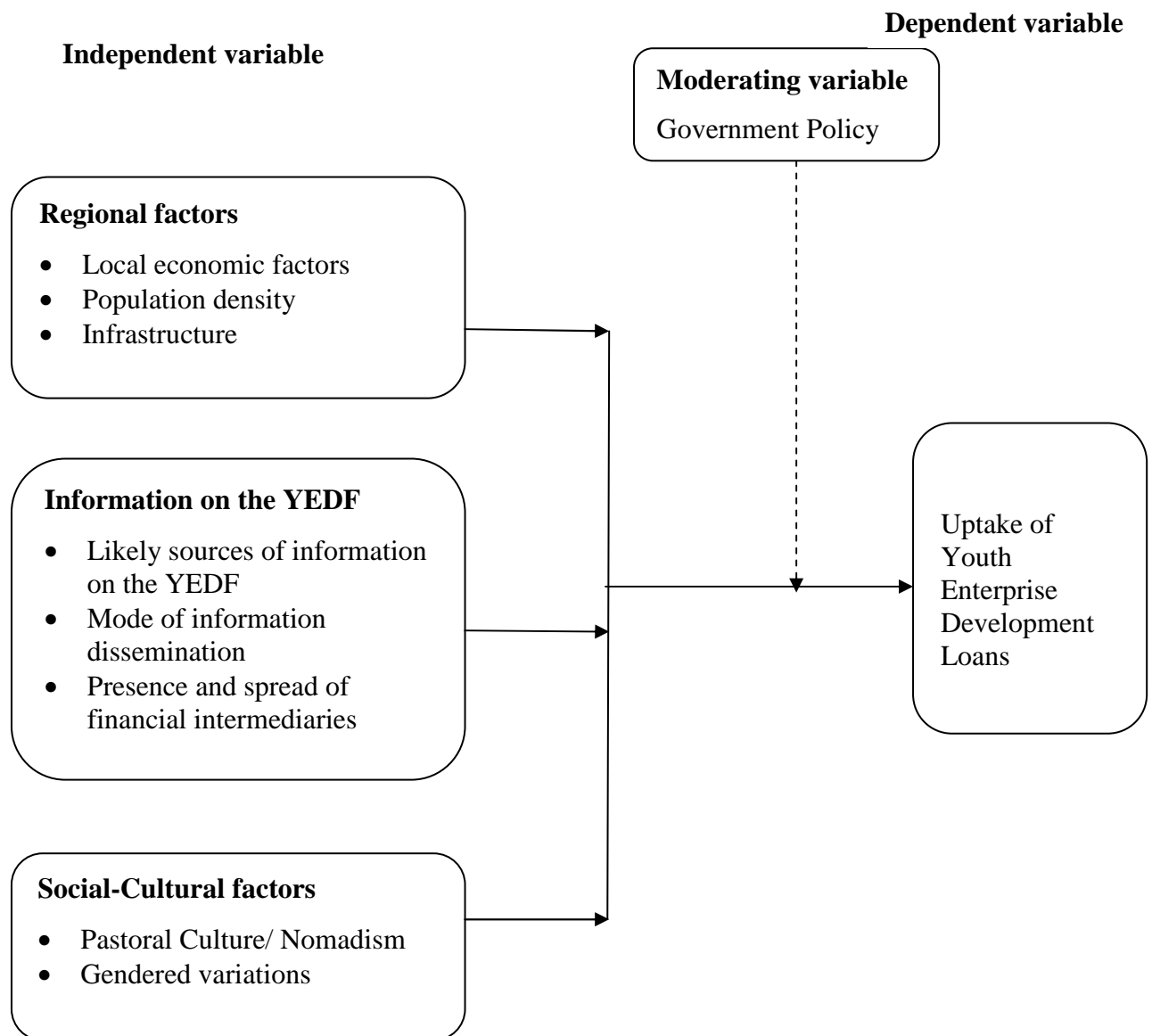


Figure 2.1 Conceptual framework

2.7 Knowledge Gap

Following the persistent problem of unemployment in Kenya, the government has introduced various initiatives aimed at improving the livelihoods of the youth. There is evidence though that despite the efforts made, few young people have been able to access the youth fund which supports entrepreneurship among the youth.

As identified by Aldrich (1999); Davidsson and Honig, (2003); Hurst and Lusardi, (2004), financial capital is not significantly related to the probability of starting a new venture by nascent entrepreneurs. It is against this realization that the current study aimed to investigate the factors which have influenced the uptake of the YEDF loans by the youth in Samburu East Constituency, one of the poorest constituencies in Kenya, but with the lowest uptake of the youth fund as at December 2013.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter gives an explanation and justification on the choices of methodology approaches that were used and adapted in order to answer the research questions posed. It also outlines the systematic research procedures used in the collection and analysis of data. This includes project's research design, target population, sample and sampling procedure, data collection instruments and finally how the data collected was analyzed.

3.2 Research Design

A research design is a statement of the essential elements of a study and constitutes the blue-print for the collection, measurement and analysis of data. It refers to the structure of an enquiry: it is a logical matter rather than a logistical one. The function of a research design is to ensure that the evidence obtained enables us to answer the research question as unambiguously as possible (Cooper and Schindler, 2008)

In this study, survey research design was used. Descriptive research designs help provide answers to the questions of who, what, when, where, and how associated with a particular research problem; a descriptive study cannot conclusively ascertain answers to why. Descriptive research is used to obtain information concerning the status of the phenomena and to describe "what exists" with respect to variables or conditions in a situation (Lynn Library Research, 2013). Kothari (2004) concurs, noting that descriptive surveys as fact-finding enquiries, involve asking questions (often in the form of a questionnaire) of a large group of individuals, adding that the major purpose is description of the state of affairs as it exists at present and represent the findings/ information statistically.

The aim of this study was to assess factors influencing uptake of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund loans in Samburu East constituency. The survey research design allowed the collection of large amounts of data from a sizeable population in an economical way. It permitted

the researcher to collect quantitative and qualitative data, which was analysed quantitatively using descriptive and inferential statistics, and qualitatively using narratives.

3.3 Target Population

The population of interest in this study consisted of the youth groups who accessed the YEDF loans in Samburu East Constituency at Constituency level, as well as those who did not access the fund and stakeholders involved in the process of group formation, registration and the disbursement of the funds. Overall, there were 73 groups and 7 key stakeholders whom their day to day operations revolve around the youth and youth fund within and without the constituency.

Table 3.1: Target Population

Level	No in Position	Percentage of Total Population
Youth Groups	73	91.25
YEDF officers based at the fund's head quarters	2	2.5
Constituency Officer- Samburu East	2	2.5
Social Development Officer- Samburu East	1	1.25
Sub County Youth Officer- Ministry of Devolution and Planning	1	1.25
Regional Co-ordinator- South Rift	1	1.25
Total	80	100

3.4 Sampling Procedure and Sampling Technique

Mugenda and Mugenda, (1999) defines a sample as the number of units selected from the population for investigation. Sampling procedure may be defined as a systematic process of identifying individuals for a study to represent the larger group from which they are selected (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003).

Sampling is the procedure a researcher uses to gather people, or things to study. It is a process of selecting a number of individuals or objects from a population such that the selected group

contains elements representative of the characteristics found in the entire group (Orodho and Kombo, 2002). According to Gay (1983) as cited by Mugenda and Mugenda, (2003) suggests that for descriptive studies at least 10% - 20% of the total population is enough.

10% of the 73 groups were sampled and a member from each group purposively sampled to give a total of 8 youth leaders who have accessed the fund. A control group of 8 youth leaders who have not accessed the fund were also studied. Purposive sampling technique allows the researcher to use cases that have the required information with respect to the objectives of the study (Mugenda, 2003).

The study also purposively sampled key stakeholders who engage with the youth and deal either directly or indirectly with the YEDF at head quarter level and at constituency level. These include: YEDF officers based at the fund's headquarters, Constituency Officers based in Samburu East, Social Development Officer charged with registering the groups, Sub county Youth Officer under the Ministry of Devolution and Planning, and the Regional Coordinator under the South Rift region where Samburu East falls.

A sample size is a subset of the population to which the researcher intends to generalize the results. Any statements made about the sample should also be true of the population (Orodho, 2002).

Table 3.2: Sample Population

Level	Target Population	Sample population
Youth Groups and control group	73	16
YEDF officers based at the fund's head quarters	2	2
Constituency Officer- Samburu East	2	2
Social Development Officer- Samburu East	1	1
Sub County Youth Officer- Ministry of Devolution and Planning	1	1
Regional Co-ordinator- South Rift	1	1
Total	80	23

3.5 Data Collection

The researcher used oral and telephone administration of an interview schedule to collect data from the respondents. This entailed a one on one talk between the researcher and the respondents and aimed at obtaining more generic views on the factors influencing uptake of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund.

The use of interviews allowed for flexibility, probing and conversation with interviewees. Triangulation of the quantitative data collected through this method was done by counterchecking with available secondary data.

A pilot study was done among the youth in Wamba town before venturing further in order to bring to light the weaknesses and strengths of the interview schedule. Views from the funds experts on the interview schedule were also sought. To achieve a high reach rate, respondents' approval to participate in the study was sought before administering the interview, preliminary notifications by telephone and follow-ups were also used.

3.6 Validity and reliability of research Instruments

Conclusions made by researchers are based on the information they obtain from research instruments. Therefore, the quality of instruments used in research is very important. To achieve this, researchers ensure that the instruments are reliable and valid. Any data collection tool worth its purpose has to be fit to measure what it intends to measure and should also be capable of generating the same results on repeat measurements.

3.6.1 Validity of Research Instruments

Validity is described as the degree to which a measuring instrument measures an intended content area. There are two main types of validity, internal and external. Internal validity refers to the validity of the measurement and test itself, whereas external validity refers to the ability to generalize the findings to the target population. Both are very important in analyzing the appropriateness, meaningfulness and usefulness of a research study. However, the researcher has focused on the validity of the measurement technique (Shuttleworth, 2009).

Validity is the degree to which results obtained from analysis of the data actually represent the phenomenon under study. Its determination is primarily judgmental and intuitive. It can also be determined by using a panel of persons who shall judge how well the measuring instrument meets the standards, but there is no numerical way to express it (Mugenda and Mugenda, 1999)

The study interview schedule was developed by the researcher based on the study's objectives. In order to determine the validity of the instrument before administration, the interview schedule was presented it to the supervisor for analysis. The researcher also used a pilot test to objectify the interview schedule, validate it and help assess and review the suitability of the instrument in measuring the intended variables and its comprehensiveness in content.

3.6.2 Reliability of Research Instruments

Reliability is about the degree which the research instruments yield good results (Cooper and Schindler, 2010). A measuring instrument is therefore reliable if it provides consistent results.

Mugenda and Mugenda (1999) define reliability as a measure of the degree to which a research instrument yields stable and consistent results or data on repeated trials. Although unreliability is always present to a certain extent, there will generally be a good deal of consistency in the results of a quality instrument gathered at different times. The aim of reliability is to minimize the errors and biases in a study.

In order to achieve this, the researcher administered the instruments in person in order to assess their clarity.

3.7 Data analysis

While data collection is the systematic recording of information, data analysis involves working to uncover patterns and trends in data sets before processing the responses.

3.7.1 Qualitative Data Analysis

Qualitative data analysis essentially involves synthesizing the information the researcher obtains from various sources into a coherent description of what he has observed or otherwise discovered. Qualitative analysis was used to summarize the mass of words generated from the

interview. The process begun right from the first day of data collection where data was arranged into relevant themes according to the research questions. Any other new idea that emerged in the subsequent day's field work was added into the summary of themes.

3.7.2 Quantitative Data Analysis

Quantitative data analysis was done through the use of descriptive statistics which consist of tabular and numerical techniques for summarizing data. Descriptive statistics enables a researcher to reduce a large mass of data to simpler, more understandable terms. The descriptive statistics used include measures of frequency (Nunnally, 1978).

3.8 Ethical Considerations

The research sought to be objective. Ethical issues related to the study were addressed by maintaining utmost confidentiality of the information volunteered by the respondents. The interview with the respondents was not recorded without their approval. Importantly, the researcher maintained respect and was subtle and sensitive during interviews. Finally, the researcher would not undertake any activity without the approval by the concerned officials in various agencies and the interviewees were duly informed of the purpose of the research and their consent for participation sought.

3.9 Operational definition of the variables

Operational definition is a description of a variable, term or object in terms of the specific process or set of validation tests used to determine its presence and quantity. Variables described in this manner must be publicly accessible so that persons other than the definer can independently measure or test for them at will (Kish, 2011). Operationalisation refers to the translation of concepts into tangible indicators of their existence (Saunders et al, 2009). Table 3.1 below summarizes the operational definitions of variables that were used in this study.

Table 3.3: Operational Definitions of Variables in the Study							
Objective	Variable	Indicator(s)	Measurement	Scale	Data Collection Method	Type of analysis	Level of Analysis
(i) To assess the influence of regional factors on the uptake of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund in Samburu East Constituency.	<u>Independent Variable</u> Local economic factors Demographics Infrastructure	a) Market linkages b) Poverty levels c) Population density d) Road network e) Communication network coverage	a) Market linkages b) Households purchasing power c) Population density d) Nature of roads and coverage by the road network e) Communication service providers and the area network coverage	Nominal Nominal Nominal Nominal Nominal	Interview schedule	Quantitative & Qualitative	Descriptive statistics
(iii) To assess the influence of Youth Enterprise Development Fund information accessibility on the uptake of loans and	<u>Independent Variable</u> Information accessibility	a) Mode of information dissemination b) Sources of information c) Presence in numbers and	a) Number of sources of information and their accessibility b) Communication medium used to sensitize the youth on the fund	Nominal Nominal	Interview Schedule	Quantitative & Qualitative	Descriptive statistics

services among the youth in Samburu East Constituency.		spread of financial intermediaries partnering with the YEDF	c) Number of financial intermediaries that have partnered with the YEDF d) Spread and accessibility of the financial intermediaries	Nominal Nominal			
(iii) To assess the social-cultural factors influencing the uptake of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund in Samburu East Constituency.	<u>Independent Variable</u> Pastoral Culture	a) Values and beliefs b) Value system and attachment	a) What the community defines as achievement b) Property ownership or other form of collateral	Nominal Nominal	Interview schedule	Quantitative & Qualitative	Descriptive statistics

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION AND PRESENTATION

4.1. Introduction

The previous chapters have clearly laid out the parameters of this study. In summary, the main objective was to identify the main factors hindering the access of Youth Enterprise Development Fund in Samburu East Constituency. To achieve the objective, the researcher conducted field interviews with a goal of giving the respondents an opportunity to tell their story from their perspectives. This chapter tells through analysis the experiences of the respondent in their relationship towards access of the Youth Fund, particularly the enduring challenges which have resulted in Samburu East constituency being the lowest ranked in terms of access to the Fund.

4.2. Interview Response Rate

The study had a sample size 23. Their distribution is indicated below whereby 69.6 percent consisted of the representatives from the youth groups whereas 30.4 percent was made up of officials from various government agencies with a bearing on either the workings of the youth groups or the Youth Fund.

Table 4.1: Sample size distribution

Level	Target Population	Sampled	Distribution of sample size to target population (%)
Youth Groups and control group	73	16	69.6
YEDF officers at the Fund's Head Quarters	2	2	8.75
Constituency Officer- Samburu East	2	2	8.75
Social Development Officer- Samburu East	1	1	4.3
Sub County Youth Officer- Ministry of Devolution and Planning	1	1	4.3
Regional Coordinator- South Rift	1	1	4.3
Total	80	23	100

4.3. Response Rates of Interviewees

Out of the 23 individual sampled, 15 responded. This represents 65 percent of the respondents. The distribution of the respondents based on their status is shown below:

Table 4.2: Distribution of response rates

Level	Sampled	Number of respondents
Youth Groups and control group	16	10
YEDF officers at the Fund's Head Quarters	2	1
Constituency Officer- Samburu East	2	1
Social Development Officer- Samburu East	1	1
Sub County Youth Officer- Ministry of Devolution and Planning	1	1
Regional Coordinator- South Rift	1	1
Total	23	15
Percentage (%)	100	65

4.4. Gender Distribution of Respondents

Gender distribution of respondents is of critical importance to the study. This is because, often there are gendered experiences best captured by respondents of a given gender from their own experience and lived perspective.

During the interviewing phase, of the 15 interviewees, 80 percent were males and 20 percent were females. Their disaggregated distribution is indicated below. It is important to note that, the marginal representation of women in the sample is reflective of the realities present in the region. In terms of officials representing government agencies, the hardships present in Samburu East has largely discouraged posting of women to the region since they are perceived to be more vulnerable, for example, to the rampant insecurity due to banditry and cattle rustling. Concerning the youth groups, the patriarchal nature of the Samburu community has marginalized women in economic activities hence their low participation in youth groups.

Table 4.3: Distribution of respondents by gender

Level	Male	Female	Total
Youth Groups and control group	7	3	10
YEDF officers at the Fund's Head Quarters	1	0	1
Constituency Officer- Samburu East	1	0	1
Social Development Officer- Samburu East	1	0	1
Sub County Youth Officer- Ministry of Devolution and Planning	1	0	1
Regional Coordinator- South Rift	1	0	1
Total	12	3	15
Percentage (%)	80	20	100

4.5. Age Distribution

The distribution of the respondents by age was as follows: 67 percent were youths (18-35 years) and 33percent were aged 35 years and above. This distribution converges with the division between members of the youth groups and the officials who are expected to deal with the youth affairs. The convergence is a pointer to a key challenge whereby most of the officials appointed to develop policy and assist in the empowerment of youths are not youths. Consequently, they lack the appropriate perspective on how to best formulate policies and strategies which can work. The outcome has been a divergence between the expectations of the youths and the official response.

Table 4.4: Distribution of interviewees by age

Level	Age 18-34 years	Age >35 Years	Total
Youth Groups and control group	10	0	10
YEDF officers at the Fund's Head Quarters	0	1	1
Constituency Officer- Samburu East	0	1	1
Social Development Officer- Samburu East	0	1	1
Sub County Youth Officer- Ministry of Devolution and Planning	0	1	1
Regional Coordinator- South Rift	0	1	1
Total	10	5	15
Percentage (%)	67	33	100

4.6. Major Factors influencing the uptake of YEDF in Samburu East Constituency

This section brings out the main factors which have influenced the uptake of the YEDF in Samburu East Constituency. The main factors are: Absence of economic opportunities, insecurity, geographical isolation, attitudes towards taking loans, inadequate information, low number of YEDF officials on the ground, social-cultural factors notably the patriarchal nature of the society and culture of moranism, and nomadic lifestyle. Each is discussed below:

4.6.1. Absence of Economic Opportunities

The absence of economic opportunities in Samburu East constituency was identified by the respondents as a major cause for low uptake of YEDF loans. Indeed 73 percent of respondent agreed that this remains a major obstacle. They noted that investments in ICT are restricted to the major urban areas of the constituency and the whole of Samburu County in general with seven cyber cafes in Maralal and Wamba combined in the entire county. Besides, only a few government services have internet services and while mobile phone technology which could be instrumental and very useful in enhancing provision of government service to the citizens as it is easy to use and more accessible, has coverage of only 35percent of the county. The area covered by electricity is also very small; about 10 percent with electricity connection only confined within Archers post and Wamba Towns in Samburu East Constituency. Lack of adequate

electricity causes the county to lag behind in value addition to local raw materials and in the promotion of small scale business.

Further, the region is remote lacking in the infrastructure necessary for making entrepreneurship thrive. Institutions especially financial institutions and others in the production value chain have a thin presence in this expansive constituency, the market linkages are weak, and the main economic activity is pastoralism which has remained highly vulnerable to cycles of droughts and cattle rustling. This is compounded by insecurity due to banditry attacks especially along the roads making movement of goods and services almost impossible. Significantly, the higher incidences of poverty have led to low purchasing power, and the highly scattered settlement of the community has led to underdeveloped markets. Consequently, business enabling factors are lacking.

Table 4.5: Absence of economic opportunities

Absence of economic opportunities	Frequency	Percentage
Highlighted as a factor	11	73
Not highlighted	4	27
Total	15	100

This data indicates that making credit ‘easily’ accessible and affordable does not necessarily make someone want to take risks if the economic environment is not conducive for investment. Essentially, this shows that the cost or availability of money is not the main driver in youth decision making on whether to engage in business. Instead, the market potential which is a function of the activeness of the economic environment is what influences such a decision.

4.6.2. Insecurity

Samburu East constituency is characterized by rampant insecurity resulting from cattle rustling and banditry besides other factors such as conflict over access to pasture and water. According to respondents, cattle rustling between Samburu, Boranas, road banditry, and disputes over grazing boundaries between Samburu East and Isiolo districts are the major causes of conflict and harsh government response.

The insecurity has had multiple negative outcomes all which have hindered access to youth fund. These include: thin spread of financial services institutions. In the whole constituency, Equity Bank is the only financial intermediary which has opened a branch; poor linkages within product and services value chains; absence of non-governmental actors who could augment government efforts in building capacities for the youths. Also, insecurity has increased the risk of doing business since settlements are often attacked by bandits and rustlers who often loot and burn business premises.

Table 4.6: Insecurity as an influencing factor

Insecurity as an influencing factor	Frequency	Percentage
Highlighted as a factor	10	67
Not highlighted	5	33
Total	15	100

4.6.3. Geographical expansiveness and low population density

The constituency is expansive covering an estimated 10,000 square kilometers with a population density of 6 people per square kilometer. Residents often have to travel for hundreds of kilometers to access services including financial ones. This is further compounded by poor transport and communication infrastructure with many areas inaccessible by motorized transport and out of communication range whether via mobile phones, radio or television.

According to respondents, particularly those working for the government, this has had various outcomes: One, it has led to information isolation since majority of residents are hardly reached by information about youth fund and how to access it. Two, it has increased tremendously the cost of accessing such information and services, and also setting up of businesses for the determined few. Three, the isolation makes it difficult to monitor those who have been awarded loans, and this has a consequence of making qualification for youth fund loans more difficult. Four, any efforts to reach the youth by calling for sensitization meetings have been challenged by the fact that the youth show up with an expectation of some form of handout which will normally be difficult as a result of the budgetary constraints within the various government programmes. This difficulty in turn discourages youths who could potentially apply for loans.

Table 4.7: Geographical expansiveness, low population density and access to loans.

Geographical expansiveness, low population density influence on uptake of YEDF	Frequency	Percentage
Highlighted as a factor	12	80
Not highlighted	3	20
Total	15	100

4.6.4. Attitudes toward Access to Credit

A prevalent concern raised by 87 percent of the respondents was that among the youth, there is fear of accessing credit due to the associated risks and uncertainties in business. This is particularly so for those starting business ventures for the first time. In Samburu East constituency, the fear is compounded by the inhospitable business environment which exponentially increases the risk of failure.

Also, to many youths the amount is so little that they do not think it can have any meaningful impact in their lives. From the interviews, it is observable that majority of them would like to invest in livestock. Considering that the group is usually given 50, 000 shillings and on average it has 10 members, this amount is negligible. It translates to about four thousand shillings per member. This is equivalent to the price of one goat. As result, to many, youth fund is not viable compared to other alternative ways of acquiring livestock.

Table 4.8: Attitudes towards access to credit

Attitude towards access to credit	Frequency	Percentage
Highlighted as a factor	13	87
Not highlighted	2	13
Total	15	100

4.6.5 High Mortality Rates of Youth Groups

According to the representative of the YEDF the constituency level, groups formed have high mortality rates. Out of the 70 groups registered, 40 of the have collapsed. This represents 57 percent of the groups formed. The high mortality rate has made it difficult for groups to access

the fund since their sustainability and ability to pay is difficult to ascertain as they operate in a very complex environment where fast changing events such as large scale insecurity, droughts forcing migration tends to disrupt and at times force collapse of these groups. The other reason for the high mortality is that most of the groups were registered around the 2013 electioneering period for the purposes of taking advantage of the competitive and monetized electoral environment to access funds from either from politicians or Youth fund through facilitation by politicians. Once the funds were secured and electioneering was over, the groups disintegrated since they outlived their objective.

Table 4.9: High group mortality rate influence on uptake of YEDF

High group mortality rate influence on uptake of YEDF	Frequency	Percentage
Highlighted as a factor	8	53
Not highlighted	7	47
Total	15	100

4.6.6 Inadequate Information about the Youth Enterprise Development Fund

Awareness of financial services, their presence, benefits, and where one can access them is important in determining whether individuals will apply for financial services. In absence of awareness, there is diminished demand for credit. In Samburu East Constituency, though there is awareness of the presence of youth Fund, the information available is mainly acquired through mass media.

Such information is often shallow for it does not detail the process and what individuals should do to access the available services. More so, the region is isolated when it comes to other alternative sources of information such as internet and training. Consequently, despite being aware of the presence of the fund, 67 percent of individuals interviewed lacked adequate information on the processes for acquiring credit and other services from the fund.

The fund administrators especially at the ground level noted that though they appreciate the need for wide information dissemination and are willing to venture into the interior most parts of the constituency, their efforts are hampered by the fact that the youth invited to the sensitization

meetings come with an expectation of some form of handouts and gifts and in light of the budgetary constraints, their expectations are not met affecting their motivation to attend subsequent such meetings.

Table 4.10: Information on Youth Enterprise Development Fund

Inadequate information influence on uptake of YEDF	Frequency	Percentage
Highlighted as a factor	10	67
Not highlighted	5	33
Total	15	100

4.6.7 Nomadic Lifestyle

The respondents noted that even with the attempts made by government and other stakeholders to support Agricultural production in the constituency, it is still low relative to its potential. Crop production is constrained by limited access to agricultural inputs (fertilizer, seeds, chemicals, and machinery) and inappropriate farming practices. Further, weak extension service delivery means that most farmers are unable to take up modern forms of farming to cater for the rising population and changing weather patterns. Also the poor marketing systems combine with weak technologies to stifle value addition in farm production. Similarly, productivity is low among pastoralists due to a number of factors. The main ones include poor livestock breeds, and high prevalence of diseases. Also the fact that most of grazing areas are gazetted forests means that pastoralists' access to pasture is greatly limited particular during extreme climatic conditions. Consequently, the adaptive capacity of the pastoralists is reduced even as nomadism persists.

This has further been affected by the land tenure system in Samburu County. Most of the land in Samburu is owned communally or by group ranches. These systems do not guarantee individual rights. Absence of clear land rights is a major disincentive for communities to embrace best land use practices. This situation has contributed greatly to the unsustainable land use practices in the county. In addition, lack of title deeds is a constraining factor in the promotion of small scale agriculture since farmers are unable to access credit facilities due to lack of collateral.

Omiti et al., (2012) has noted that pastoralists are people who derive most of their subsistence and income from keeping livestock under natural pastures, with humans and livestock co-existing in a symbiotic relationship. The success of pastoralism stems from well-adapted principles and strategies designed to overcome the harsh and variable conditions dominant in arid areas. Mobility is a key feature qualifying pastoralism. The term nomadic is used when mobility is high and in irregular patterns.

The residents of Samburu East constituency are predominantly pastoralists. The region faces cycles of droughts affecting the constituency economic fortunes. Drought forces men, including youth, to move over long distances in search of pasture. This has made it impossible for them to engage in meaningful settled economic activities. Also, it has led to disintegration of groups since different members often do not move to the same location and they might take long before they come back. Further, it has made repayment of loans impossible and at times causes default. This diminishes the opportunity for acquiring more loans from the fund. Finally, it has made assisting loanees' in capacity and monitoring of loans difficult on the part of government officials.

Table 4.11: Nomadic lifestyle as a hindering factor

Nomadic lifestyle influence on YEDF loan uptake	Frequency	Percentage
Highlighted as a factor	9	60
Not highlighted	6	40
Total	15	100

4.6.8 Cultural Factors

During the interviews three cultural factors were identified as hindering access to the fund. These are: Moranism, strong patriarchal system and weak entrepreneurship culture. Moranism has engendered a strong warrior culture and encourages youths to raid other communities not only to steal livestock but also to test their might. Young boys are taken for training for some period of time in keeping with the traditions. This denies them time to attend formal education. Being a moran and a successful raider is prestigious in this community with a strong warrior culture and youths are more interested in being Morans than being entrepreneurs. This has led to weak entrepreneurship culture. A respondent observed that successful raiders are heroes and songs are

sung in their praise. In the same vein, songs are sung in condemnation of cowards and those who do not go to raid. Ultimately, to avoid humiliation and pursue heroism, warrior culture (moranism) is deeply rooted.

Related is the fact that the community is patriarchal. There exist great imbalances in gender participation in development processes in the county. High illiteracy level among women and retrogressive cultural practices precludes their participation in decision making processes. This means that although the women bear the greatest burden of taking care of their families (cooking, collecting water, firewood and looking after livestock) they are not fully involved in identifying programmes which affect their lives and hence allowed to contribute to development programmes and almost all economic decisions are made by the male members of the society giving the female less power over family finances. Importantly, men tend to be an obstacle to females' access to finance out of the fear that economic empowerment is going to upset the power balances and women organizing in groups is viewed as going against the Samburu traditions and cultural practices. This has discouraged mobilization of female youths into groups.

FGM is practiced by the Samburu community and there has been resistance to change despite concerted efforts by government and other development partners. Girls undergoing FGM are in most cases married off early thus denying them an opportunity to attend school. Due to these cultural realities, 73 percent of respondents identified cultural factors as key in understanding the low uptake of credit from YEDF.

Table 4.12: Cultural factors as a factor influencing uptake of the YEDF

Cultural factors' influence on uptake of YEDF loans and services	Frequency	Percentage
Highlighted as a factor	11	73
Not highlighted	4	27
Total	15	100

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Introduction

The previous chapter has analyzed the data gathered from the field through interviews. In this chapter, we present the summary of the research findings, provide a discussion of the findings, make conclusions as well as suggest gaps which further research should address on Youth Enterprise Development Fund.

5.2. Summary of Findings

The summary of research findings is presented in three sections to match the objectives of the research.

The first objective of the study was to examine the regional factors which have influenced uptake of the YEDF in Samburu East constituency. The study found that the absence of economic opportunities has been a major hindrance. The region has weak links in products and services value chains, the population has low purchasing power and the dispersed settlement patterns has led to weak markets. As a result, despite the presence of the fund, youths lack incentives to apply for loans simply because viable business opportunities are lacking.

Similarly, the region is characterized by high incidences of insecurity. Banditry, cattle rustling and conflict over access to pasture and water are prevalent. These have led to thin spread of financial services institutions; poor linkages within product and services value chains; absence of non-governmental actors who could augment government efforts in building capacities for the youths. Also, insecurity has increased the risk of doing business since settlements are often attacked by bandits and rustlers who often loot and burn business premises. Among the respondents, 73% and 67% identified lack of economic opportunities and insecurity respectively as major obstacles to uptake of the youth development fund.

The second objective of the study was to determine the influence of accessibility of information on the Youth Enterprise Development Fund loans and services among the youth on access to the fund. From the information gathered from the field, it is clear that the region has low levels of literacy in general making dissemination of knowledge difficult. The study findings show that 68 percent of the respondents are in agreement that information on YEDF is inadequate. This is because of limited sources of information due to geographical expansiveness and under-development of the region, insecurity, and lack of capacity to do training on the part of the government agencies. Ultimately, lack of information and closely connected factors have had negative influence.

The third and last objective aimed at assessing the influence of social cultural factors on the uptake of the YEDF. The research has found several relationships between social cultural factors and uptake of YEDF. One, the nomadic lifestyle exacerbated by cycles of drought has made it difficult for males to engage in settled economic activity. Often they are forced to move over long distances leading to disintegration of groups, makes loan repayment difficult jeopardizing opportunities for more loans in future. Importantly, monitoring of loanees and building their capacity is difficult.

Related to nomadism are other aspects of culture notably moranism and patriarchy. Being a moran is prestigious. More so, if one goes out to raid and return successfully. As a result youths aspires to be morans than being entrepreneurs. This has led to weak entrepreneurship. Additionally, the patriarchal nature of the society has denied the female gender an opportunity to engage in mobilization and joint economic activities. As such majority of young women are restrained by culture in accessing such loans. 72 percent of respondents identified cultural factors as an obstacle to uptake of the YEDF loans.

5.3. Discussion of findings

This section discuss the findings of the study in line with the literature reviewed.

5.3.1 Awareness and Access to Information

There is no doubt that awareness and access to information is important in determining uptake of financial services. Findings of this study attest to this fact and concur with various studies done elsewhere. Such as by Zager et al (2006) that decision making process requires information – financial and non-financial information as well.

Also that information is lacking in Samburu East constituency reinforces the study done by InterMedia (2010) which among its findings concluded that there exists a substantive quality or quantity gap between the financial information that youths would like to receive and the information they currently can access, and of course a potential area for intervention to close this gap. Similarly the study has in various instances shown that information is not adequately disseminated and financial literacy remains a challenge. Njonjo et al (2009) and Gachuru et al (2014) have drawn similar findings in their research.

5.3.2. Social Cultural Factors and uptake of Financial Services

This study has given substantial attention to social-cultural factors and how they influence the decision to access financial services and engage in entrepreneurial activities. It has shown that weak entrepreneurial culture, constraining cultural practices such as gendered power balances and warrior culture hinder the uptake of financial services. These findings are in line with findings by the KNHRC (2010), Johanna (2000), OECD (2001) and Gachuru et al (2014). These studies have shown various dimensions of culture and how it interacts with uptake of financial services and entrepreneurship.

5.3.3. Regional Factors and uptake of Financial Services

This studies, just like others as noted by (Mueller et al., 2008) stating that researchers have shown that regional factors affect individual decisions in the entrepreneurial process has brought this out.

As stipulated by Stam et al., (2012), regions indeed differ in their availability of resources and opportunities and individuals will encounter regional environments that are more or less benevolent and munificent when aiming to become an ambitious entrepreneur. Hence, depending

on the environmental conditions, individuals may aspire to different degrees of growth for their new businesses.

The Samburu East Constituency environment based on this study for now may not pass as very munificent and will require greater concerted efforts to improve infrastructure, electric connectivity, mobile phone network coverage, market linkages and the general income levels among the households to support a more vibrant and enabling business environment.

5.4. Conclusions

Drawing from various parts of this study, we make the following conclusions:

The YEDF in its philosophy and conception is a progressive idea. The goal of empowering the youths is critical considering that the country is grappling with youth unemployment challenges and that demographically, Kenya will remain a young nation throughout this century. In absence of interventions, there is a high risk of reaping a demographic curse in place of demographic dividend.

In its implementation, the fund has faced a myriad of challenges. Some are nationwide whereas others are context specific. Regardless, this study has brought out the importance of avoiding the adoption of one size fits all approach or assuming that simply availing credit to youths is a silver bullet which solves the economic challenges they are facing. There is a need for a sustained review, research and changes in policy to captures the existing and emergent dynamics which have hindered the full realization of the YEDF funds. Evidence based practices should be the guiding framework for YEDF.

Finally, the fund needs to work in coordination with other agencies-governmental and non-governmental-in strengthening product and services value chains. As the fund's objective is also to assist enterprising youths in connecting with suppliers and markets and other actors within products and services value chains, this needs to be enhanced especially in light of the regional dynamics affecting the different business environments the youths function in, some of which are not very enabling.

5.5. Recommendations

i) There needs to be concerted efforts to improve the infrastructure, electricity and mobile network coverage within Samburu East Constituency. There are continued efforts to address the security issues which should be proactive rather than reactive. This will enhance a more favorable business environment and may even present the geographical expansiveness of the region as an opportunity rather than a hindrance. In concert with other agencies too, the youth fund should assist in strengthening product value chains through infrastructure development, linking of small business to suppliers and the market.

ii) There is a need for sustained support of the youths in this constituency and others facing similar situations especially in Arid and semi-arid pastoral regions of Kenya. Firstly, there is a need for robust and adequately staffed awareness and financial literacy programs. Such programs should take cognizance of low levels of literacy and the content and pedagogy should be tailor made to meet this need.

iii) The approach of the youth fund has been a one-size fits all counties approach. As counties are faced with different social-cultural realities, the fund may consider addressing this factor and bringing out the gaps where greater attention and support may be required to overcome these barriers as their resolution may not come overnight but is a process during which a lot of time which youth would have benefited if some extra support is offered may be lost.

5.6. Suggestions for further research

Future research is needed focusing on how to best develop tailor made financial packages for pastoral communities in Arid and Semi-Arid areas, develop financial literacy and strengthen products and services value chains. Further research also focusing on the Fund's latest report after 2013 could also be conducted to determine the trend and support any efforts for improved uptake. From the study, it appears that a great deal of support prior to actually accessing the fund is a prerequisite for success of the fund especially in the Arid and Semi- Arid areas. There may be some value add in conducting a study among the youth and other stakeholders to support this effort to determine the budgetary requirements and manage the youth's expectations.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

NDIRITU PAULINE WANJIRU

University of Nairobi,
School of Continuing and Distance Education,
P.O Box 30197,
Nairobi.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a Masters student at the University of Nairobi, School of Continuing and Distance Education. In partial fulfillment of the requirement for Master of Arts in Project Planning and Management, I am conducting a survey on factors influencing uptake of Youth Enterprise Development Fund loans and services, in Samburu East Constituency, Samburu County

I am glad to inform you that you have been selected to form part of the study. I would therefore kindly request you for assistance in completing the attached interview schedule which forms a major input of the research process. The information and data will strictly be used for academic purposes only and strict confidence shall be observed on the same.

Your cooperation will go a long way in ensuring the success of this project.

I would like to thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Ndiritu Pauline Wanjiru
University of Nairobi

APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Factors which have hindered the uptake of Youth Enterprise Development Fund in Samburu East Constituency, Samburu County, November, 2014

Interview Length: 40-45 minutes

Date:

Time:

Introduction

How are you Sir/Madam/Miss?

My name is Pauline Wanjiru. I am a student undertaking Master of Arts degree in Project Planning and Management at the University of Nairobi. As a part of the requirements for the award of the degree, I am doing a research project focusing on the factors that have influenced the uptake of YEDF in Samburu East constituency.

Thank you for being willing to take part in an interview in this project. Before we proceed to the interview, let me assure you that I am highly appreciative and in the process I will respect your concerns especially on confidentiality. No recording shall be done without your express permission and in case you want to remain anonymous, I shall respect that.

The interview will take roughly 40 to 45 minutes.

General information of the Interviewee

Name:

Age:

Gender:

Education level:

Profession/source of livelihood:

Ward:

Questions to guide the interviewer

1. Are you a member of any youth group?
2. If yes, when were you established and what activities are you engaged in?
3. How many members are you in your group?
4. How many are male and female?

5. Are you familiar with the Youth Enterprise Development Fund and its activities?
6. If yes, how did you acquire information about the fund?
7. What are the functions of the fund?
8. Are there efforts by relevant institutions of government to provide information about the fund, build capacities of youth groups, assist you to access loans and equip you with entrepreneurial skills?
9. If yes, what ways do these institutions use to provide information and support and are these ways appropriate?
10. How successful are these efforts?
11. As a group, have you applied for a loan from the fund and if yes, were you successful?
12. If yes, did you apply directly to the YEDF or through a financial intermediary?
13. How much money did you receive and how did you invest from the loan?
14. If no, why have you not applied and if you have applied, why do you think you were unsuccessful?
15. As a youth, what are your thoughts on the fund in general?
16. Data shows that Samburu County has the lowest uptake of loans from YEDF. What are the main reasons for this low uptake? Steer interview towards:
 - i. Information accessibility,
 - ii. Social-cultural
 - iii. Regional factors,
17. Among the reasons you have given which ones do you think are more prominent?
18. In your opinion, how can these challenges be addressed?

Additional Questions for Experts (NB: Some of the questions above also applies to experts and the interviewer shall select them appropriately. Experts to be interviewed have been sampled from the YEDF headquarters, YEDF representatives, and officers in department of Youth Services in Samburu East constituency)

19. As a government officer tasked with facilitating the working of the YEDF what are your thoughts on the gain made so far? Success and challenges (*YEDF officials*)

20. What kind of support do you give to these groups and what is their attitude towards the fund and any other government initiatives geared towards their empowerment that you may be aware of whether generally or specifically?(*YEDF officials*)
21. Which financial intermediaries are located in the constituency and how are they distributed? (*YEDF officials*)
22. As a representative from the financial intermediaries what are your experiences in the disbursement of the loans to youths? ((*YEDF officials*)
23. What would you consider as the major challenges keeping the youth from accessing the fund and how can they be remedied? (*YEDF officials*)
24. As a representative from a department tasked with registering youth groups are there gendered variations in terms of groups registered, their activities and sustainability?(*Social Services department*)
25. If there are variations how can they be explained? (*Social Services department*)
26. Have you undertaken any efforts to build the capacities of these groups and if yes what efforts? (*Social Services department*)

Concluding remarks

We seem to have covered a great deal of ground and I appreciate your patience and cooperation. Kindly do you think there is anything that we have missed or do you have some comments about what we have discussed or about the research as whole?

I will be glad to avail to you a summary of the research report and in case you want the full copy I shall send it to you.

Thank you so much.