INFLUENCE OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT: A CASE OF MUKURU SKILLS TRAINING CENTRE, NAIROBI COUNTY, KENYA

Degree Programme: MASTER OF ARTS IN PROJECT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT [1]

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Youth unemployment is one of the most critical social and economic problems that less developed countries face today. Yet little is known about how best to address it. Even though major efforts have been made by the government and other stakeholders, youth unemployment remains a major problem in the economy. Vocational education is one of the most promising avenues for addressing this problem. Vocational education plays a critical role in equipping youth with the skills needed for the labor market. The Mukuru Skills Training Centre (MUST) is one of the most successful vocational training centers in Kenya. MUST is located in the Mukuru slum area of Nairobi County, Kenya. The center offers a wide range of vocational training programs that are designed to meet the needs of the local youth. The purpose of this study was to examine the influence of MUST on youth employment. The study was conducted at MUST and involved a sample of 92 respondents. Data was collected through interviews and document analysis. The study found that youth trained at MUST acquire employment, with a majority (78.1%) finding employment in the informal sector. The study also found that the majority of youth trained at MUST are females (68.3%) mainly in hairdressing. The study recommended that MUST should focus on developing a sustainability strategy and database of graduates to ensure that they are adequately prepared for the labor market.

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