

**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

**INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

**M.A. RESEARCH PROJECT**

**ENHANCING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN  
AFRICA: A CASE STUDY OF KENYA**

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A research project submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of  
Master of Arts in International Studies from the Institute of Diplomacy and International  
Studies, University of Nairobi

**DECLARATION**

I, **Gilbert Ochieng Oduor**, hereby declare that this research project is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other University.

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this project to my Mother Grace Oduor who at the age of 92 years still has a clear and sharp memory. Though she got sick during the period of my study, she survived during this difficult COVID 19 pandemic.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>AfDB</b>	The African Development Bank
<b>AGPO</b>	Access to Government Procurement Opportunities
<b>CoE</b>	Council of Europe
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>EFA</b>	Global Monitoring Report 2011
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ acquired immunodeficiency syndrome)
<b>ICT</b>	Information Communication Technology
<b>ILO</b>	International Labor Organization
<b>KEPSA</b>	Kenya Private Sector Alliance
<b>KDHS</b>	Kenya Demographic and Health Survey
<b>KKV</b>	Kazi Kwa Vijana
<b>KNBS</b>	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
<b>KYEP</b>	Kenya Youth Enterprise Program
<b>KYCTC</b>	Kenya Youth Correction Centre
<b>MOYA</b>	Ministry of Youth Affairs
<b>NYC</b>	National Youth Council
<b>NYS</b>	National Youth Service
<b>OECD</b>	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>TVET</b>	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNHABIT</b>	United Nations HABITAT
<b>YEDF</b>	Youth Enterprise Development Fund

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## **ABSTRACT**

Kenyan youth, like those in most developing countries, face numerous challenges, including but not limited to ranging from scarceness of resources, unemployment, diseases, violence and crime. The youth have the burden of living with poor organization in terms of legal and policy implementation structures, poor governance and below average economic development that hinder their growth. In addition to these, there are other enabling dynamics drawn from a socio-economic, cultural and operational facet that have greatly interfered with the general well-being of the youth, affecting their contribution to human development. Despite a surge in the youthful demographic around the globe, current international and local mechanisms do not sufficiently address their plight and due to this they are becoming more and more frustrated and disillusioned. The objective of this study was to examine ways of enhancing human growth through youth empowerment in Africa using the Kenyan situation as a case study. It will undertake a situation analysis of the state of youth empowerment in Kenya, analyze how the roll out of the existing policies, national plans and strategies, or lack of it therefore, match with or meet the Youth's socioeconomic needs and recommend how youth empowerment can promote human development in Kenya. To test the hypothesis that the normative, legal and policy strategies in place for youth empowerment have not addressed the youth problem and that the state of the Kenyan Youth is deteriorating with time, and more youth are getting desolate therefore getting to adulthood as worse of citizens, a desktop/document review followed by a scientific analysis of the same was carried out to help understand the context and operative environment of the subject of study while at the same time providing useful information. The results showed that despite the fact that Kenya has ratified all the international and regional treaties concerning the welfare of the youth, and set up policies and funds for youth empowerment, most of these are still on paper. Very little implementation is going on due to societal ills like rampant corruption and for that matter the situation of the youth is deteriorating. The study concluded that due to the youth bulge, they are a very crucial population that cannot be ignored anymore. Various studies have recognized the youth as the missing link in Africa's development and economic growth. They must therefore be involved in human capacity building for sustained economic development and transformation in Africa. Giving the youth the power to make decisions, power to economic advancement, leadership opportunities and promoting their general well-being is not a choice anymore but an integral part of sustainable development agenda.

## CHAPTER ONE

### ENHANCING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN AFRICA: A CASE STUDY OF KENYA

#### 1.0 Introduction

Youth empowerment is a foundation to achieving growth and development in various sectors in any county's economy. Ideally, human development creates advancement, growth, progress, and positive change. Notably, factors such as social, economic, historical, and political influence a nation's development. Resultantly, understanding and analyzing these elements aids in realizing why different countries in Africa may be considered developed or not. Fundamentally, the development aspect can readily be admitted subject to the quality changes that come with it, such as creating conditions that define progressive changes in the future. Nonetheless, despite the usefulness of these developments, the changes are not prone to occur instantly. Resultantly, to determine a country's state of growth, human development through youth empowerment should be used as a measure.

Many scholars have varying definitions and interpretations of the concept of human development. For example, Pisani asserts it as the increasing capacity of people to introduce new policies into organizations that deal with challenges and adapting to progressive change as new goals are set<sup>1</sup>. Besides, development may be a communal state whereby the needs and wants of the populace are gratified by a balanced and maintainable use of ordinary available resources and structures<sup>2</sup>. Moreover, it is a multi-facet involving the growth of different aspects of the society, which include social, attitudes, economic, as well as reducing

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<sup>1</sup> Jacobus A. DU Pisani, "Sustainable Development – Historical Roots of the Concept," *Environmental Sciences* 3, no. 2 (June 2006): 83–96, <https://doi.org/10.1080/15693430600688831>.

<sup>2</sup> G. E. Reyes, "Four Main Theories of Development: Modernization, Dependency, World-Systems, and Globalization," Semantic Scholar, 2001, <https://doi.org/10.5209/NOMA.37963>.

inequality and suppression of extreme poverty<sup>3</sup>. Resultantly, human development is a process of enhancing individuals' freedom and ability to use any available opportunity to improve their living standard<sup>4</sup>. An ordinary person can make an informed decision on what they need to achieve a better living standard. As such, the critical emphasis of human development revolves around numerous sectors, including; proper education, adequate health facilities, and personnel, empowerment, especially to innovative youth, and the ability to give every citizen the power to make an informed decision and acquire finance needed to have the stable standard of living and hence development.

To approach the concept of human development, it's important to put into consideration individual capability as a unit of measure. A persons' capability is determined by their potential in the areas of expertise and what they can do to live to their dreams. For example, one is said to have a better standard of living if they have good health, acquire a better education level, and access any facilities needed to have a better life. Additionally, freedom to the individual to decide on what they need, especially those that affect their lives, ability to control what is happening within their surroundings, protection from violence, and freedom to speech and association are also central to capabilities needed to improving human development.

In September 2015, the U.N. proposed a plan geared to achieving sustainable human development by 2030. Ideally, this initiative aims to reduce poverty, ensure equality among citizens, and control environmental factors that are key to climatic changes; thereby, ensuring that everyone is the pivot to acquiring necessities to human development. The U.N.

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<sup>3</sup> M.P. Todaro and S.C. Smith, *Economic Development*, 8th ed., 2006,

<sup>4</sup> Sabina Alkire, "Human Development: Definitions, Critiques, and Related Concepts," SSRN Electronic Journal 36 (2010): 1–56, <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.1815263>.

aimed at meeting 169 targets with a set of seventeen goals by 2030. From the 2017 report, a list of 232 data indicators highlights mechanisms that can be followed to achieve the required target. Since youth were the focus of the sustainable development goals, the goal was to promote their education level and provide employment opportunities to enhance their growth.<sup>5</sup> Besides, the program aimed at ensuring equality among genders, proper healthcare provision, minimizing poverty by enhancing environmentally friendly programs that will promote agricultural development. Ideally, it is vital to empower youth as they are a core portion of the population of every economy and driving force to meet vision 2030. Additionally, their involvement in development is essential as they play the role of the beneficiary and the policymakers to ensure the agendas are implemented in the long run. Therefore, to achieve these agendas by 2030, the government must employ both covertly and unequivocally by coming up with evidence based programs and enforcement actions to realize the impact of these plans on the youth.

### **1.1 Background of Study.**

Eighty-five percent (85%) of the global population made up of the youth stay in emerging states, with a majority of them, whose numbers keep rising residing in towns. It is projected that by 2030, as countless as 60% of all city occupants will be below the age of 18. The youth are finding it more and more challenging to get opportunities in the workforce. Youth makeup 25% of the worldwide employed age people but justify 43.7% of the jobless. This means that nearly every unemployed person in the world is between the ages of 15 and 24. Human assets growth is a way to accomplish the individuals' probability by expanding their skills, which automatically implies enablement of people, permitting them to partake

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<sup>5</sup> United Nations, “Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | United Nations for Youth,” [www.un.org](https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/world-youth-report/wyr2018.html), December 4, 2018, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/world-youth-report/wyr2018.html>.

aggressively in their progress. The number of young jobless between the ages of 15 and 24 has grasped 74.2 million in 2018, accounting for 40 in each hundreds of total joblessness.<sup>6</sup> However, these youth trust that young persons should be preserved as residents now (as contrasting to the forthcoming generation's inhabitants). As such, their concerns and solutions should be an outcome of verdicts made from their perspective and fully involve them. This is why their influence on community development has to be examined<sup>7</sup>.

As opposed to the elderly (those aged 55 years and above) population, youth are the most fluid individuals with varying definitions from different states and organizations. The United Nations (U.N.) defines the youth as "those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years" and is quick to note that this does not prejudice other definitions by member states. Therefore, any U.N. activities that target the youth at the national level take a more flexible description depending on how that particular state defines youth. Through the African Youth Charter, the African Union defines the youth as "every person between the ages of 15 and 35." The Kenyan constitution in article 55 defines youth as those aged between 18 and 35 years. For this study, we refer to the Kenyan Constitution definition.

African youth largely continue to grapple with social, economic, and political exclusion against a backdrop of poverty, shaky governance at local and national levels, increasing economic upheaval, and the continent's tendency to get embroiled in armed conflict. Consequently, Africa's youth are caught between revolving doors jammed by unfulfilled expectations. If not handled correctly, this situation can lead to a compounding of the problems the continent currently faces. One such problem is the radicalization of youth

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<sup>6</sup> Godfrey Kanyenze, Guy C.Z. Mhone, and Theo Sparreboom, "Strategies to Combat Youth Unemployment and Marginalization in Anglophone Africa," [unevoc.unesco.org](http://unevoc.unesco.org), 2001. pp. 103-107

<sup>7</sup> Sheila Ronis, "Economic Security Neglected Dimension of National Security?" (, 2011), <https://ndupress.ndu.edu/Portals/68/Documents/Books/economic-security.pdf>.

into violent extremism and deploying violence as a means of expression in society. When youth feel that prevailing command arrangements marginalize them, violence provides an opportunity to have a voice. The study has initiated relations between youth joblessness and communal exclusion and proposes that this may lead to partisan and social unpredictability.<sup>8</sup>

Human progress is unstated as a method to ration life circumstances in diverse parts of the biosphere. Often, the consideration of human growth emphasizes monetary factors. While that is one feature of human progress, one needs to look at other features. Besides, there must also be devotion to whether these dissimilar catalogues are protected inside as society, mainly when it arises to susceptible sets like the youth.<sup>9</sup> Youth justify for sixty percent of all of Africa's unemployed, according to the World Bank. In North Africa, the youth joblessness rate is twenty percent but is even more in South Africa, the Republic of the Congo, Senegal, and Botswana.<sup>10</sup> In most African nations, youth job loss frequently happens more than twice that for normal people.

The youth are veritable tools for the human development of any nation. No society can desert her youth in the arrangement of things to pursue countrywide, social, economic, and political progress. Youth unemployment is one of the significant expansions encounters today in the less developed nation in Africa. For example, in Kenya, approximately fifteen million individuals live below the poverty level, with over three million confidential as

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<sup>8</sup> Margaret W. Mbugua, "Youth's Perceptions on the Influence of Youth Empowerment in Promoting Sustainable Peace in Kikuyu Sub County, Kiambu County, Kenya," repository.uonbi.ac.ke, 2015, <http://erepository.uonbi.ac.ke/handle/11295/90400>.

<sup>9</sup> Godfrey Kanyenze, Guy C.Z. Mhone, and Theo Sparreboom, "Strategies to Combat Youth Unemployment and Marginalization in Anglophone Africa," unevoc.unesco.org, 2001, <https://unevoc.unesco.org/bilt/BILT+publications/lang=enakt=detail/qs=1570#http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/afpro/harare/download/discussionpapers/pps14.doc#>.

<sup>10</sup> Ezedikachi Ndubuisi Eze-Michael, "Youth Restiveness and Economic Development in Nigeria: A Study of Niger-Delta," *Journal of Political Science and International Relations* 3, no. 3 (2020): 70687, <https://doi.org/10.11648/j.jpsir.20200303.14>.

unemployed. Youth account for around 60 percent of the jobless in Kenya, suggesting that unemployment is a largely Youth matter.

Kenya's employment disaster, especially that distressing post-secondary graduate, is such that there is a significant quantity of jobless graduates side by side with vacant positions in the public and private sector, both recognized and informal, due to a mismatch among the services desired and those accessible.<sup>11</sup>.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Like most evolving nations, Kenya is no exemption to the numerous encounters its youth experience, ranging from unemployment, ill health, alcohol and substance abuse, violence, and crime. In addition to these, the country's existing weak infrastructure and deprived economic progress have continued to hinder the Kenyan youth's growth. The youth are often challenged with deprived nutrition, overall ill health, and numerous sexual, procreative health problems, including unsolicited and high adolescent pregnancies, dangerous abortions, and high parental mortality of young mothers (15-24yrs). These and other enabling features from a socio-economic, social, and organizational measurement have condensed the age precise life expectation of youth, halting their capability to solid families and have affected their involvement in nation-building. The importance of human dimensions building for continual monetary development and revolution in Africa is now nearly commonly known as the "absent link" in Africa's progress. Hence the youth enablement is professed as the vital factor in the original human growth for Kenya.

Although signals show that most regimes and other stakeholder bodies are engaged in hard work to tackle the youth deficiency, their lack of appointment in governance and other resources to assume such involvements are incomplete. Despite a flow in the young demographic worldwide,

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<sup>11</sup> Kayode Asaju, "Rising Rate of Unemployment in Nigeria: The Socio-Economic and Political Implications," *Global Business and Economics Research Journal* 3, no. 1 (January 2014):Pg 74.



current worldwide devices do not adequately discourse their predicament. Due to this fact, the youth have ended up more and more dissatisfied and disappointed. However, suppose youth is preserved as possible assets and are involved in enacting strategies, policies, and plans that describe their future. In that case, they are further likely to be backing positive philosophies that would lead to supportable development. Achievement is compulsory to realize monetary success for and the enclosure of the youth. In the absence of suitable structure and public obligation, the vast youthful populace could turn into terrible energy as the population lasts to produce.

### **1.3 Justification of the Study**

#### **1.3.1 Academic Justification**

Many countries globally have initiated practical strategies and legal policies to address youth empowerment. Notably, similar efforts have been duplicated within the International bodies in the form of treaties. In Africa today, there is an urgent need for stakeholders, policymakers, and the state to comprehend the effect of youth involvement in community growth programs. The youth can be encouraged to avoid crime(s) and other misdeeds (s) and instead take on ownership and become lifelong contributors to their personal and communities' wellbeing. Several studies have been carried out with specific recommendations to policymakers on how they can engage the youth and make their lives worthwhile. This study will investigate the current state of the youth, and interrogate the strategies, policies, and laws of the land that have been mainly put in place to enhance youth empowerment.

#### **1.3.2 Policy Justification**

Developing and executing suitable strategies, plans, and programs to alleviate the dangers and encounters the youth face must be more urgent for the administration than it presently

is. Notably, failure to provide an amicable solution a relevant opportunity to the young population has a direct impact on four sectors in a country; economy, politics, culture, and social life. Involving the youth residents entirely is consequently no extensive an optimal but authoritative in the process.<sup>12</sup> Several attempts have been made to accommodate the youth in national building and development by the various political parties that was in power since Kenya's independence in 1963. However, despite these energies and quantity of commercial activities with the youth, difficulties distressing young people have been sustained.<sup>13</sup> This condition has been accredited to the absence of an inclusive strategy to deliver a plan for youth.

This study will map out the regional and national policies, action plans, strategies, and programs focused on youth empowerment implemented by Kenya as existing opportunities for youth scaling up authorization and employment creation. Recommendations will then be made to address the policymakers on fine-tune activities that specifically target the youth with more practical strategies.

## **1.4 Literature Review**

### **1.4.1 Demographic Scope**

The World population comprises 1.2 billion young people (aged 15 to 24 years), who make up 16 percent.<sup>14</sup> This cohort of the population is very significant because they make an influential factor in developing the workforce. If the human capital venture decreases or the

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<sup>12</sup> Kempe Ronald Hope, "Engaging the Youth in Kenya: Empowerment, Education, and Employment," *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth* 17, no. 4 (December 2012): Pg 21–29, <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673843.2012.657657>.

<sup>13</sup> Kenya National Youth Policy, 2006, [http://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Kenya\\_2006\\_National\\_Youth\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Kenya_2006_National_Youth_Policy.pdf).

<sup>14</sup> United Nations, "Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | United Nations for Youth," [www.un.org](http://www.un.org), December 4, 2018 <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/world-youth-report/wyr2018.html>.

labour marketplace is incapable of fascinating fresh workers, the opportunity derived from this demographic dividend may be fruitless.<sup>15</sup> Although most emerging states, in specific the evolving financial prudence, have seen their youth swells peak and the present day have a bulge in their older working-age inhabitants, other areas, such as sub-Saharan Africa, are just commencing the rise in their youth inhabitants.

Kenya's inhabitants in 2019 were projected at 49.6 million, with a population growth rate assessed at around 1.5 million per year. Current numbers propose that children aged 0-18 years are 49 percent of the overall population.<sup>16</sup> The speedy development practiced by Kenya has progressively exaggerated the existing situations of the populace over the previous decade. Extra than a third of the inhabitants lives in town areas, and two-thirds of the present town population live in casual settlements.<sup>17</sup> It is predictable that by 2033, half of the people will be inhabitants in cities and towns. Urban development is determined by rural-urban relocation as individuals seek employment and escape the effects of climate change. High commodity prices in town zones, dynamic family numbers in informal settlements deprived of basic facilities such as safe water and sanitation, hygienic and drainage systems, and other vital infrastructure will be a genuine concern.<sup>18</sup>

With its youth people of nearly 10 million, additional than 20 percent of its global population, Kenya is presently undergoing the 'youth bulge' phenomenon. In other circumstances, this condition had been confirmed to be the main benefit for nationwide

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<sup>15</sup> Godfrey Kanyenze, Guy C.Z. Mhone, and Theo Sparreboom, "Strategies to Combat Youth Unemployment and Marginalization in Anglophone Africa," [unevoc.unesco.org](http://unevoc.unesco.org), 2001.

<sup>16</sup> Evans Munene, "2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census Results," Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, November 4, 2019, <https://www.knbs.or.ke/?p=5621>.

<sup>17</sup> UNDP, "About Kenya: Sustainable Development Goals," UNDP in Kenya, 2021, <https://www.ke.undp.org/content/kenya/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>.

<sup>18</sup> Godfrey Kanyenze, Guy C.Z. Mhone, and Theo Sparreboom, "Strategies to Combat Youth Unemployment and Marginalization in Anglophone Africa," [unevoc.unesco.org](http://unevoc.unesco.org), 2001.

frugality when these young people were intelligent to discover properly compensable engagement or other conducts of individual economic individuality. Therefore, many young Kenyans should be engaged to be an energy resource and an excellent, confident monetary value upcoming for the country, both cooperatively and as discrete agents of development and variation.

Kenya's economy has offered impulsive yet high progress rates in the preceding two decades. Nevertheless, this ordinarily optimistic macro-economic expansion has not been interpreted into assistance for its youth. While yearly GDP development of extra than 5 percent has been frequently noted, Kenya's youth joblessness proportion has shown tiny to no optimistic expansion. It stands at an astounding 22 percent for 2016. Besides, underemployment seems to be a widespread singularity for young Kenyans. The risk of a 'lost generation' runs high in Kenya, as most states in Africa record meaningfully lower youth joblessness rates than this moderately stable economy.

### **1.4.2 Education**

Universally, energies towards worldwide education saw the years of prominent school registration increase and lead to the request for secondary schooling. However, secondary and tertiary registration remains low in numerous evolving countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. Insufficient infrastructure, lack of chances, and affordability and convenience concerns describe many informative systems in those areas. Elsewhere, many schooling and training schemes are not sufficiently making students meet a globalized world's strains. Insufficient education and employment aggravate the social and economic susceptibility of youth.<sup>19</sup>.

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<sup>19</sup> United Nations, "Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | United Nations for Youth," [www.un.org](http://www.un.org), December 4, 2018.

The provision for excellent education includes an inclusive educational curriculum, accompanied by professional, formal, and non-formal education chances and skills expansion. As an essential section in the abolition of deficiency and hunger, excellent schooling should hold the variety of youth and, in so doing, address gender dissimilarities and the needs of downgraded and susceptible youth.

Internationally, of the 263 million children and youth below the age of 19 who were out of school in 2014, 142 million were of higher secondary age.<sup>20</sup> Approximations available by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designate that close 30 percent of children aged 12-14 years have never joined the school in low-income nation's.<sup>21</sup> The number of youth in upper secondary education between 2008 and 2014 also varied extensively on the source of national income; 84 percent of youth in high-income nations finished upper secondary education, but the conforming character was only 43 percent for middle-income economies and 14 percent for low-income countries. Differences within nations are also conspicuous; in low-income states, only seven young person's existing in poverty were able to join upper secondary schooling for every 100 wealthy persons. Only 23 percent of countries have gender equality in higher secondary teaching.<sup>22</sup> Estimations for the time 2005-2014 suggest a youth knowledge rate of 91 percent shows that 114 million young people aged 15-24 years remained incapable of reciting or writing a uniformly modest sentence. Indeed, given other educational data, gender dissimilarity has also been sustained. Early marriages and pregnancy contribute to keeping

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<sup>20</sup> UNESCO, *Education for People and Planet: Creating Sustainable Futures for All*. (Paris: Unesco, 2016), <http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/education-for-people-and-planet-creating-sustainable-futures-for-all-gemr-2016-en.pdf>.

<sup>21</sup> Garcia Marito and Fares Jean, "Youth in Africa's Labor Market," World Bank Group, 2008, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/6578?show=full>.

<sup>22</sup> UNESCO, *Education for People and Planet: Creating Sustainable Futures for All*. (Paris: Unesco, 2016).

young females from schooling due to health matters, stigma, communal roles and potentials for young women, and disciplinary principles governing pregnancy and school appearance.<sup>23</sup>

Children with infirmities and other disabilities have a lower possibility of joining and remaining in school, due to lack of accessibility in the physical environment and social discrimination that prevents them from entering the school system. The end result of this is confining their skills, knowledge and future ability to work and produce economic value. Amongst youth prevailing with disabilities, illiteracy rates are tremendously high, and comparatively, very few transition rates to high secondary and tertiary education.<sup>24</sup> In various countries, children and youth with mental and other intellectual disabilities are locked up or placed in places that do not offer any kind of education.<sup>25</sup> Those who do join school are often not provided with any education due to the absence of training and consciousness among teachers, who lacks provisions for comprehensive and available schooling for children and youth with disabilities.

Conflict destabilizes education in various ways. Only 79 percent of the youth are well-educated in conflict affected states than 93 percent in other peaceful and more stable countries.<sup>26</sup> Globally, 75 percent of secondary education immigrants are not in school; in Kenya, this number is closer to 95 percent.<sup>27</sup> Children and youth are preserved as real goals

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<sup>23</sup> Sara Elder and Sriani Kring, "Oung and Female - a Double Strike? Gender Analysis of School-To-Work Transition Surveys in 32 Developing Countries," January 2016, [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_emp/documents/publication/wcms\\_447495.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/documents/publication/wcms_447495.pdf).

<sup>24</sup> WHO, "The Abuja Declaration: Ten Years on 2001 Promises of Commitment and Solidarity" (, 2001), [https://www.who.int/healthsystems/publications/abuja\\_report\\_aug\\_2011.pdf?ua=1](https://www.who.int/healthsystems/publications/abuja_report_aug_2011.pdf?ua=1).

<sup>25</sup> Godfrey Kanyenze, Guy C.Z. Mhone, and Theo Sparreboom, "Strategies to Combat Youth Unemployment and Marginalization in Anglophone Africa," [unevoc.unesco.org](http://unevoc.unesco.org), 2001.

<sup>26</sup> UNESCO, *Education for People and Planet: Creating Sustainable Futures for All*. (Paris: UNESCO, 2016).

<sup>27</sup> Godfrey Kanyenze, Guy C.Z. Mhone, and Theo Sparreboom, "Strategies to Combat Youth Unemployment and Marginalization in Anglophone Africa," [unevoc.unesco.org](http://unevoc.unesco.org), 2001.

in armed conflicts, in the apparent blasphemy of global human rights law, and are frequently involuntarily enlisted as soldiers. The *EFA Global Monitoring Report 2011* found indication of the use of child enlisted in the military in 24 countries, and even numerous developed countries permit military service to start at the age of 16 or 17<sup>28</sup>.

### **1.4.3 Employment**

The incidence of youth unemployment in sub-Saharan Africa is estimated at 20 percent.<sup>29</sup> Youth employment and economic enablement are essential components of a solid base in any culture. Having good work is life-threatening for young people, but it also has a restraint response on local societies, countries, and the world as a whole.

Generally, youth joblessness is a vital trial for both the industrialized and emerging world. Conferring to Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development approximate, there is 85 million jobless youth worldwide.<sup>30</sup> Equally, studies in Nigeria and Turkey indicate that the youth unemployment rate is double that of adults.<sup>31</sup> Other studies disclose a similar disposition. Comparatively, during the same period, the USA's overall unemployment rate was 9.4 %, through the youth joblessness rate was 17.6 %. The youth unemployment rate in the U.K. was 18.9%, while adults stood at 7.8%. Overall, the maximum unemployment rate and youth unemployment were in Spain, at 18.1% and 37.9 % separately. The rate of unemployment in Turkey was 14.3%, double that of adults, which

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<sup>28</sup> UNESCO, *Education for People and Planet: Creating Sustainable Futures for All*. (Paris: UNESCO, 2016).

<sup>29</sup> Francis Chigunta et al., "Series on Youth and Entrepreneurship: Being 'Real' about Youth Entrepreneurship in Eastern and Southern Africa Implications for Adults, Institutions and Sector Structures," 2005.

<sup>30</sup> OECD, "Youth and the Labour Market - Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training," the OECD, 2019, <https://data.oecd.org/youthinac/youth-not-in-employment-education-or-training-neet.htm>.

<sup>31</sup> Paul Okojie, "Book Review: Victims, Perpetrators or Actors? Gender, Armed Conflict and Political Violence," *Progress in Development Studies* 3, no. 1 (January 2003): 89–90, <https://doi.org/10.1177/146499340300300117>.

is 25.3%<sup>32</sup>. Unemployment data for African nations are limited. Notably, it is projected the worldwide youth unemployment rate to be 27.3%, whereas it is estimated at 36.7% in Africa. Equated to the rest of the world, Africa has the uppermost segment of young people in its population, 36.7%<sup>33</sup>. Besides, 50% of most African countries' population is made up of youth. He also assessed that the age bracket of between 15-25 years in Africa stood at 122 million, with the average phase between 16-20 years.<sup>34</sup> Furthermore, 23% of the world's population will exist in sub-Saharan Africa. He augments that the African youth is most likely to live in poverty traumatized urban environments.<sup>35</sup> As such, numerous researchers defined this singularity as "youth bulge" as a foundation of anxiety to African administrations and progressing allies who ceaselessly try to board on plans to strengthen youth employment.<sup>36</sup>

The constitution of Kenya defines youth as peoples between the ages of 18 and 35. In Kenya, the youth institute 35% of the population. The youth in Kenya are facing much-sophisticated unemployment rates (67%) than entire of the Kenyan population (34%)<sup>37</sup>. The Kenyan workforce market is categorized by insufficient employment chances against an enormous and increasing population of jobless people, particularly the youth. Over 30% of persons on pay are employed as casuals. Youth with primary education who are in official

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<sup>32</sup> Ahmed Raza, Cheema Ambreen Atta, and M Scholar, "Economic Determinants of Unemployment in Pakistan: Co-Integration Analysis," *International Journal of Business and Social Science* 3, no. 5 (2014): 209–21, [https://ijbssnet.com/journals/Vol\\_5\\_No\\_3\\_March\\_2014/26.pdf](https://ijbssnet.com/journals/Vol_5_No_3_March_2014/26.pdf).

<sup>33</sup> OECD, "Tackling Youth Unemployment - OECD High-Level Forum, 20-21 September 2010, Oslo, Norway - OECD," Oecd.org, 2011, <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/tacklingyouthunemployment-oecdhigh-levelforum20-21september2010oslonorway.htm>.

<sup>34</sup> Francis Chigunta, "The Creation of Job/Work Opportunities and Income Generating Activities for Youth in Post-Conflict Countries" (2006), [https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/namibia\\_chigunta.pdf](https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/namibia_chigunta.pdf).

<sup>35</sup> Gregory Hine and Shane Lavery, "Action Research: Informing Professional Practice within Schools," *Issues in Educational Research* 24, no. 2 (2014): 162–73, <http://www.iier.org.au/iier24/hine.pdf>.

<sup>36</sup> Paul Okojie, "Book Review: Victims, Perpetrators or Actors? Gender, Armed Conflict and Political Violence," *Progress in Development Studies* 3, no. 1 (January 2003): 89–90, <https://doi.org/10.1177/146499340300300117>.

<sup>37</sup> Boaz Munga and Eldah Onsomu, "State of Youth Unemployment in Kenya," Brookings (Brookings, August 21, 2014), <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2014/08/21/state-of-youth-unemployment-in-kenya/>.



employment (4%), casual work (54%), students (14%), and unemployed (14%). Those with secondary Education are in official employment (12%), informal employment (40%), students (26%), and jobless (15%). While those with tertiary Education are in official jobs (31%), casual work (9%), and unemployed (8%)<sup>38</sup>.

The youth in growing economies employment chances are focused in the informal sector, with meagre job safety, nominal earnings, and imperfect cases for on-the-job training, restricting young people's skills to influence such occupations to protected improved, more formal jobs. Those youth are more affected by poverty, leaving school early without completing their education to assist their families financially due to the increasing cost of living. For the youth who lack a solid scholastic footing, early involvement in the workforce market can strengthen the sequence of poverty and challenge the intergenerational capacity of educating economic results.<sup>39</sup>

Apart from unemployment, another encounter that the youth undergo is underemployment. This is a comprehensive organization causing a variety of labour-related inconsistencies. Part of the underemployed are the youth who despite having employment, receive less the market wage rate for their skills, those who are exceedingly talented but employed in low-skill occupations, and part-time labourers who would favour a full-time job but are incapable of acquiring it. As with unemployment, slight valuation of underemployment comprises those who are sparingly left out from the work prospects for which they qualified and equipped for throughout their education.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> Godfrey Kanyenze, Guy C.Z. Mhone, and Theo Sparreboom, "Strategies to Combat Youth Unemployment and Marginalization in Anglophone Africa," [unevoc.unesco.org](http://unevoc.unesco.org), 2001.

<sup>39</sup> United Nations, "Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | United Nations for Youth," [www.un.org](http://www.un.org), December 4, 2018, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/world-youth-report/wyr2018.html>.

<sup>40</sup> Godfrey Kanyenze, Guy C.Z. Mhone, and Theo Sparreboom, "Strategies to Combat Youth Unemployment and Marginalization in Anglophone Africa," [unevoc.unesco.org](http://unevoc.unesco.org), 2001.

#### 1.4.4 Gender

Female youth are more susceptible to joblessness than their male complements when seen from a community, social, and political standpoint.<sup>41</sup> The workforce contribution and cost rates are inferior for females than for males in every sub-Saharan Africa nation, positioned at 33.8% and 49.7% correspondingly.<sup>42</sup> Nations with Muslim residents are more affected due to early marriages and female isolation. Most working young females are in the informal sector, some of them as native workers, stylists, dressmakers, minor agents, among other such activities.<sup>43</sup> Prostitution is also rampant among young women, both within the country and abroad. This has also led to human trafficking cases. The Kenyan condition is not dissimilar as many young women travel or get traded to Middle East states to work as house-helpers in disgraceful, desensitizing human situations. Media information in Kenya is diverse, with young females held in the Middle East as sex hard workers or abused house-helpers that frequently end up in murder cases.

Four main organizational constraints limit women's contribution to financial activities: Firstly, customary laws and standards divest women's right to get land and other property, both through inheritance and matrimonial. Secondly, many laws, typically ruling statutes and customary regulations linking to marriage and legacy, create illogicality. Thirdly, gender prejudice in admission to rudimentary human resource growth facilities like education exercise and health has incomplete women's capability to participate for chances. Lastly, period poverty, resultant from women's numerous and contending generative and industrious

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<sup>41</sup> Francis Chigunta, "The Creation of Job/Work Opportunities and Income Generating Activities for Youth in Post-Conflict Countries" (2006).

<sup>42</sup> Paul Okojie, "Book Review: Victims, Perpetrators or Actors? Gender, Armed Conflict and Political Violence," *Progress in Development Studies* 3, no. 1 (January 2003): 89–90.

<sup>43</sup> Katepa-Kalala Perpetua, "Women's Poverty, Insufficient Food Security and Lack of Economic Empowerment: Preliminary Assessment Report," *Repository.uneca.org* 22, no. 26 (1999), <http://hdl.handle.net/10855/3972>.

tasks often in the non-appearance of labour-saving expertise, transference, and other facilities, deteriorates women's state. All four restrictions terminate in low efficiency and compensation.<sup>44</sup>. The female youth in rural Kenya make up for large numbers of the jobless. This is attributed to the fact that most societies in Kenya favour educating the boy child at the girl child's expense.<sup>45</sup>. Furthermore, some corporations favour male employees over female ones due to their genetic reasons in jobs that want much energy and the circumstance that women's strength needs to take up motherhood and baby care leave from work.

#### **1.4.5 Migration**

Approximations for 2013 from ILO specify that about 27 million youth left their mother nations to look for improved financial chances, making up for around 12 percent of all immigrants.<sup>46</sup>. In industrialized states, about 10 percent of all those migrating were approximated to be youth, and the equivalent numbers for evolving from least advanced countries were about 15 and 21 percent separately. These facts argue the economic wrench of relocation, especially for youth from least established economies, and the readiness of such youth to undertake the burdens and risks related to departing from their homes and societal networks to pursue work in other nations so that they can make a living.<sup>47</sup>. Youthful migrants are mostly defenceless to the foulest jeopardies related to migration. In leaving their families and social links, they set out to protect effort that is not continuously accessible

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<sup>44</sup> ECA, "Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa," [www.uneca.org](https://www.uneca.org/gender-equality-and-empowerment-women), 2020, <https://www.uneca.org/gender-equality-and-empowerment-women>.

<sup>45</sup> Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire, "Kenya Country Report for the 2014 Ministerial Conference on Youth Employment: How to Improve, Trough Skills Development and Job Creation, Access of Africa's Youth to the World of Work," 2014.

<sup>46</sup> International Labour Organization, "ILO Global Stimates E M W on Igrant Orkers Results and Ethodology M Special Focus on Migrant Domestic Workers Labour Migration Branch Conditions of Work and Equality Department of Statistics" (, 2015).

<sup>47</sup> International Labour Organization, "ILO Global Stimates E M W on Igrant Orkers Results and Ethodology M Special Focus on Migrant Domestic Workers Labour Migration Branch Conditions of Work and Equality Department of Statistics" (, 2015).

or the superiority they intended. The youth who are migrating, in specific those without a good education and credentials, usually end up in the informal sector with casual jobs without security, where they are easily exposed to mistreatment and abuse by employers. They usually work deprived of an agreement and may obtain unbalanced expense or no compensation at all for their effort. The women are mostly face the sustained menace of human trading and slavery.<sup>48</sup>.

#### **1.4.6 Normative, Legal and Policy Framework**

In the past years, the Kenyan government has been implementing development programs targeting youth empowerment. Despite the broad economic, social, political, cultural, and social life focus of these programs, the impact of these interventions on the quality of life for youth and young adults is still contested. These programs are poised to succeed if they focus on empowerment, skill-development education initiatives, and generation of employment as a means of improving livelihoods for economic development. Empowerment will prepare young populations to confront poverty, overcome hardships, and improve the quality of life.<sup>49</sup>. Finally, this could result in pillars of social investment that are vital to approving logic of community, insertion, community uniqueness, and integration<sup>50</sup>.

In the non-appearance of appropriate infrastructure and public obligation, a youthful population's massive constructive possibility might turn into a terrible momentum as the population remains to grow. Thus, providing essential services such as free medication and

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<sup>48</sup> Ibid

<sup>49</sup> Billystrom A. Jivetti, Wycliffe W Njororai Simiyu, and Fletcher Njororai, "Challenges Facing Rural Youth and Young Adults and How Development Stakeholders Can Alleviate Those Hardships in Kenya," *Youth Voice Journal*, March 2016, pg 8

<sup>50</sup> Ibid pg 12

education, including well-paying jobs for youth, are fundamental for economic development, regional peace, constancy, and safety.

The new constitution, which was enacted in August 2010, came with promising ideas for addressing and offering a solution to the Kenyan youth. For example, it touched the bill of rights chapter four, highlighting the responsibility and necessity that each young person is entitled to as a Kenya citizen. Additionally, article 19(2) provides for the gratitude, defence, and pleasure of human rights and essential independence to reserve persons and societies' self-respect.<sup>51</sup> Conversely, article fifty-five emphasizes the rights of the youth. Points on the government to take initiatives and to count confirmatory action packages to guarantee that youth: Access applicable education and exercise, have prospects to associate, be characterized, and contribute in political, social, economic, and extra compasses of life, contact employment, and are threatened from damaging cultural performances and mistreatment.<sup>52</sup>

In the International sphere, the previous period saw countrywide, regional, and international efforts for example accords and treaties encouraging involvement to establish youth enablement initiatives. Methods assumed included attractive planned alliances and nurturing more active corporations amongst shareholders with honest attention in accomplishing accurate results and profits for Africa's Youth. At the global level, the year 2010-2011 was proclaimed the 'International Year of Youth' by the United Nations General Meeting in November 2009. The theme tune was "Dialogue and mutual understanding." The Gathering called upon all Member States, focussed agencies, reserves, and packages of the United Nations organization to gain the Year and supporter youth expansion at countrywide,

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<sup>51</sup> Ibid pg 25

<sup>52</sup>Ibid pg 32.

provincial, and intercontinental levels.<sup>53</sup>At the local level, there also stayed a sum of African Union enterprises and obligations. These included the implementation and entrance into the African Youth Charter's energy throughout the Summit of Heads of Government and Regimes of the African Union in Banjul, The Gambia, in July 2006. The Agreement assists as a partisan and allowed context for the achievement of those takings typical of the present condition of Youth in Africa. It lengthily incomes into account education, engagement, and topics distressing African Youth in the Diaspora and youth contribution in provincial, sub-regional, and countrywide organizations.<sup>54</sup>. Kenya as a state has ratified all the international and regional treaties concerning the youth. A lot of work has also gone into policymaking that targets the wellbeing and empowerment of the youth. Giving substantial priority to the expansion and execution of plans can have a crucial influence on appealing to the youth for their individual positive particular growth and the country.

In the 1960s, the government and other voluntary youth actions did not mark the youth's extension agenda. Most other youth strategies were primarily social and enjoyable. Besides, they were urban-based. The problem of unemployment has continued to be a big contest. The third National Development Idea of 1974-78, while recognizing the exertions made to lecture unemployment midst the youth, cautioned that the unruly would in imminent loom great. Energies to trainee youth growth programs have been made in other following strategy documents, such as Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1992 on Small Measure and Jua Kali

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<sup>53</sup> United Nations, "Department of Economic and Social Affairs Youth: 2010-2011 International Year of Youth | United Nations for Youth," www.un.org, June 8, 2015, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/what-we-do/2010-2011-international-year-of-youth.html>.

<sup>54</sup> African Union, "African Youth Charter," au.int, 2019, <https://au.int/en/treaties/african-youth-charter>.

Enterprises, the 1997-2001 Development Strategy, and the National Poverty Eradication Plan 1999-2015, among others.<sup>55</sup>

The previous Department of Government for Youth Affairs (MOYA) was recognized on 7th December 2005 to characterize and discourse youth apprehensions in Kenya. This was essential in contradiction of the realism that contempt their arithmetical asset, youth were not well signified in the state, political and socio-economic expansion procedures. Upon inauguration, the ministry harmonized and mainstreamed youth subjects in the national growth agenda. Consequently, to assimilate and adjust issues disturbing Youth in Kenya, the administration over the presidential circular no. 1 of 2008 rationalized the ministry to include the department of sports to become the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MOYAS), whose directive had: the mandate to: Encourage youth expansion by scheming strategies and plans that build young people's size to struggle risk factors and enhance protective factors; Develop a National Youth Policy to ensure Kenyan youth involvement in advance of the country; Enable formation of a National Youth Council (NYC) to promote the youth plan; Co-ordinate youth departments in the country to guarantee youth progress done structured establishments, collaborations and interacting; and enable training and grounding of the youth for nation-building.<sup>56</sup>

### **1.5 Objectives of the Study**

The research's overall objective is to examine ways of enhancing human growth through youth empowerment in Africa using a case study of Kenya. The specific goals will include;

- i. Undertake a situation analysis of the state of youth empowerment in Kenya.

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<sup>55</sup> [http://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Kenya\\_2006\\_National\\_Youth\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Kenya_2006_National_Youth_Policy.pdf).

<sup>56</sup> Ibid

ii. Analyse how the rollout of the existing policies, national plans, and strategies, or lack of it, match with or meet the youth's socio-economic needs.

iii. Recommend how youth empowerment can promote human development in Kenya

### **1.5.1 Research Questions**

i. What is the state of the Kenyan Youth in terms of empowerment?

ii. How effective are the policies or strategies put in place by the government to enhance youth empowerment?

iii. How can youth empowerment promote human development and the general wellbeing of the society in Kenya?

### **1.6 Hypotheses**

The following hypotheses guide the study.

i. The normative, legal, and policy strategies in place for youth empowerment have not addressed the youth problem, nor have they changed the youth's situation in Kenya.

ii. The state of Kenyan Youth is deteriorating with time, and more youth are getting desolate, therefore getting to adulthood as worse of citizens.

### **1.7 Theoretical Framework.**

This research work will be based on the tenets of the Theory of Empowerment by Zimmerman. This theory proves the necessity to empower persons in society. Empowerment can be defined as the process where individuals acquire the ability to realise the relationship between their goals and the actions they need to employ to attain the specific life outcomes<sup>57</sup>. Another definition that integrates the individual interaction to their surroundings explains it as a deliberate, progressive process aligned in the local community, involving reciprocal

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<sup>57</sup> Mechanic, D. (1991). Adolescents at risk: New directions. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 12, 638–643.



respect, serious reflection, and group participation, through which societies missing the same share of valued resources achieve greater access to and control over those resources<sup>58</sup>

Psychological empowerment embraces the intrapersonal, interpersonal and behavioural components. Intrapersonal elements rise how persons think about themselves and take in the perceived regulator and self-efficacy inspiration to control desired outcomes. Interpersonal constituent recounts to profound awareness and thoughtfulness of the resources desirable to achieve a chosen goal, information of how to obtain those resources and capacity for handling resources one has gained, choice-making, delinquent solving, and management skills.<sup>59</sup> Permitting the Youth over Education would certify they attain information and skills to make them ready for employment in the workforce market. The type of knowledge includes human rights, community justice, and self-awareness. Emotional empowerment stresses are the ability to hold discrete information, skills for actual action, and a person's knowledge and readiness to handle such as struggle.<sup>60</sup> Information and skills are essential in the youth gaining approximately form of employment for financial freedom. Giving to this theory, empowerment has three scopes: values, procedures, results, and different crossways stages of analysis. They oppose that an empowerment method must continuously strengthen confident standards and contribute to self-determining as conceivable. The youth's individuality can be attained by economic backing presented to them by the state and training and gaining new expertise. Resources are significant in confirming the child starts their innovativeness for self-employment. Abilities such as business expertise would enable their

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<sup>58</sup> Cornell Empowerment Group. ~,1989) Empowerment and family support. Networking Bulletin, 1, 1-23

<sup>59</sup>Marc A. Zimmerman and Seth Warschausky, "Empowerment Theory for Rehabilitation Research: Conceptual and Methodological Issues." *Rehabilitation Psychology* 43, no. 1 (1998): 3–16, <https://doi.org/10.1037/0090-5550.43.1.3>.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid, p.15

achievement in a business organization. Education, would allow the youth to discover jobs in the formal sector.

When the youth are involved in productive financial accomplishments, they will be economically liberated. Enablement procedures are the devices in which individuals, groups, and communities advance control and control over matters that worry them, promote a critical consciousness of the situation, and contribute to choices that distress their existence.<sup>61</sup> These methods include talent learning prospects and resource deployment to affect the communal, political atmosphere, discrete capabilities and practical deeds, standard plateful systems, and administrative efficiency.

Empowerment proposes a divergent approach for evolving mediations and promoting social change. Specific consideration should be directed toward well-being, adaptive, capable, and regular facilitating systems. It includes the viewpoint that many social problems exist due to unequal distribution of, and access to, resources. It is suggested that the best way to assist human beings is by having mutual obligations with them, letting them work for their rights, rather than having their needs fulfilled by someone else, therefore turning them into victims of their situation.<sup>62</sup> Empowered individuals should be able to show a sense of individual control, danger awareness, and a readiness to join effort with others to realize a clear goal. The state should have interventions in place that assist the youth to prove meaning of who they are, exercise self-control, self-awareness, and be able to engage in the expansion of their country through participation in creative economic actions and decision creation on

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<sup>61</sup> Marc A. Zimmerman and Seth Warschausky, "Empowerment Theory for Rehabilitation Research: Conceptual and Methodological Issues." *Rehabilitation Psychology* 43, no. 1 (1998):p.11

<sup>62</sup> Gallant, R., Cohen, C., & Wolff, T. (1985). Change of older persons' image, impact on public policy result from Highland Valley empowerment plant. *Perspectives on Aging*, 14(5), 9–13.

matters that affect them<sup>63</sup>. The approach that the state and other stake holders should take to intervene in the youth situation is that of a collaborator and facilitator rather than expert and counsellor. As collaborators, they would learn about the youth through their cultures, their worldviews, and their life struggles<sup>64</sup>.

## **1.8 Research Methodology**

### **1.8.1 Data Collection**

This study is exploratory since we will aim to understand the existing problem better. The primary method to be used is desktop research. Document review will form the foundation of the study. It will entail a scientific analysis of relevant documents as well as other literature materials to help understand the context and operative environment of the subject of study while at the same time providing helpful information.

### **1.8.2 Data Analysis**

A complete list comprising the themes was made from the reviewing process, and the resultant framework of themes was subsequently concerning the examined transcripts. The qualitative analysis software known as Atlas-it was used to assist with the data coding and analysis. Thematic analysis as described by Braun and Clarke will be used to analyze the data<sup>65</sup>. After going through the texts and noting all the details within, the researcher came up with an initial list of several ideas concerning the data's information and subsequently produced the initial codes. After coding and organizing the data, the regulations were arranged into possible themes, and all the pertinent information was organized into the

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<sup>63</sup> Marc A. Zimmerman and Seth Warschausky, "Empowerment Theory for Rehabilitation Research: Conceptual and Methodological Issues." *Rehabilitation Psychology* 43, no. 1 (1998):p.11

<sup>64</sup> Mbugua M.W.(2015) Youth's Perceptions On The Influence Of Youth Empowerment In Promoting Sustainable Peace In Kikuyu Sub County, Kiambu County, Kenya

<sup>65</sup> Virginia Braun and Victoria Clarke, "Using Thematic Analysis in Psychology," *Qualitative Research in Psychology* 3, no. 2 (2006): 77–101, <https://doi.org/10.1191/1478088706qp063oa>.

identified themes and sub-themes. The identified articles were revised, those that did not have enough data to support them dropped, the similar ones merged, and those that were too wide broken down. A thematic map of the data was developed, and the themes were named and grouped. A detailed analysis was conducted and written for each theme, and its relevance to the research questions determined.

### **1.9 Scope and Limitation of Study**

Data collection will be done through secondary sources, that is, desk and literature review. This is due to constraints in terms of both time and cost. It will therefore lack the crucial primary source of data. Otherwise, the document review will be done rigorously.

### **1.10 Chapter Outline**

**Chapter one** introduces the study by setting the background of the study, literature review into past work done in the same field, report of the problem, the purpose of the research, and the methodology used to collect the data.

**Chapter two** will provide the background on the meaning and evolution of concepts used in the study, including human development, empowerment, and the effects of the same on the youth.

**Chapter three** will look at the current state of the Kenyan youth and analyze the normative, legal, and policy strategies that have been put in place by the International bodies, the government, and other non-state actors to deal effectively with youth empowerment.

**Chapter four** will analyze the previous chapters' data and base it on the tenets of the hypothesis and the theoretical framework.

**Chapter five** will conclude the study and elucidate recommendations and provide suggestions for gaps that require further investigations.



## CHAPTER TWO

### HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

#### 2.0 Introduction

This chapter will provide a background on meaning and evolution of concepts used in the study that include human development, empowerment, and the effects of the same on the youth.

#### 2.1 Human Progression

Human progression is the expansion of humankind's freedoms to survive long, fit and innovative lives; to improve other goals they have grounds to value; and to involve actively in shaping development sustainably and equitably on a shared universe. People are both the drivers and beneficiaries of human progression, as in groups and individuals. A developed environment is one which can provide safe, secure and inspiring opportunities to its inhabitants. The youth must be given a chance to develop relationships with the adults and peers that they live with directly targeting self-regulation, social and behavioural skills, opportunities to practice complacencies and to get leadership roles and take part in productive interactions.<sup>66</sup> Insufficiently supportive environment can aggravate stress and hinder positive growth. When the society fails to provide foundational competence, they youth are not able to foster productive relationship with the adults or their peers among themselves, the end result is defiance and delinquency<sup>67</sup>.

Human development can greatly be improved through education and imparting of knowledge and skills. Improvement in knowledge aids the community to improve their social welfare. Community

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<sup>66</sup> Stephanie M. Jones and Suzanne M. Bouffard, "Social and Emotional Learning in Schools: From Programs to Strategies and Commentaries," *Social Policy Report* 26, no. 4 (December 2012): 1–33, <https://doi.org/10.1002/j.2379-3988.2012.tb00073.x>.

<sup>67</sup> Elise Cappella et al., "Classroom Practices and Academic Outcomes in Urban Afterschool Programs: Alleviating Social-Behavioral Risk," *Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders* 26, no. 1 (November 8, 2017): 42–51, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1063426617739254>.

members become more creative and innovative and adapt better to their environments. Schools are multi-level and multi-cultural spaces for human development where people from different walks of life, class, race, cultures etc. meet to interact and influence each other in several ways.<sup>68</sup> These interactions and influence yield variant effects that result in individual exposure and growth over a lifetime and changes perspective and reasoning exponentially. School set up should intend to give a network of nurturing and support up growth relationships among tutors, students and their peers. Learning institutions should organized in such a way that they develop and support relationships between students and their teachers and also between students and their peer<sup>69</sup>. These relationships are basic tenets of exposure and learning. The fundamental environment for learning should provide stability of the following: impassioned, physical safety, and intellectual; connectedness; respect; challenge; involvement; and support. When there is a learning crisis, which translates into a moral crisis. Education is a solution to many societal tribulations, but only when delivered in a proper way. That means that people should not only go to school, but they should learn. Schooling without learning is a waste of time. Learning supports employment, earnings, health, and poverty reduction for individuals. For the general humanity, it grows inventions, builds up institutions, and nurtures social interconnection. The society therefore fails when they fail to send its children and youth to school<sup>70</sup>.

There are three major lines that most studies dealing with growth and change in people associations have charted. These include: socioeconomic development which is a conventional meticulously connected variations including software improvement, development growth, improving fitness and

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<sup>68</sup> David Osher et al., “Drivers of Human Development: How Relationships and Context Shape Learning and Development1,” *Applied Developmental Science* 24, no. 1 (January 24, 2018): 6–36, <https://doi.org/10.1080/10888691.2017.1398650>.

<sup>69</sup> David Osher et al., pp.24

<sup>70</sup> World Bank Group, “World Development Report 2018: Learning to Realize Education’s Promise,” October 4, 2017, <https://doi.org/10.1596/978-1-4648-1096-1>.

life span, increasing wages, rising learning levels, expanding access to information and rising social complexity<sup>71</sup>. Secondly, change of value is the expansion of markets, broadening of communal mobilization and strengthening people's activities, for example, financial transactions and public exchange. And lastly, are political and governance structures in a society. The major development around is a conspicuous need for effective and more inclusive democracy. This took place in different methods during the last three decades. Obviously, the one with the strongest authority reigns. The changes towards formal leadership through using democratic guidelines in the 'Third Wave of Democratization'. Simultaneously, a subtle shift that has happened within developed democracies. From the late 1970s, a lot of them had introduced, implemented or extended direct democratic institutions which has led to increase rate of civic participation.<sup>72</sup> Some researchers see these differences as a motivation of an enduring historic frequency towards democracy. Democracy is power to the people, as they are able to make decisions or who they want to lead them, their ideals as a society and how they want to be governed. Every person has the freedom to be heard.

## 2.2 Redundancy

The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2013) describes joblessness as the total number of the industrial active populace who do not have jobs but open for opportunities and are looking for work, incorporating residents who have lost their work and those who have gladly quit work.<sup>73</sup> Unless we change tact and increase our efforts to achieve sustainable economic growth, it will be

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<sup>71</sup> World Bank Group, "World Development Report 2018: Learning to Realize Education's Promise," October 4, 2017, <https://doi.org/10.1596/978-1-4648-1096-1>.

<sup>72</sup> Pippa Norris, "Democratic Phoenix," 2002, <https://doi.org/10.1017/cbo9780511610073>.

<sup>73</sup> Iulian Condratov, "Strategic Aspects of Youth Inclusion in the European and National Context," *The USV Annals of Economics and Public Administration* 14, no. 2(20) (2014): 66–74, [https://ideas.repec.org/a/scm/usvaep/v14y2014i2\(20\)p66-74.html](https://ideas.repec.org/a/scm/usvaep/v14y2014i2(20)p66-74.html).



extremely difficult to end poverty by 2030 as there is an ever increasing rate of youth unemployment and a disconcerting high numbers of young people who work but still live below the poverty line.<sup>74</sup>

Having a high number of idle and frustrated young people is a main factor of insecurity, political instability and violence in many African countries. The youth are potentially the change makers in unstable countries, in both positive and negative ways. The African Development Bank (AFDB, 2013) conducted a study about impacts of young people populace who are unemployed on political instability. It was concluded that unemployment in the youth is considerably connected with and the high rate of unstable political temperatures in the country. This is very common countries where there is high level of corruption and social injustices. This opinion has been challenged, but there is a general consensus that when there is a high number of the youth who are not economically viable, then the extremist groups have a huge pool to recruit from, at lower costs<sup>75</sup>. When the youth are left in poverty and unemployment, they become more attracted to join rebellious groups as a substitute way of earning a livelihood.<sup>76</sup>

## **2.2 Empowerment**

Empowerment has very many varied definitions and can be used differently depending on the context. In the topic of the youth, empowerment can be said to be the creating and allowing enabling environments within which the young people can explore, and exploit on their own terms rather than to be controlled by others. Once enabled, they youth can gain the capability, power,

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<sup>74</sup> The World Bank, "World Bank Group - International Development, Poverty, & Sustainability," World Bank, 2014, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/home>.

<sup>75</sup> Cramer, Christopher, "Unemployment and Participation in Violence," 2011, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/9247>.

<sup>76</sup> Henrik Urdal, "A Clash of Generations? Youth Bulges and Political Violence," *International Studies Quarterly* 50, no. 3 (September 2006): 607–29, <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2478.2006.00416.x>.

and self-assurance to decide and also to practice in their lives and of other citizens. Empowerment practices should provide solutions to the problem of inflexible societies where creativity is subdued and the young people are alienated and their ideas scoffed upon<sup>77</sup>.

There are two types of empowerment, individual or personal and community or organisational which are both based on empowerment theories. Empowerment theories provide framework of application, procedural and methodological guidelines for empowerment studies<sup>78</sup>.

The individual version of empowerment promotes the capacity and competency building of individuals through training, creativity and resourcefulness to facilitate them to implement and accomplish their responsibilities. This theory goes on to suggest that disempowered persons display suppressive inclinations; directed by rebellion. Others suffer low self-esteem which is often reflected in frustration, incompetency and lead to violent behaviour. From this background therefore, empowerment can be termed as a transformational technique through which individuals achieve self-esteem, self-efficacy, gain moral and legitimate rights and responsibilities to engage their social, economic and political entities to uphold the principles of good governance, management and leadership through participation processes<sup>79</sup>.

The second theory introduces the aspect of the community or several groups. It notes that empowerment is an outcome of human action made possible within the boundaries of social structure where empowerment takes place<sup>80</sup>. It therefore introduces a perspective in which assent takes the whole community or organizational aspect. From an organizational version,

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<sup>77</sup> Douglas D. Perkins and Marc A. Zimmerman, "Empowerment Theory, Research, and Application," *American Journal of Community Psychology* 23, no. 5 (October 1995): 569–79, <https://doi.org/10.1007/bf02506982>.

<sup>78</sup> Ibid pp. 572

<sup>79</sup> Ibid, pp. 576

<sup>80</sup> Douglas D. Perkins and Marc A. Zimmerman, pp. 576

empowerment predicts organizational systems and structures that strengthens its members' participation and improvement of goals achievement.

Empowerment can also be described as the process of gaining authority by those who are marginalised and vulnerable. Notably, once they get that power then they are able to solve their own problems without having to rely on others.<sup>81</sup> Additionally, Moser (1989) contends that assent is the authority to increase one's sufficiency therefore having the capability to make own sound choices and decisions, and gaining control to influence own destiny<sup>82</sup>. Tasli argues that youth employment should be done from done using the bottom up strategy. The youth should be provided with enablers to chart their own path and grow<sup>83</sup>. Once they own the process they will be hand-on and will also have the authority to demand for accountability and good governance from the state. The other reason is as stated by Dawn 1988, he notes that political will can never be expected to come voluntarily among those in power as they will always want to maintain the status quo hence the balance of power that favours them<sup>84</sup>. The advancement of fairness has not been the absence of important measures and tools but absence of will politically.<sup>85</sup> Ideally, pertinent policies, legal frameworks and other mechanisms have been developed but due to lack of political will they are not implemented. The formulated policies, end up being are decreased to void catchphrases at their thorough implementation.<sup>86</sup> The bottom up approach concentrates to ordinary community organizations; which can easily access the masses and understand their challenges first hand. The

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<sup>81</sup> Janet Townsend et al., "Women and Power: Fighting Patriarchy and Poverty," Amazon.com, 2021, <https://www.amazon.com/Women-Power-Fighting-Patriarchy-Poverty/dp/B008SLXBNQ>.

<sup>82</sup> Caroline O.N. Moser, "Gender Planning in the Third World: Meeting Practical and Strategic Gender Needs," *World Development* 17, no. 11 (November 1989): 1799–1825, [https://doi.org/10.1016/0305-750x\(89\)90201-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/0305-750x(89)90201-5).

<sup>83</sup> Kaan Taşli, *a Conceptual Framework for Gender and Development Studies: From Welfare to Empowerment* (Wien: Sudwind-Verl, 2007).

<sup>84</sup> DAWN, "Discussing Women's Empowerment-Theory and Practice" (, 2015), <https://publikationer.sida.se/contentassets/5e45d330e16743179cefc93de34e71ac/15611.pdf>.

<sup>85</sup> Ibid

<sup>86</sup> Kaan Tasli, *A Conceptual Framework for Gender and Development Studies: From Welfare to Empowerment* (Wien: Sudwind-Verl, 2007):33.

national organizations commonly tend to echo the fears of the exclusive elite, which mostly are not in touch with the real experience happening on the ground or that the grass root level. They might end up designing solutions that do not meet the needs of the masses that they are intended to, turning the programs and projects into white elephants.<sup>87</sup> And even though they may increase the progress in development in the resident's lives, they fail to reinforce the end term targets of the program. They therefore do not convert the prior political, socio-economic and traditional arrangements that enslave them<sup>88</sup>. Empowerment “when linked with permanent shift in the social power,” can be transformative.

## 2.6 Conceptual frameworks

Empowerment, in framework of poverty reduction and development, is a multidimensional process including political, social, economic and legal improvements that will allow vulnerable, marginalized and poor people to contribute expressively in influencing their own potentials.<sup>89</sup> Participation and empowerment are intertwined and one cannot happen meaningfully devoid of the other.<sup>90</sup> They are corresponding and can be considered as both processes and outcomes, therefore they are both means and ends of the development process. For empowerment and participation to be achieved, there needs to be substantial changes in authority relations at the structure and agency levels. Agency is the capacity of groups and individuals to reason and decide by themselves, and interests as the informal and formal bodies, regulations, values that enable and inhibit thinking and

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<sup>87</sup> Mary Johnson Osirim, “Making Good on Commitments to Grassroots Women,” *Women's Studies International Forum* 24, no. 2 (March 2001): 167–80, [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0277-5395\(01\)00154-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0277-5395(01)00154-6).

<sup>88</sup> Kaan Taşlı, *A Conceptual Framework for Gender and Development Studies: From Welfare to Empowerment* (Wien: Sudwind-Verl, 2007): 35.

<sup>89</sup> Rosalind Eyben, Naila Kabeer, and Andrea Cornwall, “Conceptualising Empowerment and the Implications for pro Poor Growth a Paper for the DAC Poverty Network” (, 2008), <https://www.ids.ac.uk/download.php?file=files/dmfile/conceptualisingempowermentpaperforPOVNET.pdf>.

<sup>90</sup> Andrea Cornwall and Karen Brock, “Beyond Buzzwords: ‘Poverty Reduction’, ‘Participation’ and ‘Empowerment’ in Development Policy | Publications | UNRISD,” [www.unrisd.org](http://www.unrisd.org), 2005, [https://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/\(httpAuxPages\)/F25D3D6D27E2A1ACC12570CB002FFA9A/](https://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/(httpAuxPages)/F25D3D6D27E2A1ACC12570CB002FFA9A/).

action<sup>91</sup>. To encourage the empowerment of the youth, keenness should be given on their economic, political and social development: Social development and empowerment entails giving the youth a feeling of independence for one to participate in making policies, asking a non-discriminatory wage on their job, and demand quality infrastructure and services, such as health and education<sup>92</sup>. Economic youth engagement involves young people's ability to attribute to and gain from industrial activities on terms which appreciate their contribution, honour their dignity and allow for negotiation and returns to be equally distributed. It entails altering institutions and rules which hinder their economic contribution. Leadership empowerment pertains equal representation in civic bodies and raise the opinions of the less vocal to enable young citizens engage in making the agreements based on what affects their lives and those they represent. It is the capacity to talk about, and talk openly for them, getting the opportunity to engage in civic activities. Furthermore, this kind of changes needs alteration in cultural plus social attributes concerning the young people's civic participation and leadership<sup>93</sup>.

### **2.6.1 The Empowerment Theory**

Assuming that power changes are ubiquitous in societal interactions, one may conclude that empowerment differs not substantially from other methods of transferring power. But the term empowerment is created to show an intrinsically positive transition for the better. While assistance, help, benefits, subsidize, and support may bring about negativity in the beneficiaries emotions due to the underlying implication of addressing the "victims," the word empowerment at an initial glance seems, majorly to talk about strength and independence. It is not astonishing that most fields

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<sup>91</sup> Bandura, A. (1982). Self-efficacy mechanism in human agency. *American Psychologist*, 37,pg 122

<sup>92</sup> Mbugua M.W.(2015) Youth's Perceptions On The Influence Of Youth Empowerment In Promoting Sustainable Peace In Kikuyu Sub County, Kiambu County, Kenya

<sup>93</sup> Ibid

in academia and research concerns with the weak have a propensity in adopting enablement as a seamless method in improvement. The analysis portrays the process of enabling individuals as requiring deep consideration<sup>94</sup>. Empowerment can be said to be more complicated than the suggestion from its name and how structural ideas might reveal. Furthermore, we get insights from analysis to the negative intellectual reparation in disabling smooth communication<sup>95</sup>. It may seem necessary to enable the minority groups such as the elderly, the disabled, the poor, discriminated against or those marginalized, if the beneficiaries of enablement will sincerely feel enabled will rely on the way the enabler wields the speak about public activities happening in empowering situations. Hence, considering practical pertinence, this analogy may be utilized to be a focal point on inquiring the use of enablement as a quick fix also to reconsider the efforts on empowerment<sup>96</sup>. The factors on empowerment cited above are debatable and should not be eliminated wholly from enablement activities. Yet apprehension of their availability and particularities may be helpful performers for example social welfare and workers, overseers in agencies and bodies working for disadvantaged people, and others, to know of the fragile balance in, substantial support, paternalism, empowerment and suppression. Experts can decide to become more receptive on how to communicate by seeking for avoidance of non-serious interventions and underlining the impact of the main benefactor but also trying to include the enabled in matters regarding their needs and wishes<sup>97</sup>. Conclusively, precise communication about what should be done and what should not be done on matters empowered in relation to mutuality helps in creating an honest basis for enhancing interaction. Hence, to make it worthwhile, the nominal system can

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<sup>94</sup> Bandura, A. (1982). Self-efficacy mechanism in human agency. *American Psychologist*, 37,pg 130

<sup>95</sup> Balcazar, F. E., Seekins, T., Fawcett, S. B., & Hopkins, B. L. (1990). Empowering people with physical disabilities through advocacy skills training. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 18, pg 284

<sup>96</sup> Ibid pg 290

<sup>97</sup> Bandura, A. (1982). Self-efficacy mechanism in human agency. *American Psychologist*, 37,122–147

be designed to accommodate other theories that get rid of the victimisation of the aimed population. For instance: deliberative theory and agonistic pluralism theory.

### **2.6.2 Deliberative Theory**

The focus is on deliberation and dialogue as means to improve institutions, decisions and overall become a more democratic society.<sup>98</sup> There are several arguments for deliberative theory. Cooke describes how the deliberative path has an educative power in the sense that not only is participation in public arenas good in itself but it has personal benefits for the individual of intellectual, moral or practical character.<sup>99</sup> Furthermore, deliberation is a way to strengthen the community as through dialogue, people can become part of a collective membership. The deliberative theory puts focus on the use of public arenas and institutions where the most rational argument for a specific issue or perspective will, through just procedures, be implemented in outcomes. It is about creating democracy with spaces where citizens have opportunity to deliberate about common affairs.<sup>100</sup> Disagreement is an important part of that and through reasonable and rational arguments anyone can stand for what they believe is right and attempt to convince others the same. The theory is however not without its critique. Nancy Fraser demonstrates how the time in which the theory of deliberation was conceived also influenced who was meant to partake in the deliberative processes. It was established during a time when the white male was the norm which led to the formal exclusion of citizens of other genders or colours which has prevailed in the modern deliberative institutions. She therefore emphasizes the need to develop and invest in more

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<sup>98</sup> Jürgen Habermas, “Three Normative Models of Democracy,” *Constellations* 1, no. 1 (December 1994): 1–10, <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8675.1994.tb00001.x>.

<sup>99</sup> Maeve Cooke, “Five Arguments for Deliberative Democracy,” *Political Studies* 48, no. 5 (December 2000): 947–69, <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9248.00289>.

<sup>100</sup> Nancy Fraser, “Rethinking the Public Sphere: A Contribution to the Critique of Actually Existing Democracy,” *Social Text*, no. 25/26 (1990): 56–80, <https://doi.org/10.2307/466240>.

spaces for deliberation where different norms and characteristics are allowed to exist.<sup>101</sup> By advocating for more creative ways to expand the public arena the state becomes more inclusive, just and democratic.<sup>102</sup>

### **2.6.3 Agonistic Pluralism**

Agonistic pluralism unlike the deliberative theory, Mouffe argues for combative or forceful combined effort as a way for political participation, which, entails using disruptive and coercive means to confront dominance politics. She, and her advocates, insists that deliberative forums are inherently elitist, exclusive and non-public which makes it impossible to avoid discrimination and create democratic change.<sup>103</sup> One cannot deliberate within structures that are unjust from the beginning. The agonistic path focuses on the need to address issues outside the formal and non-functional institutions. Activism of the classical kind is connected to agonistic pluralism where individuals mobilize through interests' groups advocating for certain rights rather than working within the system. Conflict is the condition for existence of democracy where differences need to be accurately represented in order to avoid unjust politics. Mouffe is however, also faced with critique. Additionally, Erman argues that what is at the centre of Mouffe's theory, the idea of conflict as the very condition of democracy, is in itself conditioned on the idea of deliberation. One cannot find themselves in a conflict without using dialogue and arguments to reveal said differences.<sup>104</sup> From this theory therefore, the youth cannot wait to be empowered by the state. They need to stand up for their rights and bring the change they want. This theory advocates for

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<sup>101</sup> Iris Marion Young, "Activist Challenges to Deliberative Democracy," *Raisons Politiques* 42, no. 2 (2011): 131–58, <https://doi.org/10.3917/rai.042.0131>.

<sup>102</sup> Ibid pg 136.

<sup>103</sup> Chantal Mouffe and Reihe Politikwissenschaft, "Deliberative Democracy or Agonistic Pluralism Political Science Series," December 2000, [https://www.ihs.ac.at/publications/pol/pw\\_72.pdf](https://www.ihs.ac.at/publications/pol/pw_72.pdf).

<sup>104</sup> Eva Erman, "What Is Wrong with Agonistic Pluralism?," *Philosophy & Social Criticism* 35, no. 9 (October 19, 2009): 1039–62, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0191453709343385>.



the strategy that the state should not be expected to, but rather must be forced to do what is right. The governance of Kenya suffers from systematic misappropriation, embezzlement, outright theft of public resources, nepotism, unemployment, and need for connections to the 'centre', etc. This state of affairs is embodied in the popular Kenyan phrase "It's our time to eat" which leads to marginalisation that might breed resentment for those unable to reach the centre. According to Mouffe, this group must strive to be heard but unfortunately, when dialogue fails, the frustration that comes with that can lead to violence.

#### **2.6.4 Theory of Relative Deprivation**

Samuel Stouffer an American Sociologist coined the term relative deprivation in his study. He detailed relative destitution as characters' "perceiving differences between their core value expectation and the current value capabilities of their environment"<sup>105</sup> Basically this has all to do with individual's perceived expectations in life, that is; what ought to be versus what is available in reality. Comparatively Thomas F Pettigrew goes ahead to expand on Samuel Stouffer ideas. Relative deprivation can be defined as "a judgment which one is in-group is at a disadvantaged level in comparison to a relevant referent whereby this judgment stimulates feeling of hate, anger and entailment" He further explains that relative deprivation "links the interpersonal and the intergroup level of analysis"<sup>106</sup>. It is through this links that individual emotions within a group experiencing the same deprivation would resist societal structures that could have contributed. Individuals can believe that they are personally deprived or the groups they belong to are collectively deprived.

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<sup>105</sup> Ted Gurr, "A Causal Model of Civil Strife: A Comparative Analysis Using New Indices," *American Political Science Review* 62, no. 04 (1968): 1104–24, <https://doi.org/10.2307/1953907>.

<sup>106</sup> Thomas F. Pettigrew (2015) Social Samuel Stouffer and Relative Deprivation *Psychology Quarterly* 2015, Vol. 78(1) 7–24

## CHAPTER THREE

### THE STATE OF THE YOUTH IN KENYA

#### 3.0 Introduction

Statistics from the 2019 Census report, people aged between 0 and 24 years were estimated to be around 61% of the total Kenyan population<sup>107</sup>. The UN database statistics indicate that Kenya is made up of 9.2 million youth, which constitute more than 20% of the total population<sup>108</sup>. These statistics make Kenya to be considered as a country falling under those undergoing the youth bulge phenomenon. Mostly the existence of the broader youth population in the county is facilitated by a high fertility rate. As the numbers increase in these households, most Kenyans struggle to provide basic needs to their bulging families. The family income is relatively lower, and this raises the dependency ratio within the population. The situation results in numerous long term hostile effects that mostly trap the citizens in the poverty cycle as most of the household cannot have the requisite savings that can boost the investment and the proper accumulation of the wealth for their future growth and development. The youth have indicated that they can provide the requisite services to the economy's effect in various circumstances. For instance, when the young generation acquires the best and suitable good jobs in the market, they regularly improve their economic independence and boost the other generation by ensuring that they continuously invest in the different business activities<sup>109</sup>. The situation acts as the agent of development. It thus enhances the nation's future economy collectively, and every individual facilitates the apex

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<sup>107</sup> Evans Munene, "2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census Results," Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, November 4, 2019, <https://www.knbs.or.ke/?p=5621>.

<sup>108</sup> Samuel Hall, "Youth Employment in Kenya Literature Review" (, 2017), [https://www.britishcouncil.co.ke/sites/default/files/ng\\_kenya\\_youth\\_employment\\_in\\_kenya.pdf](https://www.britishcouncil.co.ke/sites/default/files/ng_kenya_youth_employment_in_kenya.pdf).

<sup>109</sup> Ibid.

that results in development and transformation. However, in the Kenyan Economy, the youth bulge provides many challenges that threaten county development. It's effectively encouraging that the youth represent the most productive asset that the country possesses. Several studies have elucidated several risks and challenges that pose a threat to youth development; these include marginalization, unemployment, police brutality, and harassment, inability to access crucial and important services for example education and healthcare<sup>110</sup>.

In the last two decades, the Kenya economy has presented a comparatively higher growth rate. However, the country's youth are not favoured by the macro-economic advancement that the country is experiencing. Although the GDP's annual growth rate is around 5%, Kenyan youth employment does not show the same trajectory. The percentage of unemployed youth in Kenya stands at around 22% as per the statistics of the year 2016 International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates<sup>111</sup>. Although education is regarded as the critical element that facilitates employment, the tide is changing, with so many young educated generations being jobless in the nation. The free primary education introduced by the Kenyan government in the year 2003 has increased the number of students who transit to higher education. Still, most of them struggle to secure decent jobs after graduation. Several studies that have been conducted indicate that the current education curriculum has failed to equip the student with the requisite skills necessary for the job market. Thus, most employers tend to complain about the constant unpreparedness that most of the employees

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<sup>110</sup> Christine Mutuku, "Youth Empowerment in Kenya a Policy-Science Analysis of Government Values and Priorities" (, 2011), [https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/Portals/10/ASPJ\\_French/journals\\_E/Volume-02\\_Issue-1/mutuku\\_e.pdf](https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/Portals/10/ASPJ_French/journals_E/Volume-02_Issue-1/mutuku_e.pdf).

<sup>111</sup> African Development Bank Group, "African Economic Outlook," 2018, [https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/African\\_Economic\\_Outlook\\_2018\\_-\\_EN.pdf](https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/African_Economic_Outlook_2018_-_EN.pdf).

possess, thus undermining the chances of particularly these youth in their securing of the opportunities<sup>112</sup>. A lot of effort has been put across lately by the state to improve TVET and labor-market adapted university education, but there it is still not enough to aptly prepare the youth, particularly the young women, for the job market<sup>113</sup>. Majority of semi-educated Kenyan young are employed in Middle East under very unfavourable contracts and unreliable working environment.

The rate of criminal activities and prostitution has become rampant among the Kenyan youth, both men and women. According to ILO, there is a lack of consistent data to support this fact, but it is noted that the Kenyan youth do not emphasize livelihood strategies; instead, they take the easier way out. Therefore, uneducated youth, occupation, or any sort of teachings, are at a considerable risk due to the fact that their future employability status is not improving through relevant work experience and also lack of proper investment in relevant work skills<sup>114</sup>. This state of affairs enhances the possibility that the youth are trapped in the poverty rotation. The eventuality of the circumstances is relatively fatal in the population. It forces the youth to indulge in criminal activities like being recruited in terrorism and other deviant groupings. The other common practice that comes along due to this desperation is the youth migrating to other countries to seek employment and the elusive greener pastures. The outcome is the loss of the requisite human capital by Kenya's state to

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<sup>112</sup> Evans Chumo, "Boom or Burden: New Findings on Investing in Kenya's Youth for a Better Future," African Institute for Development Policy - AFIDEP, June 19, 2018, <https://www.afidep.org/boom-or-burden-new-findings-on-investing-in-kenyas-youth-for-a-better-tomorrow/>.

<sup>113</sup> Ibid

<sup>114</sup> Laura Brewer, "Enhancing Youth Employability: What? Why? And How? Guide to Core Work Skills 2013" (, 2013), [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_emp/---ifp\\_skills/documents/publication/wcms\\_213452.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---ifp_skills/documents/publication/wcms_213452.pdf).

other countries around the world. The migration situation has also ended up being fatal to the youth as it has generated a lot of human trafficking, especially for the women<sup>115</sup>.

The above challenges are the consequences that elaborate the different features that happen in the nation where the emerging young generation are manifested as the main obstacle to the social-economic growth rather than the driver who can initiate the development of the economy. This blame largely lies on the government and policymakers who fail in their duty to take requisite measures to exploit the youth to their full potential.

### **3.1 Youth Empowerment in Kenya**

The empowerment of youth has become a worldwide problem, and Kenya is no exemption to world developments. In empowering initiatives, the rising number of young people has raised many challenges to the Kenyan Government. As the most profuse advantage Kenya has or will have shortly, it is of importance to ensure that the youth are properly empowered in order to leverage their abilities to assist in their economic development. Different studies and analyses carried out and published reports suggest that persistent threats and difficulties are faced by Kenyan youth. Appropriate initiatives, services, and policies that will empower children in the country should be the most important concern for the Government than other issues facing the country, forming a more substantial percentage share of the Kenyan population. Any failure of the larger segment of the population to provide the required tool could lead to enormous political, cultural, economic, and social problems. The empowerment of Kenya's youth population is one way of growing the growth process of the different sectors of the country. Moreover, without youth empowerment, there are challenges that youth in Kenya are most likely to face, which include;

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<sup>115</sup> Christine Mutuku, "Youth Empowerment in Kenya a Policy-Science Analysis of Government Values and Priorities" (, 2011), [https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/Portals/10/ASPJ\\_French/journals\\_E/Volume-02\\_Issue-1/mutuku\\_e.pdf](https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/Portals/10/ASPJ_French/journals_E/Volume-02_Issue-1/mutuku_e.pdf)

Unemployment, marginalization, police brutality, and Impediments to admittance to critical facilities, services such as education and healthcare. Empowering the springtide population is not a choice but a prerequisite in the government-recognized growth process<sup>116</sup>. The Administration of Kenya has gone on board on numerous energies to address the encounters that most youth are facing in the country. Youth side-lining in Kenya has continued since freedom, despite numerous policies developed and even enforced to support them. Given the demographic history of the world, however, this seems exaggerated<sup>117</sup>.

### **3.2 Unemployment**

In the year 1980 and 1990s, the Kenyan economy was experiencing unpredictability in its growth. However, from 2003-2014, Kenya's GDP has grown at a substantial margin, with around 2.5%. More so, the economy has developed further, and for the last two years, the economy has gradually maintained a rate of 5.6 and 6.5% annually<sup>118</sup>. Despite this notable growth in the recent past, the economy has not yet stimulated effectively to provide substantial job opportunities for her population. Therefore, the reflected economic growth and development has failed to be replicated in the Kenyan population youth' employment rates. The county's labour force has yet to be more accomplished to facilitate the effective generation of productivity, thus hurting and threatening the potential of the nation's economic growth. The consequences of this are the decline in the level of job creation in the

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<sup>116</sup> World Health Organization, "WHO MiNDbank - Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Strategic Plan (2007-2012)," [www.mindbank.info](http://www.mindbank.info), 2012, <https://www.mindbank.info/item/4951>.

<sup>117</sup> Kempe Ronald Hope, "Engaging the Youth in Kenya: Empowerment, Education, and Employment," *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth* 17, no. 4 (December 2012): 221–36, <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673843.2012.657657>.

<sup>118</sup> Peter Ndung'u, "Kenya Country Economic Memorandum: From Economic Growth to Jobs and Shared Prosperity," March 2016, <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/763771468197384854/pdf/103822-WP-Kenya-Country-Economic-Memorandum-PUBLIC.pdf>.

country, thus affecting the younger generation who poses the potential creativity and knowledge that can have positive growth for the nation's development<sup>119</sup>.

Even though it enjoys the massive economic boom among the East African countries, Kenya still ravages behind due to the rampant coexistence of corruption, the increase in inequality, political tension, and other challenges that affect the nation's growth. The underemployment amongst Kenyan youth is also an ignored fact despite being a serious concern. It is not recorded in the official data of the national bureau of statistics or ILO, on the other hand, scholars have not contributed much data to such literature. Underemployment is defined as "overstaffing or an instance where the job underutilizes someone's ability/expertise, or where one is forced to work for shorter time than they are actually capable of."<sup>120</sup>. According to these descriptions, and due to insufficient data on this issue notwithstanding, some studies and reports from organizations and different media sources point that underemployment is a major factor that leaves youth that are affected as dependents, in spite of their economic activity.<sup>121</sup> The situation makes the young generation miss the opportunities to improve their livelihood and make a positive change in the economy. In this case, the authority and the stakeholder fail to deplete the uses of the human capital resource in the economy that can boost the nation's growth. Thus, the underemployment leaves the potential help behind, which can be the growth engine to facilitate the economy's real change.

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<sup>119</sup> Peter Ndung'u, "Kenya Country Economic Memorandum: From Economic Growth to Jobs and Shared Prosperity," March 2016.

<sup>120</sup> Jean Damascene Ndayambaje, Wim J. M. Heijman, and Godefridus M. J. Mohren, "Farm Woodlots in Rural Rwanda: Purposes and Determinants," *Agroforestry Systems* 87, no. 4 (2013): 797–814, [https://www.academia.edu/16815476/Farm\\_woodlots\\_in\\_rural\\_Rwanda\\_purposes\\_and\\_determinants7-013-9597](https://www.academia.edu/16815476/Farm_woodlots_in_rural_Rwanda_purposes_and_determinants7-013-9597).

<sup>121</sup> Gayline Vuluku, Anthony Wambugu, and Eliud Moyi, "Unemployment and Underemployment in Kenya: A Gender Gap Analysis," *Economics* 2, no. 2 (2013): 7–16, <https://doi.org/10.11648/j.eco.20130202.11>.

### 3.3 Education and Training

The education system and training that is being provided in Kenya are relatively simple. For instance, even though access to primary education is free in the nation, most of the population fails to gain the requisite facilitation to boost their higher education. The result brings about the main threat that the populace suffers for their ineffective preparedness of the job opportunities in the different fields for the Kenyan youth. There is relatively lower access to university education in the country, and thus the general enrolment is somewhat more insufficient.<sup>122</sup> Furthermore, the individuals who access the university are continuously faced with the burden of the rise in the school fees and the maintenance money due to the ever-rising living standards and inflation rate, and this brings about the inability of long term planning<sup>123</sup>.

According to the report on the state of education in Africa, which Africa America Institute was responsible in publishing it back in 2015, university enrolment in sub-Saharan Africa was at 6% and 26 percent globally<sup>124</sup>, this compared to Kenya which is at 3.3 percent of women and 4.7 per cent of men<sup>125</sup>, confirming that the Kenyan situation is the grimmest. There exists a knowledge gap on the impact of university education and the ability to get employment. Despite the country putting in efforts to get more people to school by expanding the tertiary education sector, there still exist very high unemployment rates, of up

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<sup>122</sup> Veronica Escudero and Elva Mourelo, “Understanding the Drivers of the Youth Labour Market in Kenya” (, 2013), [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---inst/documents/publication/wcms\\_222527.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---inst/documents/publication/wcms_222527.pdf).

<sup>123</sup> Veronica Escudero and Elva Mourelo, “Understanding the Drivers of the Youth Labour Market in Kenya” (, 2013).

<sup>124</sup> Amini Kajunju, “State of Education in Africa Report 2015” (, 2015), <http://greatsocieties.com/AAI-2015.pdf>.

<sup>125</sup> Veronica Escudero and Elva Mourelo, “Understanding the Drivers of the Youth Labour Market in Kenya” (, 2013).



to about 25 per cent among tertiary-educated youth.<sup>126</sup>The situation might be because of the unattractive wage rates in the public and government jobs. Formal employment uncertainty or that the university in the nation fails to equip the student with the appropriate developmental skills in society, therefore discharging incompetent graduates to the labour market.<sup>127</sup> There is little to no interactions between employers in the professional industry and universities that could help in coming up with appropriate curriculums for student, decreasing state funding amidst increasing enrolment figures.<sup>128</sup> Even though the education system has been designed to convey applicable skill set so that graduates may be self-reliant, increased costs of implementation, insufficient requisite facilities and general poverty of the citizenry, has resulted to higher instances of secondary school dropouts.<sup>129</sup> Today, the bulk of the youth population are either dropouts or graduates who lack essential skills to engage in business and be self-employed.

Research shows that ladies have more disadvantage of leaving school without completion. The Kenya Demographic Survey (KDHS) estimated that about 35 percent of girls aged 16 and 20 are still in school which is way less than that of about 50 percent of boys.<sup>130</sup> It is due to several factors; examples include early pregnancies and marriages and the patriarchy in the society that values education for the boys more. Furthermore, forty

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<sup>126</sup> UNDP, “Human Development Report 2013 | Human Development Reports,” [hdr.undp.org](http://hdr.undp.org), 2020, <http://hdr.undp.org/en/en/content/human-development-report-2013>.

<sup>127</sup> Ibid

<sup>128</sup> Samuel Hall, “Youth Employment in Kenya Literature Review” (, 2017), [https://www.britishcouncil.co.ke/sites/default/files/ng\\_kenya\\_youth\\_employment\\_in\\_kenya.pdf](https://www.britishcouncil.co.ke/sites/default/files/ng_kenya_youth_employment_in_kenya.pdf).

<sup>129</sup> Ibid

<sup>130</sup> Evans Munene, “2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census Results,” Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, November 4, 2019, <https://www.knbs.or.ke/?p=5621>.

percent of teenage girls who lack formal education are pregnant or are mothers compared to 8% of those who have secondary education.<sup>131</sup>

### **3.4 Health**

Health is a fundamental factor for the growth of the economy and the well-being of the individual progress. Thus, the poor health for the individual in society can affect the nation's progressive development, especially in labor productivity.<sup>132</sup> Employment participation among people living with a disability is very low in the global context, with some approximations putting it at below one percent in the Kenyan situation.<sup>133</sup> The situation is mostly caused by constant discrimination in the working places and the different physical barriers that affect the diverse workplace. The case is also triggered by low social support and the inadequate enforcement of the other legislation laws.<sup>134</sup>

The poor distribution of the health facilities brings about the disparities that affect affordable healthcare in society. From the recent statistics, around 42% of the total population have difficulty accessing essential health facilities. It is evident through statistics that those who can access health services within a 4KM distance from their homes are only 42% of the population, 75% have to walk for more than eight kilometres.<sup>135</sup> In this context, the population travels more than one kilometre to access the health facility. More so, the community's medical personnel are very minimal to meet the patient's existing health

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<sup>131</sup> Evans Munene, "2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census Results," Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, November 4, 2019, <https://www.knbs.or.ke/?p=5621>.

<sup>132</sup> ADBG, "African Development Bank Group: Annual Report 2015" (, 2015), [https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Generic-Documents/Annual\\_Report\\_2015\\_EN\\_-\\_Full.pdf](https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Generic-Documents/Annual_Report_2015_EN_-_Full.pdf).

<sup>133</sup> Samuel Hall, "Youth Employment in Kenya Literature Review" (, 2017).

<sup>134</sup> Ibid

<sup>135</sup> Evans Munene, "2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census Results," Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, November 4, 2019.

requirements. In the recent study, out of the 33000 people in the rural population are presented by one doctor and 1700 of the urban population. In the healthcare system, 12 percent of the facilities are youth friendly. The major issues in health like malaria, tuberculosis, typhoid, and pneumonia aside, the rising spread of HIV/AIDS, alcohol and substance abuse are serious threats that need urgent attention.

### 3.5 Crime

Kenyan youth today lives in a complicated and strenuous era. There has been a divergence in Kenya between the desires of the youth and prosperities accessible to them. Although the majority of the young Kenyans hold high hopefulness and yearnings, a demographic upsurge of the youth, inadequate macroeconomics feat, insufficient labour market prospects, inefficient education system, and a community that repudiates the creativity of undeveloped generation indicates that a number of the youth are incapable of transforming their ambitions<sup>136</sup> into a productive and worthwhile future.<sup>137</sup> A study based in Kamiti Youth Corrective Training Centre (KYTC) in Kenya determined that an increase in youthful crime has been contributed by an upsurge in minors' school dropout, ever-increasing unemployment, and high poverty levels, pedestrian parenting, and drug abuse.<sup>138</sup> The study further emphasized that criminals in Kenya's major towns are of age ranging from 15-25 years old.<sup>139</sup>

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<sup>136</sup> Evans Munene, "2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census Results," Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, November 4, 2019.

<sup>137</sup> Omboto John Onyango, "Factors Influencing Youth Crime and Juvenile Delinquency," *International Journal of Research in Social Sciences* 1, no. 2 (2012): 18–21, <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=EyFSm7kAAAAJ&hl=en>.

<sup>138</sup> Ibid Pg 20

<sup>139</sup> Chrisantus M. Makokha, "Factors Influencing Male Delinquents to Commit Capital Offences: A Case Study of Inmates in Kamiti Prison.," erepository.uonbi.ac.ke, 2008, <http://erepository.uonbi.ac.ke/handle/11295/17424>.

Due to joblessness and an increase in the scarcity of prospects for profitable occupations, youth are attracted to different vices that lead to criminal engagement. A report on crime survey conducted by UN-Habitat in Nairobi concluded that the youth waywardness and delinquency is a big problem. Major reasons upon which they are arrested are robbery, beatings, in possession of drugs, and murders. The study also asserted that crimes from underage citizens are rising steadily in a lot places in the Sub Saharan part of Africa, more so in cities. The increase in juvenile crime is mostly triggered by the rise in the rate of poverty, school dropout, and the constant instability of the families.<sup>140</sup> Youth crime is elicited by, among other reasons, frustration and deprivation arising from an incapability to achieve wants and desires; these difficulties break or deteriorate the social ties between the youth and groups meant to control their social behavior.

### **3.6 Terrorism and Extremist Groupings**

The majority of “persons who develop the spirit to become terrorists are frequently jobless, socially separate personalities who have dropped their faith in the society”,<sup>141</sup> although some of these terrorists carry out these acts in the belief of participating in a justified cause and assuming that they will influence change in the political system. Unemployed youth join these groups as an avenue for employment and survival if they pay their fighters' salaries. Furthermore, well-educated youth may also join, for other political reasons, such as the lack of equitable distribution of resources in a centralized system. Kenya's governance suffers from systematic misappropriation, embezzlement, outright theft of public resources, nepotism, unemployment, and need for connections to the 'center,' etc. This state of affairs

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<sup>140</sup> Chrisantus M. Makokha, “Factors Influencing Male Delinquents to Commit Capital Offences: A Case Study of Inmates in Kamiti Prison.,” [erepository.uonbi.ac.ke](http://erepository.uonbi.ac.ke), 2008.

<sup>141</sup> Rex A. Hudson, “The Sociology and Psychology of Terrorism,” [fas.org](http://fas.org), 1999, <https://fas.org/irp/threat/frd.html>.

is embodied in the famous Kenyan phrase, "It's our time to eat," which leads to the marginalization that might include belongings, marginality, and personal unworthiness. This negative perception is the breeding ground for all antisocial behaviors and low self-esteem, making them join groups that may seem to be offering a solution to their problems.

Consequently, adolescent and youth become susceptible to being brainwashed, indoctrinated by rogue ideologies and questionable teachings, which may lead to radicalization.<sup>142</sup>

### **3.7 Migration**

People's migration is a phenomenon that has existed as long as man has existed. Over time, the trends of the movement have changed and become dependent on various factors. Migration is currently a global concern, particularly in Africa, with reports of Africans, especially young Africans, losing their lives every day as they make the hazardous journey across several frontiers to search for better livelihoods. The nature of the youth migrating is also mixed as, on the one hand, there are forced migrants, which include asylum seekers and refugees. On the other hand, some economic migrants move to seek better economic prospects beyond their countries of origin. Millions of youth move within and out of the continent, for various reason, including but not limited to war, famine, conflict, insecurity, political and socio-economic conditions, and even youth bulge in their respective countries of origin.<sup>143</sup> The movement of the youth within their countries and across border countries is multifaceted and complex. Further, in varied degrees, these countries are all at some point

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<sup>142</sup> ISSAfrica.org, "Radicalisation in Kenya: Recruitment to Al-Shabaab and the Mombasa Republican Council," ISS Africa, September 4, 2014, <https://issafrika.org/research/papers/radicalisation-in-kenya-recruitment-to-al-shabaab-and-the-mombasa-republican-council>.

<sup>143</sup> South Sudan, "A Region on the Move: Migration Trends in the East & Horn of Africa, 2017 - South Sudan," ReliefWeb, 2018, <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/region-move-migration-trends-east-horn-africa-2017>.

origin, transit and/or destination countries of the migrating.<sup>144</sup> Other youth on the move are also victims of human trafficking who were either migrated against their will, or on the promise of greener pastures that turned out to be below their expectations and, most likely illegal activities. Due to this they end up being held against their will.<sup>145</sup>

The state of unemployment among the youth is rising everywhere in Africa, including Kenya. The country has approximately 17.7 million people aged between 15-34 years, and their unemployment rate is likely to be twice as much as in other countries. The Kenyan youth are increasingly rejecting the rural agricultural livelihoods, and migrating to the cities searching for white-collar jobs. In most instances, these youth do not get the employment opportunities they were looking for.

The rural-urban migration among the Kenyan youth has continued to raise concerns about the country's state of agriculture. Most rural youth are continuously abandoning agriculture in a country where the demand for food is ever increasing. Even though the agriculture department remains the leading employer of the youth in Kenya, the continual rural-urban migration among the Kenyan youth has become a threat to the country's food production activities. This situation has prompted the Kenyan government to explore solutions for harnessing the youth potential to rejuvenate the rural agricultural economies.

### **3.8 Leisure, Community and Recreation Service**

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<sup>144</sup> 3342698, "Best Lawyers Fall Business Edition 2020," Issuu, October 5, 2020, <https://issuu.com/bestlawyers/docs/be-fall2020-online-v1>.

<sup>145</sup> Ibid

Physical and psychological growth of youth requires them to relax, have ample leisure time and recreation, and participate in community service. This is a great contributor to their well-being and personal health<sup>146</sup>. Psychological growth among youth also provides for development of great leadership skills and nurtures the ability to get along with others in teams. It allows the appreciation and even participation in experiences and events such as art and craft, music, dance and even cultural appreciation. The environment aims to strengthen the youth to focus and participate in community activities that nurture peaceful coexistence, expresses and preserve the value of their belief and promote the existing local culture<sup>147</sup>. In the current scenario, the investment of the different activities that lead to leisure has not reflected effectively in the community. The area agonizes from scarce resources and the fact that the youth who are talented lack enough motivation and are exploited mostly by officials and organizations. These restraints have made it nearly impossible to tap fully into the youth talents<sup>148</sup>.

The Kenyan economy has produced numerous writers, artists, actors, musicians and sportsmen who engage in different creative acts. However, the sector is faced with bad governance and corruption that drag the prosperity of the institutions involved. Notably, most of the funding that is allocated for the youth services department is embezzled by the official, whose main aim is wanting the youth to be dependent on them instead of encouraging entrepreneurship and self-reliance.<sup>149</sup> Various approaches have been proposed to enhance the financing of the will to boost the development of the institution that will

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<sup>146</sup> Mbugua, Margaret W. "Youth's Perceptions on the Influence of Youth Empowerment in Promoting Sustainable Peace in Kikuyu Sub County, Kiambu County, Kenya." *erepository.uonbi.ac.ke*, 2015.

<http://erepository.uonbi.ac.ke/handle/11295/90400>.

<sup>147</sup> Ibid pg 56

<sup>148</sup> Ibid pg 56

<sup>149</sup> Ubunifu Report, "The Status of the Creative Economy in East Africa" (, 2016), [https://hivos.org/assets/2018/09/ubunifu\\_report\\_1.pdf](https://hivos.org/assets/2018/09/ubunifu_report_1.pdf).

encourage youth participation. These include the improvement of financial knowledge amongst the youth and entrepreneurial skills that will develop a profitable business. Creation of incubation hubs in the rural and smaller urban centres, but so far there has been little to no implementation of the same.<sup>150</sup> Social media sites such as Facebook, YouTube and Sound cloud have significantly increased the fan base of talented youth both regionally and globally. Still, the downside is that these same platforms encourage piracy therefore rendering the businesses unprofitable.<sup>151</sup>

### **3.9 Information and Communication Technology**

The rate of technological advancement in Kenya is relatively high as compared to other countries across the continent. The number of internet users in the country has been on the high tremendously recently. The internet quality has increased from 16.5% in 2014 to 21% in the year 2016. Four fibre optic cables of international standards have been installed in the country. By the year 2015, the penetration of mobile connection was at 88.<sup>152</sup> Kenya is emerging rapidly as a centre of innovation in the digital sector regionally and the entire Africa continent. This has brought about increase in business ventures.<sup>153</sup>

In today's world, information communications technology is a powerful instrument in making a progressive change in the economy for human development, both socially and economically. Notably, the rate associated with the growth of technology and information facilitates the youth to change their lives positively in society. For instance, through the use of the internet, the youth can access different information to help them access education

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<sup>150</sup> Ibid

<sup>151</sup> Ibid

<sup>152</sup> Samuel Hall, "Youth Employment in Kenya Literature Review" (, 2017), [https://www.britishcouncil.co.ke/sites/default/files/ng\\_kenya\\_youth\\_employment\\_in\\_kenya.pdf](https://www.britishcouncil.co.ke/sites/default/files/ng_kenya_youth_employment_in_kenya.pdf).

<sup>153</sup> Ibid



locally and globally. However, in the local areas, it is relatively hard to access the internet. Thus, the different activities that the youth can conduct using the internet are somewhat limited, thus hindering the youth's progress in the community. Currently, in East African, ICT is enhancing the growth of the economy positively.<sup>154</sup> However, most of the technology that can boost growth is undermined and underutilized in the county, affecting youth development. Nevertheless, some other creative industries are facilitating the youth's real growth by providing a better sustainable living standard that boosts the impact of the youth in the economy.<sup>155</sup> The Kenyan government seeks to position the country in the future of the digital world, including the global economy by spearheading creativity and innovation in the area of mobile money. Currently, more than half of the Kenyan population has access to banking services, the meaning of this is that the benefits of ICT development is now spreading to households with low income and individuals who have not gained access to banking services.

The Kenyan youth have a growing potential to increase their creativity and innovation in the digital world. The fact that the country is well-positioned in the digital economy space is a good indication that the youth can grow their skills and invest in the digital economy, considering that e-commerce is fast gaining momentum in the country. The Kenyan government has put various strategies and policies to lead the growth and development of e-commerce in the country, with priority given to the Kenyan youth to showcase their digital skills and improve their livelihoods.

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<sup>154</sup> Ubunifu Report, "The Status of the Creative Economy in East Africa" (, 2016), [https://hivos.org/assets/2018/09/ubunifu\\_report\\_1.pdf](https://hivos.org/assets/2018/09/ubunifu_report_1.pdf).

<sup>155</sup> Ibid

Development in technology specifically digitization, has great significance on labour markets. Examining its results is critical for the developments of rules and regulations that facilitate smooth labour markets in order to ensure that employers, employees and society benefit. The world is already grappling with issues of high unemployment and therefore is prudent that a balance is found between artificial intelligence and its effects on employment. The quick progress in technology and innovation is threatening the availability of employment. These issues date back to the 1930s when Keynes formulated his technological employment theory; technological advancements lead to loss of jobs.<sup>156</sup> Advancement in technology can influence employment in the following ways; displacing workers from their previous duties and also by raising demand of labour in new industries that have come up because of the advancement in technology. The main query that the world should strive to answer is: amongst the two effects, which one will still dominate the era of artificial intelligence, displacement or productivity? Essentially, during industrial revolution, in the short run displacement effect will dominate while in the long run, when everyone has gotten used to full automation, the productivity effect will take over and later result into a positive effect on the rate of employment. McKinsey Global Institute researchers have estimated the artificial intelligence disruption is 10 times faster and at 300 times that of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early nineteenth centuries therefore its impact today is over 3000 times.<sup>157</sup> At this rate therefore, the approach argued above might not really stand. There is a knowledge gap that

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<sup>156</sup> J. M. Keynes, "The General Theory of Employment," *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 51, no. 2 (February 1937): 209–23, <https://doi.org/10.2307/1882087>.

<sup>157</sup> Richard Dobbs, James Manyika, and Jonathan Woetzel, "No Ordinary Disruption: The Four Global Forces Breaking All the Trends | McKinsey Global Institute | McKinsey & Company," [www.mckinsey.com](https://www.mckinsey.com), 2021, <https://www.mckinsey.com/mgi/no-ordinary-disruption>.

needs to be filled to come up with more reliable data on the long term artificial intelligence impact on employment and specifically to the youth.

### **3.10 Youth and Gender**

The rates of tertiary education amongst male and female do not differ considerably, female enrolment rate in tertiary colleges is at 49.1 per cent and the rate is similar also in university enrolment.<sup>158</sup> Unfortunately, underemployment, unemployment and inactivity among females is estimated to above double that of males.<sup>159</sup> Various explanations have been suggested on this: theories from some researchers suggest that the main reason for this is the type of skills taught in female dominated courses are way different from their male counterparts. Women have a lower skills in technology and science, this fields require high demand of labour. The curriculum facilitates traditional stereotypes which should not be the case. Numeracy, self-confidence and leadership are less likely to be included in the female dominated subjects<sup>160</sup>. The other reason is that is females drop out of higher education and training at a greater rate than males, pressure to get married, family preference to educate male children first and discrimination by teachers are some of the key factors that leads to dropping out.<sup>161</sup> Albeit, participation of youth in the labour market is on the low across the genders, the participation of female has been below 30% for the past decade. In 2013, the female participation was at 29.5% against 36% of the male youth participation.<sup>162</sup> Although,

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<sup>158</sup> Titus Murgor, "A Comparison of Technical and Vocational Acquired Skills Differences Based on Gender in Tvet Institutions, Uasin Gishu County, Kenya," profiles.mu.ac.ke, 2013, <http://profiles.mu.ac.ke/titismurgor/titismurgor/publications/comparison-technical-and-vocational-acquired-skills-differences-based>.

<sup>159</sup> Ibid

<sup>160</sup> Ibid

<sup>161</sup> ADBG, "African Development Bank Group: Annual Report 2015" (, 2015).

<sup>162</sup> Francis Chigunta et al., "Series on Youth and Entrepreneurship: Being 'Real' about Youth Entrepreneurship in Eastern and Southern Africa Implications for Adults, Institutions and Sector Structures," 2005.

there has been policies specifically meant to empower and protect the rights of women, some policies adversely lead to negative reaction from employers. A good example is the case of four months paid maternity leave that protect the rights of young mothers to participate in the labour market may make employers to think twice before employing women of child bearing age.<sup>163</sup> Cultural and social norms, which include house chores expected to be done by women, and limited access to financial aid or owning of land, largely reduces the ability and will of women to become self-employed. House chores, such as cleaning, cooking, washing and taking care of children are naturally and culturally expected from women. Domestic duties are considered a voluntary contribution; the amount of time these duties consume is rarely taken into consideration except for the young women informal employment.

Even though the updated sex-disaggregated data is missing in Kenya, the available information indicates that women contribute actively to the country's economic development, amidst the various gender-based constraints. Therefore, the government has laid down strategies to ensure that there is gender parity in the country's economic sector. These strategies include; increasing the formal sector employment opportunities to absorb more women, reducing the poverty levels by a margin of 5 percent points, fulfilling the government of Kenya's 7 % real GDP growth target, increasing access to finance, enhancing agricultural productivity and exports, meeting the Millennium Development Goals and reducing the high rate of HIV/AIDS infection in women.

### **3.11 Youth and Agriculture**

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<sup>163</sup> Samuel Hall, "Youth Employment in Kenya Literature Review" (, 2017).

Numerous challenges currently face the agriculture sector in Kenya. Some challenges, like lack of access to credit or ownership of land, are more specific to youth, which determines their decision to engage in the sector. Other challenges are infrastructural, knowledge gaps, yet others resulting from lack of necessary collusive environment for business dealings between state and even non states actors. Some of the challenges include, among others, limited access to adequate land, inadequate access to financial services, inadequate skills, knowledge and information, negative perception and attitudes towards agriculture by youth, limited adoption and utilization of agricultural research information, innovations and technological developments, and limited access to markets. Another key challenge identified is the limited involvement of youth in key policy formulation processes and also their absence in rules and regulation dialogues leading to insufficient guidelines that will motivate youth in agricultural business.<sup>164</sup> Challenges notwithstanding, Agriculture remains the backbone of the Kenyan economy with the biggest potential to create employment for young people. The sector creates the most crucial platform for employment, food security and income generation, and can drive poverty eradication through increased productivity, links to other sectors and value addition.

There are various strategies to economic engagement for the youth in agriculture, and not all of them involve doing the manual duties that get the hands dirty. Therefore, in this regard, the youth should get involved in the activities that enhance agricultural production, value addition and logistics, capacity building, and service delivery to the entrepreneurs. The youthful farmers in the country have a distinct mechanism to agriculture prefers shorter season and high-value farm enterprises such as rabbit rearing, beekeeping, poultry and

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<sup>164</sup> Susan Beccio, “Youth and Agriculture: Key Challenges and Concrete Solutions” (, 2014), <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3947e.pdf>.

horticulture. The other factor that distinguishes the youth in agriculture is its application of technology in executing most projects in and out of the farms. The most common technology used by the young farmers is the digital financing services. Besides, the youthful farmers in the country have high levels of engagement with information technology. This category of farmers is active social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, and Google.

### **3.12 Access to Financial Resources**

The youth are facing a lot of constraints in getting financial services which includes barriers in the regulatory and legal environment. Lack of appropriate services which are also inaccessible, and low financial strengths of the youth. The common inability of the youth to go against the financial institutions' guidelines have led to the fear of lending the youth. Such guidelines include lack of proper documentation to process the loans, difficulty in assessing the youth risk profile and collaterals required by the bank or financial institution. Notably, market barriers are the main hinderers of obtaining financial aid to the underrepresented and disadvantaged group, this is because such groups have fewer collaterals in terms of assets and the fact that mostly youth and women shy away from approaching banks and financial institution since they view themselves as average or even low-level entrepreneurs, this turns them into discouraged borrowers.<sup>165</sup> Incomplete and wrong information provided by the borrowers is also a key reason why most loans are not granted. Large number of women and youth who approach the financial institutions for loans lack knowledge on coming up with a business plan, some have even never ran a business before. Given that these are some of the basic requirements one needs to meet while

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<sup>165</sup> Y. Kon and D. J. Storey, "A Theory of Discouraged Borrowers," *Small Business Economics* 21, no. 1 (2003): 37–49, [https://econpapers.repec.org/article/kapsbusec/v\\_3a21\\_3ay\\_3a2003\\_3ai\\_3a1\\_3ap\\_3a37-49.htm](https://econpapers.repec.org/article/kapsbusec/v_3a21_3ay_3a2003_3ai_3a1_3ap_3a37-49.htm).

applying for a business loan; it becomes difficult for banks to lend these start-ups. Most youth enterprises are therefore faced with great difficulty in accessing seed capital from a financial institution.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **ANALYSIS OF THE LEGAL, NORMATIVE, AND POLICY FRAMEWORK ON YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN KENYA**

#### **4.0 Introduction**

The empowerment of youth has become a worldwide phenomenon and Kenya is no exemption to world developments. In empowering initiatives, the rising number of youth without employment and economic engagement has created many challenges to the Kenyan Government. It is important to ensure that youth are properly empowered to leverage their abilities to assist in economic development. Different studies and analyses carried out and published reports suggest that persistent threats and difficulties are faced by Kenyan youth. Appropriate initiatives, services, and policies that will empower the youth in the country should be the most important concern for the Government than other issues facing the country, since youth forms a more substantial percentage share of the Kenyan population. Any failure of the larger segment of the population to provide the required tool could lead to enormous political, cultural, economic, and social problems. The empowerment of Kenya's youth population is one way that a country can harness its potential to improve on social and economic development. Moreover, without youth empowerment, there are challenges that youth in Kenya are most likely to face, which include; unemployment, marginalization, police brutality, and impediments to getting critical services such as healthcare and education facilities. Empowering the young population is now a necessity in government-recognized

growth process.<sup>166</sup> The Administration of Kenya has gone on board on numerous energies to address the encounters that most youth are facing. Youth side-lining in Kenya has continued, despite numerous policies developed and even enforced to support them. Given the demographic history of the world, however, this seems exaggerated.<sup>167</sup> However, what is obvious is that the Government has taken measures to involve young people over the past few years.

#### **4.1 The Global Perspective on Empowerment**

Youth enabling is an aspect that every country in the world is looking more at. Different studies have been done in conjunction with finding out the major problems youth are facing and how policies and strategies would empower the youth in the world. Some decades ago, political attention to young people was activated by student unrest across Europe. Some of the early Pan-European arrangements for youth participation and empowerment were set up and created. Both European institutions, the European Commission (EC) initially, the Council of Europe (CoE), and in their stance on 'youth' adopted very different emphases, primarily representing their distinct priorities.<sup>168</sup> The Commission has promoted services that would help the adoption of learning and skills to improve European economic competitiveness. At the same time, the Council advocated training on topics closely related to its human rights objectives. New mechanisms and practices have arisen since the early 2000s. Youth policy ideas has taken great position within the larger political sense of a

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<sup>166</sup> World Health Organization, "WHO MiNDbank - Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Strategic Plan (2007-2012)," [www.mindbank.info](http://www.mindbank.info), 2012, <https://www.mindbank.info/item/4951>.

<sup>167</sup> Christine Mutuku, "Youth Empowerment in Kenya a Policy-Science Analysis of Government Values and Priorities" (, 2011).

<sup>168</sup> Kempe Ronald Hope, "Engaging the Youth in Kenya: Empowerment, Education, and Employment," *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth* 17, no. 4 (December 2012): 232.



Cross-Sectorial, coordinated approach to addressing young people's needs.<sup>169</sup> Overall, in Europe, youth actions and programs have two objectives: first, to demonstrate and maintain a political commitment to youth policy. Second, to ensure young people integration in an expanded Europe by fostering their employability, engagement, and tolerance.<sup>170</sup> The convergence of commitment to this plan and sharing of commitment to this schedule are expressed in youth sector expertise to accomplish these ends, where possible. "Among the five principles outlined in the White Paper on European Governance, participation refers to ensuring that youth are consulted and that decisions that affect them and in general, the lives of their communities are more involved".<sup>171</sup> The unique experiences of youth contribute significantly to political, economic, and social change in their home countries as they are experts in their life situation.<sup>172</sup> Thus, the mainstreaming of youth engagement leads to integrating young people's voices into decision-making processes and suggests profound shifts in youth and adult behaviors, policies, and social structures. However, young people's rights and responsibilities are vital if Europe is to achieve its key political goal of developing the most efficient and active knowledge-based budget in the world. Kenya, not being a developed country, is also following the developed nations' footsteps to ensure that the youth in the country are empowered to the maximum having in mind that they are the majority in the country. The UN has continued to give much support to youth all over the world. By coming up with various youth implementation policies and strategies, all member states are

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<sup>169</sup> Kenya National Youth Policy, 2006.

<sup>170</sup> Kempe Ronald Hope, "Engaging the Youth in Kenya: Empowerment, Education, and Employment," *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth* 17, no. 4 (December 2012): 234.

<sup>171</sup> UNICEF, "Promoting Children's Participation in Democratic Decision-Making," UNICEF-IRC, 2020, <https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/290-promoting-childrens-participation-in-democratic-decision-making.html>.

<sup>172</sup> UNESCO, *Education for People and Planet: Creating Sustainable Futures for All*. (Paris: Unesco, 2016), <http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/education-for-people-and-planet-creating-sustainable-futures-for-all-gemr-2016-en.pdf>.

expected to follow the guidelines to ensure that the youth across the world get all the necessary tools to improve their lives. Kenya ratified the UN 2030 agenda on the sustainable development goals of 2015, which gives room for youth inclusion and participation in the realization of the countries vision. In Africa, different strategies and frameworks have been implemented, such as the African youth charter of 2006. It was designed to guarantee the constructive participation of African Youth in the Growth Agenda and their Successful involvement in the continent's growth debates and decision-making processes. The Charter offers a basis for policymakers to incorporate youth issues into all development strategies and initiatives. Thus, it offers a legal framework for ensuring young people's participation and involvement at state, regional and continental levels in government systems and forums. Moreover, the implementation of the commonwealth strategy of accomplishment for youth authorization Strategy includes plans and instruments to enable young people to engage efficiently, both in their countries and globally, in the social-economic, politically aware, and cultural scopes of life.<sup>173</sup> The Dakar Declaration on youth empowerment was a declaration that brought youth collected to work on their schedule deprived of waiting for their country to give directives on what they should do. The Dakar Youth Empowerment was adopted by the forum strategy, including detailed guidelines, methods, and tools to encourage youth to engage in the decision-making process.<sup>174</sup> Nonetheless, assessing policies and programs on youth's key issues ensures local, national, regional, and international action. Kenya is among the African countries also benefitted from the acts where different stakeholders in the youth department could learn something new to strategize

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<sup>173</sup> Kempe Ronald Hope, "Engaging the Youth in Kenya: Empowerment, Education, and Employment," *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth* 17, no. 4 (December 2012): 235.

<sup>174</sup> UNESCO, *Education for People and Planet: Creating Sustainable Futures for All*. (Paris: UNESCO, 2016).

on youth empowerment. Moreover, the intergovernmental authority on development (IGAD) has joined the African Union, European Union, and other representatives in representing the wider range of interests in representing the youth in Chatham house where youth' roles in society and the roles in the future of Africa's horn. IGAD region comprises 70% of the youth, and therefore most programs were meant to expand youth empowerment. For IGAD to become a regional organization to achieve peace, regional integration, and prosperity, the youth are the main targets to make the goals successful.

#### **4.2 The Evolution of Related Legal, Institutional and Policy Framework**

To resolve young people's problems, the Government has placed different legislative, structural, and political structures. It includes passing legislation and designing youth policies evolution. The state has also set up a variety of organizations/interventions to manage youth matters explicitly. These comprise, among others, the Executive responsible for affairs of the youth, the Kenya Youth Job and Occasions Programmed, the Uwezo fund, the NYS, the Youth Entrepreneurship Development Fund, and the national youth council.<sup>175</sup>

The youth were not targeted in the development agenda of the Government and other youth agencies in the 19660. The Government of Kenya launched the National Youth Service (NYS) in 1964 and has supported it to date. Other programmes launched for the youth were majorly recreational and social in nature and they were based in the urban area. Unemployment has however continued to prevail. The youth became the agenda of the 1974-1978 National Development Plan and unemployment amongst the youth was addressed so that to present huge consequences in the future. The sectional paper number 2 outlined

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<sup>175</sup> UNESCO, "Youth Participation & Empowerment," UNESCO, May 4, 2016, <https://en.unesco.org/preventingviolentextremismyouth>.

various effort that will hasten development programs amongst the youth. The Development Plan of 1997-2001 and the National poverty eradication plan of 1999-2015 also outline how the youth can be assisted to be self-reliant. In spite of all these measures to cushion the youth by different agencies, the menace has still continued. Lack of clear and comprehensive policies that provide a blueprint for the youth has been the main attribute that has made it easy for unemployment to thrive.

In 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2005 the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs was established in order to address the concerns of the Kenyan youth. This was important because despite their numerical strength, the representation of the youth in political, national and social economic development was very low. From its inception, the ministry has coordinated and mainstreamed issues of the youth in the national development agenda. In order to ensure integration of issues affecting the Kenyan youth, the government through the presidential circular no. 1 of 2008 rearranged the ministry to also include the sports departments to become the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports whose main mandate includes, Promotion of youth growth and development through formulating programs and policies which will build the capacity of the youth to withstand risks by enhancing protective factors. Developing a National Youth Policy which will ensure that Kenyan youth participate fully in the development of the country. Facilitation of the establishment of a National Youth Council (NYC) that is mandated to popularize the agendas and issues facing the youth. Ensure proper coordination of structured youth organizations in the country that will see to it that youth develop faster and also to sponsor and organise countrywide trainings that aim to prepare the youth in nation-building responsibilities.

The National Youth Policy that was drafted and ratified in the year 2006 was tasked at ensuring that the Kenyan youth play their part, alongside adults, in the prosperity of the country. The policy goal was to ensure participation of the youth in civic and community matters and also to make youth the core of their programs. The policy suggested workable strategies and guidelines that could be implemented to ensure that the youth participate in matters of national growth.<sup>176</sup> The policy outlined the strategic capacities that must be considered so that the youth in Kenya to play their part in building of the nation effectively. They include creation of more employment opportunities, better health and educations facilities, culture and art, sports and recreation, the environment, and the media.

The Youth Enterprise Development Fund was formulated in 2006 by the government of Kenya to solve redundancy amongst the youth, it was launched officially in 2007, February. It later became a state corporation in May 2007. The sole purpose was to provide loans and financial support to enterprises owned by the youth. Additionally, it aimed to entice and enable venture in small and medium enterprises as well as viable organization, such as stalls, markets, business or industrial parks that will be of great help to initiatives managed and owned by the youth. Developing business links with large enterprises, facilitation and marketing of products and services of the youth's businesses in both the domestic and the international markets, and also facilitate employment of youth in the international labour market.<sup>177</sup>

The strategic plan of 2007-2012 was released by the government in March 2007 targeting the Kenyan youth. The plan contained the vision, mission and strategies to be used by the ministry of youth affairs in order to meet its objectives. The main intention was to

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<sup>176</sup> Kenya National Youth Policy, 2006.

<sup>177</sup> Ibid

build a country where youth grow knowing that the government has provided them with opportunities to make a difference in their society. The theme of the plan is to guide the ministry of youth affairs in achieving youth employment and empowerment; youth education and training; communication and technology (ICT); youth and health; youth, crime and drugs; youth and environment; and community service.<sup>178</sup>

Kazi Kwa Vijana initiative launched by the president and prime minister in March 2009. Its mission is essentially to manage and tackle unemployment, poverty and hunger by creation of employment via government related projects. The work for the youth projects was intended to cushion the youth against good, financial and fuel crisis through provision of income by engagement in public works. Its target was to employ 200,000–300,000 youth who were at a higher risk of deprivation. Projects, aimed at providing water supply and irrigation were considered to augment the production of food in areas affected by draught.<sup>179</sup> Credible sources suggest that, between 195,458 and 296,000 youth, had benefited from the program by the end of 2010.

The National Youth Council act was established by the government in 2009 and was commenced in 6<sup>th</sup> January 2010. The main responsibilities of the National Youth council are; to control, co-ordinate and regulate youth related initiatives and activities. These activities must be managed by the youth themselves and are focused in ensuring development of the youth. Promotion and popularization of the national youth policy and also other policies that affect the youth; fight for legislation on matters facing the youth; Fostering and promotion of relations between youth organization and national plus

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<sup>178</sup> Kenya National Youth Policy, 2006.

[http://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Kenya\\_2006\\_National\\_Youth\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Kenya_2006_National_Youth_Policy.pdf).

<sup>179</sup> Kempe Ronald Hope, “Engaging the Youth in Kenya: Empowerment, Education, and Employment,” *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth* 17, no. 4 (December 2012): 221–36.

international bodies with same objectives; Coming up with operational guidelines that protect the youth from any form of manipulation, extortion or abuse; Acting as a voice and bridge to make sure that policy makers and the government are informed about the interests of the youth; Promotion of research and analysis of data on youth issues; Allow for the inclusion of the Kenyan youth in decision making agencies and bodies so as to instil the patriotism spirit in the youth; it is also mandated to popularize the Youth Enterprise Development Fund and other schemes or bodies that target the youth in offering of financial aid and information which is helpful to the youth.<sup>180</sup>

The promulgated constitution of August 2010 addresses the youth's rights, and has created provisions for Youth and Youth issues are given first priority. For instance, the key aspects of the constitution that major on Youth are: Bill of rights in chapter 4 of the Kenyan constitution, 2010. Article 19(2) provides for the protection, recognition and enjoyment of human rights and key freedoms for observance of the dignity of communities and individuals. The youth rights in article 55 focuses on including positive accomplishment platforms, to guarantee that youth:

- a. Acquire applicable training and education,
- b. Have chances to associate, be represented and participate in civic, social, industrial and other domains of life.
- c. Access job opportunities.
- d. Are shielded from harmful societal norms and exploitation.<sup>181</sup>

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<sup>180</sup> Consortium of Youth Serving Organisations, "Issue Brief on the Proposed Amendments to the National Youth Council Bill 2019," Siasa Place, 2019, <https://siasaplace.com/issue-brief-on-the-proposed-amendments-to-the-national-youth-council-bill-2019-by-a-consortium-of-youth-serving-organisations/>.

<sup>181</sup> Kenya Law, "CONSTITUTION of KENYA, 2010 Subsidiary Legislation," Kenyalaw.org, 2010, <http://kenyalaw.org:8181/exist/kenyalex/actview.xql?actid=Const2010>.

Kenya has made intentional measures to deliver and structure TVET learning via creation of TVET colleges either by the private partners or the government. The general government policy on TVET is to improve skills development and the endangered stock of the nation's manpower. The purpose for public investment in TVET is therefore to promote skills growth for increased productivity in order to motivate economic development and job opportunity creation.<sup>182</sup> By April 2011, Kenya had 554 TVET colleges that legally offered training to the general youth and others.

The latest policy change which is currently on its second draft, is the Kenya Youth Development Policy (2018), informed by the recent realities in the Nation, and places the youth in the wider context of Country's development and states that all youth will have great opportunities to reach their ultimate potential, as individuals and as active partakers in society. The Policy ensures an obligation is placed on youth to be advocates of their development and just recipients of stake holder or government's support. Ideally, outstanding preferences that the rule focuses on the advancement, the first, of a Kenya Youth advancement policy to follow up and measure role of youth, initiatives and projects at different levels. The policy will have visible indicators, hence it will be easily covered in the normal state and county level research and reporting methods. The Index has underlined the role that former legislative, principles and institutional channels have achieved in promoting the youth theme in Kenya. For instance, some milestones put across in the index are: Creation of Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) in 2013; Launch of the Marshall Plan for Youth Employment and Development in March, 2008; the National Youth

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<sup>182</sup> Ministry of Education Science and Technology, "Ministry of Education Science and Technology Republic of Kenya Education Sector Support Programme Delivering Quality Education and Training to All Kenyans" (, 2005), [http://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/sites/planipolis/files/ressources/kenya\\_kessp\\_final\\_2005.pdf](http://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/sites/planipolis/files/ressources/kenya_kessp_final_2005.pdf).



Service (NYS) Act (2018) that established the NYS as a state corporation; and creation of several Affirmative Action Funds.

### **4.3 Challenges of Implementation**

- a. Population growth pressure: The high populace growth, recently at 2.5% (2019), exerts pressure on local resources as the young people's numbers keeps on rising.
- b. Inappropriate skills: The 8-4-4 learning system and higher learning institutions continuously release numerous poorly equipped graduates without crucial life skills, who are not qualified for entry in the job market.
- c. Disorderly youth programs: While most of the legislature's Ministries and youth groups with their programs and sectional youth indexes. Hence, lack of a state coordinated youth policy and implemented co-ordination programs hinder their effectiveness.

### **4.4 Policy Shortcomings**

The foregoing visibly illustrates that the National government of Kenya has been improving and activating numerous policy frameworks and programs to handle the issues confronting the youth in Kenya. Furthermore, the legislature itself has also appreciated that some of its youth projects have had their own share of execution problems. The civil service Secretary in the docket of the Prime Minister noticed that the KKV programme, for instance, had issues such as lack of on time allocation of fiscal resources centrally to the planned units on the

project, reporting on project state and developing issues back to the middle and sensitisation of different developers.<sup>183</sup>

Sindabi in his letter to the press opined that ‘The Kazi Kwa Vijana plan began to create employment for the youth seems like a political skim to Kenyans that the government is worried about the fate of the youth’. Furthermore, he said that ‘it was alleged some leaders were corrupt, tribal and nepotism was rife.’<sup>184</sup>

Kenya's KKV and YEDF have weaknesses. Notably, their missions overlap, and their plans are too wide, making them unrealistic and unachievable within a given time-frame. Furthermore, they are restricted by heavy legislative influence. Resultantly, the programs are overridden by national politics instead of professionalism. Similar comments were given by the then US Ambassador to Kenya as he projected the establishment of a US state US\$10 million dollar Youth Innovate for Change Fund that will give youth with a chance to access funds for industrial development. The enterprise is youth-owned, governed, and supervised, and will enlarge economic chances for all Kenyan youth. This fund is in addition to the US\$45 million youth empowerment scheme that the US state is also financially supporting activities of the National Youth programme.

A contradicting interceding that has been critiqued by many political leaders including President Kibaki. The Ambassador stated, “We have heard clearly from you [the youth] that state programs like Youth Enterprise Development Fund, Kazi Kwa Vijana and the Youth

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<sup>183</sup> Kempe Ronald Hope, “Engaging the Youth in Kenya: Empowerment, Education, and Employment,” *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth* 17, no. 4 (December 2012): 221–36, <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673843.2012.657657>.

<sup>184</sup> Kempe Ronald Hope, “Engaging the Youth in Kenya: Empowerment, Education, and Employment,” *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth* 17, no. 4 (December 2012): 221–36.

Employment Marshall Plan have not proven sufficient enough to create real market opportunities, since they are not youth owned and are not clear.

An integrated consultation on major youth concerns in UNHABITAT jobs, closely undertaken by the Youth Branch, Partners and other units, experimented the target outcomes of the activities. Notably, the agreement created a proposal for coherent strategic framework establishment for youth majorly relying on partnered support in aqua and sanitation, shelter and social infrastructure, environmental supervision, land governance and rights.

In June 2010 Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) was given a go ahead by the nation of Kenya to take up the Kenya Youth Empowerment Project (KYEP), apprentice programs and Internship opportunities which targeted at giving the chosen youth with the right job experience and practical skills through work attachments in the informal and formal departments. KYEP reacted to the issues facing youth jobs. In demand, it encouraged private employers and developed internships and attachments in the informal and formal categories. The pilot project was offered in Kenya's three cities and entailed a few months of training and fifty two days of job experience per cycle. It aimed at vulnerable youngsters defined as 15- 29 years with a minimum of eight years in school and who were currently not studying or in a job during entry into the project. The program run for six cycles. Generally, a total of 20,384 (46.8% female) youth got training and 13,289 (48.7% female) succeeded in getting placed in internships programs against the goal of 15,000 and 10,000 organized for practical Training and Internships respectively. Ideally, successful completion proved that the nongovernmental sector in Kenya were bold handling the challenge of youth opportunities in an organized and harmonized manner. Therefore, it is clear that handling the challenge of youth employment needs creative measures that bring multiple partners together going past

the main focus on quantity but to the quality and maintenance of these interventions. Therefore, it's important to initiate youth employment plans, programs and projects that are practical and results created by adopting a measure to youth employability creating strong partnerships.<sup>185</sup>

#### **4.5 Situation and Institutional Analysis**

A national resource is youth. When they provide an opportunity for faster economic growth, they offer dedication productively. The Government would also involve youth in the relevant planning and transformative processes when setting the national development agenda. Although youth are a national resource, there are challenges that they are facing, such as vulnerable jobs among youth employed: the majority of youth employed are in susceptible employment, branded by casual employed preparations related with small levels of engagement, output, insufficient incomes, and harsh work conditions.<sup>186</sup> A big percentage of some economic activities include young people (about 49 percent in 2009 and 41.77 in 2015/16 percent), maximum of which are active in casual work. Approximately 84% of youth aged 15 to 34 were working in casual service. Second, maximum youth inactivity stages: nearby is a significant sedentary population of young people.<sup>187</sup> The 2009 survey shows that at a slightest one in ten young people were sluggish if those in school were discontinued. In 2015/16, the average dormancy proportion was 13.1 percent. The financially passive inhabitants embrace people who are neither working nor jobless. It

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<sup>185</sup><https://kepsa.or.ke/kyep/>

<sup>186</sup> The World BANK, "World Bank Project : Kenya Youth Empowerment Project - P111546," World Bank, 2021, <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P111546>.

<sup>187</sup> UNHR, "The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment 2007-2015 (PAYE) (1998)," Ohchr.org, 2015, [https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Education/Training/Compilation/Pages/2TheCommonwealthPlanofActionforYouthEmpowerment2007-2015\(PAYE\)\(1998\).aspx](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Education/Training/Compilation/Pages/2TheCommonwealthPlanofActionforYouthEmpowerment2007-2015(PAYE)(1998).aspx).

encompasses the people who are not extending in looking for jobs, and the disabled are discouraged. In Kenya, idleness is mostly related with household events (or participation in domestic responsibilities) and has a significant extra effect on female youth than male youth. Those not in school, work, or training (NEET) is included in the group. Lastly, Limited participation and inequality of opportunity in socio-economic spheres: despite youth are the minimum reflected in the politically aware and monetary scopes by their numerical dominance, socio-cultural and financial obstacles, and absence of appropriate structure, alignment, and authorization due to social attitudes.

#### **4.7 The SWOT analysis of latest policy arbitration.**

The policy also confirms that while young people are confronted in Kenya, they really bring great strongholds and chances with many challenges that the state can tap into for the country's wellbeing. The crucial powers as well as prospects for young people are the country's largest population generation and sizeable human resource for socio-economic growth. Most of them have got primary education and a substantial amount of higher level education required; they have energy and are available; they are often 'first adopters' of emerging IT; and they display a high level of networking, conferencing, and cohesion. Based on their strengths, youth are more creative, talented, and innovative in a different field. Moreover, they are malleable and easily trainable in different situations. Youth are quick to embrace ICT and adapt to positive peer influence.

On the weaknesses, part youth lack hands on skills due to low learning capacity as well as attainment opportunities. Furthermore, young people are prone to negative peer influences associated with antisocial behaviours such as radicalization. Moreover, most youth have limited capacity to enable them to engage more successfully in the country's

entrepreneurship activities. The negative stereotypes imposed on the Kenyan youth bring negative thoughts to them.<sup>188</sup> Lastly, there is limited access to the ICT facilities that would have played a key role in empowering the youth.

Additionally, youth are exposed to many opportunities such that they live in a devolved governance structure, which could provide more chances of getting empowered. Youth have unexploited talents in arts and sports. Moreover, youth are more likely to get government procurement opportunities, and they are referred to as agents of change. Lastly, there is untapped social-economic potential amongst the youth in the country and of which it could be used in the propelling of the blue economy sector in the country. Youth face many threats in society such that most youth are vulnerable to engage themselves in terrorist acts and radicalization.

Youth are more vulnerable to communicable and non-communicable diseases, and this limits their potential in building their dreams and exploiting opportunities. However, most youth are prone to drug and substance abuse, especially if they have no work to do, which will keep them busy. Idle youth are a threat to the countries security because they will be tempted to engage in criminal activities. Lastly, youth face low transition mechanisms from the period they finish their education to the world of work, which in most cases have limited vacancies or opportunities in Kenya.

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<sup>188</sup> Kempe Ronald Hope, "Engaging the Youth in Kenya: Empowerment, Education, and Employment," *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth* 17, no. 4 (December 2012): 221–36.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.0 INTRODUCTION**

This study sought to undertake a situation analysis of the state of youth empowerment in Kenya by critically analyzing how the rollout of the existing policies, national plans, and strategies, or lack of it, match with or meet the youth's socio-economic needs. It would then use the research findings to recommend how youth empowerment can promote human development in Kenya.

This chapter therefore summarizes the key findings and draws a conclusion from the same. It goes further to suggest the recommendations that are suitable to correct the situation as it currently is.

#### **5.1 DISCUSSION ON KEY FINDINGS**

The youth can no longer be termed as leaders of tomorrow. They must be seen as today's leaders. Planning cannot continue without involving the youth, especially those who are in difficult circumstances, in all the sectors of the economy. The youth have a right to participate in issues that affect their life and to exploit their full potential.

Empowerment involves putting in place intervention methods and programs to guide people toward achieving a sense of control. People may feel destitute in their lives for numerous explanations, but empowerment focuses on how domination underwrites to this feeling of oppression. It centers on helping marginalized people at individual, group and community levels gain the personal, interpersonal and political power to improve their lives. Theories of empowerment include both processes and outcomes, and differentiating between empowering processes and outcomes is critical. In the case of the Kenyan youth, the processes are in place but the desired outcomes are not being met as envisioned. The study has exposed that despite Kenya having normative and institutional frameworks and signing and ratifying some of the international and regional treaties protecting the right and freedoms of the youth, there are still gaping holes in the implementation of the same. Due to this, the Kenyan youth is still disempowered.

The empowerment theory suggests that the best way to assist human beings is by having mutual obligations with them, letting them work for their rights, rather than having their needs fulfilled by someone else, therefore turning them into victims of their situation. From the findings, this study has determined that the youth in Kenya are detached from government programs because they are not really involved in the policy formulation process, and therefore national youth policies do not adequately address youth empowerment challenges. The State deals with them as beneficiaries and not as active participants of the policies and strategies in place. This victim mentality approach therefore disempowers them from decision making.

The theory of relative deprivation explains the feeling of discontent when being dispossessed of something to which one believes oneself to be entitled. The concept of relative deprivation has important consequences for both behaviour and attitudes, including feelings of



stress, political attitudes, and participation in collective action. The study established that the Kenyan youth feels disenfranchised and disadvantaged in terms of both economic and social opportunities.

## **5.2 CONCLUSION**

As suggested in the agonistic pluralism theory, the study concludes that unless the youth, interest groups and other stakeholders come out strongly and obligate the government to effectively action the policies that are on paper, and successfully implement empowerment programs as provided for by the same, then the Kenyan youth will continue living in despair, as is the current situation.

This study therefore reiterates that youth empowerment initiatives should be effectively implemented in Kenya, and that the youth must be guaranteed freedom and participation. Further, the rights of the youth to development as enshrined in the constitution and other international treaties ratified by Kenya should be upheld and protected. Youth empowerment is perceived as a crucial factor in the human development for Kenya and therefore a lot of emphasis should be placed in the same.

## **5.3 RECOMMENDATION**

Based on the foregoing, this study makes the following recommendations:

### **5.3.1 Focus on Policy formulation**

The youth should be given an active role in the designing and formulation of youth policies. The youth are disconnected from government programs because they are not involved in the formulation process. Effective youth policy should be designed with input from the youth and produce enhanced opportunities for youth involvement in governance and development processes.

### **5.3.2 Focus on Empowerment**

The government should not only concentrate on the processes of empowerment, but must also make sure that the life outcomes are realised. A proper monitoring and evaluation system on youth empowerment must be in place to measure progress, efficiency and impact of the programs, policies, and strategies.

### **5.3.3 Focus on Education**

Education and training that the youth receive must be relevant if we are to ensure youth engagement and development. Most of the youth in Kenya lack skill training which a critical factor in employment is. In Kenya, we have access to proper academic curricula in abundance but lack applicable skills that fit the demand of the Kenyan job market. The government should therefore put more emphasis on skill-based training as this has been an ignored area of education and training policy.

### **5.3.4 Focus on Employment**

The government should lay emphasis on economic growth of the country and create a suitable and enabling environment for entrepreneurship. This should be to the extent possible and within the rule of law, political stability and security; basic infrastructure is in place; an all-encompassing macro-economic policy framework, such as an improved regulatory and tax climate for business

corporations, an increased pace of privatisation, and an export and savings mobilisation orientation. The private investors should be encouraged private investors to make long-term commitments.

### **5.3.5 Focus on program design and implementation strategy**

Any youth program must take into consideration the unique conflict dynamics in the lead up to and during program design and implementation. While all programs need to be carefully localized due to inter- and intra-state differences in education access and quality and market activity, they also need to be informed by prevailing local conflict dynamics. In particular, seek to engage high-risk youth (i.e. those unemployed and who feel there is not suitable work available) in acquisition of skills that are in demand in local markets in order to reduce the number of youth vulnerable to recruitment by elders or politicians for violent activities.

### **5.3.6 Focus on youth participation:**

Youth policies should also provide mechanism of how they ensure mainstreaming youth issues into the development agenda and state how harmonization of other policies, research, programs and strategies that are oriented towards youth can be promoted through them.

There is also a need to clearly define how youth can participate in the planning, decision making, implementation of youth development programs, youth and adult partnership. It is recommended that planning should be bottom top as supposed to current system where it is top- bottom

### **5.3.7 Focus on Agriculture**

The lack of diversity in agricultural production should be addressed in any intervention. In most part of the country, agricultural production is stagnant and is focused on a limited number of crops. Youth also need to understand mechanisms for increasing yields and expanding markets.

### **5.3.8 Focus on Access to information**

Information must be shared among the youth and their views taken into consideration through the process of dissemination. If policies only exist at national level and not taken to the grassroots, then the impact will be minimal.

## **5.9 Gender-Informed Program Design**

While improvements in gender dynamics have been seen in recent years, in particular related to girls' access to education, women and girls in Kenya are exposed to considerable inequalities related to education, employment and Gender Based Violence. These gender dynamics must be dissected and their impact on future development determined in order to achieve impactful and equitable programming. Encouraging shifts in attitudes should be built upon to garner support for future gender-informed programming and gender sensitive budgeting. There are stringent cultural and gender norms around appropriate roles for women and any economic program designed for youth must seek to first understand these norms and then address them appropriately.

### **5.3.10 Focus on mentorship**

The relevant ministry should regard and articulate a strategy that provides for adequate mentoring. Mentoring gives an inspiration for the youth through the formation of the suitable podiums and prospects for collaboration between the youth and role models in the society.

### **5.3.11 Focus on Migration**

Partnerships in the countries of origin, transit and destination and all the bodies involved in protection of migrants should be strengthened to have a more systemic approach to the protection of youth and migrants across all phases of mobility that connects responses between areas of origin, transit and destination. All the states should be compelled to enact legal frameworks and policies that protect the youth from exploitation and other abuses.

### **5.12 Focus on human trafficking**

Combatting trafficking and smuggling should take a more multi-lateral approach among the countries in the region as opposed to only focusing on domestic solutions. There should be more information flow among the police, immigration and border control officials of the concerned countries concerning trafficking of children ,youth, and people generally, and the routes and means used for trafficking.

### **5.13 Focus on non-state actors**

The government should create partnerships with other non-state actors to support youth empowerment initiatives and programs. They can support the state to coordinate social welfare systems on youth empowerment programmes that improve the position and condition of the youth. This can also entail capacity building programmes for state officers involved in social welfare of the youth. The non-state actors can assist the state by drafting policies to address legal and

institutional gaps that protect the rights of children and the youth. They can conduct research and generate updated statistics on the youth empowerment and migration situation.

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