

**INVESTIGATION INTO THE BARRIERS TO YOUTH
ENTREPRENEURSHIP: CASE OF YOUTH IN KAMUKUNJI
CONSTITUENCY IN NAIROBI**

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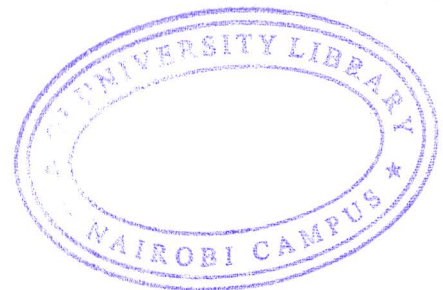
ALOGO ISMAEL

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT
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MOI UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

According to the Youth Affairs Ministry (2009), there is currently a serious problem of youth unemployment in Kenya that need to be addressed by looking at alternative avenues. Kenya like the rest of the world is at the moment faced with a slowing economic growth and a shrinking job market, this, has resulted to an increased level of unemployment, mass poverty and delinquency. According to the youth affairs ministry, 750,000 youths join the labour market every year either as school drop outs or college/ university graduates. However, not all of them can get job opportunities in the formal sector and a number of them must be ready to take entrepreneurship as a career and start their own businesses as a means of economic survival. Entrepreneurship however has barriers and for the youth to penetrate and gain maximum economic benefits through entrepreneurship there is need to clearly understand the nature and extent of these barriers as a first step to overcoming them.

This research project sought to analyze the barriers to entrepreneurship particularly among the youth. The overall research design was descriptive in nature. The population of this study consisted of the youth residents in Kamukunji constituency in selected estates of Buru Buru Phase 1, Eastleigh, Majengo, Bahati, Kaloleni and Kiambio slums. It is estimated that there are about 30,000 youths residing in this areas. Because the population is widely scattered and there is lack of a complete sampling frame, a cluster sampling method was adopted with the clusters based on residential estates of Buru Buru Phase 1, Eastleigh, Majengo, Bahati and Kiambio. A sample of 100 respondents was selected based on cluster and purposive sampling and questionnaire administered to generate data for this study. Data was then analyzed by use of descriptive statistics comprising of frequencies, percentages, mean, mode and median.

It was found that majority (63%) of the youth were forced by circumstances into entrepreneurship and most (68%) lacked basic skills in business. 72% of the respondents had role models who were 85% family members and relatives. Obtaining seed capital was found to be a major barrier to entrepreneurship as majority (84%) had difficulty in accessing seed funding. 49% of businesses were operating unregistered.

Entrepreneurship education among the youth is recommended to help them improve their skills. To ease access to seed funding, Micro Finance institutions should create products that appeal to the youth. It is also important to sensitize the youth and parents to nature talent and not over focus on employment. Finally, the licensing process should be simplified.