

**THE INFLUENCE OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT ON ECONOMIC GROWTH IN
BURUNDI: A CASE STUDY OF NTAHANGWA COMMUNE IN BUJUMBURA.**

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DECLARATION AND APPROVAL

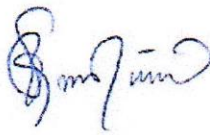
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To my lovely wife Evelyne Ndayishimiye, my children Kim Ishimwe, Blen Loris Igiraneza, Nick Ken Jordi Iganze and David Darel Inganji for their great support.



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since he has always encouraged me to be resilient and hopeful even when the going got tough. I would also like to immensely register my gratitude to Mt. Kenya University fraternity especially the Burundi office for providing a conducive environment and this has gone a long way in enabling us to effectively pursue my master's education. I would like to register my appreciation to my respondents; the youth, officials from non-governmental organizations working with the youths and community leaders in Ntahangwa Commune in Bujumbura for providing truthful opinions.



ABSTRACT

Unemployment among young people is at an all-time high and has become increasingly visible and widespread across Burundi. Various government initiatives aimed at addressing this issue have not effectively reduced unemployment to a manageable level. Throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, governments have expressed concerns over the high unemployment rates among youth, particularly graduates of higher education institutions. This study aims to: examine the relationship between youth unemployment and the gross domestic product (GDP) of Burundi, analyze the relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates, and assess the impact of youth unemployment on labor efficiency in Burundi. The study is informed by the Classical Theory of

Unemployment, which attributes unemployment to wage rigidity and market inefficiencies, and the Marxist (Communist) Theory of Unemployment, which links unemployment to capitalist economic structures that inherently create joblessness. These theories provide a conceptual framework for understanding the relationship between youth unemployment and socio-economic factors. The study targeted non-governmental organizations (NGOs), religious leaders, youth, and scholars. A stratified random sampling technique was used to ensure proper representation across different stakeholder groups. The final sample population consisted of 384 young people, 10 religious leaders, 10 academicians, 10 NGO representatives, and 10 community leaders, bringing the total sample size to 424 respondents. Quantitative data was collected using structured questionnaires, while qualitative data was gathered through in-depth interviews with key informants. Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics with the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 26, while qualitative data was analyzed thematically to identify patterns, themes, and emerging insights from respondents' narratives. A pilot test involving 40 respondents was conducted, revealing reliability scores of 0.741 for GDP, 0.798 for crime rates, 0.809 for labor efficiency, and 0.886 for economic growth. Findings indicate a strong correlation between youth unemployment and crime rates in Ntakangwa Commune ($r=0.803$, $p=0.000$), with 26% of respondents stating that prolonged unemployment drives youth into criminal activities due to economic hardship and social exclusion. The study also found a significant negative relationship between youth unemployment and GDP ($r=0.742$, $p=0.000$), with 24% of respondents acknowledging that youth unemployment reduces purchasing power and limits economic growth. However, the relationship between youth unemployment and labor efficiency was weak but positive ($r=0.407$, $p=0.000$), with 9% of respondents indicating that unemployment limits skill development and contributes to underemployment. Given these findings, it is crucial for the government of Burundi to prioritize strategies for reducing youth unemployment. Addressing this issue will mitigate social vices associated with joblessness while fostering economic growth and social stability.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

- EAC:** East African Community
- GDP:** Gross Domestic Product
- ILO:** International Labor Organization

ILFS: International Labor Force Survey

NYS: National Youth Service

NGO : Non-Governmental Organization

PARCEM : Parole et Action pour le Réveil des Consciences et l'Évolution des Mentalités

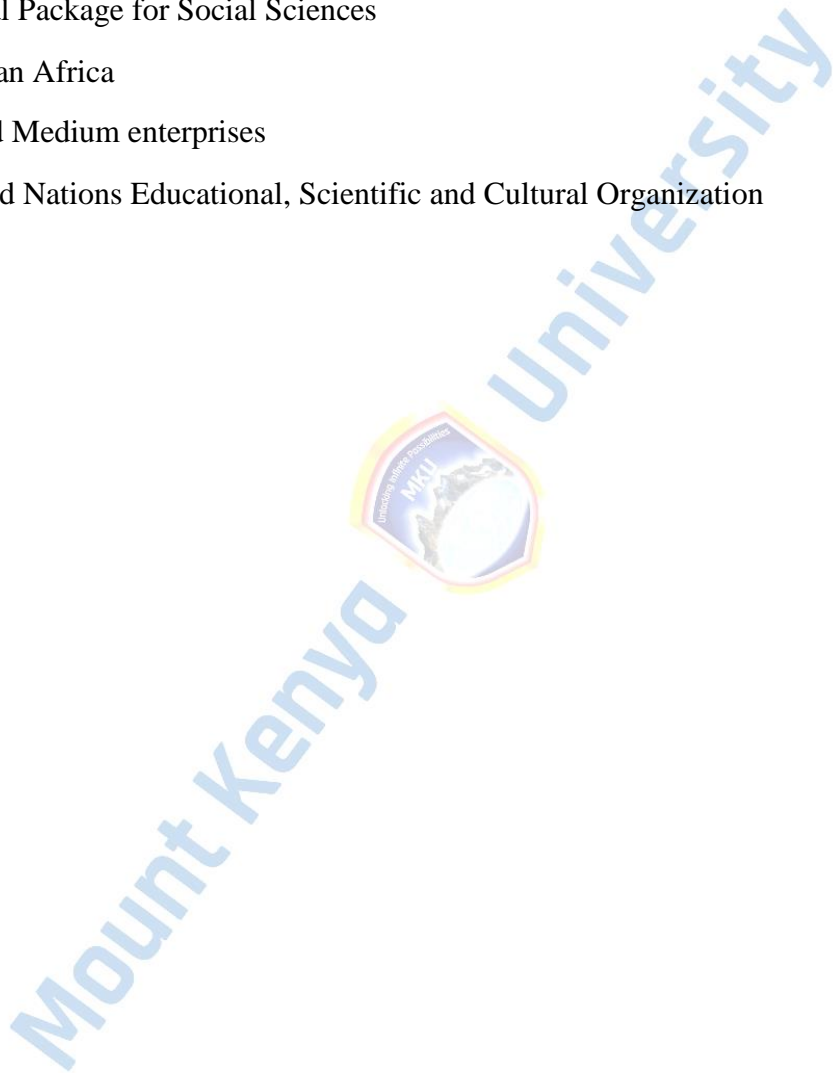
OECD: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

SPSS: Statistical Package for Social Sciences

SSA: Sub-Saharan Africa

SMEs: Small and Medium enterprises

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The discrepancies and mismatches between the interests and wants of graduates in the job market, combined with the stipulations and job opportunities available in the market, have led to the problems of lack of job opportunities and the unemployment of graduates. Graduates have increased in numbers tremendously due to the fact that there is both local and overseas graduates joining the labor market. Additionally, institutions of higher learning have also not been able to develop curriculum that is able to align itself with the needs that are applicable and pertinent with the job market. There is also hope and trust that having a university degree is the only avenue to success and this has made the issue of unemployment even more challenging, Simon Si. (2017).

Youth unemployment is a situation or a scenario whereby people of the ages 15-24 who have necessary skills, willing as well as ready to work but they have not been able to secure an opportunity to work although they are actively looking for an opportunity to work. In the modern or contemporary world, unemployment or youth unemployment has increased significantly and brought the challenges associated with this problem to the forefront.

Unemployment is a challenge faced by many countries and is predominant and rife prevalent in emerging economies, with the majority of them in Africa. The Covid-19 pandemic made unemployment even more prevalent due to the economic impact.

In advanced or economically developed countries, unemployment is also a problem, although it is less prevalent and more manageable than in developing or emerging nations. Rahul Mohanty et

al., (2011), observed that one of the principal causes of excessive joblessness among university graduates is the quality of the graduates released to the labour market. Employers have reported that a large number of graduates lack the necessary skills and competencies to function effectively and efficiently in the labour market. Muturi & Samantar (2019) identified high unemployment among graduates as one of the biggest challenges emerging or third world countries face. High rates of unemployment tend to discourage other young people from pursuing higher education in the long term.

There are various propositions and conceptions that describe what actually triggers or prompts and impacts joblessness globally. The consequences of unemployment among young people are not ephemeral, rather they create immediate chaos which, at the end, will have lasting effects. The effects of unemployment may be minimal at first, but they will have a significant impact on the country and ultimately on the world.

According to the report on employment in Africa (2021), the total participation rate of the African population represented by the population as a whole by 2019 was 63.1% compared to the global rate of 60.75%. This is due to the fact that there is a huge percentage of citizenry that are ready and willing to work, but can only find employment in the informal sector as white collar jobs are becoming increasingly scarce in the formal sector.

The employment rate in Sub-Saharan Africa has been oscillating between two and three percent over the last two decades, which is significantly lower than the region's actual output growth of three and a half percent in 2019, as reported by the ILO. In 2019, there were an estimated 34 million people without a job, with almost 12 million of them aged 15-24 years.

The number of unemployed individuals rose significantly in 2010, rising by 6.4%, while the number of young people without a job rose by one and a half million in the same year. Sub-Saharan Africa's unemployment rate is significantly higher than that of the rest of the world, with an estimated 6.8% compared to 5.0% worldwide. Despite the low rates in Africa, it is essential to note that the majority of employment in the informal sector is still present.

Like other developing regions, SSA has been suffering from economic hardship for a considerable period of time, particularly for tertiary graduates. The lack of employment opportunities among the youth is a persistent challenge faced by the governments of South Africa. As 30% of the country's population is composed of young people, the governments in South Africa are cognizant of the necessity of addressing the issue of youth unemployment. In the past, there have been a number of proposals and programmes to address this issue, however, the results have been limited. The significance of youth unemployment cannot be overemphasized, as it can have a range of socio-political, economic, and other implications that can have a detrimental effect on Burundi's political stability.

1.1.1 Global Perspective

Youth Unemployment and Its Socioeconomic Impact: A Global, Regional, and Local Perspective

Youth unemployment is a pressing global challenge with profound implications for economic growth, social stability, and labor market efficiency. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2023), nearly 73 million young people are unemployed worldwide, and many more are engaged in precarious or informal work with limited income security. This issue is particularly prevalent in developing countries, where economic structures fail to absorb the

growing number of graduates entering the labor market. The global labor market is also experiencing significant disruptions due to automation and technological advancements, which further reduce traditional employment opportunities for young people (World Economic Forum, 2023). Developed countries such as the United States, Canada, and Germany have adopted policies such as apprenticeship programs, tax incentives for youth employment, and entrepreneurship funding to address this crisis, yet challenges remain in ensuring sustainable employment for all young people (OECD, 2022).

In developing economies, particularly in Latin America, Africa, and South Asia, youth unemployment is exacerbated by economic instability, political crises, and a lack of industrial diversification (World Bank, 2022). Many countries in these regions suffer from structural economic challenges that prevent job creation and discourage investments. For instance, in Nigeria, youth unemployment reached 53% in 2021, leading to increased poverty and crime (National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria, 2022). Similarly, in India, despite strong economic growth, youth unemployment remains high due to skills mismatch and limited job creation in formal sectors (ILO, 2022). These examples highlight the global nature of the problem and the need for targeted policy interventions.

1.1.2 Regional Perspective

Youth Unemployment in Africa: A Persistent Socioeconomic Challenge

In Africa, youth unemployment is a major driver of social unrest and economic stagnation, as young people make up a significant portion of the continent's population. The African Development Bank (AfDB, 2022) estimates that over 60% of Africa's unemployed population are young people, many of whom possess formal education but lack access to decent jobs. The

economic structure of most African countries relies heavily on informal employment, which offers low wages, job insecurity, and minimal social protections (ILO, 2021). Additionally, poor governance, corruption, and political instability have hindered large-scale investments in sectors that could generate sustainable employment.

East African countries such as Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Uganda face particularly high youth unemployment rates, with nearly 35% of young people either unemployed or underemployed (EAC Report, 2023). Despite economic progress in these nations, the formal labor market has failed to expand at a rate that matches population growth. For instance, Kenya's Youth Enterprise Development Fund was launched to support youth entrepreneurship, yet its impact has been limited due to mismanagement and lack of access to affordable credit (UNDP, 2022). Similarly, Uganda's youth unemployment rate of 64% (World Bank, 2023) reflects the failure of government programs to address structural barriers to employment.

Youth Unemployment in Burundi and Its Socioeconomic Impacts Burundi faces one of the highest youth unemployment rates in East Africa, with approximately 65% of young people either unemployed or engaged in informal work (UNDP, 2022). The situation is further compounded by political instability, weak industrialization, and a limited private sector (World Bank, 2023). With a predominantly agrarian economy, Burundi struggles to create employment opportunities for its growing population of young graduates. The lack of formal jobs has forced many youth into precarious employment, where they face low wages, poor working conditions, and a lack of career growth opportunities (ILO, 2022).

The Ntahangwa Commune in Bujumbura, the focus of this study, reflects the broader youth unemployment crisis in Burundi. The commune has a high concentration of young people who

have completed secondary or tertiary education but struggle to find stable employment (Ministry of Labor, Burundi, 2022). The consequences of youth unemployment in this region are severe, leading to increased crime rates, economic stagnation, and reduced labor efficiency (Burundi Bureau of Statistics, 2023). Studies show that crime rates in urban areas like Ntahangwa are significantly linked to youth unemployment, as economic desperation pushes many young people into illicit activities such as theft, drug trafficking, and gang-related violence (Nkurunziza & Hakizimana, 2023).

1.1.3 Local Perspective

Economic Consequences of Youth Unemployment in Burundi. Youth unemployment has far-reaching implications for Burundi's economic growth, productivity, and overall social stability (World Bank, 2022). The inability of young people to secure formal employment reduces household incomes, limits consumer spending, and slows down overall economic expansion (UNDP, 2023). Studies have found that a 1% increase in youth unemployment in Burundi leads to a 0.8% decline in GDP growth (Ministry of Finance, 2022). Additionally, high youth unemployment rates contribute to a rise in informal economic activities, which often lack productivity, tax revenues, and social protection (AfDB, 2022).

Moreover, youth unemployment negatively impacts labor efficiency by limiting opportunities for young people to gain practical skills and work experience. Many unemployed youth struggle to transition from school to the workforce, leading to a long-term mismatch between education and employment opportunities (ILO, 2022). This mismatch results in high underemployment rates, where young people take on jobs that do not fully utilize their skills, further reducing labor market efficiency (Burundi Employment Report, 2022).

The Role of Government and NGOs in Addressing Youth Unemployment. In response to the youth unemployment crisis, the Burundian government and various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have implemented initiatives aimed at job creation, entrepreneurship promotion, and vocational training (UNDP, 2023). Programs such as the Burundi Youth Employment and Skills Development Project were launched to provide skills training and entrepreneurship support, but their impact has been limited due to poor funding, corruption, and lack of sustainability (Ministry of Labor, Burundi, 2023). International organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank have also stepped in to support employment initiatives, but the scale of intervention remains inadequate given the high demand for jobs.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Youth unemployment is a critical challenge that threatens economic stability, social cohesion, and national development in Burundi. The ability to generate employment opportunities, particularly for young graduates, is often regarded as a fundamental driver of economic growth. Despite various government and policy interventions, the unemployment rate among young people in Burundi remains alarmingly high, particularly in urban areas such as Ntahangwa Commune, Bujumbura.

Burundi has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in the world, which has been on an upward trend over the years (World Bank, 2019). According to the Burundi 2022 Labor Market Profile, approximately 30% of Burundians lack a stable and reliable source of income, with the situation being more severe among recent graduates. The country's economic downturn, political instability following the 2015 crisis, and the subsequent withdrawal of donor funding have

exacerbated the unemployment crisis. These factors have led to limited job creation, forcing many young people into informal, low-paying, or unstable employment.

The consequences of youth unemployment are far-reaching. Studies indicate that youth unemployment in Burundi contributes to increased dependency, economic inequality, poor mental health, rural-urban migration, and heightened vulnerability to criminal activities and social unrest (ILO, 2021). Prolonged joblessness among young graduates has been linked to increased crime rates, social exclusion, and a loss of self-confidence, which ultimately undermines national productivity. If this issue is not effectively addressed, it could lead to deeper economic stagnation and political instability, further worsening Burundi's fragile socio-economic landscape.

Despite ongoing government and international efforts to address unemployment, the persistence of high rates suggests that current policies may be insufficient or misaligned with the needs of young job seekers. While various studies have examined youth unemployment in Burundi, limited research focuses specifically on graduate youth unemployment—a demographic that requires targeted strategies to transition into the workforce successfully. This research aims to fill that gap by analyzing the nature of graduate unemployment in Burundi and proposing evidence-based solutions to mitigate its negative effects on economic growth. The findings will provide valuable insights for policymakers, government officials, and stakeholders working to enhance employment opportunities for young people in Burundi.

1.3 Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study is to determine the impact and nature of youth unemployment on the development of Burundi - a case study on Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura, Burundi.

1.3.1 Specific objectives of the study

- i. To examine the relationship between youth unemployment and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in Burundi.
- ii. To analyze the impact of youth unemployment on crime rates and social stability in Ntakangwa Commune, Bujumbura.
- iii. To assess the effects of youth unemployment on labor productivity and efficiency in Burundi's economy.

1.4 Research questions

- i. What is the relationship between youth unemployment and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in Burundi?
- ii. How does youth unemployment influence crime rates and social stability in Ntakangwa Commune, Bujumbura?
- iii. What are the effects of youth unemployment on labor productivity and efficiency in Burundi's economy?

1.5 Importance of the study

The findings and conclusions of this study will be of great importance to the government, the private sector agencies and the policy makers, particularly regarding the current state of unemployment, as well as when developing and implementing strategies to address the challenges of the young graduates both in Ntakangwa as well as in the whole of Burundi. This will help these actors to create more jobs that directly address the unemployment issues of the young graduates.

This study will also add to the existing literature that is already available to the academic community. This is because while there are several studies that have been conducted on the unemployment of the young people in Burundi, there are very few studies conducted in the same area. The study will be very useful for scholars and researchers who might want to conduct or launch a study on the youth unemployment in Burundi.

This study will provide useful information as well as recommendations for the general public. By gaining this insight, the public will be able to understand the job market dynamics better. Therefore, they will be able to advocate for proper formulation of policies to address the unemployment especially by the elected leaders of Burundi.

1.6 Scope of the study

This study focused on the relationship between youth unemployment and its effects on economic growth in Burundi. It was carried out in Ntahangwa Commune in Bujumbura, the largest city and economic capital of Burundi. This location provided an ideal geographical area due to the significant migration of youth to the city in search of employment opportunities. The study covered the period between 2015 and 2021, a time marked by economic challenges, including political instability and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The study specifically examined youth in Ntahangwa Commune in Bujumbura and addressed three key objectives: to analyze the relationship between the youth unemployment rate and the gross domestic product of Burundi, to assess the relationship between the youth unemployment rate and crime rates in Burundi, and to evaluate the relationship between youth unemployment and labor efficiency in the country.

1.7 Limitations of the study

Due to the fact that the respondents were primarily unemployed youths, some of them asked for money to participate in the study. However, the researcher convinced them that the study was for academic purposes and not intended for commercial use. Some respondents were initially hesitant to provide information, fearing that it might be used against them in the future, especially by authorities. However, the researcher ensured that the data was well managed and not disclosed to any third party. This assurance was emphasized during the introduction phase of data collection.

1.8 Delimitation of the study

The study was conducted in the city of Bujumbura, the largest city in Burundi, due to the large number of young graduates who had moved to the area in search of employment. The goal of the study was to investigate the factors that contributed to the unemployment of young university graduates in the country. The study focused on graduates who had completed their studies before 2020. The content of the study was centered on labor, specifically the unemployment of young graduates.

1.9 Assumptions of the study

The study assumed that the respondents who participated in the study were accessible and provided correct, truthful, and honest information to the researcher. This was vital as it assisted in providing a clear picture of youth unemployment in Burundi. Additionally, the study assumed the reliability and validity of the data collection tools in obtaining the necessary information related to youth unemployment and economic growth in Burundi.

1.10 Operational definition of terms

Youth Unemployment: In this study, youth unemployment refers specifically to individuals aged 15–24 who, despite possessing the required qualifications and skills, remain jobless due to structural economic constraints, limited job opportunities, or mismatches between their skills and labor market demands.

Employment Ability: Unlike the general definition of employability, this study defines employment ability as the degree to which young job seekers can secure and retain employment based on both formal education and practical, market-driven skills that enhance their competitiveness in the job market.

Poverty: In this context, poverty is not merely a lack of financial resources but also the deprivation of access to essential services, opportunities, and social capital that would enable individuals, particularly unemployed youth, to participate meaningfully in economic and social activities.

Skill Gaps: Rather than referring to general workforce deficiencies, skill gaps in this study denote the specific disconnect between what is taught in educational institutions and the practical competencies demanded by employers in Burundi's evolving labor market.

Employer: In this study, an employer is not just any individual or organization hiring workers but specifically those entities that actively engage in youth employment programs, offering opportunities for skills development, internships, and long-term job placements.

Graduate Unemployment: Here, graduate unemployment is considered beyond its conventional meaning of joblessness among graduates. It is examined in relation to structural labor market

inefficiencies, policy gaps, and socio-economic barriers that hinder young professionals from securing gainful employment despite their qualifications.



CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

An in-depth review of the related literature on the topic of factors of unemployment amongst young university graduates in the Republic of Burundi, with a particular focus on a case study conducted on the University of Burundi is provided under this part. The case study, which was conducted on the subject of factors of unemployment in young university graduates, was conducted in the municipality of Ntakangwa. It also examines the existing literature on the subject, identifies research gaps, and provides a comprehensive overview of the literature.

2.2 Empirical Literature Review

2.2.1 The relationship between youth unemployment and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in Burundi

Unemployment is when people who are eligible for work and are willing to work do not get the job they want (ILO, 2010). Africa has the highest number of young people in the world due to its high birth rate and demographic growth. This number is expected to continue to grow. Without effective job creation strategies, unemployment will continue to rise in the continent, which will have a negative impact on development and people's well-being. The type of unemployment in Africa is different from one country to another. However, it is long-lasting and has long-term effects depending on how strategies are implemented to combat it in each country.

Dillard and Fedderke (2018) suggest that unemployment in Africa is not caused by a lack of demand, which is what caused unemployment in developed countries during the depression.

The state's capacity to provide sufficient employment opportunities to its potential labour force is lacking, despite the economy's growth. Furthermore, the unemployment rate among the poor is particularly high in developing African countries, a problem that has been present in the socio-economic system since the establishment of African states. Burundi's economy is experiencing its first period of growth, yet it has not been able to generate employment. This is also the case in South Africa. Despite the adoption of neo-liberal globalization free trade policies in South Africa, the country was still vulnerable to low-cost imports, which caused the decline of local industries and consequently led to an increase in unemployment. This is due to the increased demand for skilled labor in South Africa, which has resulted in a very high unemployment rate among unskilled youth. Furthermore, educated people in South Africa are increasingly struggling to find employment, as the unemployment rate among university graduates is increasing due to a weak education system. The findings of the study indicate that unemployment is not distributed equitably across the population, with young people without connections having a reduced access to employment. Furthermore, the system of education in Africa is a contributing factor to the high unemployment rate, as it hinders young people from obtaining employment opportunities. Furthermore, the prevalence of unemployment in Africa is associated with other social ills, including ethnic, gender, and racial disparities, as well as poverty, which impede economic growth.

2.2.2 The Impact of Unemployment on Burundi's Development

The researcher wants to figure out how unemployment affects young people in Burundi and how it affects their growth. The researcher is looking at the reasons listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Unemployment in Africa

Impact of Unemployment	Percentage (%)
Social isolation and reduced collective participation	55%
Crime, drug addiction, and early marriage as societal problems that deter investors	30%
Social exclusion and skills loss	15%
Total	100%

Source: Ben & Plessis (2007)

More than half of the people surveyed said that youth unemployment makes people more isolated and less likely to work together. It makes people feel more stressed out and pessimistic, so they end up engaging in activities that are bad for them. Youth unemployment has been linked to a range of social consequences, including a decrease in self-esteem and the perception of one's family and society as a burden. According to research conducted by Mehboob, A (2015), social isolation has been identified as a factor in youth unemployment, with 30% of respondents citing it as a contributing factor. Furthermore, 15% of respondents cited it as a source of social exclusion and a source of fear among investors, while 15% cited it as a cause of social exclusion. These findings suggest that youth unemployment can have a negative impact on an individual's ability to become a successful member of society, as they may feel they have nothing to contribute to the society. The psychological needs of employment, such as increased self-esteem and social status, are further exacerbated by increased crime and family dysfunction, as well as financial hardship and homelessness.

Youth unemployment has a detrimental effect on both individuals and society. It can lead to a decrease in self-esteem and a sense of hopelessness among young people. In Africa, young people are particularly affected by unemployment, leading to a loss of focus and a tendency to turn to drugs to alleviate stress. Furthermore, youth unemployment can lead to increased levels of violence and crime, as well as the spread of commercial sex work, sexually transmitted diseases, and drug abuse. In sub-Saharan Africa, youth unemployment is a major cause of civil disorder. In some countries, the population of young people is growing at a rate that surpasses the capacity to absorb them. In Burundi, for example, a large proportion of young people, whether they are literate or illiterate, have lost their jobs and are turning to illegal activities to fill the void. This has resulted in a generation of despair and an increase in slum dwellers seeking employment. Political instability is also a result of the high unemployment rate among African youth. The absence of employment opportunities has led many young people to take part in inter-ethnic conflicts, or to join militia groups to support secessionist movements. Furthermore, in Uganda, according to Jacob, employment for youth and unmarried mothers is necessary in order to prevent their children from growing up poor, thus perpetuating the cycle of poverty. As in other countries in Africa, youth unemployment has the potential to interfere with the normal functioning of some areas, particularly in Kibira, leading investors to worry that violence could occur at any time in the country as the large number of idle young people pose a risk to their businesses. Employment is essential for the youth as it provides them with the chance to develop and utilize their skills based on their career paths. This makes them feel socially accepted and contributes more to the development of the society. Unemployment promotes socio-economic, political and social isolation. Depression caused by unemployment leads to mental illness, drug and alcohol abuse and

addiction, and crime among the youth. This lowers the development of society and wastes the energy of young people.

A significant number of graduates remain unemployed, representing a drain on talent and human resources that have not been utilized to promote economic growth. A high number of unemployed youth not only results in a decrease in GDP and a decrease in productivity, but also increases economic costs for the country as revenue from taxation is reduced and social benefits costs rise.

For instance, in many African countries, such as Burundi and Nigeria, resources are allocated to general services to the population rather than to the overall taxes collected. Tax remittances to the government have decreased due to the low number of working citizens remitting tax, thus necessitating the granting of loans to serve national objectives. Unemployment can lead young people to stay in their parent's home for extended periods of time, resulting in financial uncertainty and instability in the family. This is often due to the elderly being the sole earners, and the absence of employment often leads young people to drop out of school early to provide for the family and to supplement the family income. In Burundi's case, the increase in youth unemployment has forced the government to support and protect the living conditions of elderly parents, with funds that could have been allocated to development instead being used to support the living conditions of the elderly.

2.2.3 The effects of youth unemployment on labor productivity and efficiency in Burundi's economy

Rigid labor markets may be a contributing factor to the increase in unemployment in Europe, but this should not be seen as a cause for alarm as it may also be a benefit. Labour market rigidities and employment protection play a major role in the level of unemployment in the region.

Therefore, the claim that rigidities are the cause of the high unemployment in SA is both unsubstantiated and imprecise. To tackle high unemployment, a range of policy issues must be addressed, including trade union involvement, the impact of educational systems, the importance of labour market regulation, and skills shortages. Proposed solutions include relaxing labour laws which prevent entry of new employees, including young people into the labour market, the creation of private schools or universities where tuition fees are lower, a lack of up-to-date labour market data, and a lack of work experience.

2.2.4 Obstacles that young people face when seeking employment

a) The lack of appropriate qualifications is a result of the inadequate and substandard nature of education.

The transmission of essential skills, knowledge, understanding and mindset is an essential component of human resource development. Consequently, appropriate education is necessary for a nation that is in the process of revitalization, revolutionize, urbanization and industrialization. Furthermore, education is seen as a mean to ensure the implementation of social assistance or social protection programs by instilling a culture of harmony and equality between men and women. Consequently, it is of paramount importance for governments to possess an efficient and effective education system which guarantees relevant aptitude, awareness, ability and outlook. Youth unemployment is closely related to the type of education and qualification that young people have associated with the type of organization or employer in the third world labor space that they need or are searching for. To be successful in the labour market, one must possess the necessary educational background, competency and work experience, which is why it is essential that young people possess the necessary skills and experience in order to successfully overcome the common

barriers that impede their access to employment. Studies conducted in various regions of the world, including those in Africa, as well as in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, demonstrate that young people have a lower level of education, skills and experience when looking for a job.

b) Lack of relevant skills and skills gap

One of the main reasons for the high level of unemployment among young people is the lack of skills and competency. Young people do not have the right skills to perform well in the labour market. For example, in Tanzania, 11.8 % of the youth in employment were unemployed and did not earn enough money to meet their day-to-day living expenses. They were mainly working in the agriculture sector, which does not have any social protection programmes. The Global Financial Crisis has been widely regarded by economists as the most severe financial crisis to have occurred since the Great Depression in the 1930s.

As a result of the financial crisis, unemployment levels have risen significantly and have yet to return to pre-crisis levels. Youth unemployment rates have risen significantly due to a decline in aggregate demand coupled with a decline in wages. Both France and Germany have experienced high youth unemployment rates, however, their labour markets have responded to the financial crisis in different ways. Germany has experienced a relatively resilient labour market, however, addressing youth unemployment remains a significant challenge in Europe due to its long- and short-term impacts.

Employment is widely recognized as a fundamental factor in a young person's transition from dependency to self-reliance. Youth unemployment is a pressing issue that must be addressed through a comprehensive and inclusive approach. If young people do not seek employment after graduating, it can lead to a decrease in their social and psychological wellbeing. It is likely that

unemployment and underemployment are the primary causes of social exclusion. Poverty is the absence of economic opportunities, including formal employment and education, as well as financial resources and assets, which are essential for the wellbeing of youth and their families. Job opportunities are also essential for generating income. To ensure a smooth transition into employment, it is essential that the majority of young people finish tertiary education and have access to appropriate vocational training. This will enable them to acquire skills, build social networks, develop self-esteem and generate income. The growing number of unemployed youth in Africa is perceived as a risk to social stability. Furthermore, long-term unemployment has a serious and lasting effect on future productivity. Therefore, efforts to foster economic growth and sustainability are not sufficient to address the issues faced by the youth. As a result, some will seek to further their education and specialize in vocational training. In general, youth employment is contingent upon labour market conditions. Youth unemployment is a major obstacle to economic growth and development, particularly in developing countries.

The level of youth employment is determined by the economic growth measured by GDP. To find decent jobs, the youth must acquire skills and knowledge through education and training. Several African governments have implemented programs and policies to promote job creation.

2.2.5 The effectiveness of youth unemployment measures

It is difficult to determine the relative importance of various factors in the cause of youth unemployment, as the rates of youth unemployment vary from country to country. For example, the United Kingdom has seen a rise in its youth unemployment rate despite its economic growth. On the other hand, some advanced countries have experienced a decrease in their youth

unemployment rates, even during times of economic downturn. This is due to a variety of policy decisions made by governments, both in the labour market and education systems of each nation.

Government should be cautious when borrowing or implementing policies from abroad to tackle youth unemployment. It is important to conduct an in-depth analysis to determine if the policy will ensure a swift and easy transition from education into employment in each country. However, there are many lessons to be learnt from other countries when it comes to addressing youth unemployment. In Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, and Australia, labour market policies are in place to promote active employment. Subsidized employment is a form of active labour market policy that includes public works programs and training courses, as well as employment search assistance. While public works programs can have a negative impact, employment search assistance can be beneficial and relatively cost-effective. It is unclear whether this search leads to better jobs. Similarly, labour market training programmes can have a positive effect, but subsidized employment can have a mixed impact. A study was conducted in South Africa to assess the effects of wage subsidies, which are intended to address the underlying causes of unemployment. The results of the study suggest that wage subsidies may have a significant effect on employment rate, but this is dependent on how the labour market functions, the ability of employers to fill vacant positions, and the level of wage elasticity.

Wage subsidies must not be viewed as a permanent solution to youth unemployment, but rather as a temporary measure. Furthermore, wage subsidies must not be the primary policy instrument to address youth unemployment in the long-term, as this necessitates policies that foster economic growth, minimize labour market imbalances, enhance the absorption capacity of employment, and improve the effectiveness of employment search. The EDP in Nigeria is an intervention

mechanism to combat youth unemployment, as it teaches young people the need to become entrepreneurs by offering them the chance to establish their own businesses.

Burundi's Youth Entrepreneurship Development Fund (YEDF) seeks to support self-employed individuals and the employment of others through a startup capital-based programme. However, youth unemployment is still a persistent problem in the country, and funds are not fully utilized, even when there is a demand for them, and their effect is not visible. Many of those who have received funds have launched projects with minimal or no return on investment. This is due to a variety of factors, such as the program design and the lack of organization of youth groups. The Uwezo Fund, which was launched by the Burundi government in 2013, was designed to provide financial assistance to young people, young women, and people living with disabilities to support their local business ventures. Unfortunately, the amount allocated to each youth group for the fund was insufficient to enable them to initiate a sustainable revenue generation activity. As a result, a large number of young people were not able to take advantage of the fund.

2.2.6 Challenges in Addressing Youth Unemployment

In Europe, labor markets are characterized by rigid and inflexibility, which can lead to an increase in unemployment levels. However, this characteristic can also be beneficial. Rigid labour market standards and employment protection can have a significant impact on unemployment levels. Consequently, the assertion that rigidities in the labour market result in high unemployment levels is uncertain and misleading.

In the South African context, there are a number of policy issues that need to be addressed in order to address high unemployment rates, including the role of trade unions and the education system, labour market regulation, and skills shortages. Possible solutions to address youth unemployment

in the South African context include labour laws relaxation that impede new entrants in the labour market, particularly the youth, the introduction of private tertiary education providers and schools with low fees, a lack of up-to-date information about the labour market, and insufficient work experience.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

In order to adequately cover the subject matter of the study, the following theories will be examined: classical unemployment theory and human capital theory.

2.3.1 The classical view of unemployment

This study will use the classical theory to assess and evaluate young graduates' unemployment in Burundi and their consequences and implications for economic growth in the country. The classical theory is essential and fundamental to this survey because it provides a clear explanation for the rise or decrease in youth unemployment and its consequences on the economic development of a country. John Stuart Mill first proposed this theory in 1848, and it quickly became one of the most popular and dominant theories in the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries.

This theory implied that a change or conversion of supply would eventually be balanced or equalized by a subsequent change or movement of demand, so that the economy would move forward gradually every time. Neoclassical theory analyzes the normal or common demand and supply of the labor market, as well as the handling of unemployment as a current or a disequilibrium event that is typically caused by an increase in remuneration beyond what is available in the labor market. The theory argues that a change in supply will ultimately or over the long term have a corresponding change in such a way that the economy moves.

The economists who developed this theory believed that the economy is acting on its own with little or no human input. The wage rates or cost of jobs would be flexible. The process of competition for jobs and the wage rates would go down until every willing and ready worker could get a job. The wage rate should always be flexible to ensure that the job market is always in balance or where both forces are equal. If at some point the supply of labor increases and eventually exceeds the demand of the organization, then the remuneration paid to workers will go down to ensure that the labor market is fully engaged or employed.

The theory also argued that any kind of unemployment that occurs in the job environment should be considered as discretionary unemployment, where the unemployment is caused by the employee who does not want to accept lower remuneration than the market is offering or the employers are offering. Classical theory argues that market forces of both demand and supply of labor can stabilize and balance the economy. This can lead to full employment, in which case there is no interference from the government. However, this idea can be challenged in that even though Burundi economy is purely capitalist, we still face huge unemployment challenges. It can be said that the problem of unemployment cannot be completely left to the market force of demand and supply.

Modern classical theory suggests that in order for the government to both eliminate and reduce unemployment in its territory, it must eliminate worker's association in order to reduce the remuneration to workers, as this will ultimately lead to a reduction in the unemployment rate. According to the theorists, these external interventions or external forces more than any other depress organizations in the labor space in terms of hiring new workers. This theory is very useful to the study because it promotes the elimination of barriers that in most cases prevent or deter organizations from investing in and hiring new workers.

2.3.2 Human capital Theory

Human capital theory emphasizes the importance of investing in education and training in order to improve an individual's likelihood of being employed in the labour market. This theory is based on the findings of Becker, 1993 (Becker and Berntson, 2006), and the work of Marklund (2006). The acquired skills are referred to as human capital and human capital theory associates them with income (Becker, 1962) as cited by desjardins (2014). Governments that are struggling with youth unemployment should invest in education and training as this will directly lead to higher income levels, more jobs and improved health (see Awogbenle (2010)). Olaniyan (2008) argues that human capital theory shows a strong correlation between higher levels of education investment and improved social development processes. However, this idea is still in dispute as many young people invest in education and training but there is still a large number of young people who have not found any form of employment and have stayed at home for an extended period of time, leading to uncertainty in terms of their future (Jeffrey, 2009). The output and performance of a person increases significantly when education and training investment is increased. Developing nations, including Nigeria, have invested heavily in education and training with the aim of increasing productivity. However, despite the fact that the Federal Government of Nigeria has invested a lot in education, the results are minimal in terms of economic growth. (Olaniyan, 2008)

According to the theory, sufficient and appropriate education is essential for a person to be successful in the field of business. Bula (2012) agreed that human capital, combined with entrepreneurship skills and the availability of venture capital, play a crucial role in the success of a business venture. Raimi (2015) argued that Human capital theory demonstrates that investing heavily and correctly in education is a method that will help individuals to become more efficient, effective and ultimately successful in their business ventures.

UNESCO (2012) argued that many emerging countries continue to divest in the education sector, which has a negative impact on the ability of people, particularly young people, to engage in profitable business ventures and thus lead to a decrease in employment activities in the country.

However, this theory has also been criticised for its assumption that education will automatically result in economic growth, development, and more employment opportunities. According to Fagerlind (1997) and Saha (1997), it is difficult to achieve positive outcomes if education is not backed by strong structural reforms that guarantee higher quality education. However, critics of this theory point out that although the population of educated people has grown over time, there is still a large number of uneducated people (Olaniyan, 2008:481).

However, proponents of this theory argue that an increase in the number of educated people does not lead to an increase in productivity because education quality has not increased. Therefore, in order to achieve economic growth and development, a well-trained population must exist. This thesis examines and applies various aspects of this theory to determine what young unemployed graduates consider to be qualified for, their perception of the quality of their education, and the likelihood of finding employment.

2.4 Recap of Literature Review

The classical theory stresses that an economy can experience full employment by allowing market forces of demand as well as supply of labor to operate devoid of any influence emanating from various sources for example the government of the day. Looking at the theory therefore, the argument makes sense, but the issue of unemployment among the young people in Burundi continue to rise and perturb the authorities. Many young people in both rural and urban areas continue to look for employment with minimal success even after completing their studies. One

can therefore conclude that the forces of demand and supply cannot be banked on to solve the issues of unemployment among the youth.

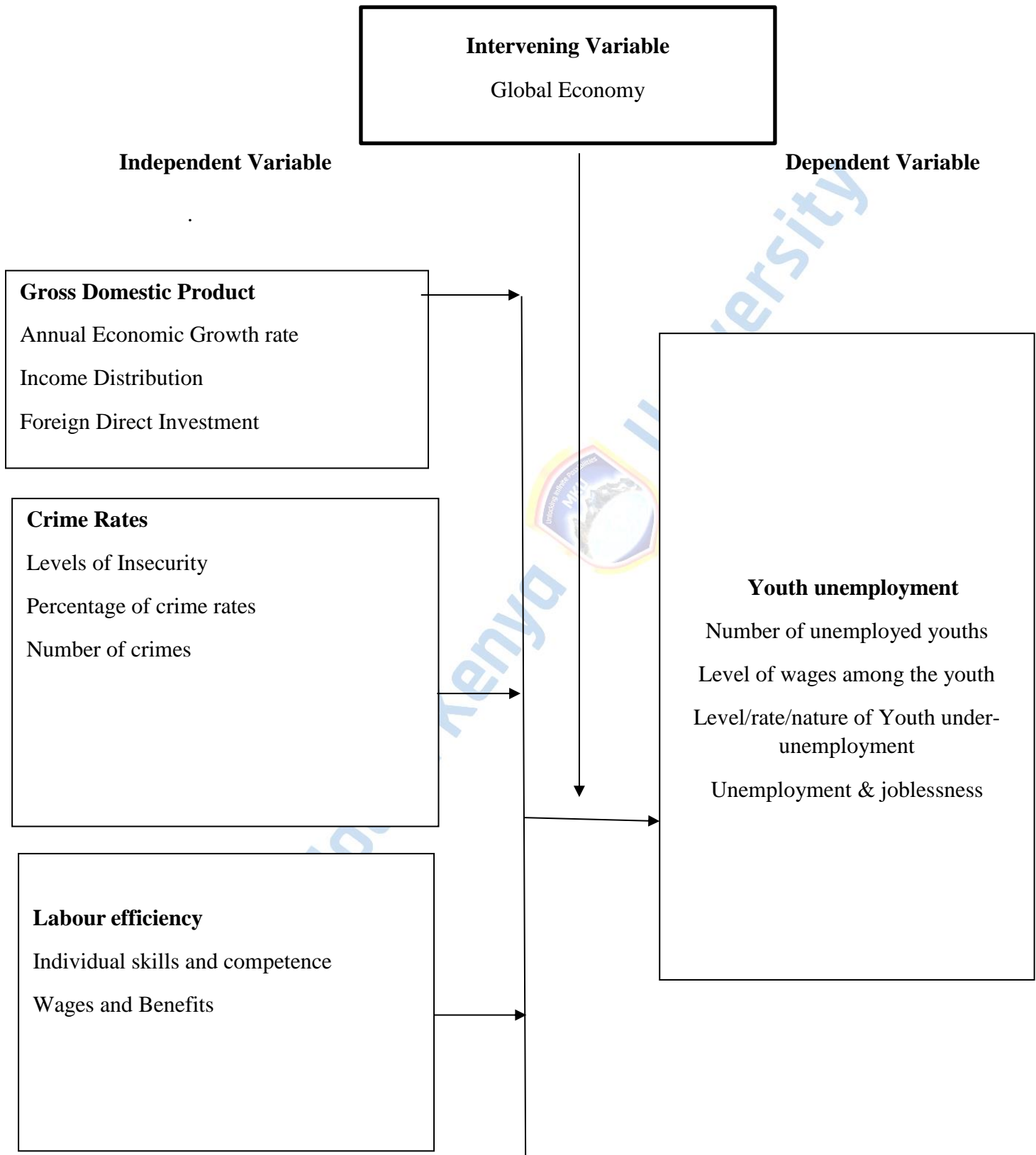
The proponents of the classical theory view that to solve the unemployment challenges, the unions in labour movements and government agencies should be done away with so as to bring down wages so as to eliminate or reduce need to be challenged. This is because unemployed youths in Ntahangwa commune are willing and ready to any kind of job even at a wage rate that is very low compared to the market range but they still finding it difficult to secure any form employment. This therefore shows that there are inadequate or insufficient jobs. It is imperative to note that even though that wages might be lowered that would still not address the unemployment challenges in Burundi.

The theory of human capital has been challenged because it assumes that if education is improved, then the issue of unemployment among the youth will be automatically be solved. Therefore, expansion and improvement of education system in a country without comprehensive structural ameliorations and refinements that concentrates on providing excellent education, then it is difficult to improve performance and input so as to achieve esteemed and favored societal goals (Fagerlind and Saha, 1997). The theory therefore argues that people can enhance their performance capacity by increasing education levels and skills and this is completely simplistic.

2.5 Conceptual Framework

This conceptual framework is created to investigate the variables that are linked to youth unemployment in the municipality of Ntahangwa in the Burundi nation. The two independent variables are the skills gap and employability and the employer's preferences, while unemployment among young graduates is the dependent variable.

Figure 1: Conceptual framework



2.6 Research Gaps in the Literature

This study has undertaken an evaluation of the related literature so as to elucidate the shortcomings of the existing analysis of the repercussions of joblessness on the young population of Burundi and its consequences for the nation's development. Additionally, it has been observed that other researchers have not conducted a thorough analysis of the applicability and usefulness of the strategies developed and implemented by state agencies to deal with joblessness among young people in the country. Consequently, the fundamental objective of this survey is to pinpoint the gaps in the existing analysis of youth unemployment in Burundi and to identify the essential issues that must be addressed to effectively address youth unemployment and its effects on the nation's development, with the aim of providing policy and academic guidance.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This section provides an in-depth discussion of the research procedure, strategy, and method applied in the study, as well as an overview of the general structure used. The chapter presents a detailed explanation of the research design, target population, and sampling procedures. Additionally, it offers a comprehensive description of the research instruments, their validity and reliability, data collection procedures, and data analysis techniques.

3.1 Research Design

Creswell (2013) defines research design as a comprehensive and structured action plan selected to integrate various elements of a study in an orderly and logical manner to ensure that the research problem is effectively addressed. In this study, the researcher employed a descriptive research design, which involved collecting data by distributing research tools to the sampled respondents. This design was chosen because it significantly assisted in gathering data and capturing respondents' attitudes and opinions.

3.2 Target Population

A population in which a researcher conducts a study is referred to as the target population. The target population encompasses the entire group from which the study is drawn. In this research, the target population consisted of **125,140 individuals**, including unemployed young graduates, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), religious leaders, and community leaders operating within Ntahangwa Commune.

Ntahangwa is one of the three communes in the municipality of Bujumbura, and it is home to a significant number of disadvantaged residents, particularly young unemployed graduates. Various international NGOs, religious leaders, and community leaders are actively working within the commune to improve the living conditions of this group. The table below provides an estimate of these categories within the commune of Ntahangwa, which constitutes the target population for this research.

Table 2: Target population

Categorization	Target Population
Youth	124,948
Officials from NGOs working with youths	47
Community leaders	52
Religious leaders	60
Academicians	33
Total	125,140

Source: Estimation of the Researcher

3.3 Sampling Procedure and techniques

Sample selection is the process of selecting individuals from a sample of a statistical population in order to identify the characteristics of a population as a whole. In a purposive sample selection, the researcher has selected a sampling technique based on his judgment. This sampling technique has been chosen or decided upon by the researcher based on their belief that it is both efficient and effective in addressing the research questions and achieving the desired outcome. For instance, the researcher used this sampling technique to select officers working with NGOs that specifically

focus on the needs of youth in a particular community, as well as community leaders, religious leaders, and other relevant individuals. This technique is not only useful, but also effective, as it allows the researcher to concentrate and direct their efforts on selecting samples that are appropriate and useful in addressing the research issues, and to divide the entire population into smaller sub-groups using the stratified sampling methodology.

3.4 Sampling size determination

The study used the formula below to get the number of the youth in the study area (Mugenda and Mugenda 2003)

$$n = Z^2 pq / d^2$$

Where n is the desired sample size, z is the standard normal deviation at the required confidence level, p is the proportion in the target population estimated to have the characteristics being measured (or 50% of the population)

q is 1-p

d is the level of statistical significance set with a confidence level of 95%, therefore the sample size was:

$$n = (1.96)^2 * 50 * 50 / (5)^2 = 384.16$$

$$N = 384$$

The study population for the study if the population is greater than 10,000 is therefore 384.

However, because the target population of all leaders, officials working in NGOs, community leaders, religious leaders and academicians in the Ntuhangwa are less than 10,000, the following formula as suggested by Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) has been used:

$$n_f = n / (1 + n/N)$$

n is the sample size if the population was less than 10,000

N Population Estimate

The sample population for this study was, therefore:

n_f represents the desired sample size;

$$n_f = 40 / (1 + 40/10000) = 39,84 \approx 40$$

The total sample population was 40 leaders. The sample size was divided into four strata so that every stratus had ten respondents.

The mobilization of young unemployed graduates so that they participate in the study was done through the existing youth associations in the Ntakangwa commune. These were religious associations, community savings and loan associations which are currently numerous in the municipality and diversified mutual aid associations.

Table 3: Sample population

Categorization	Sample Population	% of the total sample population	Category of participants in the study
Youth	384	90	Main respondents
NGOs engaging the youths	10	2.5	Key informants
Community Mobilizers	10	2.5	Key informants
Religious Leaders	10	2.5	Key informants
Scholars	10	2.5	Key informants

Total	424	100	Key informants
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Source: Researcher 2023

3.5 Location of the study area

The study aims at determining the influence of young unemployed on development in Burundi specifically the Ntakangwa area is a commune of Bujumbura Mairie Province in Burundi. Ntakangwa is then subdivided into seven neighborhoods including Buterere, Cibitoke, Gihosha, Kamenge, Kigobe, Kinama and Ngagara which was covered by the study. Ntakangwa commune was selected because it is one of the areas that have experienced high unemployment rates in Bujumbura.

3.6 Data Collection Instrument

Two types of data were gathered. Both quantitative and qualitative data was collected. Quantitative data used the structured questionnaire on youths who are mostly unemployed. It was formulated and structured in such a way as to meet the objectives of the study. The researcher selected the questionnaire due to its convenience and cost-effectiveness for both the researcher and the respondents. Data collection was conducted in the municipality of Ntakangwa in the province of Bujumbura. The research assistant was employed to ensure that the data collection process is carried out effectively and efficiently. The research assistant was adequately informed and adequately trained. On the other side, qualitative data was collected by the researcher using interview guide. Interviews were done with NGOs engaging the youths, Community Mobilizers, Religious Leaders and Scholars.

3.7. Validity and Reliability Tests

Validity Test

Validity refers to the extent to which a research instrument measures what it is intended to measure. In this study, validity was ensured through expert judgment, where professionals in the field of economics and social sciences reviewed the research instruments before data collection. The study also employed content validity by aligning the questionnaire and interview guide with the research objectives. A pilot test was conducted on 40 respondents who were not part of the main study to refine the instruments. Feedback from the pilot test helped in revising ambiguous questions and ensuring clarity.

Reliability Test

Reliability measures the consistency and stability of the research instruments over time. To test reliability, the study used the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient, which determines the internal consistency of the questionnaire items. A reliability threshold of 0.7 was considered acceptable, as recommended by Mugenda and Mugenda (2003). The results of the pilot test showed the following reliability scores:

Gross Domestic Product – 0.741

Crime Rate – 0.798

Labour Efficiency – 0.809

Youth Development – 0.886

Since all variables had a Cronbach's Alpha value above 0.7, the research instrument was deemed reliable for data collection.

3.7.1 Validity of research instrument

The acceptability and legitimacy of research or surveys is typically determined by the effectiveness of the logical tests or pieces of research or survey in attaining the desired outcome or demonstrating the truth of the research or survey. This legitimacy is conducted to determine if the surveys are accurately estimating what is promised to be quantified. In this case, legitimacy or honesty is expressed as a percentage of how closely a conceptualized idea of reality aligns with the actual reality. To ensure legitimacy, research questions were designed and conducted in accordance with the specific objectives of the survey. To ensure the poll is legitimate, the researcher sought the opinion of individual researchers and, at the very least, the opinion of a college supervisor, so that they can provide understanding and recommendations on regions that should be remembered prior to going into the field to collect data.

3.7.2 Reliability of research instrument

Reliability is undertaken to determine how stable or consistent or dependable the test scores are. Bolarinwa (2015) agreed that it's important for a researcher to do a reliability test to see if research instruments can determine or evaluate what they were intended to evaluate. The survey instruments were given to different groups that were part of the study the first time. Then, another set was given to another group to see if the results of the two tests were consistent. A pilot survey was conducted to assess and improve the flow and readability of the questionnaires before the main data collection exercise is carried out. Pre-testing of the research instruments were conducted to determine if they yield similar results. Cronbach Alpha was used to assess the reliability of the questionnaires used in the study. Cronbach's alpha is a measure of the internal consistency or

interdependency of items, and is calculated as: $\text{Alpha} = \frac{N}{n} + r(n-1)$, where r = the average item correlation, and N = the number of items included in the scale.

To guarantee the reliability of the instruments used, the researcher employed the test pretest method within the study area, using respondents from the target population who were not included in the study sample (Talisman et al., 2011).

3.8 Data Collection Procedure

In order to begin the research, local authorities, the police, and other respondents involved in the study approved and authorized the data collection on the field. The letter of introduction from the University of Mount Kenya to confirm the researcher's identity and the importance of the study was used. To ensure the respondents' confidentiality and anonymity, a cover letter was attached to each questionnaire. To maximize efficiency and effectiveness, the researcher employed two research assistants who were adequately trained in data collection, including through pilot testing. The data collection tools was provided and collected within three days, thus providing respondents with sufficient time to respond to the questions accurately.

3.9 Data Analysis and Presentation

Mugenda (2003) concurred that the importance of data analysis is to get vital information from gathered data. A data analysis was conducted to filter through the field responses to ensure that the data provide relevant information relevant to the research objectives and contribute to the achievement of the research objectives. Data analysis involved a combination of data encoding, data entry, and analysis to make sense of the data collected from respondents.

The data collected from the questionnaire was exported to Microsoft Excel, then uploaded to SPSS rendition 22 for proper analysis and data management. Additionally, qualitative data was collected and analyzed through the use of content analysis, which is most appropriate when examining and analyzing large-scale textual data from respondents (Webber 1990).

Furthermore, Inferential Statistics was employed to make predictions, display generations, and draw conclusions regarding the characteristics of a sampled population. The use of Inferential Statistics in research is beneficial as it allows for the comparison of the sample population to a larger population. Additionally, Inferential Statistics can be used to evaluate the applicability of sample data in order to provide viable predictions/ferences about the overall youth population in the municipality of Ntahangwa commune (Bujumbura, Burundi, Burundi).

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_2X_2 + \varepsilon$$

Whereby: Y = Unemployment among young graduates;

X1 = Skills gap;

X2= Employability

X3=Employer's Preference

B0, β_1 , β_2 =Regression model coefficients.

ε = Error Term.

The results are presented through the use of tables, pie charts, section charts, and bar charts. The purpose of providing information is to provide a clear description of the steps taken during the examination (Sathianandan et al., Safeena et al., 2017).

3.10 Ethical Consideration

In order to carry out heuristic research, consent was first sought from institutions that are concerned with this study including Mount Kenya University KENYA via its Directorate offices and The National Commission for Science and Technology (NACOSTI), which is the accredited Institutional Ethics Review Committee (ERC) that assesses research protocols for ethical reasons. Additionally, permission was obtained from various organizations that participated in this research.

During the course of the study, the identity of the respondents remained anonymous. Additionally, the respondents had the option to opt out at any point of the study.

The study was only conducted for a purpose that has been clearly communicated to respondents. Furthermore, respondents were not required to answer questions that they do not feel comfortable with. Therefore, they were not coerced into providing information that they deem inappropriate.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter represents the findings and the analysis of the responses and the data that was collected from the respondents on the influence of young unemployed on development in Burundi. The analysis of the data that was collected was done through Statistical Package for Social Science to produce both descriptive statistics as well as inferential statistics in order to adequately answer the research questions. Descriptive statistics were provided through mean scores, percentages, standard deviations and frequency tables while inferential statistics were presented through correlation analysis as well as regression analysis. Lastly, the section presented the findings through tables and charts.

4.2 Response Rate

The study administered 384 questionnaires to the respondents that were selected. Out of which 363 questionnaires were properly filled and returned by the respondents. A total of 21 questionnaires were not sufficiently filled while others were not returned by the respondents even when the efforts were made by the researcher to ensure that all questionnaires were returned by the respondents. The response rate of 95% was recorded which is sufficient according to Mugenda and Mugenda (2009) to continue with the analysis of data. This acceptable sample size was realized to the proper planning with the respondents and the availability of the research assistants that ensured that the exercise was effective and efficient. Response rate is crucial in any study and the researcher should ensure higher response rate since a low response rate would produce a reduced sample size which would ultimately not be adequate to represent the population that the researcher is interested in.

Table 4: Response rate

Category	Questionnaires	Percentage
Returned Questionnaires	363	95
Non-Responses	21	5
Total	384	100

Source: Field survey 2024

4.3 Pilot Test Results

The study conducted a pilot test on the 40 respondents that were not included in the main study. The purpose of the main study was to determine the validity as well as the reliability of the research instrument in order to ensure that the study collected data that is relevant and capable of responding to the research questions. The pilot study was conducted three weeks prior to the main study in order to give the researcher ample time to modify and upgrade the questionnaires where necessary. The subsequent findings of the pilot study are presented as shown in the sections below.

4.3.1 Summary of the Scale Reliability Results

Sasaka, Namusonge and Sakwa (2014) observed reliability test is conducted to ascertain the ability of a questionnaire to produce identical and as well as same responses in the same conditions and occurrences. Therefore, if a respondent respond to a research tool the same way on recurring situations, it is deemed to be reliable. The alpha can adopt any value from zero meaning that internal consistency of the tool is lacking to one which means that there is maximum internal consistency among the investigating tools. High responses therefore indicate that there is a higher consistency compared to low values that will indicate that there is low consistency of the tool. A general rule of the thumb for Cronbach's Alpha values according to George and Mallery (2011) is

“ $\alpha > 0.9$ – Excellent, $\alpha > 0.8$ – Good, $\alpha > 0.7$ – Acceptable, $\alpha > 0.6$ – Questionable, $\alpha > 0.5$ – Poor, and $\alpha < 0.5$ – Unacceptable”.

Table 5: Summary of the Reliability Results

Variables	Number of Items	Cronbach's Alpha	Remarks
Gross Domestic Product	10	0.741	Acceptable
Crime Rates	11	0.798	Good
Labour efficiency	11	0.809	Good
Development	9	0.886	Excellent

Source: Field survey 2024

Table 5 above indicate a summarized analysis of findings that were derived from reliability tests reaped out of the feasibility study. The discovery shows the ensuing Cronbach Alpha scores of every variable of the study whereby gross domestic product had a score of 0.741, crime rates 0.798, labour efficiency 0.809 and development 0.886. The findings indicate that there is a higher reliability and the study retained the variables that were initially selected which were eventually used for the main study. This also concurs with Johnson & Turner (2011) that a scale of 0.7 is allowable or admissible indicating that there is reliability that is satisfactory of the study.

4.3.2 Summary of Research Instrument Validity

Validity of a research tool is executed to underscore the degree to which the research tool in actual fact measures what it is supposed to measure (Kothari, 2014). Face validity was sought to enhance the validity of the research instrument, the study sought professional advice as well as input from experts in this area of the study and also input of the supervisor of this study. The face validity was enhanced through exploration and critique. According to Bless, Higson-Smith and Kagee (2006)

face validity is concerned with the way the research instrument appears to the respondents in such a manner that a tool may appear to be too simplistic or uncomplicated, too complex or too monotonous or repetitive. These imperfections may affect the ability or willingness of the respondent to complete the research instrument. In the case of construct validity, a five point Likert scale was used. The respondents were given an opportunity to accord their point of views and this enhanced researcher's ability to have an objective gathering of data.

4.4 Demographic Information for the respondents

This section of the study delved on the background details concerning the respondents that were involved in the study. The section will be divided into age of the respondents, gender and the highest level of education attained by the respondents. Background details of the respondents were significant and fundamental to the study since it assisted the researcher to comprehend the respondents as well as ascertaining whether the attributes of the respondents represented that of the whole population for the purposes of generalizing the findings of the study. Additionally, demographic information enabled the researcher to ascertain the capacity as well as the competency of the respondents in responding research questions correctly and honestly as envisioned by the researcher.

4.4.1 Gender Representation

The findings of gender representation were established in Table 6 where it was revealed that the respondents were represented by two genders that is both male and female. The study found that 53% of respondents were male and 47% were female, indicating that youth unemployment affects both genders equally in Burundi.

Table 6: Gender of Respondent

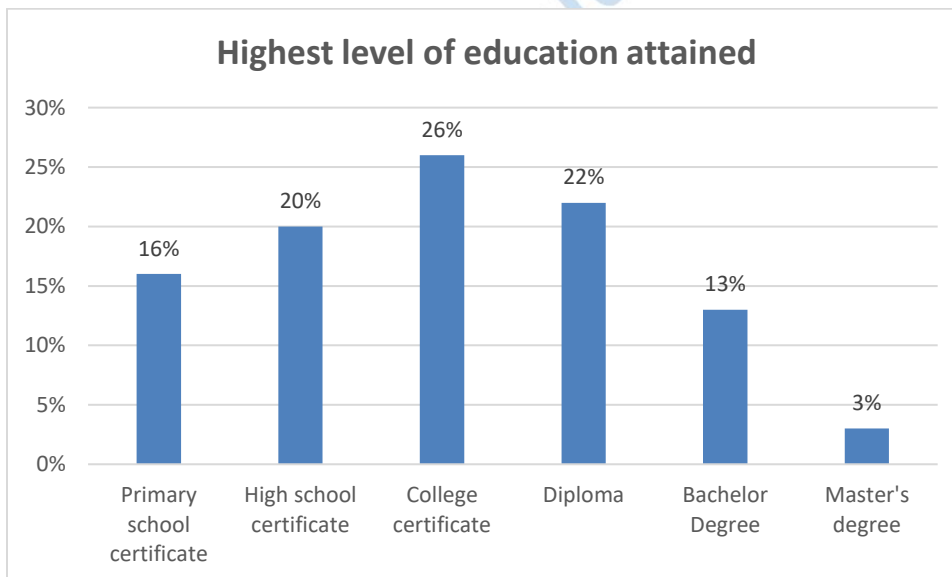
Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	192	53
Female	171	47
Total	363	100

Source: Field survey 2024

4.4.2 Highest Level of Education attained

The study sought to establish the highest academic level attained by the respondents. The study found out that the level of education among the respondents varied with the highest level of education being Master's degree while the lowest being Primary school certificate as indicated in the figure 2.

Figure 2: Highest level of education attained



Source: Field survey 2024

It was ascertained that 16% of the respondents had a primary school certificate, 20% had high school certificate, 26% had college certificate, 22% had diploma certificate, 13% had bachelor's degree while 3 % had post graduate level of education. From the findings, the respondents were able to comprehend or understand the questions that were posed by the researcher and also give sufficient and credible response to the study.

4.4.3 Age representation of the respondents

The age of the respondents was analyzed and the findings indicated that their age varied with the youngest respondent being in the category between 18 and 25 years while the oldest being in the category between 36-40 years as indicated in table 7.

Table 7: Age representation of respondents

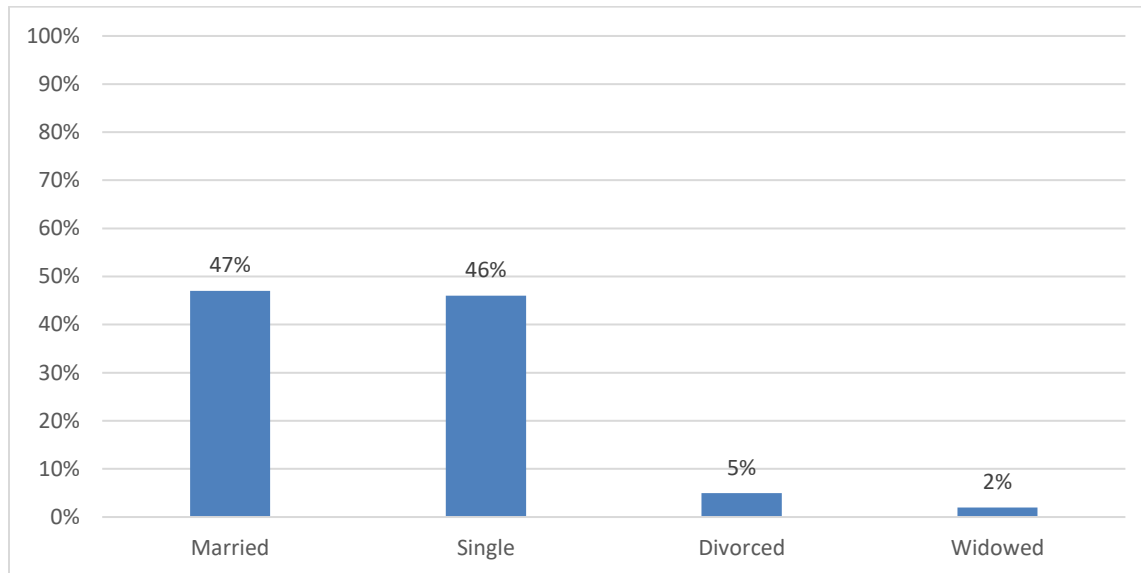
Years	Frequency	Percentage
18-25 Years	95	26
26-30 Years	112	31
31-35 Years	85	23
36- 40 Years	71	20
Total	363	100

Source: Field survey 2024

Table 7 shows the age representation of respondents that were involved in the study. As indicated, 26% of the respondents were between the age of 18 and 25 years, 31% were between the age of 26 and 30, 23% were of the age between 31 and 35 while 18% were of the age between 36-40 years. The findings show that 80% of respondents are under 35, highlighting the predominance of youth in the unemployment issue. This indicates that policy interventions should focus on younger demographics, as they form the bulk of the affected population.

4.4.4 Marital status of the respondents

Figure 3: Marital status of the respondents



Source: Field survey 2024

The respondents of the study were required to ascertain their marital status in figure 3. The findings of the study indicated that 47% were married, 46% were not married, 5% were divorced, while 2% were widowed. The data show that 47% of respondents are married, indicating that unemployment may have far-reaching consequences, not just for individuals but for entire families. With many respondents being married, the stress of unemployment could lead to broader social and economic challenges, such as family instability or increased poverty.

4.5. Youth Unemployment and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Growth

1. Do you think youth unemployment negatively affects Burundi's economic growth?

Table 8: Youth unemployment negatively affects Burundi's economic growth

Response	Frequency (No. of Respondents)	Percentage (%)
Yes	280	72.9%
No	60	15.6%
Not Sure	44	11.5%
Total	384	100%

Source: Field survey 2024

The analysis indicates that a significant majority (72.9%) of respondents believe that youth unemployment negatively impacts economic growth, reflecting a widespread perception that unemployment is a major economic challenge. This view underscores the belief that high levels of youth unemployment hinder economic development by limiting the available workforce and reducing overall productivity. A smaller proportion (15.6%) disagrees, suggesting that some individuals may perceive other factors as more significant in driving economic growth. Additionally, 11.5% of respondents remain unsure, indicating uncertainty or a lack of awareness regarding the connection between youth unemployment and economic performance.

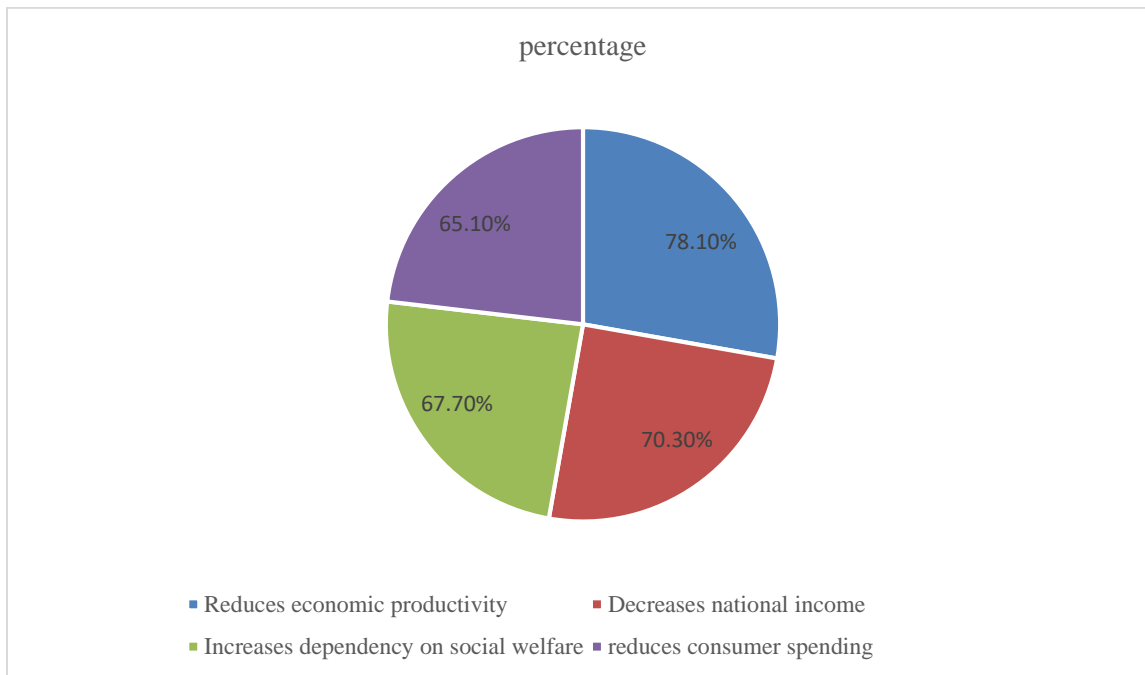
Based on this analysis, it is suggested that addressing youth unemployment should be a priority in economic policy discussions. By focusing on creating job opportunities, providing vocational training, and supporting youth entrepreneurship, governments and organizations can reduce unemployment and unlock the full potential of the youth workforce, ultimately contributing to stronger economic growth. Public awareness campaigns may also help to address the uncertainty or lack of awareness among some respondents regarding the economic implications of youth unemployment.

2. In your opinion, how does youth unemployment impact GDP growth? (Multiple responses allowed)

Table 9: opinion impacting GDP growth

Impact Factor	Frequency (No. of Respondents)	Percentage (%)
Reduces economic productivity	300	78.1%
Decreases national income	270	70.3%
Increases dependency on social welfare	260	67.7%
Reduces consumer spending	250	65.1%

Figure 4: Opinion impacting GDP growth



Source: Field survey 2024

The analysis reveals that youth unemployment is widely seen as having significant negative economic impacts. A large majority (78.1%) of respondents identified reduced economic productivity as the primary consequence, indicating that high levels of youth unemployment hinder the country's ability to fully utilize its workforce, lowering overall output. Additionally, 70.3% of respondents linked unemployment to a decrease in national income, supporting the idea that a lack of employment opportunities reduces the country's overall economic efficiency. The issue of increased dependency on welfare programs was noted by 67.7%, suggesting that youth unemployment leads to higher government spending on social services. Furthermore, 65.1% of respondents recognized that unemployment reduces consumer spending, which in turn can further slow economic growth by limiting demand in the economy.

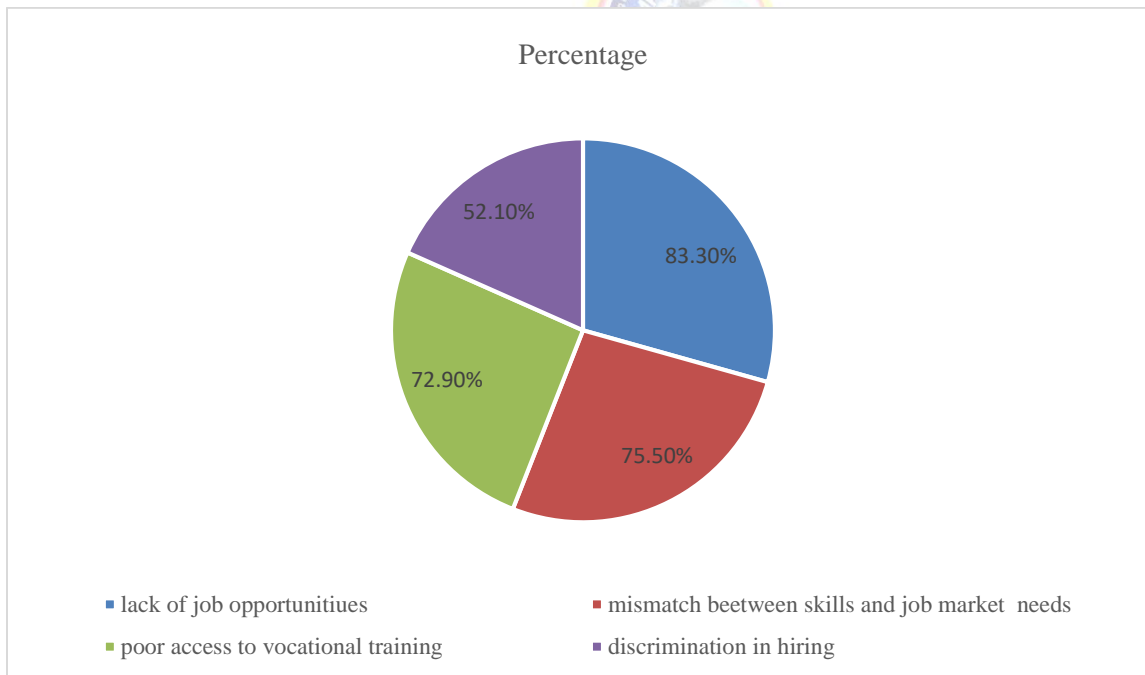
Based on this analysis, it is suggested that addressing youth unemployment is crucial for improving overall economic performance. Policies aimed at job creation, skill development, and economic inclusion can help mitigate the negative economic consequences of unemployment. Reducing reliance on welfare programs and boosting consumer spending through employment opportunities would not only support economic growth but also enhance national productivity and income.

3. What are the key causes of youth unemployment in Ntengangwa Commune? (Multiple responses allowed)

Table 10: key causes of youth unemployment in Ntengangwa Commune

Causes of Youth Unemployment	Frequency (No. of Respondents)	Percentage (%)
Lack of job opportunities	320	83.3%
Mismatch between skills and job market needs	290	75.5%
Poor access to vocational training	280	72.9%
Discrimination in hiring	200	52.1%

Figure 5: key causes of youth unemployment in Ntengangwa Commune



Source: Field survey 2024

The analysis highlights several critical factors contributing to youth unemployment. A substantial majority (83.3%) of respondents identified the lack of job opportunities as the primary cause,

indicating an urgent need for job creation programs to address this issue. Additionally, 75.5% of respondents cited skills mismatch, suggesting that many young people are graduating without the necessary skills for the available job market, which calls for better alignment between education and employment needs. Poor access to vocational training was also noted by 72.9% of respondents, emphasizing the importance of expanding skill-based education to prepare youth for specific trades and industries. Furthermore, 52.1% of respondents pointed to discrimination in hiring, suggesting that social or systemic barriers may be preventing young people from accessing employment opportunities.

Based on this analysis, it is recommended that efforts be directed toward creating more job opportunities through both public and private sector initiatives. There should also be a focus on improving the alignment of educational programs with the skills required in the job market, ensuring that graduates are adequately prepared for employment. Expanding access to vocational training and addressing hiring discrimination should also be prioritized to remove barriers to employment and ensure that all youth have equal opportunities to succeed.

4. What type of employment opportunities should the government prioritize for youth?

Table 11: type of employment opportunities

Employment Type	Frequency (No. of Respondents)	Percentage (%)
Public sector jobs	110	28.6%
Private sector jobs	90	23.4%
Entrepreneurship/self-employment	150	39.1%
Agricultural and rural employment	34	8.9%

Source: Field survey 2024

The analysis highlights varying preferences regarding the sources of employment for youth. A significant portion of respondents (39.1%) preferred entrepreneurship and self-employment, indicating a strong demand for startup support and financial assistance programs to help youth launch their own businesses. Public sector jobs were the second most favored option, with 28.6%

of respondents expecting the government to play a major role in creating employment opportunities. Additionally, 23.4% supported private sector jobs, suggesting that young people have confidence in the private sector as a potential source of employment. However, only 8.9% supported agricultural employment, implying that youth may not perceive farming as a viable or attractive career option in the current economic climate.

Based on this analysis, it is suggested that policymakers focus on fostering entrepreneurship by providing financial support, training, and incubation programs. The government should also consider increasing public sector job creation initiatives, while the private sector should be encouraged to expand opportunities for young people. Efforts to revitalize the agricultural sector, making it more appealing and sustainable for youth, could also be explored, ensuring a more diverse range of career options for young people.

5. What policies can the government implement to enhance youth employment and improve GDP growth? (Multiple responses allowed)

Table 12: policies the government implement to enhance youth employment and improve GDP

Proposed Policy	Frequency (No. of Respondents)	Percentage (%)
Investing in vocational training	320	83.3%
Supporting youth entrepreneurship	310	80.7%
Encouraging private sector job creation	280	72.9%
Expanding public works programs	250	65.1%

Source: Field survey 2024

The analysis reveals a clear preference for skills development and economic empowerment as solutions to youth unemployment. A large majority (83.3%) supported investments in vocational training, suggesting that respondents believe equipping youth with practical skills is crucial for improving employability. Youth entrepreneurship programs also garnered strong support from 80.7%, indicating a significant interest in providing financial resources and support for young

people to start their own businesses. Additionally, 72.9% of respondents preferred private sector job creation, reflecting trust in businesses as a source of employment. Lastly, 65.1% supported expanding public works programs, showing that government-led initiatives are also seen as important for tackling unemployment. It is suggested that a multi-faceted approach should be taken to address youth unemployment, combining vocational training with entrepreneurship support and private sector job creation. Investments in public works programs should also be considered as part of a broader strategy, ensuring that all sectors contribute to reducing youth unemployment and improving economic opportunities for young people.

4.6. Youth Unemployment, Crime Rates, and Social Stability

The data collected from the survey responses has been tabulated and analyzed to examine the relationship between youth unemployment, crime rates, and social stability in Ntahangwa Commune, Bujumbura. Below is the breakdown of each question, including tabulated data and corresponding analysis.

6. Do you believe that youth unemployment contributes to crime in Ntahangwa Commune?

Table 13: Youth Unemployment and Crime in Ntahangwa Commune

Response	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Yes	280	72.9%
No	45	11.7%
Not sure	59	15.4%
Total	384	100%

Source: Field survey 2024

The analysis reveals that a significant majority of respondents (72.9%) view youth unemployment as a major contributor to crime in Ntahangwa Commune, indicating a strong belief that addressing unemployment could play a key role in reducing criminal activities. A smaller proportion of respondents (11.7%) disagreed, suggesting a minority who may perceive other factors as more

influential in the crime rate. Additionally, 15.4% were unsure, reflecting some uncertainty or lack of awareness regarding the relationship between unemployment and crime. Overall, the data underscores the importance of tackling youth unemployment as a potential strategy for crime reduction. It is suggested that efforts to reduce youth unemployment should be prioritized as part of a broader crime prevention strategy in Ntampangwa Commune. Providing job opportunities, vocational training, and entrepreneurial support can offer youth viable alternatives to criminal activities, thereby contributing to social stability and safety in the community.

7. What types of crimes do you think are most associated with unemployed youth? (Multiple responses allowed)

Table 14: Types of Crimes Associated with Unemployed Youth

Type of Crime	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Theft and robbery	260	67.7%
Drug abuse and trafficking	180	46.9%
Violent crimes (assault, murder)	120	31.3%
Cybercrime and fraud	85	22.1%

Source: Field survey 2024

The analysis shows that theft and robbery (67.7%) are the most commonly associated crimes with unemployed youth, suggesting that economic hardship and a lack of job opportunities may drive young people to engage in criminal activities as a means of survival. Drug-related crimes (46.9%) are also a significant concern, indicating that unemployment can contribute to substance abuse as a coping mechanism or result from involvement in illegal trade. Although violent crimes and cybercrime were mentioned, they were noted at lower percentages, reflecting that economic and social factors are more strongly linked to youth crime. This data highlights the connection between unemployment and both economic and social crimes, suggesting that addressing youth unemployment could help mitigate these issues. Tackling youth unemployment through job creation and skill development programs can play a crucial role in reducing these economic and

social crimes. Additionally, providing support for substance abuse prevention and rehabilitation, along with stronger community engagement programs, could help prevent young people from resorting to crime. Addressing the root causes of unemployment can reduce the likelihood of youth engaging in criminal activities.

8. What are the main reasons unemployed youth engage in criminal activities? (Multiple responses allowed)

Table 15: Reasons for Youth Involvement in Criminal Activities

Reason	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Financial desperation	280	72.9%
Peer pressure/social influence	200	52.1%
Lack of education/awareness	170	44.3%
Weak law enforcement	140	36.5%

Source: Field survey 2024

The table indicates that financial desperation is the leading cause of youth crime, with 72.9% of respondents identifying economic hardship as a primary driving force. This suggests that when young people face limited economic opportunities, they may turn to crime as a means of survival. Peer pressure (52.1%) and lack of education (44.3%) are also significant contributors, highlighting the influence of social networks and inadequate education systems in shaping youth behavior. While strengthening law enforcement (36.5%) is seen as a potential solution, it is not viewed as the primary or sole response, indicating that crime prevention efforts must go beyond just enforcement. The findings suggest that addressing the root causes of youth crime requires a focus on improving economic opportunities, especially for disadvantaged youth. Programs aimed at reducing financial desperation, such as job creation and economic empowerment initiatives, should be prioritized. Additionally, enhancing education and providing mentorship to counter peer pressure could help reduce the likelihood of youth engaging in criminal behavior. Strengthening law enforcement should be part of a broader strategy that addresses these underlying issues.

**9. How does youth unemployment affect social stability in Ntarangwa Commune?
(Multiple responses allowed)**

Table 16: Effects of Youth Unemployment on Social Stability

Effect	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Increases crime and violence	310	80.7%
Weakens family structures	200	52.1%
Reduces trust in government	180	46.9%
Increases political instability	150	39.1%

Source: Field survey 2024

The analysis highlights the significant impact of youth unemployment on social stability. A large majority of respondents (80.7%) identified crime and violence as the primary social issues resulting from youth unemployment, indicating that the lack of economic opportunities for youth can lead to an increase in criminal activities. Family breakdown (52.1%) was also noted as a major consequence, suggesting that economic strain may contribute to social fragmentation. Furthermore, the lack of trust in the government (46.9%) and the potential for increased political instability (39.1%) reflect the broader societal challenges posed by youth unemployment, which can undermine social cohesion and governance. It is suggested that addressing youth unemployment should be a central focus of social and economic policy to ensure long-term social stability. Creating job opportunities, improving access to education and training, and fostering trust in government through transparent policies and active engagement can help mitigate the negative social consequences. Additionally, promoting community-based initiatives and strengthening family support systems may further contribute to preventing the social issues linked to youth unemployment.

10. What strategies can help reduce youth crime linked to unemployment? (Multiple responses allowed)

Table 17: Strategies to Reduce Youth Crime Linked to Unemployment

Strategy	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Providing more job training programs	320	83.3%

Strengthening law enforcement	230	59.9%
Expanding community support programs	210	54.7%
Enhancing public awareness campaigns	150	39.1%

Source: Field survey 2024

The table reveals that the most recommended strategy to reduce youth crime is providing job training programs, with 83.3% of respondents emphasizing the importance of skills development in preventing criminal behavior. This suggests that equipping youth with practical skills is seen as a fundamental approach to diverting them from criminal activities. Strengthening law enforcement, supported by 59.9% of respondents, is also considered important, though it ranks second to economic interventions in terms of priority. Additionally, community programs (54.7%) and public awareness campaigns (39.1%) are recognized as valuable supplementary strategies that can contribute to addressing youth crime. a multifaceted approach should be implemented to tackle youth crime. Prioritizing job training programs and skills development will address the root causes of youth crime by providing alternative economic opportunities. Strengthening law enforcement should still be a part of the solution but should be complemented by community-based initiatives and public awareness campaigns to foster a more comprehensive and proactive approach to crime prevention.

4.7. Youth Unemployment and Labor Productivity

The following section presents the tabulated data and analysis for responses regarding the effects of youth unemployment on labor productivity in Burundi, the causes of skill gaps, and strategies to improve youth employability and productivity.

11. How does youth unemployment affect labor productivity in Burundi? (Multiple responses allowed)

Table 18: Effects of Youth Unemployment on Labor Productivity in Burundi

Effect	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Leads to loss of skilled labor	280	72.9%
Reduces efficiency in economic sectors	260	67.7%
Lowers national productivity and competitiveness	230	59.9%
No significant impact	40	10.4%

Source: Field survey 2024

The analysis shows that youth unemployment is widely seen as having negative economic consequences. A large majority of respondents (72.9%) believe it results in the loss of skilled labor, indicating that young people are not able to contribute effectively to the workforce. Additionally, 67.7% of respondents noted that unemployment among youth reduces efficiency in various economic sectors, implying that the potential of young workers is underutilized. Furthermore, 59.9% highlighted that youth unemployment lowers national productivity and competitiveness, emphasizing the broader implications of an underemployed youth population on the economy. Youth unemployment should be prioritized as a key policy issue. Efforts should focus on creating opportunities for young people to enter the workforce and develop their skills, ensuring that their potential is fully harnessed to enhance productivity. Programs that align education with market needs and support the transition from education to employment, such as internships, apprenticeships, and job creation initiatives, can help mitigate the negative effects of youth unemployment on national competitiveness and economic growth.

12. What do you think is the main cause of skill gaps among unemployed youth?

Table 19: Causes of Skill Gaps among Unemployed Youth

Cause	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Poor education system	250	65.1%
Lack of practical training opportunities	290	75.5%
Mismatch between education and job market needs	260	67.7%
Lack of mentorship and career guidance	220	57.3%

Source: Field survey 2024

The table reveals that the primary cause of skill gaps among unemployed youth is the lack of practical training opportunities (75.5%), which suggests that the disconnect between theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience is a major barrier to youth employability. A significant number of respondents also identified a mismatch between education and job market needs (67.7%), highlighting that educational programs are not always aligned with the demands of the labor market. The poor education system (65.1%) and a lack of mentorship and career guidance (57.3%) further contribute to these skill gaps, suggesting that structural issues within the education system and insufficient career support systems need addressing. It is suggested that the most immediate action should be to increase practical training opportunities, as this was identified by 75.5% of respondents as the primary cause of skill gaps. Educational reforms should also be prioritized to address the 67.7% of respondents who pointed out the mismatch between education and job market needs, ensuring curricula are aligned with current industry requirements. Additionally, improving the education system (as highlighted by 65.1% of respondents) is crucial, with a focus on enhancing quality and relevance. Finally, investing in mentorship and career guidance programs, which 57.3% of respondents identified as a key issue, will help provide the necessary support to guide youth toward career paths that align with their skills and the labor market.

13. What policies should be implemented to improve youth employability and productivity? (Multiple responses allowed)

Table 20: Policies to Improve Youth Employability and Productivity

Policy	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Vocational training programs	310	80.7%
Internships and apprenticeship programs	280	72.9%
Entrepreneurship and self-employment training	260	67.7%
University-industry collaboration for job placements	240	62.5%

Source: Field survey 2024

The table shows a strong preference for vocational training programs (80.7%), highlighting the importance of equipping youth with practical skills for the job market. Internships and apprenticeships (72.9%) are also highly supported, indicating that hands-on experience is seen as essential for youth development. Entrepreneurship training (67.7%) reflects the desire for more youth involvement in business creation, while university-industry collaboration (62.5%) underscores the need for closer partnerships between educational institutions and employers. To address these needs, policies should prioritize vocational and entrepreneurship training, strengthen internship programs, and foster collaborations between universities and industries to better align education with market demands.

The data reveals that vocational training programs are viewed as the most effective policy intervention (80.7%), emphasizing the importance of providing youth with hands-on skills for employment. A significant portion of respondents also supports internships and apprenticeships (72.9%), recognizing the value of practical experience in enhancing job readiness. Entrepreneurship training (67.7%) is similarly seen as crucial, suggesting a strong interest in fostering youth-led businesses. Furthermore, the call for university-industry collaboration (62.5%) reflects the need to bridge the gap between academic institutions and the job market, ensuring that education aligns with industry demands.

14. What role can businesses and industries play in enhancing youth employment and labor productivity? (Multiple responses allowed)

Table 21: Role of Businesses and Industries in Enhancing Youth Employment and Labor Productivity

Role	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Providing internship and training programs	320	83.3%
Hiring more young workers	270	70.3%
Offering mentorship programs	250	65.1%
Supporting skill development initiatives	230	59.9%

Source: Field survey 2024

The table reveals that a substantial majority of respondents view internship and training programs (83.3%) as the most effective way businesses can contribute to reducing youth unemployment, followed by hiring more young workers (70.3%). Additionally, offering mentorship programs (65.1%) and supporting skill development initiatives (59.9%) are also highly valued, suggesting that businesses are expected to play an active role in youth development. From this, it is clear that businesses should focus on creating more opportunities for internships, hiring youth, and providing mentorship and skills training to help bridge the gap in employment and enhance youth employability.

15. Do you think the government is doing enough to address youth unemployment in Burundi?

Table 22: The government is doing enough to address youth unemployment in Burundi

Response	Count	Percentage (%)
Yes	X	$(X/Total)*100$
No	Y	$(Y/Total)*100$
Not Sure	Z	$(Z/Total)*100$
Total	Total Responses	100%

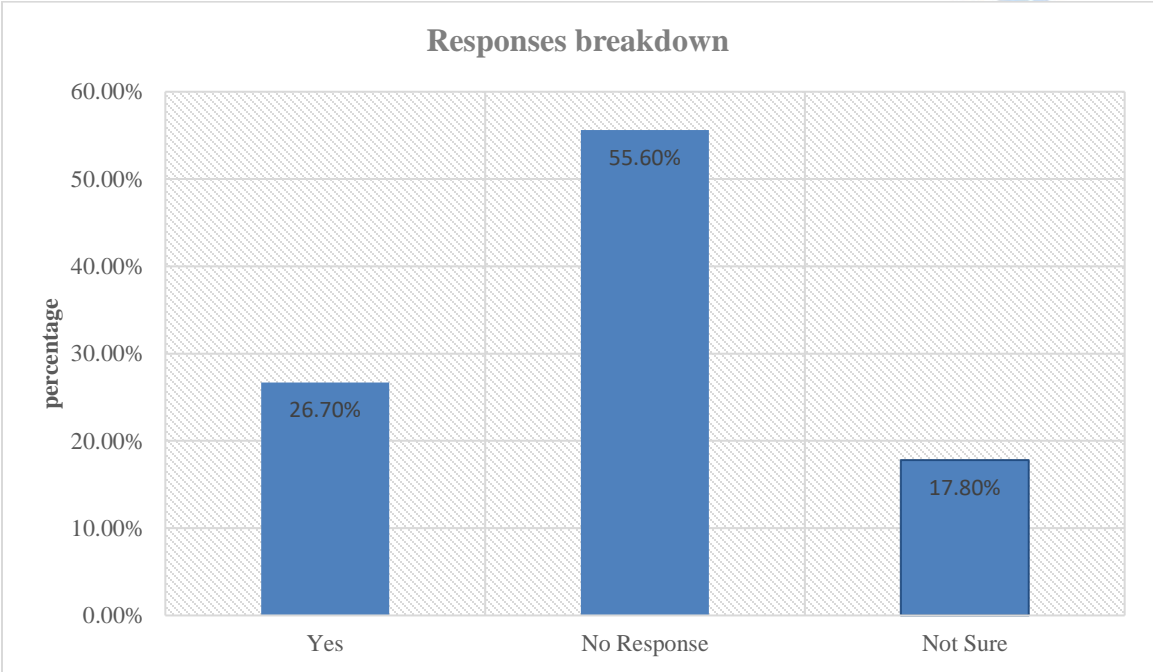
Source: Field survey 2024

The data categorizes respondents based on their perception of the government's efforts in addressing youth unemployment. X represents those who believe the government is doing enough, reflecting approval of current initiatives. Y accounts for respondents who feel the government's efforts are insufficient, indicating a demand for stronger interventions. Z includes individuals who are unsure, suggesting a lack of awareness or a neutral stance on the issue. The total responses, calculated as the sum of X, Y, and Z, provide an overall measure of public opinion on the effectiveness of government actions in tackling youth unemployment. The analysis suggests that public opinion on the government's role in addressing youth unemployment is mixed. While some respondents acknowledge the government's efforts, a significant portion believes that more action

is needed. The presence of uncertain responses highlights a gap in awareness or engagement with existing policies. These findings indicate the need for clearer communication, enhanced policy implementation, and targeted interventions to address youth unemployment more effectively.

This bar chart will display the proportion of responses for each option:

Figure 6: Responses Breakdown



The responses indicate varying opinions on the government's role in addressing youth unemployment. A majority choosing No suggests that many believe the government's efforts are inadequate and that more action is necessary. A significant number selecting Yes reflects approval of the current measures being implemented. Meanwhile, those who responded Not Sure highlight a lack of awareness or a neutral perspective on the effectiveness of government initiatives. The analysis suggests that public perception of the government's role in addressing youth unemployment is divided. While some respondents acknowledge and approve of the government's efforts, many feel that more needs to be done to create meaningful employment opportunities. The presence of neutral or uncertain responses highlights a potential gap in

awareness or communication regarding existing government initiatives. Strengthening policies, increasing transparency, and enhancing public engagement could help address these concerns and improve youth employment outcomes.

16. What additional support should the government provide to reduce youth unemployment?

Table 23: Additional support should the government provide to reduce youth unemployment

Support Options for Reducing Youth Unemployment	COUNT NUMBER	%
Youth funding programs for business startups	A	$(A/Total) \times 100$
More job opportunities in public/private sectors	B	$(B/Total) \times 100$
More vocational and technical training schools	C	$(C/Total) \times 100$
Tax incentives for companies that hire youth	D	$(D/Total) \times 100$
Total Selections	Total	100%

Source: Field survey 2024

The responses indicate that youth funding programs for business startups are viewed as a crucial intervention, highlighting the importance of financial support in fostering youth entrepreneurship. The significant preference for more job opportunities in both public and private sectors underscores the pressing need for employment creation. The emphasis on vocational and technical training schools suggests that skill-building is seen as a vital strategy for equipping youth with the competencies required in the job market. Additionally, the support for tax incentives for companies that hire youth reflects a recognition of the role businesses can play in addressing unemployment through policy-driven incentives.

17. What role do you think NGOs and international stakeholders should play in reducing youth unemployment?

Table 24: NGOs and international stakeholders should play in reducing youth unemployment?

Role of NGOs/International Stakeholders	Count	Percentage (%)
Providing grants and funding for youth enterprises	E	(E/Total)*100
Offering training and skill development programs	F	(F/Total)*100
Partnering with government to create jobs	G	(G/Total)*100
Offering mentorship and career guidance	H	(H/Total)*100
Total Selections	Total	100%

Source: Field survey 2024

Figure 7: NGO/International Stakeholder Roles



The findings emphasize the significant contribution of NGOs and international stakeholders in tackling youth unemployment. The preference for grants and financial support for youth enterprises demonstrates the perceived necessity of capital in promoting entrepreneurship. Additionally, the focus on training and skill development programs highlights the belief that enhancing young people's competencies can improve their job prospects. The call for partnerships between NGOs and the government to create employment opportunities suggests that collaborative

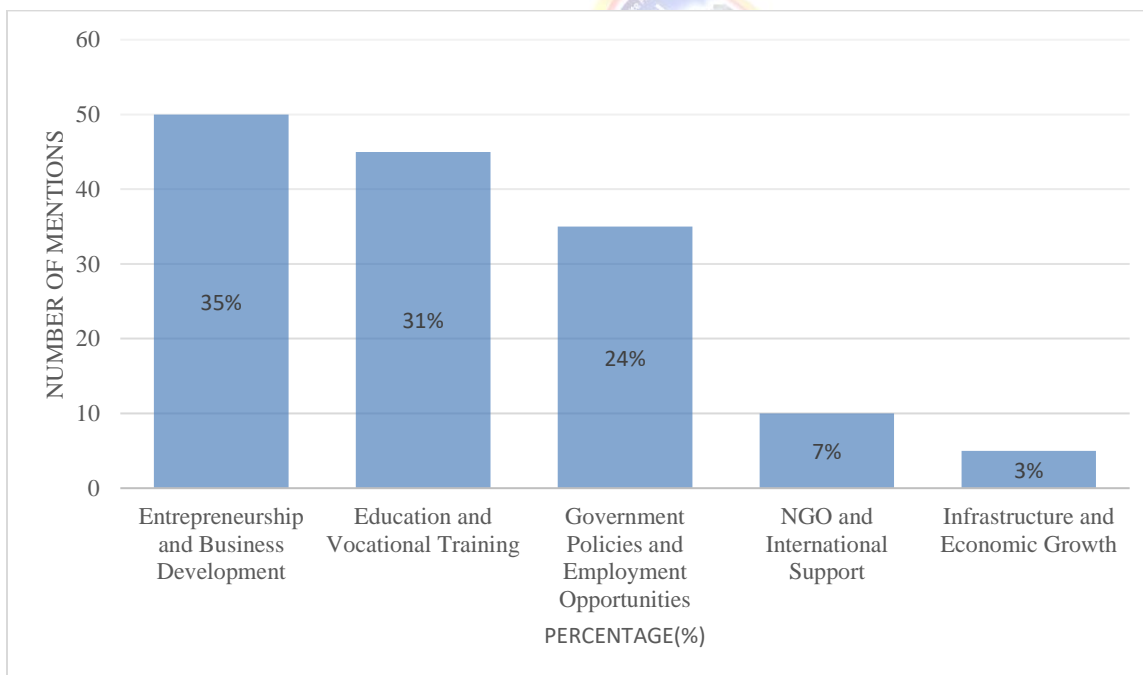
efforts are seen as a vital strategy for addressing job scarcity. Furthermore, the recognition of mentorship and career guidance reflects the value placed on professional support to help youth make informed career decisions and successfully enter the workforce.

Table 25: Most Effective Ways to Reduce Youth Unemployment

Theme/Category	Number of Mentions	Percentage (%)
Entrepreneurship and Business Development	50	35%
Education and Vocational Training	45	31%
Government Policies and Employment Opportunities	35	24%
NGO and International Support	10	7%
Infrastructure and Economic Growth	5	3%
Total	145	100%

Source: Field survey 2024

Figure 8: Ways to reduce youth unemployment



The responses indicate that entrepreneurship and business development are seen as the most effective solution to youth unemployment, with 35% of respondents emphasizing the need for startup funding and support for young entrepreneurs. Education and vocational training follow

closely at 31%, highlighting the importance of equipping youth with relevant skills for the job market. Government policies account for 24% of mentions, suggesting that while policy interventions are valued, many respondents believe business development and skills training offer more immediate impact. NGOs and international support received the least recognition at 7%, implying that while external assistance is acknowledged, respondents prioritize local and government-led solutions in addressing youth unemployment.

4.8. Correlation analysis

The bivariate analysis was conducted to determine if there is an existing association between variables as well as determining the degree of that nexus using Pearson correlation coefficient. Pearson correlation was applied in determining the strength and the direction of the relationship.

Table 26: Pearson moment correlation matrix

Variables	Test	Youth Unemployment	Crime Rates	Gross Domestic Product	Labour Efficiency
	Pearson Correlation	1			
Youth Unemployment	Sig. (2-tailed)			.	
	Pearson Correlation	0.803**	1	.	
Crime Rates	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.	
	Pearson Correlation	.742**	.469**	1	
Gross Domestic Product	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	
	Pearson Correlation	407**	324**	592**	1
Labour Efficiency	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000
N		384	384	384	384

The correlation analysis was carried out to determine the association between youth unemployment with crime rates, labour efficiency and gross domestic product. From the analysis there is a strong correlation between youth unemployment and crime rates in Ntahangwa Commune ($r=0.803$, $p=0.000$), the level of significance (P-value) was $0.000 < 0.05$ which implies that the correlation between youth unemployment and crime rates is statistically significant. Gross domestic product was also found to have a strong and positive relationship with youth unemployment ($r=0.742$, $p=0.000$). However, labour efficiency was found to have a moderate and positive relationship with youth unemployment ($r=0.407$, $p=0.000$). It can therefore be deduced that crime rates, gross domestic product and labour efficiency have a positive correlation with youth unemployment. However, the strength of the relationship differs whereby crime rates and gross domestic product has a strong relationship with youth unemployment while labour efficiency has weak relationship with youth unemployment.

4.9 Regression analysis

The conducted regression analysis gives a statistical elucidation of the degree by which variables are intimately connected to each other and vice versa. R-Square (coefficient of determination) is a commonly used statistic to evaluate model fit. R-square is 1 minus the ratio of residual variability. The adjusted R², also called the coefficient of multiple determinations, is the percent of the variance in the dependent explained uniquely or jointly by the independent variables. Regression analysis is determined to establish if there is a link between youth unemployment, crime rates in Ntahangwa commune in Bujumbura as indicated in Table 21, and a model summary is brought forward showing the analysis. An R squared (coefficient of determination) of 0.781 indicates that 71.80% of the variations in crime rates are explained by youth unemployment. However, the model failed to explain at least 28.20% of the variation in crime rates. This means that there are other

factors associated with crime rates which were not explained by the model. The correlation coefficient(R) of 0.884 indicates youth unemployment has a positive correlation with crime rates.

The standard error of 0.18453 shows the deviation from the line of best fit results.

Model Summary

Table 27: Regression analysis for crime rates and youth unemployment in Ntakangwa Commune in Bujumbura

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.884 ^a	.781	.779	.18453

a. Predictors: (Constant), gross domestic product, crime rates, labour efficiency

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

Youth unemployment is a pressing issue that has wide-ranging effects on both the economy and society. The high levels of unemployment among young people contribute to economic stagnation, social instability, and the depletion of skilled labor. The findings of this research reveal that youth unemployment is driven by several factors, including insufficient job opportunities, a mismatch between education and labor market needs, limited access to vocational training, and discriminatory hiring practices. These challenges have led to significant concerns about the future economic growth and social cohesion in the region.

This chapter aims to summarize the key findings from the research, drawing attention to the causes and impacts of youth unemployment, as well as the effectiveness of existing interventions. It also provides conclusions based on the analysis and offers practical recommendations for addressing the issue. The recommendations focus on enhancing job creation, improving vocational training, supporting youth entrepreneurship, and fostering collaboration between the government and the

private sector, all of which are critical to mitigating youth unemployment and its broader socio-economic consequences.

5.1 Summary

The research revealed that the primary causes of youth unemployment are the lack of job opportunities, skills mismatch, limited access to vocational training, and discrimination in hiring practices. A majority of respondents (83.3%) identified the lack of job opportunities as the main cause, while 75.5% pointed to skills mismatch as a significant factor. Vocational training programs were strongly supported (80.7%), with respondents viewing them as crucial for equipping youth with the practical skills necessary for employment. Additionally, a substantial portion of respondents (72.9%) believed that youth unemployment negatively impacts economic growth, contributing to reduced productivity and national income. The study also highlighted the broader social consequences of youth unemployment, such as increased crime, family breakdown, and a lack of trust in the government.

The findings emphasized the importance of government interventions in addressing youth unemployment, with many respondents calling for job creation programs, improved vocational training, and policy reforms to better align education with the labor market. Entrepreneurship programs also received strong support, reflecting the desire for more youth-led businesses. These findings underscore the need for comprehensive solutions that involve both government action and private sector participation to effectively tackle youth unemployment.

5.1.1 What are the primary causes of youth unemployment identified in the study?

The research revealed that the major causes of youth unemployment include a lack of job opportunities (83.3%), a mismatch between education and job market needs (75.5%), poor access

to vocational training (72.9%), and discrimination in hiring (52.1%). These findings suggest that the youth are unable to secure employment due to systemic issues such as inadequate skill development programs, an education system that doesn't meet market demands, and barriers created by discriminatory hiring practices. These issues underline the urgent need for reform in both the education system and labor market policies.

5.1.2 How does youth unemployment affect economic growth, according to the respondents?

Youth unemployment was widely perceived to have a significant negative impact on economic growth. A large proportion of respondents (72.9%) indicated that youth unemployment negatively affects economic growth, highlighting concerns over reduced productivity, a decrease in national income, and increased dependency on welfare programs. These findings emphasize that the inability to harness the potential of young people in the workforce results in a substantial loss of economic output and places additional strain on public resources. This underscores the need for policy interventions to integrate youth into the labor market to stimulate overall economic progress.

5.1.3 How do vocational training and skills development contribute to reducing youth unemployment?

Vocational training emerged as a critical intervention for reducing youth unemployment, with 80.7% of respondents supporting investment in skills development. The study found that many youth lack practical, job-ready skills due to limited access to training programs. By emphasizing vocational education and skill development, young people can be better equipped for available job opportunities, bridging the gap between educational qualifications and the practical skills

demanded by employers. These findings suggest that expanding vocational training programs would significantly reduce the unemployment rate by increasing employability among youth.

5.1.4 How effective are government policies and interventions in addressing youth unemployment?

Respondents expressed a mixed view of government interventions in addressing youth unemployment. While many acknowledged the importance of government policies, there were indications that these policies were not sufficiently addressing the scale of the problem. Respondents emphasized the need for more job creation initiatives and better alignment of education with labor market needs. This suggests that while some government actions are in place, more focused and efficient policies are required, particularly in areas such as vocational training, job creation, and support for youth entrepreneurship. Collaboration between the public and private sectors was seen as essential to creating more sustainable solutions.

5.1.5 What strategies do respondents suggest for addressing youth unemployment?

The strategies recommended by respondents for tackling youth unemployment primarily focused on providing job training programs (83.3%), supporting youth entrepreneurship (80.7%), and encouraging private sector job creation (72.9%). These findings suggest a preference for both skills development and economic interventions to reduce unemployment. Many respondents believed that government-led initiatives, such as public works programs (65.1%), could also play an essential role. The results indicate that a combination of private sector involvement, government action, and targeted skills development programs are seen as the most effective ways to reduce youth unemployment and its associated economic and social consequences.

5.2 Youth Unemployment and Gross Domestic Product in Burundi

The study found that both short-term and long-term youth unemployment had a pronounced negative impact on Burundi's economic performance. Consistent with Negera's (2024) findings, high levels of youth unemployment were associated with reduced savings, lower national income, and a decline in gross domestic product (GDP). The degree of youth unemployment served as a reflection of the overall economic condition, suggesting that when fewer young people secure employment, economic growth is stifled due to decreased consumer spending and limited labor market dynamism. The empirical evidence indicates that economic activity, as measured by GDP growth, is a crucial factor influencing job opportunities for young people. These findings imply that addressing youth unemployment through well-formulated strategic policies is essential for bolstering economic growth and enhancing overall national prosperity.

5.3 Youth Unemployment and Crime Rates in Burundi

The analysis revealed that high youth unemployment is significantly associated with increased crime rates in Burundi. The absence of legitimate job opportunities lowers the opportunity cost of engaging in criminal activities, thereby motivating many unemployed youths to pursue illicit means as an alternative source of income. This phenomenon aligns with theoretical expectations and previous research, which posits that chronic unemployment not only undermines economic stability but also erodes social cohesion and public safety. Consequently, the persistent unemployment among the youth presents both economic and social challenges that demand urgent attention. It is imperative that employment and poverty reduction programs prioritize young people to mitigate the adverse impacts on crime and promote a more secure and stable society.

5.4 Youth Unemployment and Labor Efficiency in Burundi

The study demonstrated that youth unemployment and under-employment have a detrimental effect on labor efficiency in Burundi. Unemployed youth miss critical opportunities to acquire and enhance their skills and experience, which are essential for improving workforce productivity. This gap in skills and practical work experience leads to a loss of potential economic contributions, thereby reducing overall labor efficiency. The findings underscore the economic rationale for investing in targeted programs that focus on youth employment, as young individuals tend to learn quickly and offer long-term returns on investment. Enhancing labor efficiency through effective employment initiatives is vital not only for individual growth but also for increasing the overall productivity and competitiveness of the national economy.

5.5 Conclusion

The research highlights the complex and multifaceted nature of youth unemployment, which stems from various causes such as a lack of job opportunities, skills mismatch, poor access to vocational training, and discrimination in hiring. These issues are further compounded by systemic barriers in the education system and labor market. The findings suggest that addressing these causes requires immediate interventions, particularly in skill development, education reform, and job creation. The study emphasizes the importance of both public and private sector collaboration, with vocational training and youth entrepreneurship programs emerging as crucial solutions to reduce unemployment rates. Furthermore, the analysis suggests that government policies alone are insufficient to address the scale of youth unemployment. A combination of vocational training, job creation strategies, and targeted youth entrepreneurship support is seen as essential. By focusing on these key areas, along with fostering better education-to-job market alignment, there is potential for significant progress in reducing youth unemployment, thereby improving economic

productivity and social stability. These recommendations offer a pathway to more sustainable solutions, benefiting both the youth and the broader economy.

5.6 Recommendations and Contributions of the Study

Based on the findings of this study, several recommendations are proposed to address youth unemployment and its adverse effects on economic growth in Burundi.

- i. Vocational training institutes should be established to equip young people with essential skills such as tailoring, carpentry, plumbing, masonry, electronic training, cosmetology, and other entrepreneurship-related skills. These institutes would empower youth to engage in self-employment and create sustainable income opportunities.
- ii. The government of Burundi should prioritize scaling up and modernizing the agricultural sector while also supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and startups in agribusiness, manufacturing, and services. Such efforts have the potential to absorb a larger number of young job seekers, thereby stimulating economic growth and reducing the high unemployment rates.
- iii. A youth guarantee program should be developed in collaboration with private sector partners. This program would include subsidies for companies that hire young people, thereby effectively stimulating youth employment. In addition, strategic changes aimed at reducing urban youth unemployment should be identified. The government should facilitate collaboration between local and international stakeholders to create comprehensive proposals that address unemployment and, by extension, help reduce rising crime rates in urban informal sectors.
- iv. The national government of Burundi, in conjunction with local authorities in Bujumbura, should establish an integrated information system to collect, analyze, and manage data on

unemployed youth. This system would not only enable the introduction of targeted benefits for these individuals but also provide vital data for studying the relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates.

- v. Finally, it is imperative for the government to launch empowerment programs—such as youth funds and preferential procurement opportunities (e.g., ensuring that youth access 30% of government procurement contracts)—to enhance youth inclusion in the economic mainstream. These measures should be combined with effective communication strategies to ensure that young people are aware of and can access these initiatives.

5.7 Recommendations for Further Research

The researcher recommends that future studies conduct comparative analyses between urban and rural youth unemployment in Burundi to better ascertain patterns and trends. Additionally, further research should investigate the gender dimensions of unemployment to yield insights that can inform tailored policy interventions for both male and female graduates.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

Part A: Consent Form

I am Sylvestre Bigirimana, a postgraduate student at Mount Kenya University studying Development Studies. I am conducting an academic study on the topic of Youth Unemployment and its implications for Burundi's development: A Case Study of Ntahangwa Commune in Bujumbura city. I invite you to join me in this endeavor. Your contribution will be instrumental in the development of knowledge that can be used to promote employment and job creation in the Burundi Republic. I request that you be respectful and provide accurate answers to the questions posed, as your response will be highly valued and the information will remain confidential. Please note that this study is conducted solely for academic purposes and that there is no financial reward attached to your participation.

Sylvestre Bigirimana.

Admission number : MDS/2018/39751 **SECTION B: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATIONS**
This section contains general information about the respondent.

Please fill the correct information by ticking the correct answer enclosed in the square brackets

1. Kindly specify your gender: Male [] Female []
2. What is your age: 18-25 yrs. [] 26 –30yrs [] 31 –35 yrs. []
36 –40 yrs. []
3. What is your marital status: Single [] Married [] Other specify.....
4. Kindly indicate your years of working experience: 0-1yr [] 2–5yrs [] 6-10yrs []
>10yrs []

5. What is your highest level of education? Primary school education [] Certificate []
Diploma [] Bachelor [] Masters []

Section B: Youth Unemployment and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Growth

7. Do you think youth unemployment negatively affects Burundi's economic growth?
- Yes
 - No
 - Not sure
8. In your opinion, how does youth unemployment impact GDP growth? (Tick all that apply)
- Reduces economic productivity
 - Decreases national income
 - Increases dependency on social welfare programs
 - Reduces consumer spending
9. What are the key causes of youth unemployment in Ntahangwa Commune? (Tick all that apply)
- Lack of job opportunities
 - Mismatch between skills and job market needs
 - Poor access to vocational training
 - Discrimination in hiring (age, gender, education level)
10. What type of employment opportunities should the government prioritize for youth?
- Public sector jobs
 - Private sector jobs
 - Entrepreneurship and self-employment
 - Agricultural and rural employment

11. What policies can the government implement to enhance youth employment and improve GDP growth?

- Investing in vocational training
- Supporting youth entrepreneurship programs
- Encouraging private sector job creation
- Expanding public works programs

Section C: Youth Unemployment, Crime Rates, and Social Stability

12. Do you believe that youth unemployment contributes to crime in Ntahangwa Commune?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

13. What types of crimes do you think are most associated with unemployed youth? (Tick all that apply)

- Theft and robbery
- Drug abuse and trafficking
- Violent crimes (assault, murder)
- Cybercrime and fraud

14. What are the main reasons unemployed youth engage in criminal activities?

- Financial desperation
- Peer pressure and social influences
- Lack of education and awareness
- Weak law enforcement and governance

15. How does youth unemployment affect social stability in Ntahangwa Commune? (Tick all that apply)

- Increases crime and violence
- Weakens family structures
- Reduces trust in government institutions
- Increases political instability

16. What strategies can help reduce youth crime linked to unemployment?

- Providing more job training programs
- Strengthening law enforcement
- Expanding community support programs
- Enhancing public awareness campaigns

Section D: Youth Unemployment and Labor Productivity

17. How does youth unemployment affect labor productivity in Burundi? (Tick all that apply)

- Leads to loss of skilled labor
- Reduces efficiency in economic sectors
- Lowers national productivity and competitiveness
- No significant impact

18. What do you think is the main cause of skill gaps among unemployed youth?

- Poor education system
- Lack of practical training opportunities
- Mismatch between education and job market needs
- Lack of mentorship and career guidance

19. What policies should be implemented to improve youth employability and productivity?

- Vocational training programs
- Internships and apprenticeship programs

- Entrepreneurship and self-employment training
 - University-industry collaboration for job placements
20. What role can businesses and industries play in enhancing youth employment and labor productivity?
- Providing internship and training programs
 - Hiring more young workers
 - Offering mentorship programs
 - Supporting skill development initiatives

Section E: Policy and Government Interventions

21. Do you think the government is doing enough to address youth unemployment in Burundi?
- Yes
 - No
 - Not sure
22. What additional support should the government provide to reduce youth unemployment?
(Tick all that apply)
- Youth funding programs for business startups
 - More job opportunities in public/private sectors
 - More vocational and technical training schools
 - Tax incentives for companies that hire youth
23. What role do you think NGOs and international stakeholders should play in reducing youth unemployment?
- Providing grants and funding for youth enterprises
 - Offering training and skill development programs
 - Partnering with government to create jobs

- Offering mentorship and career guidance

Thank you for your time and valuable input! Your responses will contribute to understanding and addressing youth unemployment in Burundi.

APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW GUIDE

Part A: Consent Form

I am Sylvestre Bigirimana, a postgraduate student at Mount Kenya University studying Development Studies. I am conducting an academic study on the topic of Youth Unemployment and its implications for Burundi's development: A Case Study of Ntahangwa Commune in Bujumbura city. I invite you to join me in this endeavor. Your contribution will be instrumental in the development of knowledge that can be used to promote employment and job creation in the Burundi Republic. I request that you be respectful and provide accurate answers to the questions posed, as your response will be highly valued and the information will remain confidential. Please note that this study is conducted solely for academic purposes and that there is no financial reward attached to your participation.

Sylvestre Bigirimana.

Admission number: MDS/2018/39751

Part B : Questions

1. What do you believe is the primary cause of youth unemployment in your area?
2. How would you rate the government's current efforts to reduce youth unemployment?
3. What additional measures do you think the government should take to tackle youth unemployment?
4. Do you think the private sector can play a significant role in reducing youth unemployment? How?

5. How effective are vocational training programs in reducing youth unemployment?
6. What role do you think youth entrepreneurship programs can play in addressing youth unemployment?
7. How important is it for businesses to invest in job training programs for youth?
8. In your opinion, how does the mismatch between education and job market needs contribute to youth unemployment?
9. What are your thoughts on the lack of practical training opportunities as a factor contributing to youth unemployment?
10. How can the government collaborate with educational institutions to better align youth skills with market demands?
11. Do you believe that youth unemployment has a significant impact on economic growth?
Why or why not?
12. How do you think youth unemployment affects national income and consumer spending?
13. What social consequences do you think youth unemployment can lead to (e.g., crime, family breakdown)?
14. What strategies do you think would be most effective in reducing youth unemployment in the next five years?

Appendix 3: ETHICAL CLEARANCE



Mount Kenya University



REF: MKU/ISERC/3833
TO: SYLVESTRE BIGIRIMANA

Date: 28 June 2024

REG: MDS/2018/39751

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: THE INFLUENCE OF YOUNG UNEMPLOYED ON DEVELOPMENT IN BURUNDI: A CASE STUDY OF NTAHANGWA COMMUNE IN BUJUMBURA

This is to inform you that **Mount Kenya University** has reviewed and approved your above research proposal. Your application approval number is **2877**. The approval period is **28/06/2024 - 25/06/2025**.

This approval is subject to compliance with the following requirements:

- i. Only approved documents including informed consents, study instruments, MTA will be used
- ii. All changes including amendments, deviations and violations are submitted for review and approval by **Mount Kenya University**
- iii. Death and life threatening problems and serious adverse events or unexpected adverse events whether related or unrelated to the study must be reported to **Mount Kenya University** within 72 hours of notification
- iv. Any changes, anticipated or otherwise that may increase the risks or affect the safety or welfare of study participants and others or affect the integrity of the research must be reported to **Mount Kenya University** within 72 hours
- v. Clearance for export of biological specimens must be obtained from relevant institutions
- vi. Submission of a request for renewal of approval at least 60 days prior to expiry of the approval period. Attach a comprehensive progress report to support the renewal
- vii. Submission of an executive summary report within 90 days upon completion of the study to **Mount Kenya University**

Yours sincerely,

MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY
ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE
P. O. Box 342 - 01000,
THIKA

Dr. Alfred Owino, PhD
Chairman, Mount Kenya University ISERC

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Appendix 4: INTRODUCTION LETTER



DIRECTORATE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

MDS/2018/39751

28th June, 2024

To Whom It May Concern

Dear Sir/Madam,


RE: SYLVESTRE BIGIRIMANA - REGISTRATION NO. MDS/2018/39751

The purpose of this letter is to introduce the above named student who is pursuing **Master of Arts in Development Studies** in the department of **Social and Development Studies** in the school of **Social Sciences**.

The title of the research is "**The Influence of Young Unemployed on Development in Burundi: A Case Study of Ntahangwa Commune in Bujumbura.**" It has been cleared by the University's Ethics Review Committee (Certificate attached) and now has to proceed to the field to collect data between **July, 2024 and September, 2024.**

Any assistance accorded to the student will be highly appreciated.

Thank you.


Dr. Samuel M. Karenga, PhD
Director, Graduate Studies
Enc.

Mount Kenya University
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Unlocking Infinite Possibilities

Appendix 5: Field entry /Research Authorization

REPUBLIQUE DU BURUNDI



MINISTRE DE L'INTERIEUR
DU DEVELOPPEMENT COMMUNAUTAIRE
ET DE LA SECURITE PUBLIQUE
MUNICIPALITE DE BUJUMBURA
COMMUNE NTAHANGWA

Ref: 746/274/B.N/358/2024

Objet : Autorisation de collecte des données pour des fins académiques

A Monsieur Sylvestre Bigirimana

Monsieur,

Faisant suite à votre lettre nous adressée en date du 03/07/2024 dans laquelle vous demandez l'autorisation pour collecter les données dans la commune de Ntahangwa dans le cadre de l'étude intitulée «The influence of young unemployed on development in Burundi : A case of Ntahangwa commune in Bujumbura », nous avons l'honneur de vous informer que nous marquons notre accord.

Vous souhaitant bonne réception, veuillez agréer, Monsieur Sylvestre Bigirimana l'expression de notre considération distinguée.

Fait à Bujumbura, le 15/07/2024

Administrateur de la commune NTAHANGWA

Mr. Ernest NIYONZIMA



Appendix 6: Turnitin report

Masters Project

by Sylvestre Bigirimana

Submission date: 04-Apr-2025 05:30PM (UTC+0300)

Submission ID: 2635074152

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**THE INFLUENCE OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT ON ECONOMIC GROWTH IN
BURUNDI: A CASE STUDY OF NTAHANGWA COMMUNE IN BUJUMBURA.**

SYLVESTRE BIGIRIMANA

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**

October, 2024