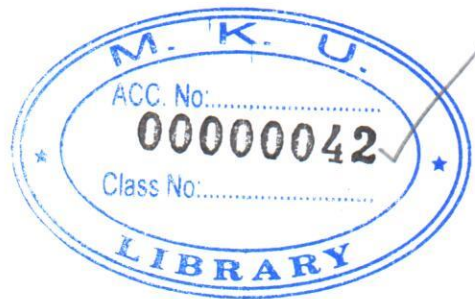


**AN ANALYSIS OF YOUTH FUND IN CURBING UNEMPLOYMENT
IN MAARA DISTRICT, THARAKA NITHI COUNTY, KENYA.**

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ABSTRACT

The youth unemployment cannot last forever due to the fact that the government has acknowledged the need of developing the youth thus has supported the youth enterprise development fund, education and training to encourage creativity and innovation. The purpose of the study was to find out the extent to which the youth development fund had curbed unemployment among the youth in Maara District. The study focused on: The use of youth development fund, viability of the development project and contribution of the youth development fund in curbing unemployment. The study was based on change theory and theory of unemployment. The literature related to the topic was reviewed. Descriptive survey research designs were utilized with questionnaires as the tool for data collection, whose validity was achieved by involving experts in the field and reliability by test re-test method. The study was carried out in Maara District, Tharaka Nithi county. The target population was (3008) comprising of, five credit officers, two district youth coordinators and three thousand youths. The target population of youth was stratified in to two strata male and female. The researcher used random sampling on the youth and credit officer while purposive sampling on youth coordinator to get a study sample, this formed the representative population. Questionnaires were developed and distributed to the study sample. The data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics and the results were represented by bar graphs and tables, the findings the study have significant contribution to the government, youth and community in general. The study found that youths have positive attitude towards youth empowerment scheme. The study established that there was need for urgent intervention by the government and other stakeholders to ensure that the courses offered by the existing learning institution are enhanced to match market expectations. There is need for the government to put in place the policies intended to ease the accessibility of the fund. Also the youths need to have proper combination of ideas and opportunities to enhance them shift from job seekers to job creators.