



THE IMPACT OF THE YOUTH ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FUND ON POVERTY  
REDUCTION: A STUDY OF EMBAKASI CONSTITUENCY, NAIROBI

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A PROJECT PAPER SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN  
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF MOUNT KENYA  
UNIVERSITY

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NOVEMBER 2011



MKU340/11

HC60 S35 2011

## ABSTRACT

The problem of unemployment among the youth still persists in the country. The Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) was established by the government about four years ago to address this problem. This research sought to analyze the impact of YEDF on poverty reduction among the youth at grassroots level. Embakasi District in Embakasi Constituency in Nairobi was the case study for the research. The research design comprised a survey where the respondents were selected using two sampling techniques: simple random and purposive. Data was collected from a sample of youth members of youth groups and district youth officers through the use of focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews. From the research findings, economically disadvantaged youth at the grassroots level have been able to benefit from YEDF. Some have been able to establish and run viable business enterprises while others have secured jobs abroad. This has enabled them able to generate a steady income to their basic needs and thus sustain their lives. To increase its viability as a poverty reduction strategy the fund has to be participatory where the youth at the grassroots level are fully involved.

The paper is divided into five chapters. After the introduction in chapter one, literature review and theoretical framework follow in chapter two. The methodology used in data collection and analysis is explained in chapter three while chapter four presents the study findings. Chapter five is the conclusion which also contains some policy recommendations.

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