

Vocational Training Services And Youth Employment In Kitagata Town Council, Sheema District

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Abstract

The topic of the study was to investigate the impact of Vocational Training Services on Youth Employment in Kitagata Town Council Sheema District. Specifically, the study sought To assess the meaning of youth employment in Kitagata Town council, Sheema district, To find out different youth employment programs in Kitagata town council, To establish the relationship between vocational training services and youth employment in Kitagata town council, Sheema. Data analysis and interpretation of the questionnaire responses from the respondents revealed that despite the knowledge, civil society and the general public did not place this issue as very important one. The study involved all genders that is, both female and male were encouraged to participate and according to the findings The largest proportion of respondents were male (56%; n=42) while 44% (n = 33) were female. Almost all sexes of respondents were represented.

The study involved many people from different levels of education and according to the finding's majority were degree holders (54%; n = 40); 29% (n = 22) were diploma holders while only 17% (n = 13) were certificate holders. Most of these respondents were students in various vocational training institutions in Kitagata town council. The study also considered inquiring the time period spend by the respondents in Kitagata town council and 40% of the total respondents had spent 3-5 years in Kitagata town council, then 27% had spent 1-3 years while 20% had spent less than one year, while just 13% of the respondents had spent above 5 years in Kitagata town council. Vocational Training services according to most government national development and sessional papers is supposed to play two crucial roles in the national social and economic development. The first role is to provide training opportunities and career advancement avenues for the increased school leavers. The second role is to provide skilled manpower that is needed at all levels of the economy. The skills so developed should be able to lead to self-reliance in the absence of salaried employment and enhance Uganda's industrialization process.

Keywords: Vocational Training Services, economic development And Youth Employment

Background of The Study

Youth employment is when young people have access to high-quality employment opportunities (Nelson & Christopher, 2022). through which they can continue to develop their skills and experience are essential to building a successful career. There is evidence that long-term unemployment can have a chilling effect with long-term negative impact on young people's careers. Vocational education services are defined as skills-based education and training programs that prepare people, especially young people, for a specific job (Suzan & Gracious Kazaara, 2023), trade or craft. trades are jobs that are manual in nature and are considered non-academic (Cort, P., 2008). Vocational education services focus on procedural knowledge as opposed to theoretical or declarative knowledge (Emmanuel et al., 2023).

Vocational education services are learning programs that prepare young people for occupations that require specialized skills, such as technician, craftsman or tradesman. It may include classroom instruction, hands-on training, or a combination of both (Godfrey et al., 2023). . A vocational training service focuses on developing technical skills for a specific job or trade. It offers you the practical knowledge that the conventional formal education system offers (Brighton, Deus, Kazaara, Nelson, Alex, et al., 2023). (Christopher et al., 2022) defines vocational education services as a type of vocational training that focuses on highly technical practical jobs. Whether you want to start a career without a college degree or just want to learn some practical, professional skills that you can use to earn money. Kitagata is a city in western Uganda. It is one of the urban centers in Sheema district. Kitagata is located in Sheema District in western Uganda (Victoria et al., 2023). The town lies on the Ishaka-Kigamba Road approximately 17 kilometers south of Ishaka, Bushenyi District, the nearest major town. Today's young people in Kitagata's own council are the most educated generation ever, yet they face difficulties entering and staying in the job market. for too many of them, the transition to work is problematic. Opportunities for young people to find employment are tied to the overall state of the economy and the overall employment situation in a given country. Vocational training programs have been introduced by government and non-government bodies to help the youth acquire practical skills that can help them secure employment such as tailoring, computer skills, fashion and design, food and nutrition and many others (Christopher et al., 2022). However, even though vocational training has helped many youths to gain employment, there are many others who are still unemployed and this may be due to the lack of money to facilitate further training, the attitude of some youths towards vocational training that makes them leave early (Emmanuel et al. , 2023).

Problem Statement

The researcher wanted to research about different vocational programs offered by the youths in Kitagata and how they are helping them to acquire jobs in Kitagata town council (Christopher et al., 2022). The researcher also wanted to find out how important vocational training is in the employment of youths in Kitagata town council. Lastly, the researcher wanted to find out how government is helping the youth when it comes to employment in Kitagata town council.

Specific objectives

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1. To assess the meaning of youth employment in Kitagata Town council, Sheema district
2. To find out different youth employment programs in Kitagata town council.
3. To establish the relationship between vocational training services and youth employment in Kitagata town council, Sheema district.

Methodology

The study used casual research design; this kind of research design aimed at generating information after the incidence has occurred. The study looked at vocational training services and youth employment in Kitagata town council in Sheema district. The research design exploited both the qualitative and quantitative research methodologies (Kinyata & Abiodun, 2020). Qualitative included use of respondents' responses from the study while quantitative involved use of descriptive statistics generated with frequency tables (Lu et al., 2013). These approaches were used to enable the researchers to get and analyze relevant information concerning the study variables of education facilities and the academic performance of fine art students. A study population is a complete set of individuals, cases or objects with some common observable characteristics and this consisted of over 100 respondents that is, 90 youths in Kitagata Town Council, 10 Vocational training institutions directors (Emmanuel et al., 2023). This basically involved use of interviews and questionnaires which enabled the researcher to gather enough information. The sample size was determined using Krejcie and Morgan, (1970) and this will consist of 75 respondents from the study area. All these were approached from their respective offices and also in the community (Ntirandekura & Friday, 2022). Respondents enabled the researcher to obtain actual results and among them the researcher was able to take up relevant information for the study which appeared frequent among them.

Table 1: Category of the Respondents.

Category	N	S
Youths	90	70
Vocational Training institutions Directors	10	05
Total	100	75

N- Study Population S-Sample size **Source:** primary data 2023

The study was used purposive and snowball sampling techniques during the process of data collection from the study respondents (Nafiu et al., 2017). The study used purposive techniques because it allowed the selection of a sample with experience and knowledge. This technique was used to select Vocational training institutions directors. The researcher first selected one person who helped her in the way of getting in touch with another respondent until the total number of the respondents in the same category was got (Olanrewaju & Abiodun, 2021). This method was used in the study, since questionnaires were self-administered and interpreted to the business owners and their employees with the guidance of the researcher and a research assistant so as to obtain reliable data. The researcher used data

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processing techniques in order to obtain accurate data relevant to the topic under study (Olanrewaju et al., 2021). Data was analyzed by using both qualitative and quantitative analysis which involved the use of appropriate descriptive statistical measures such as mean, mode and median. While qualitative analysis involved the use of statements, forecasting techniques of correlation and coefficient. The researcher achieved this with the help of specialized data analysis computer packages such as SPSS & STATA (Nelson et al., 2022).

RESULTS

Table 2: showing how respondents responded on the meaning of women's community engagement

Source: primary data 2023

Meaning of youth employment in Kitagata Town council	Agree	Disagree	Total (%)
Opportunities for young people to find a job are bound to the general state of the economy and overall employment situation in a country	41 (55%)	34(45%)	75(100)
It is a situation where young people have access to high quality employment opportunities	45(60%)	30 (40%)	75(100)
It is a situation where young people have access to high quality employment opportunities	49 (65%)	26 (35%)	75(100)

Table 2 above shows that many respondents agreed that the best meaning of youth employment is; It is a situation where young people have access to high quality employment opportunities represented by 65% while 35% disagreed. The idea that “It is a situation where young people have access to high quality employment opportunities”, was agreed up on by 60% while 40% disagreed then the factor of “Opportunities for young people to find a job are bound to the general state of the economy and overall employment situation in a country” was agreed up on by 55% and 45% disagreed.

Table 3: showing different youth employment programs in Kitagata town council

Youth Employment Programs	Male	Female	Total
Consequent Youth Livelihood Fund	35	31	66
Uganda's Youth Livelihood Programme	40	26	66

Source: primary data 2023

The table above shows how respondents agreed on different youth employment programs in Kitagata town council and the respondents both male and female agreed that Consequent Youth Livelihood Fund is helping youths find employment opportunities as showed above where 35 male and 31 female agree up on it followed by Uganda's Youth

Livelihood Programme which was also agreed up on by 40 male and 26 female respondents as showed above (Rashid et al., 2023).

Table 4: Showing the Relationship between vocational training services and youth employment in Kitagata town council

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	31	47
Agree	20	30
Disagree	8	12
Undecided	7	11
Total	66	100

Source: *Primary Data 2023*

This table 4 above shows the total number of respondents and their percentage level that responded to the statement. 7 (11%) respondents were "Undecided" to the question, while 8 (12%) "Disagree" to the question. Also, 20 (30%) respondents "Agree" to the question stated above. Lastly, the majority 31 (47%) respondents "Strongly Agree" in their response to the question (Brighton, Deus, Kazaara, Nelson, Catherine, et al., 2023).

Summary of findings

The study involved all genders that is, both female and male were encouraged to participate and according to the findings The largest proportion of respondents were male (56%; n=42) while 44% (n = 33) were female. Almost all sexes of respondents were represented.

The study involved many people from different levels of education and according to the findings majority were degree holders (54%; n = 40); 29% (n = 22) were diploma holders while only 17% (n = 13) were certificate holders. Most of these respondents were students in various vocational training institutions in Kitagata town council (Mark et al., 2023). The study also considered inquiring the time period spend by the respondents in Kitagata town council and 40% of the total respondents had spent 3-5 years in Kitagata town council, then 27% had spent 1-3 years while 20% had spent less than one year, while just 13% of the respondents had spent above 5 years in Kitagata town council (Oromo et al., 2023).

According to the study findings, the first objective was to find out whether respondents knew the meaning of youth employment in Kitagata and according to the study, respondents answered different who answered that It is a situation where young people have access to high quality employment opportunities represented by 65% while 35% disagreed. The idea that “ It is a situation where young people have access to high quality employment opportunities”, was agreed up on by 60% while 40% disagreed then the factor of “Opportunities for young people to find a job are bound to the general state of the economy and overall employment situation in a country” was agreed up on by 55% and 45% disagreed (Wegulo et al., 2023).

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According to the study findings, youth programs in Kitagata are; Consequent Youth Livelihood Fund and Uganda's Youth Livelihood Programme. respondents both male and female agreed that Consequent Youth Livelihood Fund is helping youths find employment opportunities as showed above where 35 male and 31 female agree up on it followed by Uganda's Youth Livelihood Programme which was also agreed up on by 40 male and 26 female (Faridah et al., 2023).

Objective three was about establishing the Relationship Between Vocational Training Services and Youth employment and 7 (11%) respondents were "Undecided" to the question, while 8 (12%) "Disagreed" to the question. Also, 20 (30%) respondents "Agreed" to the question. Lastly, the majority 31 (47%) respondents "Strongly Agree" in their response to the question.

Conclusion

Vocational Training services according to most government national development and sessional papers is supposed to play two crucial roles in the national social and economic development. The first role is to provide training opportunities and career advancement avenues for the increased school leavers. The second role is to provide skilled manpower that is needed at all levels of the economy. The skills so developed should be able to lead to self-reliance in the absence of salaried employment and enhance Uganda's industrialization process.

Recommendations

Training tools and equipment - it was the feeling of many interviewees that most youth polytechnics lacked adequate training tools and equipment. This can affect the quality of training. The government in collaboration with development partners such as JICA have already carried out needs assessment for tools in public YPs and have embarked on the process of donating these tools to YPs through MOYAS. Currently at least two YPs in every constituency have benefitted from this programme. However, as a result of free primary education the enrolment in YPs is overwhelming with several coining up especially in rural areas.

Shortage of qualified staff- most of the polytechnics suffered lack of enough training personnel and in some cases the staff were not qualified hence the need to hire more qualified staff. During the study it was discovered that many of those teaching in the YPs were engaged by BOGs and therefore were also poorly remunerated. There is a need for the government to review their terms of employment to attract competent

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