

**INFLUENCE OF POLICIES ON ACCESSING YOUTH ENTREPRISE
DEVELOPMENT FUND, A SURVEY OF YOUTH OWNED ENTREPRISES IN
RACHUONYO NORTH SUB COUNTY**

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ABSTRACT

Youth unemployment in Kenya has been the main challenge faced over the years. Based on the challenge above, the government of Kenya then conceived the idea of Youth enterprises development fund in 2006 as a strategic measure towards arresting youth unemployment in the country. The specific objectives of this study were to examine the effects of YEDF policies on fund access. This study was restricted to youth enterprises owners within Rachuonyo North Sub County Kenya. The selected youth owners' enterprises who received youth fund acted as units of study from where the respondents were drawn. Questionnaires with open and close ended questions were developed and administered to the respondents; key informant persons were interviewed. The numbers of youth enterprises owners who received youth enterprises development fund in Rachuonyo North Sub County Kenya, were 700, therefore, 22% of 700, which was 152 were selected through a random sampling technique. Pilot study was conducted to test the reliability and validity of the research tools. Secondary data were obtained from records kept by Sub County Youth office in Rachuonyo North Sub County Offices, National Government publications on Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) and refereed journals. The β value for policies had a positive coefficient that is positive relationship with access of YEDF. The findings showed that policies had significant relationship with access of YEDF. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was used to determine the effects of YEDF policies on fund access. There was a positive effects of YEDF policies on fund access [$r=.523$, $n=149$, $p<.05$], this indicated that presence of effective YEDF policies on fund results in access of the fund effectively and efficiently. Thus the more the government stipulates the YEDF policies effectively on fund, its access will increase.

Keywords: YEDF, Access, Influence, policies, Enterprises, Youth.