

## DETERMINANTS OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT – A SUPPLY SIDE ANALYSIS

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### ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in three, out of ten, provinces of Zambia, namely, Copperbelt, Luapula and Southern, which were developed, less developed and backward respectively. Since youth unemployment was prevailing in urban areas, towns/cities were selected for this study and the data were collected during September to November 2015. The main objective of this study was to find out the supply side determinants of youth unemployment like education, training, access to finance, job information in both formal and informal sectors. The study revealed that two-third unemployed youth studied up to secondary level and the average number of years of training was negligible, i.e., 0.15 years only and the period of youth unemployment was 3.6 years. Nearly half had ICT skills and access to internet. The main factors determining youth unemployment in the formal sector were lack of required qualification and training. In the informal sector three-fourth youth were willing to take up self-employment but due to lack of access to capital they could not start any economic activity. The study suggested that the employment and economic policies, at macro level, should create jobs and improve access to finance. Labour market training, apprenticeship and other work-experience programmes, job search assistance, employment services and measures to support young people who want to establish their own economic activity should be provided.

**Keywords:** Youth unemployment; Education; Training; Access to finance; Formal sector; Informal sector.