

**SOCIAL BARRIERS TO FEMALE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRIVATE FORMAL SECTOR IN KENYA: A CASE OF ADVANCED AGE LOCATION IN NAROK COUNTY AND EAST RUPAKA A LOCATION IN BUNGOMA COUNTY**

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**ABSTRACT**  
Female youth in Kenya account for the majority of the unemployed citizens and mainly work in the informal sector. This indicates the potential for the youth employ- ment, especially because of the need. This study therefore investigated the social barriers to female youth employment in the private formal sector in Kenya. The specific objectives of the study were to examine the characteristics of the targeted female youth, to determine the social barriers to female youth employment in the private formal sector in Kenya, and to propose strategies for the elimination of the barriers. Youth employed in the private formal sector in Kenya were interviewed using a purposive sampling technique. The data were analysed using content analysis and grounded theory. The findings revealed that barriers to female youth employment in the private formal sector in Kenya include lack of information, lack of skills, lack of financial resources, lack of social capital, and lack of family support. The study also revealed that the government should provide technical education for female youth to enable them to acquire the skills and experience required for the private formal sector. The government should also provide skills training and entrepreneurship training to female youth in rural areas.

**Keywords:** Social barriers, Youth, Employment