

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE EFFECTS OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION ON TRADE BALANCE IN ZAMBIA

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to find out the quality of unemployed youth with respect to their level of education, training, ICT skills, access to internet and health and their impact on the trade balance due to regional integration. The study used both primary and secondary data. The model used was specified and derived from the economic function of $ATB=f(\text{Edu}, \text{ICT}, \text{Health and Access to Internet})$ and the econometric model was $ATB=\beta_0+\beta_1\text{Edu}+\beta_2\text{ICT}+\beta_3\text{Hea}+\beta_4\text{Aint}+\mu$. The study revealed that the quality of unemployed youth was poor. There was inverse relationship between the level of education, health, access to internet and trade balance. Whereas, there was positive relationship between the ICT skills and trade balance. The study recommended for improving the skills to benefit from the opportunities that arise from regional integration. The ACBF and NEPAD should formulate policies needed to increase skills and competence of the unemployed youth in Zambia.

Keywords: Youth unemployment; Regional integration; SADC; COMESA; Trade balance.