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MANAGEMENT FACTORS INFLUENCING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF YOUTH GROUP PROJECTS FUNDED BY YOUTH ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FUND IN MAARA SUB-COUNTY OF THARAKA NITHI COUNTY

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Abstract: The top three priorities for most youth organizations are increased youth participation, youth empowerment and youth employment. The inadequate financial resources do not provide an enabling environment for the youth to participate in economic activities in Kenya. The Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) was conceived in 2006 as a strategic move towards addressing youth unemployment in Kenya through enterprise development. However, even with strategies for accelerated youth development in place, it is apparent that economic development of youth in Kenya has been slower than expected, leading to continuing gross socio-economic disparities between the youth and the rest of the population. Most of the projects funded by YEDF in Maara Sub-County have been a complete failure since they are unable to create the jobs anticipated and to earn enough income to settle the loan. It is on this premise that this study sought to management factors influencing financial sustainability of youth projects funded by YEDF in Maara Sub-County, TharakaNithi County, Kenya was undertaken. The sought to determine the effect of leadership on financial sustainability of youth group projects; to establish the influence of youth entrepreneurship training on the financial sustainability of projects funded by youth enterprise development fund; determine how a funding affects financial sustainability of projects funded by YEDF and to determine the influence of monitoring and evaluation of youth projects funded by YEDF on the sustainability of the projects. The study would be beneficial to policy makers in the Ministry of Sports, Gender, Youth, Sports, Culture and Social Services, youths and the general public. Adescriptivesurveyapproachwasadopted.TheTargetpopulation for this study was be 205 youth group leaders in Maara Sub-County that have been funded and two YEDF officers in the Sub-County. The sample size for the study was 207respondents comprising of 205 youth group leaders and two YEDF officers.. Data collected was analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively. The data was presented in form of frequencycounts,percentages,tablesandgraphs. All the youths affirmed that they had received some kind of entrepreneurial training. The youths further indicated that the training had enabled group members to implement their projects. The study also established that most groups receive sufficient funds for the projects they request for. It further emerged from study findings that lack of monitoring and evaluation of projects funded by Youth enterprise development fund often leads to diversion of the funds to other projects other than those funded for or collapse of the funded projects.. It was concluded that youth entrepreneurship training is essential for the implementation of youth projects, empowerment of youths to initiate personal ventures, encouraging innovation, reduction of dependency on external funding and proper utilization of YEDF. The study also concluded that most groups receive sufficient funds for the projects they request for and when group projects are well funded they are able to be profitable and hence be sustainable. The study finally concluded that monitoring and evaluation of youth projects funded by YEDF increases the success of the funded projects and reduces instances of diverting funds to other projects other than those funded for or collapse of the funded projects.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the study

Youth definitions are contextual, depending on the social, cultural, political and economic environment. The United Nations defines youth as persons aged between 15 and 24 years (Kimando, Njogu&Kihoro, 2012). The new Constitution defines youth as all individuals in the republic of Kenya who have attained the age of 18 years but have not attained the age of 35 years (GOK, 2010).

The world is home to 1.2 billion young men and women (UNICEF 2009). These young people have lived all their lives under the millennium declaration, the unprecedented global initiative that has since 2000 sought to make the world a better place for all. Despite creating great potential for economic and social development worldwide, globalization has contributed immensely to heighten social economic inequality and problems associated with rapid urbanization (UNICEF 2009).

UNICEF (2009) further notes that the global economic crisis has produced a large cohort of unemployed youth, who in 2009, stood at around 181 million worldwide. For those who are employed, decent work is scarce. As at 2011, the global economic outlook remained highly uncertain and the possibility of a prolonged economic malaise with negative implications for economic progress in many countries still loomed (UNICEF, 2011). Over the past 10 years, many countries have adopted innovative and successful initiatives to encourage youth participating in development.

According to World Bank (2009), the top three priorities for most youth organizations are increased youth participation, youth empowerment and youth employment. The global and regional challenges have not spared the Kenyan youth. To address youth challenges, efforts have been made by the Kenyan government to initiate youth development programs such as sessional paper No. 4 of 2005, sessional paper No. 2 of 1992 on small scale and Jua Kali enterprises and poverty eradication plan (1999-2015) among others. These initiatives were met with many challenges. Firstly, there was a high population growth rate which exerted and continue to exert pressure on available resources. Secondly, there was low economic growth rate. An education system that produces graduates who are ill equipped for entry to the Job market did not help matters either.

According to GoK (2009), the inadequate financial resources did not provide an enabling environment for the youth to participate in economic activities. There were inadequate resources to implement the programs and the programs themselves were not harmonized. Pursuant to the above, the Kenyan ministry of youth affairs was created in December 2005 with a mandate to fully develop the potential of the youth as well as prepare and engage them in the socio- economic development of Kenya. Specific priority areas include empowering the youth to engage in economic activities through training and funding of youth projects, creating employment opportunities that benefit the youth and providing the youth with necessary financial support and market linkages to their products. To ensure the youth get access to cheap loans, the youth enterprise development fund was created in December 2006 through a legal notice. YEDF (2010) estimated that the youth account for 61% of the unemployed in Kenya and number 13 million. Information available on the YEDF website shows that the Kenyan government has so far released Ksh. 3.8 billion to the fund which has so far financed 157,000 youth enterprises thus helping create over 300,000 jobs in five years . In a country where the number of unemployed youth is estimated at 8million (YEDF, 2010), creation of 300,000 jobs is like a drop in the lake. At this rate, the youth fund may never create the 8 million jobs needed.

The famous quote by Sam Oluko that the poor cannot sleep, because they are hungry and the rich cannot sleep because the poor are hungry and awake imply that that all people are affected by deep disparities in income and wealth (Gachuru&Mwirigi, 2014). In fact, the post-election violence that rocked Kenya in 2007 was largely blamed on idle youth (NPI, 2008). According to Kaberuka (2014), the GINI coefficient, a measure of economic inequality, has been rising for many years in both developing and developed countries. The youth fund was the long awaited medicine to cure the malaise of poverty among the youth (GOK, 2010). However, Gachuru and Mwirigi (2014) reported that the youth enterprise development fund is yet to make a significant impact). According to World Bank (2010), what works to support young people in developing countries is very weak. Many developing countries allegedly continue to spend scarce resources on youth loans that have no proven impact. Simon andKenyon(2009)concurs and points out that the authorities have not been keen to increase the rate of youth loan absorption and the survival rate of new youth enterprises. It is surprising that in spite the introduction of youth funds, many youths still struggle to get employment. A report appearing in Daily Nation newspaper dated 25th August, 2015 indicated that the funds were insufficient since out of the 51,000 groups that applied for the funds, a whopping 5,000 groups missed out due to inadequate funding of the kitty. Moreover, Simon andKenyon(2009)and Kimando, Njogu and Kihoro, (2012) reported that most of the youth projects funded by YEDF have low survival rates and in most cases the youths are unable to repay the loans. Consequently, the youth continue languishing in poverty (Gachuru&Mwirigi, 2014). However, Simon et al (2009) did not provide answers to the low survival rates of youth enterprises funded by YEDF. Thus, this study was set to establish the influence of leadership, training, adequate funding and monitoring and evaluation on financial sustainability of youth projects funded by YEDF in Maara Sub-County, TharakaNithi County, Kenya.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Kenya has an overwhelmingly large young population, with children and young people under the age of 35 years accounting for 78% of the total population (GOK, 2009). As the country gears towards Vision 2030, the Kenyan youth face some challenges, particularly in the economic context of livelihoods (GOK, 2010). A large population of young people is unemployed and many more are engaged in short-term, low-paid jobs or in the informal economy (Kimando, Njogu&Kihoro, 2012). The Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) was conceived in 2006 as a strategic move towards addressing youth unemployment in Kenya through enterprise development. The underlying premise of YEDF is that economic development and poverty reduction can be achieved by enhancing access to financial resources to encourage micro, small, and medium enterprise development initiatives. However, even with these strategies for support, it is apparent that economic development of youth in Kenya has been slower than expected, leading to continuing gross socio-economic disparities between the youth and the rest of the population. It is not clear whether YEDF funded projects are financially sustainable (Simon et al 2009). It is on this premise that this study sought investigate factors affecting financial sustainability of youth projects funded by YEDF in Maara Sub-County, TharakaNithi County, Kenya is undertaken.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to investigate management factors influencing financial sustainability of youth group projects funded by youth enterprise development fund in Maara Sub-County of TharakaNithi County

1.4 Study Objectives

The study was guided by the following objectives:

i. To determine the influence of leadership on financial sustainability of youth income generating projects
ii. To establish the influence of youth entrepreneurship training on the financial sustainability of projects funded by youth enterprise development fund.
iii. To determine influence of adequate funding on financial sustainability of projects funded by youth enterprise development fund
iv. To determine the influence of monitoring and evaluation of youth projects funded by YEDF on the financial sustainability of the projects.

1.5 Research Questions

i. What is the influence of leadership on financial sustainability of youth income generating projects
ii. What is the influence of youth entrepreneurship training on the financial sustainability of projects funded by youth enterprise development fund?
iii. How does adequate funding of youth projects by YEDF financial sustainability of projects funded by youth enterprise development fund?
iv. What is the influence of monitoring and evaluation of youth projects funded by YEDF on the financial sustainability of the projects?

1.6 Significance of the Study

The study would be beneficial to policy makers in the Ministry of Sports, Gender, Youth, Sports, Culture and Social Services, youths and the general public. The policy makers would benefit from the study by getting information on the effect of leadership, entrepreneur training, funding, and monitoring and evaluation on financial sustainability of projects funded by YEDF. The information would be used to create policies that ensure that projects funded by the fund become successful. In addition, policy makers would benefit from the challenges established in the study.

Youths might benefit from the study because once the ministry notes indicators of success in the projects funded, the kitty might be increased to enable more youths to access the funds.

The general public might benefit from the study indirectly. When the youths are able to overcome challenges that may be highlighted by this study, the youths' projects will likely succeed and hence reduce the unemployment rates and crime rates associated with unemployment.

This study may also lay the basis for further studies by other researchers in related topics. The study is also significant to the researcher academically in the attainment of Master Business Administration degree.

1.7 Limitations of the Study

The following limitations were encountered in this study:

i. It was hard to establish information about unsuccessful projects because some of these youth groups had disintegrated. The researcher tried to obtain information on all projects funded by YEDF in the Sub-County and tried to track the beneficiaries of the fund.
ii. Some of the youth groups which had defaulted repayment of the fund were unwilling to give information about their group due to fear of their whereabouts being traced. The researcher informed the respondents that data collected would only be used for academic purposes, will remain anonymous and will be kept confidential.

1.8 Delimitation of the study

The study concentrated on registered youth groups in Maara Sub-County. It covered both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of the YEDF. This provided the data required to establish the influence of training, adequate funding and monitoring and evaluation on the implementation of youth fund in Maara Sub-County, TharakaNithi County, Kenya.

1.9 Assumptions of the study

The study was based on the following assumptions:

i. That some youths in the Sub-County had accessed the YEDF while others had not been able to access the fund.
ii. That youths who received YEDF were acquitted entrepreneurship training on how to utilize the funds
iii. That some youths received inadequate funding of their projects by YEDF.
iv. That the ministry of Sports, Gender, Youth, Sports, Culture and Social Services monitored projects funded by YEDF

1.10 Operational Definition of Terms

Youth – any individual in the republic of Kenya who had attained the age of 18 years but had not attained the age of 35 years

Youth group – a set of individuals aged between 18 and 35 years with common socio-economic objectives that is legally registered with registrar of societies

Training - informal or formal instruction on entrepreneurial skills required to start and manage a group enterprise

Funding - provision of a loan to a youth group in order to start or expand a youth enterprise

Monitoring - supervising the management and the running of an youth enterprise

Evaluation - assessment of the successful attainment of a youth project funded by YEDF

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction

This chapter reviews other studies related to this study. Both theoretical and empirical literatures are reviewed. The literature review in this section summarizes and evaluates relevant previous research on the factors influencing the implementation of youth fund. It will discuss different aspects of the research and describe how it relates to this research.

2.2 Theoretical literature

This study was guided by transaction cost theory and relationship theory.

2.2.1 Transaction Cost Theory

The concept transaction cost theory was initiated by the Coase, (1937) question, which simply was: Why do firms exist? TCA is based on several assumptions. The most important are bounded rationality and opportunism. Bounded rationality is the assumption that decision makers have constraints on their capabilities and limitations of their cognitive rationality. Although decision makers often intend to act rationally, this intention may be limited by their limited ability to acquire, process, interpret and communicate information. The term opportunism, we mean that an actor, if she/he has the opportunity – may act to serve their own interests at the expense of the exchange partner. "Opportunism describes a condition of 'self-interest seeking with guile' that includes propensities to disseminate, distort, fail to disclose, and otherwise act in an untrustworthy and even fraudulent manner for purposes of the translator's own gain" (Wang, 2002).

This theory is appropriate because the youth group may agree to take a loan from YEDF by accepting to be trained and their projects to be monitored and evaluated by the YEDF officials. If the group does not comply it may not receive funding or if it receives it may fail to successful implement the project due to lack of necessary skills and guidance that might be offered during monitoring and evaluation. Under such circumstances the group might fail to secure additional funding that may enable its projects to break even.

2.2.2 Relationship Theory

According to Macneil, a relationship between two actors is a set of norms developed by parties and these norms will to a large degree determine the behavior of the relationship. However, these norms may change over time; it is believed to occur as long as their continuance is valued. The purpose of Relationship Theory (RT) is not to predict the governance mode of a relationship rather it is to describe the behavior in the relationship. The theory is normative in the sense that it describes the behavior that the exchange parties should have. The unit of analysis in RT is represented by the *dyad* or the relation between the two actors. This implies that the RT focuses on not only for the seller or the buyer relationship but also some other relations for instance, service sector. Some of the most important norms are: role integrity, preservation of the relationship, harmonization of relational conflict, supra-contractual relations, and proprietary of the means. The RT is *static*, in the sense that how the contractual relationship at any time is, will be determined by the behavior of the parties. There is no attempt to describe how the relationship is initiated, nor how the relationship develops, nor how the parties may adapt under new circumstances.

Dwyer et al., (1987) suggest that the basic characteristics of a relationship are as follows: A relationship is something that last over time, which involves that each transaction has to be considered based on the history and future expectations of the relationship. Future relationship/cooperation will be based on a set of implicit and explicit common expectations and confidence/trust. The parties in the relationship can be expected to develop complex personal/social relationships – accordingly, the relationship may also have non-economical elements.

The theory is appropriate because it provides a basis for the relationship between youth groups and YEDF. Whereas YEDF do not compel the youth group to take loans from them, they both need each other. However, the norms that guide YEDF and individual group will determine whether the group will apply for a loan from YEDF or not. Moreover, if YEDF requires the group members to undergo training prior to being awarded a loan the group members will be compelled to undertake such training in order to qualify for a loan. In addition, monitoring and evaluation of projects funded by YEDF will dependent on the agreement between the two parties. Thus, entrepreneurial training, funding, monitoring and evaluation of the projects funded by YEDF will dependent on the relationship between the two parties.

2.3 Empirical literature

2.3.1 The influence of leadership on financial sustainability of youth income generating projects

Oino, Kirui, Towet and Luvega (2015) analysed the dilemma in sustainability of community based projects in Kenya. They reported that globally, billions of shillings have been spent in communities to enhance the living situation of the people. However, one of the most critical obstacles is the extent to which the projects are able to persist despite the exit of donors, while the beneficiaries reap dividends; appreciate their participation and ownership role in the project. Apparently, it is sustainability that makes the difference between success and

failure of community-based projects. Oino, Kirui, Towet and Luvega (2015) argued that various factors such as technical, financial, institutional, economic, and social factors contribute to the failure to sustain the projects if not considered well in the project management cycle. Oino, Kirui, Towet and Luvega (2015)concluded that lack of stakeholder ownership and commitment leads to project failure. Thisimplies that leaders involved in the project plays an instrumental role in the success of such projects. Even though the review concentrated on community based projects, it is possible that similar factors might influence sustainabilityof YEDF funded projects. Thus, the current study sought to establish the influence of leadership on sustainability of the projects.
Njuki, Mwangombe, Okoth and Mutua (2013) investigated the the factors that affect performance of youth group income generating projects in Kenya. The study employed a survey research design and sampled youth group projects in Taita district. The study mainly analysed the factors affecting the overall performance of youth group initiated projects in Taita district. The study established that appropriate usage of available resources meant for community development were regarded top in providing long-term solution to the challenges that affected youth group projects in Taita District. The study further established that the nature of activities that youth groups were involved in affected the enterprises' product/service marketability and operational continuity to the extent every person wanted endless involvement. Given that appropriate usage of resources and nature of activities that youths invest in are largely guided by the group leadership, it is more likely that the leadership of a group could contribute to financial sustainability of a group to a large extent. Thus, the current study sought to establish the influence of leadership on sustainability of the projects.
Karanja (2014) investigated the influence of management practices on sustainability of youth income generating projects in Kangema District, Muranga County, Kenya. The study focussed on training, monitoring and evaluation, leadership and financial management aspects in relation to project sustainability. The study revealed that, sound financial management, appropriate training, leadership and effective monitoring and evaluation influence the sustainability of the youth projects. The study revealed that, majority of the project leaders and the members felt that academic qualification of the project leader was a key aspect that influences youth projects sustainability. Karanja (2014) reported that projects in Kangema faced the challenge of having semi-illiterate leaders and members implying that even the basic skills of project management may be missing. This implies that leader characteristics are vital for financial planning and implementation of projects which ultimately results in financially sustainable projects. However, this assertion needs to be supported by empirical evidence. Thus, the current study sought to establish the influence of leadership on sustainability of the projects.
UNESCO (2008) indicated that the Youth Visioning for Island Living (YVIL) initiative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) seeks to empower young people in small island countries to take action for sustainable living and development, and by doing so encourage locally-based development of new skills and opportunities. However, UNESCO (2008) argued that the challenge for this initiative is to find further funding and more on-the-ground partners that can provide the required support needed by inexperienced project leaders. This implies that most projects fail due to inexperienced project leaders. Nonetheless UNESCO (2008) pointed out that through this process, greater success of projects can be ensured and a greater impact made on those that participate. The projects implemented by Youth Visioning aimed to be self-sustainable through forging partnerships and networking to obtain assistance (both in-kind and financial) and expertise. A number of project leaders were able to secure long-term support and thus will be able to continue their work. This implies that even though leaders need support their motivation to spur their groups to success can enable a group to successful and sustainably implement its projects.

2.3.2 Entrepreneurship Training on Sustainability of Projects

Kanyari and Namusonge (2013) sought to determine the various interventions that influence the youth entrepreneurs towards the Youth Enterprise Development Fund and their role in attracting the youth towards the Youth Enterprise Development Fund. The study focused on youth who have benefitted from the fund either to enhance their existing businesses or to start new businesses. The research utilized personal interviews, questionnaires, and observations to collect data from the respondents. Kanyari and Namusonge (2013) established that provision of entrepreneurship training to sensitize and inculcate entrepreneurial culture among the young people is crucial to identifying emerging business talents. The study also indicated that the provision of continuous and relevant business development services to youth entrepreneurs is key to the success of enterprise development initiatives in creating long term employment. Kanyari and Namusonge (2013) pointed out that most the beneficiaries of these trainings have managed to access financing through the financial intermediaries and the constituency component. Thus, training may be instrumental to sustainability of projects funded by YEDF. Although, Kanyari and Namusonge (2013) established the importance of training, their study did not provide signifant level of the influence of training on sustainability of projects funded by YEDF. The current study however sought to provide evidence as to whether training exerts significant influence on sustainability of projects funded by YEDF by employing inferential statistics.

Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) examined the constraints that impede young people in search of non-existing jobs and the urgent need to orient people of these affected economies particularly Nigerians on imbibing self-employment and entrepreneurship through vocational and entrepreneurial training programs as a short-term intervention mechanism. Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) argued that within the framework of potential efforts and strategies to boost employment and job creation for young people, entrepreneurship is increasingly accepted as an important means and a valuable additional strategy to create jobs and improve livelihoods and economic independence of young people. Regrettably, Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) pointed out that problems of unemployment as experienced by the educated youths and even the uneducated but skilled youths have become more pathetic in many developing economies, despite the neo-liberal strategies in addressing the issue of enhancing human capital. Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) indicated that enterprise education is hinged around three critical areasof development: enterprise education, experiential programs and enterprise development. According to Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) enterprise education involves the creation of programs, seminars and trainings that provide the values and basics of starting and running a business while experiential programs involves the development of a youth-run business that young people participating in the program work in and manage. On the other hand, enterprise development entails the supports and services that incubate and help develop their own businesses. Although these kinds of trainings are essential, it is unclear whether they are offered by YEDF prior to offering the loans to youths.

Alzúa, Cruces and Erazo(2013) documented the effects of a training program for low income youths, which comprised vocational training, life skills and work experience. Results showed that large gains in employment, with effects that remain more than two years after the intervention. The program also resulted in substantial effects on access to credit. Program participants exhibited a higher probability of having requested formal consumer credit, and a higher probability of having bank debts in good standing. This study points out that credit facilities extended to youths can only be effective if they are preceded by appropriate training. It is however, unclear whether YEDF funds granted to youths are preceded by training and if so whether they influence sustainability of the funded projects.

2.3.3 Adequate Funding and financial sustainability of projects

Okurut and Ama (2013) assessed factors affecting women and youth micro entrepreneurs in Botswana. The study used quantitative and qualitative methods. The results suggested that women and youth microenterprises are engaged mainly in the trade and services sectors and are profitable. Most of the microenterprises were owned as individual proprietors and the main motivations for engaging in microenterprises included improvement of household income, creation of employment opportunities, and search for self-independence. The women and youth microenterprises were unable to access available government institutional credit and capacity building and capacity building through the Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) to expand their enterprises. This implies that inadequate funding hinders expansion of youth projects. It is however not clear whether YEDF provides sufficient funds to help youth expand their enterprises and create jobs.

Amenya, C.O. (2011). reported that YEDF has not received sufficient funding and hence youth projects are not adequately funded. The requirement of an active bank account locks out many young people who are unemployed and cannot afford bank accounts Odhiambo, O., Okoth, O.S., Okelo, S., Aila, F., Ochieng', A.A., &Onyango, M. (2013). This has limited the fund to young people who have other sources of income (Mburu, 2010). The number of successful applicants remained at 50% of the total applicants which concurred with the findings that accessing YEDF loan was still a challenge to young people Amenya, C.O. (2011). Only 15% of respondents had applied for C-YES while 10% for loans from FIs and all of them felt the loan was sufficient for them. The average amount of loan disbursed ranged from Ksh 25,000 to Kshs 50,000 for C-YES and Kshs 21,000 to Kshs 40,000 for FIs respectively. FIs remained very important partners to the fund as they have disbursed 7 times as much as had been disbursed by C-YES. Repayment of the YEDF loans is one of the challenges facing the fund in many counties in the country Odhiambo, O., Okoth, O.S., Okelo, S., Aila, F., Ochieng', A.A., &Onyango, M. (2013). In all the constituencies in Siaya County, the repayment rate was less than 50%, this had two implications; the amount available for disbursement to other youths was inadequate and the individual members of the groups could not obtain E-YES (Odhiambo et al 2013). Thus, the funding of other groups becomes a challenge. Consequently, as Odhiambo et al (2013) established the critical problem faced by MFIs is limited and unreliable sources of funding and inflation which erodes the monetary value of the currency. Mburu (2010) observes that the loan given was minimal below Kshs 20,000 and that some lending institutions required collaterals which indicates that a small fraction of the youth are likely to have access to the funding. Thus, this study seeks to establish how adequacy of funding influences job creation and profitability of projects funded by youth enterprise development fund.

Mary Stella and Kithae (2015) conducted a study on the effects of lending conditions on accessibility of funds for youth entrepreneurs in Matungu constituency, Kakamega County, Kenya. The study employed a descriptive survey design and stratified sampling design to select a sample size of 66 respondents from registered youth groups in Matungu Constituency. The study adopted questionnaires as instruments of data collection. Additionally focus group discussions were conducted to have an in-depth understanding of the issues. The results indicated that lending conditions posed a challenge to young entrepreneurs since they did not fully meet the criteria. For instance, the study established that financial institutions (FI) do not have youth friendly products and services making it difficult to access loans easily. Moreover, it was established that the youths could not get a loan from the institution unless they opened an account with the FI. Study further established that lack of collateral, lack of access to institutional capital and higher interest rates hinder youths from accessing the funds (MaryStella& Kithae2, 2015). However, this study restricted itself to lending institutions and did not address factors that hinder accessibility to YEDF which the current study seeks to accomplish.

Njeru and Gichimu (2015) reviewed the influence of access to land and finances on youth participation in agriculture. It was established that access to finance is just as important as access to land since in some regions youth have access to land but lack the finance to invest in the land. Njeru and Gichimu (2015) argued that access to agricultural credit may enhance productivity and promote standards of living by reducing poverty for the youth. The review also indicated that that in Kenya, the lack of capital and access to affordable credit is cited by youth as the main factor behind the low productivity in agriculture. Njeru and Gichimu (2015) reported that young women face additional barriers to access credit even though it is proven that they are more reliable clients than men. The review indicated that on average, young women have lower literacy levels than men; often lack collateral like land and in some communities, their mobility is restricted. Njeru and Gichimu (2015) further indicated that credit accessibility challenges notwithstanding, young people in rural areas are often hesitant of taking loans because they are afraid they may not be able to manage the reimbursement. Since youths targeted by YEDF are also likely to participate in agricultural ventures, it is likely that some youths face similar challenges related to accessibility to credit reported by Njeru and Gichim. However, Njeru and Gichim review was not restricted to YEDF but rather all kinds credit from different financial institutions. Thus, there is need to investigate the constraints that deter youths to accessing funding.

Thuo (2014) sought to determine the influence of the accessibility of credit facilities on the growth of micro enterprises in Nakuru Municipality. The study employed descriptive research design with a sample size of 169. Data was collected through use of questionnaires. Inferential and descriptive statistics were used as data analysis techniques with the aid of statistical package for social scientist (SPSS). The study established that high interest rates affect growth of micro enterprises, use of collateral lowers access to credit, business skills influences on the growth of micro enterprise and the nature of business influences on access to credit. Since most youths have no or little collateral, it is possible that access to funding might be limited by such factors. However, the study concentrated on micro enterprises whose owners may be of any age group. Thus, there is need to investigate factors that hinder youth accessibility to funding.

Sebopetji and Belete (2009) applied probit analysis to factors affecting small-scale farmers' decision to take credit. The results revealed that farming experience, gender and marital status have positive significant effect on farmers' decision to use credit. It is likely that such factors may influence youths to take up credit. However, this needs to be ascertained through a systematic study like the one being proposed. In contrast, Sebopetji and Belete (2009) established that farmers' age, education level and membership to farmers' association had negative significant effect. It is possible that similar factors such as age, educational level and membership to a specific group may deter some youths from accessing credit. Nonetheless, this assertion needs to be backed with empirical data.

Moraa (2012) investigated the institutional factors influencing access to credit by youth-owned enterprises in Embakasi South Constituency, with a particular focus on the YEDF. The study targeted youth groups who owned macro and small enterprises in Embakasi South Constituency, and specifically those who had applied for YEDF loans and were either successful or unsuccessful. Descriptive research design was used to carry out this study. The study found that, youth who stayed for longer as a group was more likely to apply and get YEDF loans than those who formed groups to apply for the loan. However, the study indicated that education level among group members was not a factor that influenced access to YEDF. This is contrary to Sebopetji and Belete (2009) study which indicated that educational level negatively influence. These conflicting results call for further studies in the area of accessibility to funding. Moraa (2012) also established that youth group leadership influenced access to YEDF. The study also indicated gender discrimination during group formation was also a factor that influenced access to YEDF. The YEDF loan conditions and regulatory procedures, such as, long time to respond and disburse funds, developing business plans, and bureaucracy also posed a challenge to youth applicants. Although the study pointed out some of the factors that may hinder access to YEDF, the study was restricted to youth owned enterprises. However, the current study will involve all the youth groups irrespective whether they have enterprises or not.

2.3.4 Impact of monitoring and evaluation on the Sustainability of youth projects

Greene (2009) assessed the impact of different evaluation methodologies on UK enterprise program. The study indicated that different evaluation methodologies generate radically different evidence of the impact of the program. Greene (2009) established that simpler forms of evaluation tend to provide positive support for this program, whereas more sophisticated evaluations are not so positive. Once youths access YEDF, it is unclear whether the government has modalities of monitoring and evaluating the funded projects. If this is done, it is also unclear the methods used to monitor and evaluate in addition to the effects of the monitoring and evaluation processes. Thus, there is need to carry out a systematic study to provide empirical data on these issues.

According to Amenya et al (2011), lack of frequent monitoring and evaluation is a challenge to the YEDF and to a very high extent affects its implementation. The YEDF officers do not provide adequate guidance on YEDF activities to the youth and there is lack of follow-up on loan beneficiaries (Amenya et al., 2011). A study by Odhiambo et al (2013) established that lack of adequate repayment structures and lack of repayment avenues was a problem. This could be a result of lack of monitoring of the projects funded by YEDF. To improve on the viability of the youth enterprises, Odhiambo et al (2013) proposed that there was need for the Government to aggressively market the youth products, engage the youth entrepreneurship training before and after obtaining the loans and to provide necessary market information to the youth so as to gain competitive advantage in their areas of operation. This points out the need for constant monitoring and evaluation of the projects funded by YEDF. Thus, this study seeks to establish the influence of monitoring and evaluation on the success of projects funded by youth enterprise development fund.

Waithera and Wanyoike (2015) investigated the influence of project monitoring and evaluation on performance of youth funded agribusiness projects in Bahati Sub-county, Nakuru Kenya. The study indicated that most of youths do not consider monitoring and evaluation as an important phase in theproject. This study showed that only the training of staff had a statistically significant influence on project monitoring and evaluation performance of youth funded agribusiness projects (p value of 0.01, <0.05). The study concluded that youth fund managers should consider offering short, formal monitoring and evaluation training courses to all youth groups that apply for the funds.

Monitoring an evaluation is crucial part of the management cycle including in planning and design of projects (Gyorkos, 2003). Project planners should align monitoring and evaluation activities into the project plan with such elements included as persons to carry out the evaluations, frequency, budget for the activities as well as specification on how to report and use the findings. Evaluation is a tool which is used for providing knowledge in order to allow continued implementation. Ex-post evaluation can also be used for impact assessment. Jody and Ray (2004) identified complementary roles of the two functions. Information from monitoring feeds evaluation in order to acquire an understanding and acquire lessons in the middle or at the end of the project with regards to what went right to wrong for the learning purpose. This could aid in the redesigning of the project.

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2.3 Conceptual Framework

Theconceptualframeworkexplainsthe relationshipbetweentheindependentvariablesandthe dependentvariables.Theformerispresumedtobethecauseofthechangeswhiletheformer influencesthe latter (Kothari,2003).Independentvariablesarevariablesthatinvestigatorhas no controlover.Insomestudies independentvariablesmightbemanipulatedbytheinvestigator.However,indescriptive studiesthe investigator may not be able to manipulate the independent variable like he/she may in experimental studies. It may be somethingthatisalreadythere andisfixed,somethingyouwouldlike toevaluate withrespecttohowitaffects something else. It assumed that factors which influence implementation of YEDF are already in place hence the investigator cannot manipulate them. Thus, the conceptual framework of this study is based on the assumption that accessibility to YEDF, entrepreneurial training, adequacy of funding and monitoring and evaluation of YEDF funded projects determines successful implementation of these projects. Successful implementation of YEDF projects form the dependent variable while accessibility to YEDF, entrepreneurial training, adequacy of funding and monitoring and evaluation of YEDF funded projects forms the independent variables. A dependent variable is something that depends on another one.

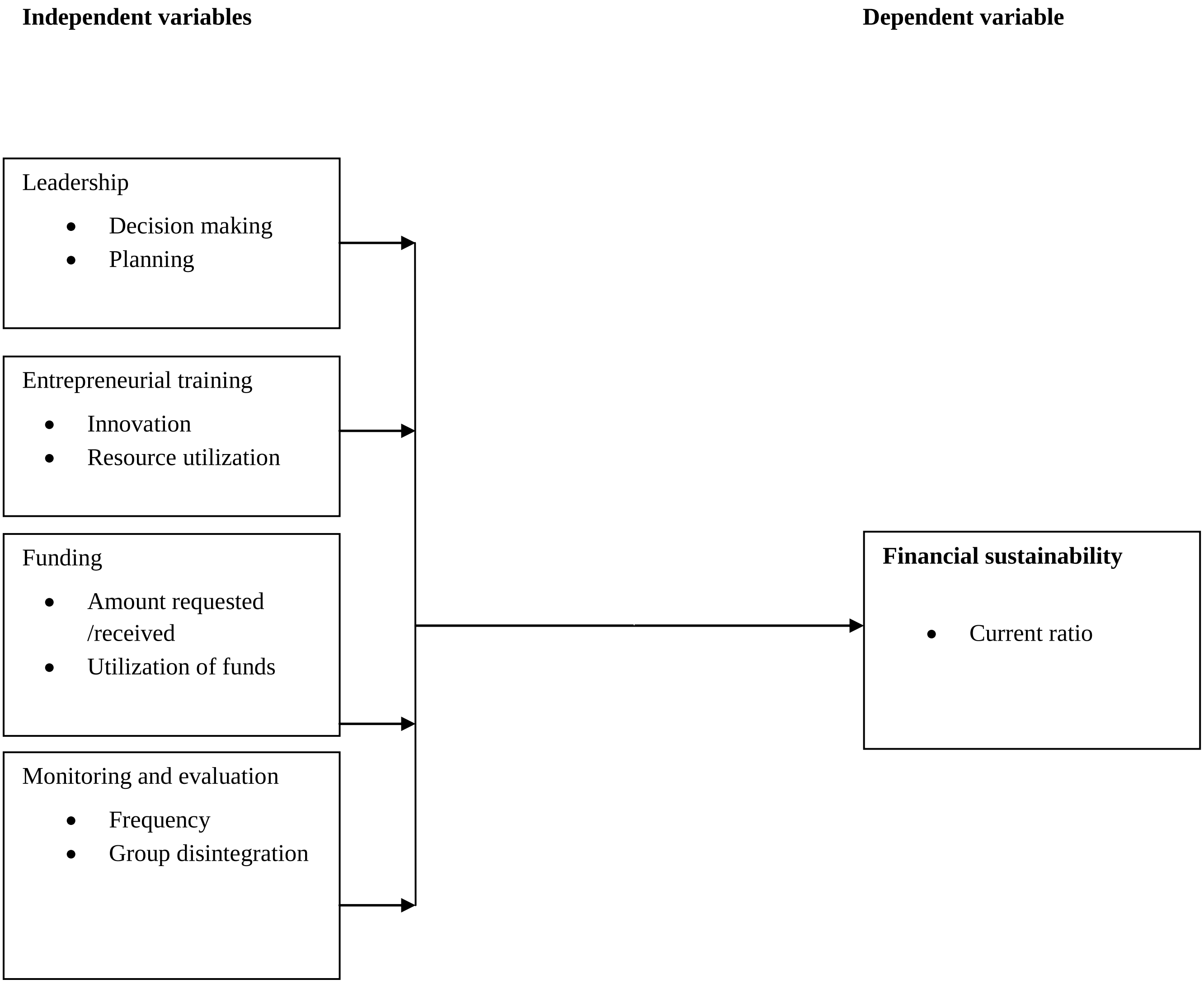

Figure 2.1: Conceptual framework

2.3 Research gaps

Review of literature indicated that leaders involved in the project plays an instrumental role in the success of such projects. However, the review concentrated on community based projects. Thus, the current study sought to establish the influence of leadership on sustainability of the projects. The review also indicated that appropriate usage of resources and nature of activities that youths invest in are largely guided by the group leadership. Thus, it is more likely that the leadership of a group could contribute to financial sustainability of a group to a large extent. Thus, the current study sought to establish the influence of leadership on sustainability of the projects. The review further indicated that leader characteristics are vital for financial planning and implementation of projects which ultimately results in financially sustainable projects. However, this assertion needs to be supported by empirical evidence. Thus, the current study sought to establish the influence of leadership on sustainability of the projects.

Although, the review established the importance of training, these studies did not provide significant level of the influence of training on sustainability of projects funded by YEDF. The current study however sought to provide evidence as to whether training exerts significant influence on financial sustainability of projects funded by YEDF by employing inferential statistics.

The review further indicated that inadequate funding hinders expansion of youth projects. It is however not clear whether YEDF provides sufficient funds to help youth expand their enterprises and create jobs. Study review further established that lack of collateral, lack of access to institutional capital and higher interest rates hinder youths from accessing the funds. However, these studies restricted themselves to lending institutions and did not address factors that hinder accessibility to YEDF which the current study seeks to accomplish.

Once youths access YEDF, it is unclear whether the government has modalities of monitoring and evaluating the funded projects. If this is done, it is also unclear the methods used to monitor and evaluate in addition to the effects of the monitoring and evaluation processes. Thus, there is need to carry out a systematic study to provide empirical data on these issues.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

In this section the researcher present the methodology that will be used to carry out the study. The section consists of the research design, target population, sampling procedures and sample size, research instruments, reliability and validity of the instruments, data collection procedures and data analysis.

3.2 ResearchDesign

Adescriptivesurveyapproachwasadoptedtoobtaininformationconcerningfactors influencing the implementation of youth funds in Maara Sub-County, TharakaNithi County, Kenya. Thepurposeofdescriptivesurveyisbasicallytoobserve,describeanddocument aspectsofsituationsasitnaturallyoccurs.Thefactthatitisnotconcernedwithcharacteristicsof individualsbutprovidesinformationaboutpopulationmadethepreferredresearchdesign(Kothari, 2009). Adescriptivestudy waschosenbecauseitenabled generalization ofthefindingstoalargerpopulation.

3.3 Location of the study

The study was carried out in Maara Sub-County, TharakaNithi County, Kenya. The choice of Maara Sub-County as a location was based on the observation that there had been increased registration of youth groups in the Sub-County. Some of these groups had been able to access youth funds and the projects invested in had posted mixed results with some failing while others had been successful. However, little was known as to why some of the projects funded by the YEDF succeed while others failed. Thus, this study sought to fill this research gap through conducting an investigation on factors influencing the implementation of youth funds in Maara Sub-County, TharakaNithi County, Kenya.

3.4 Target Population

Target population is defined as all the members of a real or hypothetical set of people, events or objects to which a researcher wishes to generalize the results of the research study (Borg & Gall, 1989).TheTargetpopulation for this study was 205 youth group leaders in Maara Sub-County that had been funded. The youth group leaders were targeted because they had the necessary information to answer study objectives. The study also targeted two YEDF officers in the Sub-County. The YEDF officers in the Sub-County were targeted because they were based placed to understand sustainability of projects funded by YEDF and because they are directly involved in monitoring and evaluation of these projects.Thus, the total target population for this study was 207. Table 3.1 shows a summary of the target youth groups.

Table 3. 1. Youth groups

Division	Number of youth groups
Chogoria	60
Mwimbi	38
Muthambi	53
Marima	44
Total	205

3.5 SampleandSamplingTechnique

This study used Cochran's (1977) categorical data sample size formula to determine the sample size as shown below;

$$n_o = \frac{(t)^2 * (p)(q)}{(d)^2}$$

Where t = value for selected alpha level of 0.025 in each tail = 1.96.
Where (p)(q) = estimate of variance = 0.25.
Where d = acceptable margin of error for proportion being estimated = 0.05
Therefore,

$$no = \frac{(1.96)^2(0.5)(0.5)}{(0.05)^2} = 384$$

However, this sample size is for a population of 10,000 or more. Since this sample size exceeds 5% of the population (207*0.05=10), Cochran's (1977) correction formula was used to calculate the final sample size. These calculations are as follows:

$$n1 = \frac{no}{(1 + no / Population)}$$

$$n1 = \frac{(384)}{(1 + 384/207)} = 135$$

Thus, the sample size was 135. Thus, two of the respondents were YEDF officials while 133 were youth group leaders. Stratified random sampling was used to sample the 133 youth leaders. The stratum in this case was the division. Table 3.2 provides a sample matrix for youth leaders.

Table 3.2: Sample Matrix

Division	Target	Sample
Chogoria	64	42
Mwimbi	40	26
Muthambi	55	36
Marima	46	29
Total	205	133

3.6 Research instruments

Primary data was collected using two sets of questionnaires (one for youth group members and the other for the youth enterprise development fund officials) that were administered by the researcher. A questionnaire for the youth group members and for the youth enterprise development fund officials enabled there searcher to get first hand information about the problem. It will also provided an opportunity for anonymity to promote high response rate (Mugenda and Mugenda,2003).

3.7 DataCollectionProcedure

The researcher sought authorization to conduct the research from the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI). The researcher also sought a letter of consent from the Director of youth affairs of Maara Sub-County. The researcher assured respondents of confidentiality of the information gathered while distributing the instruments to the respondents. The researcher collected the filled-in questionnaires later for data analysis.

3.8 PilotTesting

Prior to collecting actual data, the researcher conducted a pilot study in the neighboring Meru Central Sub-County among four youth group that were not included in the actual study. This helped to identify potentialproblemareasandclarifiedtherespondents'interpretationofeachquestion.Thequestionnaires werethen revisedbasedontheresultsofthepilot study.

3.8.1 Validity

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (1999), validity is the accuracy and meaningfulness of inferences, which are based on the research results. In this study two types of validity were considered: face validity and content validity. Face validity refers to the likelihood that a question will be misunderstood or misinterpreted. Pre-testing survey is a good way to increase the likelihood of face validity. The pilot study was used to identify items in the questionnaire that were ambiguous or unclear to the respondents and change them effectively. Content validity refers to whether an instrument provides adequate coverage of a topic. Expert opinions help to establish content validity (Mugenda and Mugenda, 1999). According to Borg and Gall (1989) content validity of an instrument is improved through expert judgment. As such, assistance was sought from the supervisors and other experts from the University, in order to help improve content validity of the instruments.

3.8.2 Reliability

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (1999) reliability is a measure of the degree to which a research instrument yields consistent results or data after repeated trial. The pilot study enabled the researcher to assess the clarity of the questionnaire items so that those items found to be inadequate or vague were modified to improve the quality of the research instrument thus increasing its reliability. The researcher used split half technique in order to test reliability of the instruments. The instruments were given to similar subjects for the study but not those that were used in the final study. The same instruments were administered to the same group of subjects after two weeks. A comparison between the answers obtained was made using Spearman's Correlation Coefficient Formulae. The coefficient indicates the degree to which the two halves of the test provide the same results and hence describe the internal consistency of the test. According to Orodho (2004) the Spearman's Co-efficient of Correlation (also referred to as the Spearman's rank order correlation) is a technique determining the degree of correlation or association between two variables in case of ordinal data where ranks are given to the different values of the variables. The main purpose of this co-efficient of correction is to determine the extent to which two sets of ranking are similar or dissimilar. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) a minimum correlation coefficient of 0.7 is recommended as indicating that an instrument is reliable. Thus, a correlation coefficient of 0.7 was deemed to indicate that study instruments are reliable.

3.9 DataAnalysis

Completedquestionnaireswere editedforcompletenessandconsistency.Datacollectedwascoded usinga predeterminedcodingschemeandanalyzedbothqualitativelyandquantitatively. The researcherused the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 17 to analyze quantitative data.Quantitativeanalysiswasdoneusingdescriptivestatistics such asfrequencycounts,percentages,tablesandgraphstodescribedistributions,per-chartstoshow differencesinfrequencies andbarchartstodisplaynominalor ordinaldata. Thedatawaspresented usinggraphs,andtables aswas foundappropriateforeachsetofdata. Thematic data analysis was used to analyse qualitative data. This involved identification and description of both implicit and explicit ideas within the data in form of themes as suggested by Dey (1993). Thematic analysis in this study entails data familiarization, coding, categorization, identification of patterns and interpretation of the patterns. The data was then presented in form of narratives.

3.10 Logical and ethical issues

The researcher ensured that questionnaires are neat, easy to use and clearly worded to enable the respondents answer questions correctly and with ease. Moreover, the questionnaires had clear instructions and adequate spaces left for the answers from the respondents. Authority to conduct the research was sought from all relevant authorities. All respondents were briefed about the purpose of the study beforehand and be assured of confidentiality about the data they provide.

Anonymity of the respondents as well as that of their youth group was guaranteed by requesting the respondents neither to indicate their name nor that of the group. Care was taken to ensure that administration of the questionnaires did not interfere with normal operations of the group activities.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the study as analysed from the primary data that was collected through questionnaires. The study sought to find out management factors influencing financial sustainability of youth group projects funded by youth enterprise development fund in Maara Sub-County of TharakaNithi County.

4.2 General information

The study sought to establish the gender of the respondents. The results are presented in Figure 4.2.1.

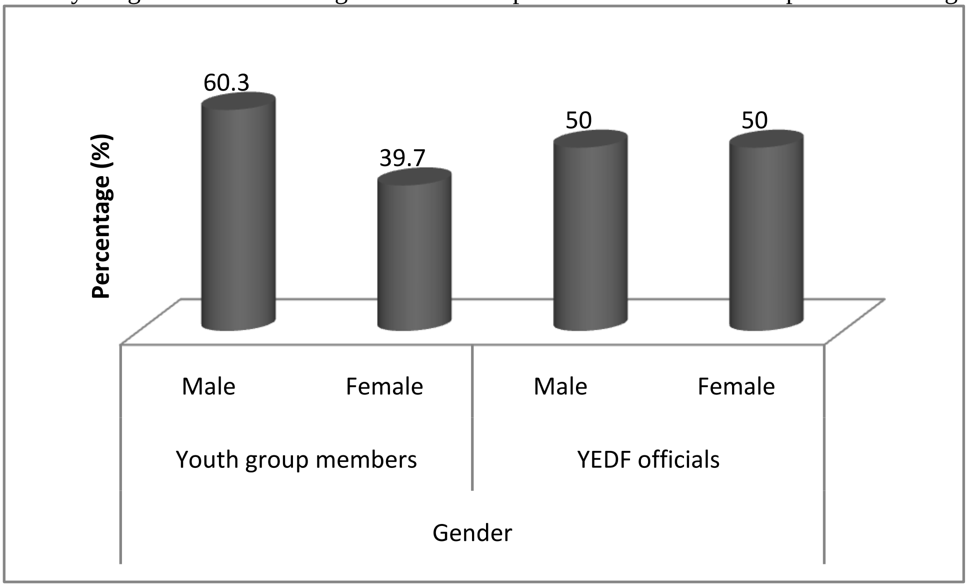

Figure 4.2.1: Gender of the respondents

The results in Figure 4.2.1 indicated that majority (63.3%) of the youth group members sampled were males while 39.7 percent of them were female. This implies that most yputh groups might be composed mainly of males. The results however indicated that YEDF officials were gender balanced.
Information on the ages of the youth group leaders was also sought. The summary of the results are summarized in Figure 4.2.2.

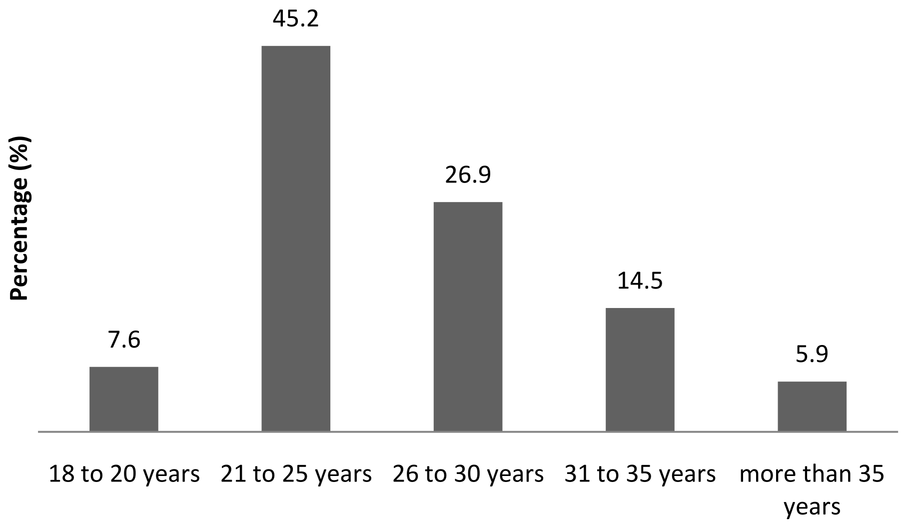

Figure 4.2.2: Ages of the youth group leaders

The results indicated that45.2 percent of the youths were aged between 21 and 25 years while 26.9 percent were aged between 26 and 30 years. This implies that most youth groups are composed of young people aged between 21 and 30 years.
The study further sought information about the youth groups. The results are summarized in Figure 4.2.3.

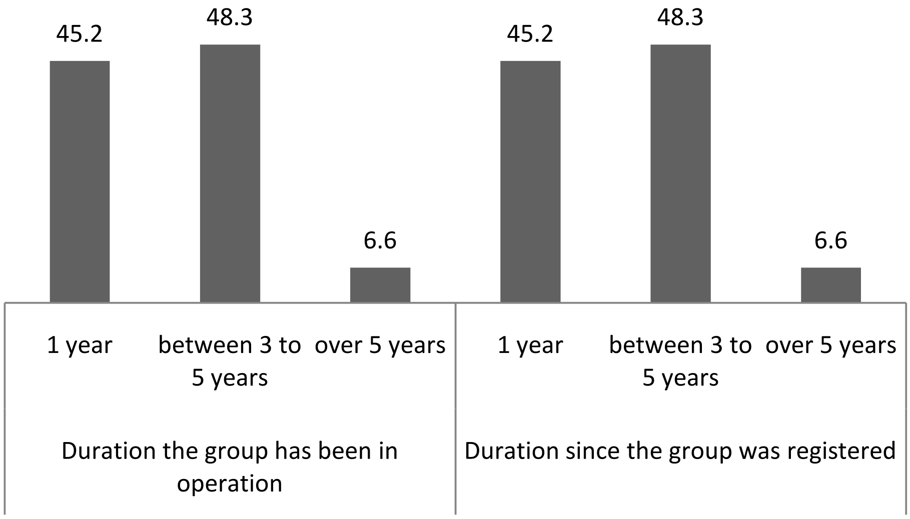

Figure 4.2.3: Youth group age

The results indicated that 48.3 percent of the youth groups have been in operation for between 3 to 5 years with the same percent having been registered within the same period. A further 45.2 percent of the youth groups have been in operation for one year. It is apparent from Figure 4 that most groups are registered immediately they are formed. Only 6.6 percent of the youth groups had been in operation/registered for more than five years.

The study further sought to establish the main sources of income for youth groups. It was established that most income for the youth groups emanate from members' contributions in form of savings and proceeds from table banking loans. It is surprising that no group member indicated that their income emanates from group projects. However, the youth members indicated that in some instances they get funding from YEDF and Uwezo funds. This is an indicator that YEDF might be accessible to some youths.

4.3 Financial Sustainability

The study collected data on total current assets and current liabilities. The mean total current assets and mean total liabilities are shown in Table 4.1.

Table 4.3.1: **Average current assets and current liabilities**

	Mean (Ksh)	Standard deviation
Current assets	582360	2300
Current liabilities	276,000	1670

The results indicated that groups had a mean current asset of Ksh. 582360 (STD=2300) and a mean current liabilities of Ksh. 276,000 (STD=1670). This is an indication that the groups had higher current assets than current liabilities. In order to determine the financial sustainability of the groups, current ratio was computed. The result indicated that the groups had an average current ratio of 2.1 implying that most groups were largely financially sustainable. These findings differs from Kimando, Njogu and Kihoro, (2012) study which reported that most of the youth projects funded by YEDF have low survival rates.

4.4 YEDF and youth group leadership

The first objective of the study sought to determine the influence of leadership on financial sustainability of youth income generating projects. The respondents were required to indicate their level of agreement to various statements related to leadership and financial sustainability of projects funded by YEDF. The results are summarized in Table 4.4.1.

Table 4.4.1: **Influence of leadership on financial sustainability of youth income generating projects**

	SA		A		U		D		SD	
Statement	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Leaders have little say on the projects funded by YEDF	0	0	18	13.8	0	0	88	66.2	27	20.0
Youth leaders make informed decisions on the kind of projects the group invests in	88	66.2	27	20.0	0	0	18	13.8	0	0
Youth leaders consult group members on the running of projects funded by YEDF	63	47.6	27	20.0	25	18.6	0	0	18	13.8
Youth leaders are often responsible for failure or success of most youth group projects funded by YEDF	63	47.6	52	38.6	0	0	0	0	18	13.8
Youth leaders ensure that loans taken from YEDF are paid promptly	81	60.7	34	25.5	0	0	0	0	18	13.8
Youth leaders in your group have ensured that most projects invested in are profitable and can sustain the monetary needs of the group	90	67.6	25	18.6	0	0	0	0	18	13.8
Most projects funded by YEDF make loses because of poor leadership	0	0	0	0	0	0	115	86.2	18	13.8

The results indicated that most (66.2%) of the youths disagreed and 20 percent of them strongly disagreed that leaders have little say on the projects funded by YEDF. This implies that group leaders play a major role in the projects that the group invests in. The finding supports Oino, Kirui, Towet and Luvega (2015) study which indicated that leaders involved in the project plays an instrumental role in the success of such projects. The results also showed that most (66.2%) of the youths strongly agreed and 20 percent of them agreed that youth leaders make informed decisions on the kind of projects the group invests in. This implies that youth leaders make due diligent prior to advocating for the funding of any projects even though they take into consideration the views of other group members. The finding concurs with Njuki, Mwangombe, Okoth and Mutua (2013) study finding which indicated that group leaders play a vital role on determining the nature of activities that youth groups are involved in which ultimately affect the enterprises' product/service marketability and operational continuity. It was also established that majority (47.6%) of the youths strongly agreed and 20 percent of them agreed that Youth leaders are often responsible for failure or success of most youth group projects funded by YEDF. This implies that youth leaders need to be well endowed makes so as to ensure that projects they invest in are financially sustainable since they play a key role in whether a project will succeed or fail. This results corroborates Karanja (2014) study which revealed that group leaders with sound financial management, appropriate training, better leadership and effective monitoring and evaluation influence the sustainability of the youth projects. The information also indicated that majority (47.6%) of the youths strongly agreed and 38.6 percent of them agreed that youth leaders consult group members on the running of projects funded by YEDF. The results indicated that 60.7 percent of the youths strongly agreed and 25.5 percent of them agreed that youth leaders ensure that loans taken from YEDF are paid promptly. This implies that youth group leaders are responsible for the repayment of loans secured from YEDF and hence they have a moral responsibility to invest in financially viable projects. This finding supports UNESCO (2008) report which argued that most projects fail due to inexperienced project leaders. Information in Table 4.1 also indicated that 67.6 percent of the youths strongly agreed and 18.6 percent of them agreed that youth leaders in your group have ensured that most projects invested in are profitable and can sustain the monetary needs of the group. This is an indication that youth leaders strive to ensure that youth projects are successful in terms of return on investment. It was further established that 86.2 percent of the youths disagreed that most projects funded by YEDF make loses because of poor leadership. This implies that leadership is not solely responsible for the failure of success of a project funded by YEDF.

4.5 Youth entrepreneurship training and sustainability of projects funded by YDF

The second objective of the study sought to establish the influence of youth entrepreneurship training on sustainability of projects funded by YEDF. The study first sought to establish whether the youths had received some kind of entrepreneurial training. The study supports Kanyari and Namusonge (2013) study which established that the provision of continuous and relevant business development services to youth entrepreneurs is key to the success of enterprise development initiatives in creating long term employment. All the youths affirmed that they had received some kind of entrepreneurial training. The youths further indicated that the training had enabled group members to implement their projects. The youths also indicated that the only training they received was from YEDF and not any other financial institution. This implies that YEDF is committed in provision of training to the youths even though not all of them have received funding from YEDF. The results further indicate that the training has been instrumental in the running of youth's projects. However, to ascertain this the respondents were requested to indicate their level of agreement with various statements related to training. The results are presented in Table 4.5.1.

Table 4.5. 1: Influence of youth entrepreneurship training on sustainability of projects funded by YEDF

Statement	SA		A		U		D		SD	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Entrepreneurial training has enabled our group to come up with new innovative projects	81	60.7	34	25.5	0	0	0	0	18	13.8
Increased entrepreneurship training has allowed our group to improve our resource utilization Youth enterprise development fund	90	67.6	25	18.6	0	0	0	0	18	13.8
Increased entrepreneurship training has allowed our group to greatly improve repayment of Youth enterprise development fund loans	115	86.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	13.8
Increased entrepreneurship training has allowed our	90	67.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	32.4

group to greatly reduce reliance on external funding										
Increased entrepreneurship training has allowed our group members to set up successful individual projects	72	54.5	42	31.7	0	0	0	0	18	13.8

The results indicated that 60.7 percent of the youths strongly agreed and 25.5 percent of them agreed that entrepreneurial training has enabled our group to come up with new innovative projects. This implies that entrepreneurial training spurs inn ovation among youths. The finding concurs with Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) argument that enterprise education provides the values and basics of starting and running a business. Information in Table 6 also indicated that 67.6 percent of the youths strongly agreed and 18.6 percent of them agreed that increased entrepreneurship training had allowed their group to improve their resource utilization of Youth enterprise development fund. The results supports Alzúa, Cruces and Erazo(2013) finding that training increases the ability of an individual or a group to utilize available resources such as credit facilities. This is an indication that training is fundamental for proper utilization of YEDF. It was further established that 67.6 percent of the youths agreed that increased entrepreneurship training had allowed their group to greatly reduce reliance on external funding. This implies that training helps youths to become self-reliant through initiation of successful projects that can earn the group income. The results further showed that 54.5 percent of the youths strongly agreed and 31.7 percent of them agreed that increased entrepreneurship training has allowed our group members to set up successful individual projects. This is an indication that entrepreneurial training empowers youths to initiate personal ventures that enhance their independence through creation of self-employment.

4.6 Adequate funding of youth projects by YEDF and job creation and profitability of the projects.

The third objective of the study sought to establish whether funding of youth projects by YEDF was adequate towards job creation and profitability of the projects. The study first sought to establish the amount various groups had received from YEDF. The results are summarized in Table 4.6.1.

Table 4.6. 1: Amount received from YEDF

Amount received from YEDF	Frequency	Percent
.00	52	39.3
25000.00	18	13.1
50000.00	9	6.9
100000.00	9	6.9
110000.00	10	7.6
125000.00	35	26.2
Total	133	100.0

The results indicated that 39.3 percent of the youths indicated that they had not received any amount from YEDF. However, those who received the amount ranged from KShs. 25,000 to KShs.125,000 with majority (26.2%) of the youths indicating that they had received KShs.125,000 from YEDF. A substantial percent (13.1%) indicated that they had received KShs.25,000. It is however, not clear whether the amount received was adequate for the projects anticipated. Thus the study sought to establish whether the amount was adequate. The respondents were requested to state their level of agreement with various statements related to adequacy of YEDF funds. The results are summarized in Table 4.6.1.

Table 4.6. 2: Funding of youth groups by YEDF

Statement	SA		A		U		D		SD	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Youth enterprise development fund loans are adequate for the projects requested for	34	25.5	61	45.5	9	6.9	29	22.1	0	0
Youth groups seek additional funding to complete projects funded by Youth enterprise development fund loans.	81	60.7	52	39.3	0	0	0	0	0	0

Adequate funding of the projects by Youth enterprise development fund loans enables our group to easily repay the loan within the specified period	82	61.4	27	20.0	0	0	25	18.6	0	0
Adequate funding of projects by Youth enterprise development fund determines the success of the funded projects	74	55.5	27	20.0	8	5.9	8	5.9	17	12.8

The results indicated that 45.5 percent of the youths agreed and 25.5 percent of them strongly agreed that youth enterprise development fund loans are adequate for the projects requested for. This implies that most groups receive sufficient funds for the projects they request for. Nonetheless, 22.1 percent of the youths indicated that the loans provided by YEDF are insufficient. This implies that some groups might be receiving fewer amounts than they do request from YEDF and hence they are unable to accomplish the intended projects. The finding concur with Okurut and Ama (2013) study finding which reported that inadequate funding hinders expansion of youth projects. This assertion is supported by 60.7 percent of the youths who strongly agreed ad 39.3 percent of them who agreed that youth groups seek additional funding to complete projects funded by youth enterprise development fund loans. The findings support Amenya, C.O. (2011) who reported that YEDF has not received sufficient funding and hence youth projects are not adequately funded.

It was also established that 61.4 percent of the youths agreed that adequate funding of the projects by youth enterprise development fund loans enables our group to easily repay the loan within the specified period. This implies that when projects are adequately funded they enable the groups to initiate the projects and able to repay the loans borrowed. This could be an indication that when group projects are well funded they are able to be profitable and hence be sustainable. The finding supports Odhiambo et al (2013) study finding which established the critical problem faced by MFIs is limited and unreliable sources of funding and inflation which erodes the monetary value of the currency. This assertion was supported by 55.5 percent of the youths who strongly agreed and 20 percent of them who agreed that adequate funding of projects by Youth enterprise development fund determines the success of the funded projects.

4.7 Monitoring and evaluation of youth projects and sustainability of the projects

The fourth objective sought to establish the influence of monitoring and evaluation of youth projects funded by YEDF on the sustainability of the projects. The results are summarized in Table 4.7.1.

Table 4.7.1: Influence of monitoring and evaluation of youth projects funded by YEDF on the sustainability

Statement	SA		A		U		D		SD	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Projects funded by Youth enterprise development fund are often monitored and evaluated by the officials from government	74	55.5	42	31.7	17	12.8	0	0	0	0
Projects funded by Youth enterprise development fund are less monitored and evaluated than those funded by other lending institutions	35	26.6	17	13.1	17	12.8	63	47.6	0	0
Monitoring and evaluation by lending organization often increases the success of the funded projects	39	29.0	78	58.3	17	12.8	0	0	0	0
Lack of monitoring and evaluation of projects funded by Youth enterprise development fund often leads to diversion of the funds to other projects other than those funded for	74	55.5	17	13.1	17	12.8	0	0	25	18.6
Lack of monitoring and evaluation of projects funded by Youth enterprise development fund often results in the collapse of the projects	74	55.5	17	13.1	17	12.8	0	0	25	18.6
Lack of monitoring and evaluation of projects funded by Youth enterprise development fund	82	61.4	34	25.9	17	12.8	0	0	0	0

often results in the disintegration of the group

The results in table 4.5 shows that 55.5 percent of the youths strongly agreed and 31.7 of them agreed projects funded by Youth enterprise development fund are often monitored and evaluated by the officials from the government. This implies that there are some form of monitoring and evaluation of the projects funded by YEDF. This view was supported by 47.6 percent of the youths who disagreed that projects funded by Youth enterprise development fund are less monitored and evaluated than those funded by other lending institutions. The finding differs from Amenya et al (2011) who reported that lack of frequent monitoring and evaluation is a challenge to the YEDF and to a very high extent affects its implementation.

The results further indicated that 58.3 of the youths agreed and 29 percent of them strongly agreed that monitoring and evaluation by lending organization often increases the success of the funded projects. This implies that youths not only require funding but also supervision in form of monitoring and evaluation of the projects invested in by the funding financial firms to increase the success of such projects. This assertion is supported by the information in Table 9 which shows that 55.5 percent of the youths strongly agreed that lack of monitoring and evaluation of projects funded by Youth enterprise development fund often leads to diversion of the funds to other projects other than those funded for. This implies that without proper monitoring ad evaluation of the projects funded, the youths might not implement the projects which the funds were intended for to completion. This supports Waithera and Wanyoike (2015) study finding which indicated that most of youths do not consider monitoring and evaluation as an important phase in theproject. This may result in failure by the government to realize its goals of empowering youths through YEDF. This argument was supported by 55.5 percent of the youths who strongly agreed that lack of monitoring and evaluation of projects funded by Youth enterprise development fund often results in the collapse of the projects. The assertion was further augmented by 61.4 percent of the youths who strongly agreed that lack of monitoring and evaluation of projects funded by Youth enterprise development fund often results in the disintegration of the group.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary of the Study Finding

The first objective of the study sought to determine the influence of leadership on financial sustainability of youth income generating projects. The results indicated group leaders play a major role in the projects that the group invests in. The results also showed youth leaders make due diligent prior to advocating for the funding of any projects even though they take into consideration the views of other group members. It was also established that youth leaders need to be well endowed makes so as to ensure that projects they invest in are financially sustainable since they play a key role in whether a project will succeed or fail. The results indicated youth group leaders are responsible for the repayment of loans secured from YEDF and hence they have a moral responsibility to invest in financially viable projects. It was also established that youth leaders strive to ensure that youth projects are successful in terms of return on investment. However, the results also indicated that youth group leadership is not solely responsible for the failure of success of a project funded by YEDF.

The second objective of the study sought to establish the influence of youth entrepreneurship training on sustainability of projects funded by YEDF. All the youths affirmed that they had received some kind of entrepreneurial training. The youths further indicated that the training had enabled group members to implement their projects. Nonetheless, the training was only received from YEDF and not any other financial institution. The study further ascertained that entrepreneurial training empowers youths to initiate personal ventures that enhance their independence through creation of self-employment, spurs innovation; reduce external funding and proper utilization of YEDF.

The third objective of the study sought to establish whether funding of youth projects by YEDF was adequate towards job creation and profitability of the projects. The study established that youths who had received YEDF funding the amount ranged from KShs. 25,000 to KShs.125,000. The study also established that most groups receive sufficient funds for the projects they request for. It was also found out that when group projects are well funded they are able to be profitable and hence be sustainable.

The fourth objective sought to establish the influence of monitoring and evaluation of youth projects funded by YEDF on the sustainability of the projects. The study found out that there are some form of monitoring and evaluation of the projects funded by YEDF. It was further established that monitoring and evaluation by lending organization often increases the success of the funded projects. It further emerged from study findings that lack of monitoring and evaluation of projects funded by Youth enterprise development fund often leads to diversion of the funds to other projects other than those funded for or collapse of the funded projects.

5.2 Conclusions

It was concluded that youth group leadership are key determinant of the success or failure of YEDF funded projects. They are expected to make due diligence prior to investing in a specified projects. The leaders act as advisors and decision makers on how the projects are run. It was also concluded that youth entrepreneurship training is essential for the financial sustainability of youth projects. This is because such training acts as empowerment of youths to initiate personal ventures, encouraging innovation, reduction of dependency on external funding and proper utilization of YEDF. The study also concluded that most groups receive sufficient funds for the projects they request for and when group projects are well funded they are able to be profitable and hence be sustainable. Finally the study concluded that monitoring and evaluation of youth projects funded by YEDF increases the success of the funded projects and reduces instances of diverting funds to other projects other than those funded for or collapse of the funded projects

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the study findings the following recommendations were made;

i. The government should increase the YEDF funds to ensure more youths access the funds
ii. The government should increase entrepreneurial training in project and financial management to enhance innovation and self-employment
iii. The government should be evaluating financial requirement for various projects which the youths seek funding in order to adequately fund them.
iv. The government should enhance monitoring and evaluation of YEDF funded projects throughout initiation and implementation phases of the projects.

5.4 Suggestions for further study

The following suggestions are made;

i. A study should be carried out on the training needs of youth groups

A similar study should be carried out in a different location using a different methodology

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