

**CONTRIBUTION OF YOUTH SELF HELP GROUP INITIATIVES TO  
SOCIO-ECONOMIC WELLBEING OF YOUTH IN DANDORA, NAIROBI  
CITY COUNTY, KENYA**

**BY  
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## DECLARATION

This thesis is my original work and has not been presented for an award of a degree in any university.

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## **DEDICATION**

This thesis is dedicated to my Family: My husband, Mr. Ambrose Kwale and our children – Grace Kavata and Adrian Kwale.

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**ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
CDF	Community Development Fund
GOK	Government of Kenya
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ILO	International Labour Organization
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MOYA	Ministry of Youth Affairs
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
RAs	Research Assistants
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Program
YEDF	Youth Enterprise Development Fund
YSHGs	Youth Self Help Groups

## **OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**Challenges:** Impediments to youth led initiatives. These include; social and cultural attitude towards youth initiatives, training, access to finance/start-up, financing, administrative and regulatory frameworks and business assistance and support.

**Economic wellbeing:** meaning income generation, asset accumulation, less liabilities, savings, investments and business growth

**Initiatives:** Include income generating activities by YSGHs such as car wash and tree planting, trade, microcredit savings and credit, capacity building for individual, environmental clean-up, networking with other like-minded organizations, engaging in policy advocacy, exchange programs, talent and sports development, organizing events among other activities.

**Management:** process of running day to day activities of a registered youth self help group.

**Opportunities :** Strengths present within all YSHG members.

**Social wellbeing:** Increased access to training, opportunities for apprenticeship, access to credit facilities, acquire management skills, acquisition of life skills, leadership development, and general safe awareness.

**System** - A group of individuals who are working in relation to one another with an aim of improving the socio-economic wellbeing of its members.

**YSHG** - A registered organization of individuals aged 18- 35 years operating with objectives of initiating and managing income generating activities aimed at improving wellbeing among its members.

**YSHG factors:** Initiatives, challenges, opportunities and sustainability strategies

**Youth** -An individual whether male or female in the age range of 18-35 years

## ABSTRACT

Estimates reveal that 1.2 billion (17%) of the world population is youth aged 15 to 24 years who constitute 40% of the world's unemployed. While the developed world has some strategies to cushion youth against unemployment, the developing and underdeveloped world are struggling with this phenomenon. Approximately 36% of Kenya's population are youths who remain marginalised and unable to contribute to their full potential in national development. Whereas numerous studies have been conducted on youth issues, a review of literature reveals a gap of information on how Youth Self Help Group (YSHG) initiatives transform the youths' socio-economic wellbeing. This study sought to assess the contribution of youth self help group initiatives to socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora, Nairobi County, Kenya. Objectives of this study were to: examine whether initiatives undertaken by youth in registered YSHGs in Dandora contribute to their socio-economic wellbeing, evaluate the influence of key challenges facing registered youth self help groups on socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora, assess the influence of key opportunities available for registered youth self help group initiatives on socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora, examine the influence of sustainability strategies adopted by registered YSHG initiatives on socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora and assess the socio-economic wellbeing of YSHG members before and after joining YSHG. The hypotheses of the study were there is no significant relationship between the YSHG initiatives, challenges, opportunities, sustainability strategies adopted and contribution of YSHG to the social economic well being of youth in Dandora. The study used the cross-sectional survey research design. The target population was all the 16 registered YSHGs in Dandora. Dandora was purposively sampled. YSHGs groups registered with Youth Initiative Kenya (YIKE) were also purposively sampled. Proportionate random sampling was used to acquire the number of items to be included in sampling frame proportionate to the number of members in each group. Simple random sampling was used to acquire the respondents for the study. The findings of this study indicated that some of the reasons for starting YSHGs was to create job opportunities, increase personal income, and gain new skills. Key initiatives undertaken by YSHGs included running cyber café, electronic & retail shops and initiatives geared towards environmental conservation such as garbage collection and tree planting. Findings indicated improved socio-economic wellbeing among the YSHG members. Indicators with greatest improvement in economic wellbeing were savings (63%), income (62%) and asset acquisition (47%). Leading social indicators of wellbeing included access to training (73%) and opportunity for apprenticeship (63%). Chi-square tests revealed significant relationship between social-economic wellbeing and the YSHG factors (initiatives undertaken ( $p=0.015$ ), financial challenges facing registered YSHG initiatives ( $p=0.034$ ), financial opportunities available to YSHGs ( $p=0.041$ ), collaboration and partnership opportunities ( $p=0.013$ ) sustainability strategies adopted by YSHG in terms of opportunities for collaboration ( $p=0.048$ ). Z-Test revealed significant difference in socio-economic wellbeing of YSHG members before and after joining YSHG ( $p=0.016$ ). Multiple regression analysis revealed that key challenges was the most predictive variable at ( $p=0.000$ ) followed by opportunities at ( $p=0.001$ ) and initiatives ( $p=0.019$ ) to social economic wellbeing. From the research findings, it was concluded that YSHGs are a good platform via which development programs can target youth to improve their social economic well being. It was recommended that youth in self helps groups be provided with financial training, formal education, psycho-social support and training in project management and proposal writing. There is need for government to streamline financing mechanisms for access to devolved funds particularly Youth Enterprise Development Fund and Uwezo Fund by the youth.

## **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background to the study**

Estimates reveal that 1.2 billion (17%) of the world is youth aged 15 to 24 years who constitute 40% of the world's unemployed. Global youth unemployment in 2013 was very high ( in Kenya 23 per cent, in the Middle East and North Africa, at 28.3 per cent and 23.7 per cent, respectively). From 2012 to 2018, the youth employment-to-population ratio is projected to decrease in all regions except in the Developed Economies and European Union (Thurlow, 2015). While the developed world has some strategies to cushion youth against unemployment, the developing and underdeveloped world are struggling with this phenomenon.

Unemployment is only one of many challenges facing young people. Youth have for a long time faced challenges related to drug abuse, crime, violence, sexuality and poverty. New issues have added to the list of challenges facing youth globally. They include identity crisis, lack of self-confidence and low self-esteem, a sense of hopelessness, negative impact of the electronic media and suppression of their role in society. All these affect socio economic development of young people. People in Sub-Saharan Africa, and also in South Asia, are among the poorest in the world, both in real income and in access to social services (Odhiambo & Hesse, 2006). Approximately 36 percent of Kenya's population are youths who remain marginalised and unable to contribute to their full potential in national development. Kenya National Human Development Report (United Nations Development Programme, 2009) considers the relationship between youth economic productivity and youth wellbeing. The report indicates presence of a low inclusion and social

integration of the youth in national development processes with respect to education, leadership, health and economic empowerment.

The youth in Kenya make up to about 32% of the population and 60% of the total labour force (Yambi, 2009). While the number of youth and tertiary institutions has increased, the labour market in Kenya is not able to accommodate this large group of skilled young graduates because there is minimal link between the education system and the labour market (MOYA 2007-2012 ). The Kenya National Youth Policy document identifies core issues underpinning the problems facing the youth. They include pressure from the high population growth, unemployment and underemployment, lack of appropriate skills, health related problems, crime and deviant behaviour, limited sports and recreation facilities, resource constraints, low status given to youth, abuse and exploitation, limited and poor housing, low access to information and communication technology (ICT), unclear and uncoordinated youth policies and programs (Youth Enterprise Development Fund, 2012 & Blum, 2007). This problem exists amid initiation of youth programs targeted at marginalized groups by the national government.

Research suggests that community involvement in the design, governance and delivery of services can improve the socio-economic status of the community members and make policy initiatives more sustainable (Wallerstein, 2006). Collier and Hoeffler (2004), Jensen (2008) and Kasper, Fleck, Gardner, Mahboub, Mohamed (2009) have seen that youth involved in group activities and civic engagement are less likely to be involved in violence and delinquency, acquire a

stronger work ethic, are more likely to maintain their cultural identity, achieve higher levels of education and obtain employment. In response, governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), through youth self-help groups, have developed policies and initiated strategies to ameliorate this problem (Bennel, 2000). Largely, youth self-help group is a conduit through which micro-credit and other developmental issues are routed to the youth in the belief that they prove catalytic in helping pull them out of poverty (Dinning & Thompson, 2010).

World over, Youth Self Help Groups are started with key intentions of improving the social, cultural and economic status of the members (Gore, 2003), (Olawale & Lynety, 2011). Objectives of YSHGs revolve around sensitization, health promotion, education, enterprise, environmental improvement, resource mobilization and information transfer or some form of empowerment of members in response to social economic marginalization. The Kenya government has established youth interventions including Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) as a kitty through which youths, individually or in organized groups, can borrow funds to establish small enterprises (Onugu, 2005). But information lacks on how well youth led organizations continue to perform both globally and regionally.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Kenya's population growth rate has been rising steadily from about 2.5 percent per annum in 1948 to around 3.8 percent per annum in the 1980s a trend which has maintained beyond the year 2000. Of the current population of almost 42 million (2012 estimates based on KNBS, 2009), 32% are youth. This youthful segment of the population is expected to play vital role in the future social economic aspirations

of Kenyan republic as per Vision 2030. The chapter on Human Resource Development and Education more specifically on the Gender, Vulnerable Groups and Youth under the social pillar underscores the need for a globally competitive and prosperous youth. Unfortunately, young people are faced by enormous challenges with repercussions in demographic, social, economic, health, and environmental spheres. This situation has attracted the interest of quite a number of stakeholders such as donor agencies, governments and NGOs who have committed their resources to mitigate the issue (Kiama, 2011).

YSHG are interventions aimed at youth development globally (Olawale & Lynety, 2011). Numerous studies have been conducted in the past on youth issues (Amenya, Onsongo & Guyo, 2011; Schoof, 2006; Rogito, 2010; Omolo, 2010) that focused on issues ranging from youth unemployment to factors affecting their initiatives. However, a review of literature reveals a gap of information on how Youth Self Help Group initiatives transform the youths' socio-economic wellbeing. Without such information, programs aimed at youth groups such as the state-led Youth Enterprise Development Fund among other relief agency initiatives could be efforts in futility. Policy and investment decisions are also currently data driven, yet data on youth development and wellbeing is often fragmented, inconsistent, or non-existent, thus, leaving youths' needs unexposed and marginalised. William and Peters (2008) suggest that it is essential to review the operational characteristics of the business (i.e. barriers, opportunities, and indicators) as a way to evaluate success or at least understand how to attain successful outcomes. Therefore, the present study sought to

assess the contribution of YSHG initiatives to socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Kenya focusing on Dandora, Nairobi County.

### **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

The study sought to assess the contribution of YSHG initiatives to socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora, Nairobi County, Kenya.

### **1.4 Objectives of the study**

This study was guided by the following objectives:

- 1.To examine whether initiatives undertaken by youth in registered youth self help groups in Dandora contribute to their socio-economic wellbeing.
- 2.To evaluate the influence of key challenges facing registered youth self help group initiatives on socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora.
- 3.To assess the influence of key opportunities available for registered youth self help group initiatives on socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora.
- 4.To examine the influence of sustainability strategies adopted by registered youth self help group initiatives on socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora.
- 5.To assess the socio-economic wellbeing of YSHG members before and after joining the YSHG.

### **1.5 Research Hypotheses**

The study was guided by the following research hypotheses:

H<sub>01</sub>: There is no significant relationship between youth self help group initiatives and socio-economic wellbeing of members.

Ho<sub>2</sub>: There is no significant relationship between youth self help group challenges and socio-economic wellbeing of members.

Ho<sub>3</sub>: There is no significant relationship between youth self help group opportunities and socio-economic wellbeing of members.

Ho<sub>4</sub>: There is no significant relationship between youth self help group sustainability strategies and socio-economic wellbeing of members.

Ho<sub>5</sub>. There is no significant difference in socio-economic wellbeing of YSHG members before and after joining YSHG.

### **1.6 Significance of the study**

This research contributes to the literature by highlighting the contribution of YSHG initiatives to the socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora. The information generated from this study may be valuable to government and NGOs, private sector as well as development agencies working in the field of YSHGs. The findings may enable Dandora community to identify successful youth focused initiatives that are likely to impact on the greatest number of youths in the area. The development partners may have a better understanding of what programmes could help to improve the socio-economic wellbeing of YSHGs. In pursuit of knowledge and information, this study may contribute toward the development of data base on the sustainable YSHGs initiatives.

### **1.7 Delimitations of the Study**

The study focused on registered YSHGs initiatives in Dandora and generalizations of the results to similar groups in other areas can only be done with caution. The study involved members of youth self-help groups registered with Youth Initiative Kenya (YIKE).

### **1.8 Limitation of the Study**

Challenges of cooperation were expected from the respondents, however, this was overcome by ensuring that the respondents understood the importance of the study to their situation.

### **1.9 Theoretical Framework**

This study was guided by the resource management model of Deacon and Firebaugh (1988). Deacon and Firebaugh model has four basic elements, namely: input, throughput, output and feedback. Input included demands from the individual person, family and associations/groups and resources from income, personal capabilities and support from family among other relationships.

Throughputs denoted the entire planning and implementation of resource use to meet the demands facing an individual or other entity. Finally, outputs represent the attainment of goals and resource changes while feedback includes the ability to internalize lessons learnt and re-entry of outputs as inputs back to the system.

Groups are conceived as entities that reasonably can be differentiated from their environment. Groups have some kind of boundaries across which interactions take

place within the environment. System boundaries can be drawn, to differentiate a systems activity from other activities in the community.

### 1.10 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework in Figure 1.1 shows the expected relationships between the independent variables and dependent variable.

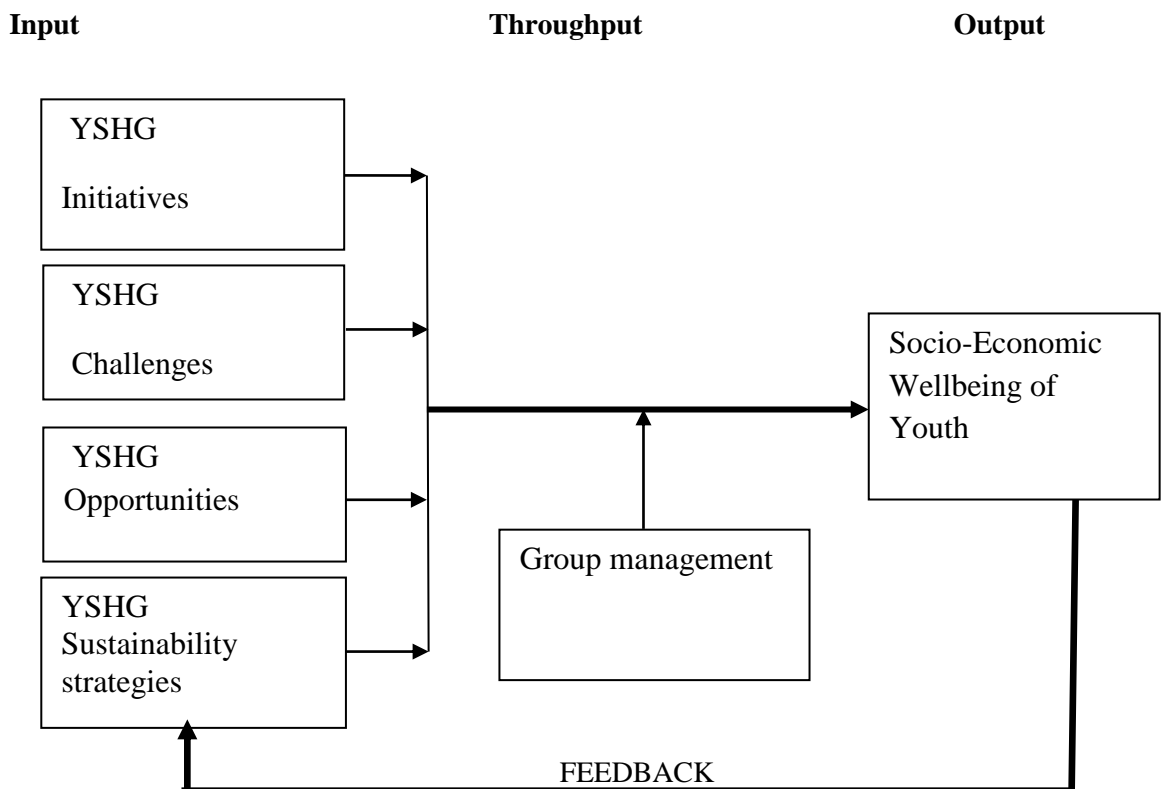


Figure 1.1: Conceptual Framework showing hypothesized relationship among variables.

Source: Researcher (2015)

YSHGs in Dandora are systems within which participation of youth group members takes place. The YSHGs were viewed as open systems where inputs include the initiatives undertaken by YSHGS, challenges facing the YSHGs, opportunities available for the YSHGs and sustainability strategies adopted by YSHGs. Negative entropy resulting from challenges facing the YSHGs and failure to spot and exploit opportunities tends to bring the YSHGs activities to a standstill. Group management denotes the throughputs. Management

of the YSHGs is important for boundary demarcation to sort out the type of energy, usually inform of resources coming into the group. In order for the YSHGs initiatives to contribute to improved socio-economic wellbeing (the out put) the inputs needs to be procesed. This is by dealing with challenges facing the YSHGs and exploiting opportunities available for the YSHGs. Output (socio-economic wellbeing of the youth), re enters the system as feedback.

## **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents a discussion on the youth unemployment situation in the country. It then focuses on the initiatives being pursued to alleviate the youth out of the unpromising economic situation, through YSHGs and the facilitation of these groups by the government through the youth enterprise fund. The management of these YSHGs, the challenges facing them and the opportunities available to them are discussed. Finally, the strategies used to make these initiatives sustainable are reviewed.

### **2.2 A Social Economic Profile of the Youth**

Youth is defined as the period of human development which begins at childhood- normally in the early teens- and extends into early adulthood. The typical age bracket for youth is 18 to 30 years, although various countries and institutions may adjust the age brackets higher or lower to suit their particular concerns (Wanjohi, 2014). It is important to recall that the Kenyan constitution limits the definition of a youth to be 18 to 35 years in age. According to the UN World Youth Report (2012), the age range defined by the United Nations addresses the period when mandatory schooling ends until the age of 24 years (Martin, 2009). Currently, 17% of the world's population, that is, 1.2 billion people are youth aged between 15 and 24 years. Majority (87%) of them live in developing countries (UN World Youth Report, 2012). Given that in the developing world college attendance is less than 30%, it means that most of the college age youth who are not in school remain largely unemployed.

Youth unemployment rates are the highest for any working age population in the world, historically four to five times more than the adult rates in every country in the world (Morsy, 2012). In 2012, youth made up to 40% of the world unemployed, with a global youth unemployment rate of 12.6% ( Bachelet & International Labour Office, 2012), translating to 75 million worldwide (Martin, 2009). In November 2011, the number of unemployed youth in the United Kingdom exceeded one million for the first time in the past 19 years (Gough, Thilde Langevang & Owusu, 2013) while in Spain, youth unemployment has doubled since 2008 and now stands at 46%. In the OECD as a whole, 15 million young people (McKinsey, 2013) are unemployed representing around \$300 billion in lost wages alone, over a full year.

The challenge of creating employment for youth has meanwhile been identified as a major priority by the international community (Millenium Declaration, 2000). In the Millennium Declaration adopted by the General Assembly in September 2000, Heads of State and Government discussed the problem of youth unemployment and resolved to “develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work”. The ILO has strengthened its activities on policy recommendations, programmes and tools targeting the reduction of youth unemployment. Questions related to youth employment have been treated in a number of ILO Conventions and Recommendations and the subject has been one major topic at the International Labour Conference in June 2005 (Auer, Leschke & ILO, 2005).

In Kenya, the youth number about 9.1 million, accounting for about 32% of the population (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 2009). The youth form 60% of the total labour force but many of them have not been absorbed in the job market owing to the country's high unemployment levels (Omolo, 2012). An online survey by Kenya Young Men Christian Association (YMCA) revealed that unemployment remains the number one challenge for the youth (YMCA, 2013), followed by poverty, drugs, lack of education crime and diseases. The overall incidence of poverty in Kenya had risen from 52% in 1982 to an estimated 56% in the year 2000.

During the same period, rural absolute poverty had increased from about 48% to about 60% with the rural areas and urban informal settlements being more adversely affected. In the arid and semi-arid areas, the poor account for as much as 80% of the population with women, youth and children comprising the majority. The high prevalence is reflected in decreasing life expectancy, increasing child mortality, inaccessible health-care, water and sanitation, poor housing, unemployment, hunger and malnutrition, illiteracy and increasing prevalence of diseases (Omolo, 2012). The foregoing deductions make assessing the contribution of Youth Self Help Groups (YSHGs) initiatives and their contribution to youths' socio-economic wellbeing grow increasingly important.

### **2.3 YSHGs initiatives and socio-economic wellbeing**

World over, the youth are playing an increasingly important role in the development of themselves and their communities (Rosemary and Kumaran, 2009 and Brennan, Barnett & Lesmeister, 2008). According to the National Research Council and

Institute of Medicine (2002), youth must be seen to develop their physical, intellectual, psychological and social development. Social development expects that they stay connected to good relationships and trust with family, peers and adults, social integration and commitment to civic engagement (Hamilton, & Pittman, 2004; Hamilton, 2009). Program and policy planners need to better understand the role and impact of youth in the community development process.

In response to the unemployment challenge, many youths are actively pursuing entrepreneurship as a way out of the situation. However, the motivation for entrepreneurship varies with a country's socio-economic profile and the programs in place to encourage young entrepreneurs. According to Verheugen (2004) there are various reasons why young people decide to start a business, relating to their living circumstances, their personal attitudes, preferences and objectives and their particular interests and individual strengths. In industrialized countries, young people cite various personal motivations and reasons to start their own business: to be one's own boss, to be more independent and flexible, to pursue a new job perspective, to seek a new challenge, to earn more money (or to become wealthy), to realize a vision or an idea, to get more reputation and to connect a passion with the job (in order to obtain better quality of life), to continue family traditions (Schoof, 2006). This is in contrast to low income countries where most young people do not complete secondary level education and thus start a business earlier, whereas in high-income countries education seems to be positively related to business start-ups (Martin, 2009).

In order to benefit from the programs meant to empower them, youth are forming and joining self help groups. Amutha (2011) defines a Self Help Group, as a group of people with similar economic profiles that communally saves a small amount daily so as to use the funds to meet the member's needs in the form of loans. Self Help Groups are formed up as a result of youth from similar economic background forming a union to strengthen their economic capability. They create synergy from pooling together resources some of which serve as collateral for securing funds from donors. In Kenya, Self Help Groups (popularly known in Swahili as "chamas") have been on the rise since establishment of devolved funds; Youth Enterprise Development Fund and Women Enterprise Development Fund, the latter been predominantly utilized by women or at least groups with a minimum of 70% women membership. World over, the youth are playing an increasingly important role in the development of themselves and their communities (Rosemary and Kumaran, 2009 and Brennan, Barnett & Lesmeister, 2008).

Activities for self help groups include income generating activities such as car wash and tree planting, trade, microcredit savings and credit, capacity building for individual members such as imparting life skills, HIV/AIDS prevention, environmental clean-up, networking with other like-minded organizations, engaging in policy advocacy, exchange programs, mobilizing resources for the purpose of promoting youth related projects, talent and sports development, organizing events among other activities (Wheeler, 2003).

Youth are also viewed as resources to be developed by theorists and researchers (Pittman, Irby, & Ferber, 2001 and Cummings, 2003). This school of thought emphasizes the strengths present within all young people. Under this perspective, young people can be associated with developmental assets, moral development, civic engagement (Benson, 2003), wellbeing and thriving (Dowling, Gestsdottir, Anderson, Eye, Almerigi & Lerner, 2004) and (Bornstein, Davidson, Keyse & Moore, 2003). Hence, every young person has the potential for successful, healthy development and that all youth possess the capacity for positive development.

The technical and administrative skills of project evaluation among leaders of youth self help groups have been seen to significantly determine the success of youth self help groups. Such skills can be acquired by undertaking them through mentorship under other successful projects or via exchange programs. A study by Zizzi, Rye, Vitullo, and O'Hara-Tompkins (2009) of after school youth in West Virginia established that, active participation of youth in evaluation and research projects can empower youth and effect community change.

The Kenyan government acknowledges the influence that groups have on the Kenyan Economy and contribution towards reducing the severity of key issues such as unemployment among the youth. As a result all YSHGs registration is done by the Ministries concerned with Gender, Youth and Social Services. Registration requires YSHGs to adhere to certain management practices the most primary being possession of a constitution and that 70 per cent of their members are youthful (MOYA, 2007). The constitution guides the groups in day to day decision making

such as joining of new member, choosing of leaders, making investment decisions and other financial decisions, penalties and fines among others.

#### **2.4 Challenges Facing YSHGs Initiatives**

Several barriers have been observed as impediments to youth led initiatives. These include; social and cultural attitude towards youth entrepreneurship; entrepreneurship education; access to finance/start-up financing; administrative and regulatory framework; and business assistance and support. It has been observed that sociocultural orientations can either promote or present considerable barriers to entrepreneurial ambitions of young people (Wentling & Waight, 2001). For example a national survey of young adults in the US by Kalafaltelis, (2004) found that there was a strong relationship between having a role model in the form of a parent, family member, or friend, and expecting to own a business in the future (Verheugen,2004). Similar results were obtained by the Eurobarometer survey results in 2004 which established that youth with self-employed parents are more likely to be entrepreneurial minded than those whose parents are both employees ( Eurobarometer survey, 2004).

However, this is not the case for some societies where entrepreneurship remains undervalued compared to other formal careers and public sector jobs. For example, studies done in Sri Lanka suggests that careers in government are favoured over entrepreneurship despite the lower wages because the stability and prestige associated with a civil service job allows young men and women to negotiate better terms of marriage (Kalafaltelis, 2004). In these societies, perceptions remain that

family sacrifices made to help young people gain a high level of education are not repaid if they become self-employed (Sykes, 2003). Often entrepreneurship may be seen as an inappropriate career choice whose risk and instability may have social consequences.

As a result of these, many youth owned entrepreneurial initiatives have not been able to attract considerable support and thus, still face many challenges which they need to surmount. These challenges include; not being taken seriously by colleagues or business contacts, age discrimination by suppliers or customers, difficulties in attracting funding to the business, age discrimination by institutions or the government and lack of support from family or friends (Saxena, 2012). Entrepreneurship education is crucial in assisting young people to develop entrepreneurial skills (Schoof, 2006), attributes and behaviours as well as to develop enterprise awareness, to understand and to realize entrepreneurship as a career option.

Unemployment and underemployment are very much prevalent in Kenya according to Youth Employment Marshal Plan (GOK, 2009). The economic growth rate has not been sufficient to create enough employment opportunities to absorb the increasing labour force of about 500,000 annually( GOK 2006). Most of these are the youth, only about 25% of whom are absorbed, leaving 75% to bear the burden of unemployment (Odembo, 2010). In Kenya there is a gap between skills needed and education provided. The 8-4-4 education system and tertiary training institutions continue to churn out thousands of graduates, who are neither properly equipped for

entry into the labour market nor possess the necessary life skills (MOYA, 2007). Pressure from the high population growth has proved to be a challenge. The high population growth puts pressure on available resources as the number of young people keeps on rising at a high rate (KNBS, 2009). Furthermore, due to low economic growth rate, most of the youth programmes run by both the Government and non-governmental agencies lack adequate funds and equipment, which limits their success (GOK, 2006).

A study by Kimando, Njogu and Kihoro (2012) on youth groups in Murang'a found that most of those who succeed in entrepreneurship are either trained on the kind of businesses they venture into or continue business training as they progress. Mburu and Makori (2015) similarly found that training challenges among other challenges like financial challenges, leadership challenges and internal control and policy challenges affected the implementation of youth initiatives in Nairobi County. Okumu (2012) established that the main challenges that face youth groups in Kisumu include competition, insecurity, lack of capital, and management problems. Other factors mentioned by the respondents are low demand for goods and services, high cost of production and debt collection. Furthermore, majority of the group managers have only a maximum of primary level education and do not have trainings on business related fields. Another key challenge facing Youth Self Help Groups was inadequate management. Management deficiencies include inadequate human resource management, financial management, business administration and/or project management (Kimani and Kombo, 2010).

## **2.4 Opportunities available for the Youth**

The rate of unemployment among youth is typically two to three times the adult rate (Jimeno-Serrano & Rodriguez-Palenzuela, 2002). Youth is a temporary phase in the life cycle, and labour market prospects are ultimately governed by the unemployment rate for all age groups. The key to reducing youth unemployment therefore lies in remedying deficiencies in the labour market as a whole rather than in addressing isolated difficulties within specific subsections. Youth unemployment rates typically fluctuate in line with overall unemployment rates, indicating a strong link to general economic trends ( Breen, 2005 ). During times of recession, however, the rise in youth unemployment tends to be more substantial than does the concurrent increase in adult unemployment (Un-Habitat, 2004).

In terms of opportunities, on the policy front, a lot of investments have been made towards development and establishment of successful Self Help Group initiatives such as the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF), Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) and National Fund for Persons with Disability (NFPWD). These funds are modelled in a way that requires beneficiaries to operate in groups. Providing youth with opportunities to learn through work also may prove more effective than attempting to upgrade their skills before they enter the labour force (Government of Kenya, 2008). In this sense, an integrated youth policy can serve the purpose of defining clearly areas of action, responsibilities of the different actors and the means of coordinating these actions so as to achieve a common goal. The National Development Plan Vision 2030 and the First Term Plan 2008-2012 (Misati & Mwendwa, 2010) have identified creation of sustainable employment as key to

national transformation. To facilitate this, the government has formulated and implemented policies that seek to promote youth employment through effective prioritization of programmes, projects and activities (Awogbenle & Iwuamadi, 2010).

Over the past one decade, the issue of youth employment has gained growing prominence as key agenda of the government; several policies, programmes and initiatives have been launched to address this challenge (Gwartney & Norton, 2008). These policies, programmes and initiatives, though laudable, may not achieve the desired results. A number of programmes and projects have been implemented at national level. However, many of them are specific programmes that are narrow in scope and limited in time. The priority attached to them varies over time and is usually influenced by the business cycle. In addition, the emphasis is frequently placed on labour market entrants, with little attention to the poor working conditions of many young workers (Nwokedi, Okoroji, I.C. & Ndukwu, 2015). Consequently, youth are prone to work longer hours under informal, intermittent and insecure work arrangements characterized by low productivity and earnings and reduced social protection. Furthermore, it compromises on the capacity of companies and country to innovate and develop competitive advantages.(Need,2006).

The government recognizes that youth employment problem is complicated and cannot be tackled through fragmented and isolated interventions. Rather, they require sustained and concerted action – by several actors over an array of policy areas. The Ministry of youth affairs and sports (MOYA) has developed the National

Action Plan on Youth Employment (NAP). The NAP is an operational document – a methodology to steer country action on youth employment on the basis of a common agreement reached by all interested parties (Omolo, 2012). All priority programmes are aligned to Kenya vision 2030 flagship projects and programmes. Basically the development plan is currently being implemented in a systematic manner under overall national macro policy framework of the sector Medium Term Plans (MTPs) for the spans of five year planning period. Within the macro context, youth empowerment is critical for the nation both in the short and long run (Omolo, 2010).

A study by Okungu (2012) revealed that even though there are several opportunities for youth owned MSEs, most of them did not benefit much from these opportunities. The most outstanding opportunities identified in his study for the youth group MSEs were: availability of customers/ market, small loans facilities and mutual trust/ understanding among group members among others. However, this study established that most YG MSEs had not fully utilized these openings. Their potentials have since not been achieved. For example, only a few youth group MSEs had accessed YEDF and WEDF.

### **2.5 Sustainability of Youth Self Help Groups**

Ali (2011) avers that the concept of sustainability has been used in a variety of contexts rising from the perception of social, economic and environmental developments. The 2007 World Development Report contends that the ability of a country to follow sustainable development paths is determined to a large extent by the capacity of its people and its institutions to make and implement decisions in an effective, efficient and sustainable manner.

According to Parida, Chandra, Sinha, & Anushree, (2010) the indicators of Self Help Groups sustainability are recovery of loans, per capita savings and income, and linkage with an SHG federation. Recovery of loans could be assessed from two perspectives. When the members borrow from the groups contribution and when the group borrows from a financier. Sustainability can be defined as the ability to pay back borrowed money. Per capita (per person) savings and income is another measure of sustainability. This is a measure of total savings and/ or income that the group has as an average for each person. The higher the value then the more sustainable the group is. The final measure is the linkage that the group has with any Self Help Group federation. This is a platform for the group to interact and grow. The more a group invests in its development the more successful they are likely to be. Therefore, carefully assessing organizational capacity before and during a youth participation process and taking necessary capacity-building steps is crucial for success (Zimmerman and London 2003).

Ejembi and Ogiji (2007) pointed out that it can become problematic to run a business if the finances are not available or not managed and the owners cannot make projections hence making their plans to become less sustainable. Mbonyane and Ladzani, (2011) confirmed that MSEs struggled to obtain loans from financial institutions which previous finding established that are playing insignificant role in funding group MSEs (Wawire & Nafukho, 2010). This was affecting their sustainability. For the loans by MFIs, such institutions should intensify their marketing strategies among the youth groups and explain the application procedures and requirements so that the youth groups can explore. Importantly, the qualification

criteria for such loans should be made flexible for the youth such that they do not need securities such as land title deeds and other assets which they do not have and without which they cannot qualify.

Thus, as recommended by Kiruja (2013), it is important that civic education be conducted regularly among the youth aimed at enhancing the youth's capacity to qualify for the loan award and proper utilization of MSEs' funds. Mburu and Makori (2015) also recommend that Youth groups should be encouraged to develop leadership structures. Project experts should come up and train the youth on how to make proper project selection. Further, youth groups need to be enlightened on importance of being visionary and working towards reaching the goals of the group. Controls for guiding the selection of the project should be established among the youth groups. The government needs to formulate benchmarks against which to evaluate project performance of youth groups. Further, performance management metrics need to be established and also books of accounts should be audited so as to improve on implementation of youth development projects ( Mburu, 2015).

## **2.6 Summary of Literature Review**

The literature review has identified increasing urban youth population driven by need for employment or better employment opportunities as a factor in the increasing urban poverty levels. The high prevalence is reflected in decreasing life expectancy, increasing child mortality, inaccessible health-care, water and sanitation, poor housing, unemployment, hunger and malnutrition, illiteracy and increasing prevalence of diseases (MOYA, 2006). However, there are still far too

few opportunities for the youth in the formal sectors and, moreover, the youth themselves lack skills for the available jobs. Consequently, this has led to the need to strengthen Youth Self Help Groups (YSHGs) initiatives grow increasingly important. However, the literature on the exact initiatives employed by the groups and the impact on their social economic profile is limited.

The review has also established that youth self help groups have a clear role to play in community development. The literature noted that there are opportunities and the challenges facing YSHGs. The challenges the youth groups face are both internal and external with the external ones being factors such as high population growth which strains the available resources as the number of young people keeps on rising. As such both the Government and non-governmental agencies lack adequate funds and equipment with which to adequately support the youth. Therefore, most of their initiatives are at best small scale projects. Internal challenges include inadequate management training in areas such as human resource management, financial management, business administration and/ or project management. However, there is very minimal literature on management of youth groups.

Moreover, very little research has been documented in Kenya on how youth self-help group initiatives can be managed sustainably towards developing local communities. There is thus need for such an inquiry for timely formulation of appropriate policies and programs for the YSHGs.

## **CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Research Design**

Research design constitutes the blue print for the collection, measurement and analyzing of data (Kothari, 2003). For this study, the cross sectional survey research design was adopted. Survey research design was deemed appropriate for the study as it allowed describing, recording, analyzing and reporting conditions that existed (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). It was very appropriate since the researcher intended to describe the situation in terms of “what was” as opposed to analyzing why it was so. Survey research design was used because of its convenience in explaining the situation of the YSHGs in Dandora.

### **3.2 Measurement of Variables**

The following is a description of key variables used in the study and how they were measured in the survey. The dependent variable was socio-economic wellbeing of YSHG members and independent variables was the YSHG initiatives, challenges, opportunities and sustainability strategies.

Independent variables for the study comprised of (a) Initiatives undertaken by YSHG in Dandora.. To measure this, respondents were asked to list down the type of initiatives they undertake that were then ranked in descending order from the initiatives done by a majority of the groups to least done by the groups. (b) Challenges facing registered YSHG which was measured by items related to financial and management challenges which were scored on a five-point scale ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree. The challenge score was created

by calculating the composite score of the items for each construct. Whereby, a high value score corresponded with agree and a low value score corresponded with disagree. (c) Opportunities for YSHG which was measured by items related to Finances, partnerships and collaborations which were scored on a five-point scale ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree. The opportunity score was created by calculating the composite score of the items for each construct. Whereby, a high value score corresponded with agree and a low value score corresponded with disagree. (d) Sustainability strategies adopted by YSHG which was measured by items relating to resource utilization and participatory approach techniques for all stake holders which were scored on a five-point scale ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree. The sustainability strategy score was created by calculating the composite score of the items for each construct. Whereby, a high value score corresponded with agree and a low value score corresponded with disagree.

The dependent variable for the study was Socio-economic well-being of the youths. This was measured by asking the youths to rate how their status had changed across eight items related to socio-economic wellbeing. Each item was measured on a three level likert scale of better, same and worse. Further computation of socio economic wellbeing was done by generating a composite score for socio-economic wellbeing where a high value score corresponded with improved socio-economic wellbeing and a low value score corresponded with not improved socio-economic wellbeing. The summary is given below.

**Table 3.1: Measurement of variables**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Description and Units of measurement</b>	<b>Measurement scale</b>
Gender	Gender of youth respondent	Nominal dummy: <i>1 if female, 0 otherwise</i>
Age	Age of youth respondent (Units: Years)	Ordinal dummy: <i>1: 8-22 years 2: 23-27 years 3: 28-32 years 4: 33-35 years</i>
Education	Highest level of education attained	Ordinal: <i>1: None 2: Primary 3: Secondary 4: College 5: University</i>
Marital status	Marital status of the respondent	Nominal <i>1: Married 2: Single 3: Divorced/Separated 4: Widowed</i>
Respondent responsibility	Designation position in the self-help group (YSHG)	Nominal binary dummy: <i>1: Official: Chairman/secretary/Treasurer 2: Ordinary Member</i>
Duration of operation of YSHGs	Number of years that YSHG has been in operation (Units: Years)	Ordinal <i>1: Less than 1 year 2: More than 1 year but less than 3 2: More than 3 years but less than 5 2: More than 5 years</i>
Initiatives undertaken	Rating of Initiatives undertaken	Ordinal Likert scale <i>1: Strongly disagree 2: Disagree 3: Neither agree nor disagree 4: Agree</i>
Group management	Who manages the youth group?	Nominal <i>1: By the members themselves 2: By a hired assistant(s) 3: Volunteer 4: Other</i>
Financial management	Rating of financial management	Ordinal scale <i>1: good 2: fair 3: Poor</i>
Key challenges	Rating of key challenges	Ordinal Likert scale <i>1: Strongly disagree 2: Disagree 3: Neither agree nor disagree 4: Agree</i>
Key opportunities	Rating of Key opportunities	<i>5: Strongly agree 1: Strongly disagree</i>

		<p>2: <i>Disagree</i></p> <p>3: <i>Neither agree nor disagree</i></p> <p>4: <i>Agree</i></p> <p>5: <i>Strongly agree</i></p>
Sustainability	Rating of sustainability indicators	<p>Ordinal Likert scale</p> <p>1: <i>Strongly disagree</i></p> <p>2: <i>Disagree</i></p> <p>3: <i>Neither agree nor disagree</i></p> <p>4: <i>Agree</i></p>
Welfare change	Change in welfare status due to YSHG membership	<p>Ordinal</p> <p>1: <i>Improved</i></p> <p>2: <i>Stayed the same</i></p> <p>3: <i>Worsened</i></p>
Socio-economic	Rating of Socio-economic status	<p>Ordinal Likert scale</p> <p>1: <i>Strongly disagree</i></p> <p>2: <i>Disagree</i></p> <p>3: <i>Neither agree nor disagree</i></p> <p>4: <i>Agree</i></p> <p>5: <i>Strongly agree</i></p>

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### 3.3 Description of Study Area

The study was conducted in Dandora which is an administrative ward in Embakasi North constituency, in Nairobi County. It is situated about fifteen kilometres from Nairobi city centre in East lands area. It has an estimated population of 154,157 people. Nairobi was chosen as the study area because it has one of the highest rate of youth unemployment of 30% in the country (UNDP, 2013). Dandora was purposively sampled as it is one of the densely populated locations in Nairobi County and home to the largest municipal dumping site in Nairobi (KNBS 2010). Low employment in the formal sector has resulted in many youths seeking opportunities in youth group initiatives that revolve around garbage collection and recycling.

### **3.4 Study Population**

The target population included all the youths who are registered members in YSHGs with YIKE (Youth Initiative Kenya) in Dandora ward. There were a total of 16 YSHGs registered under YIKE. The accessible population was all the 165 respondents.

#### **3.4.1 Inclusion Criteria**

By the time of the study, the youth groups chosen had to be registered with YIKE and operating one or more youth initiatives. The youth members sampled were those in age bracket of 18-35 years and members of registered youth group

#### **3.4.2 Exclusion Criteria**

Youths who were in age bracket of 18-35 years and are not members of a registered youth group were not sampled. In addition, members of registered youth groups below 18 years of age were not sampled.

### **3.5 Sampling Techniques**

Dandora ward was purposively selected for the study. Purposive sampling is where the sample is arbitrarily selected because characteristics, which they possess, are deemed important for the research (Sproul, 1988). Dandora is home to the largest dump site in East and Central Africa. Literature review showed that most youth initiatives are based on garbage collection and recycling. Choice of YSHGs registered under YIKE was also purposive. The 16 registered YSHGs therefore had a total of 880 members (target population). YSHGs comprised of 10-100 membership so proportionate random sampling was used to acquire the number of

respondents from each YSHG. Simple random sampling was used to acquire the respondents for the study. Names of all members who were aged 18-35 in each YSHG was put in jar and number of respondents required from the group randomly picked.

### **3.6 Sample size**

Merriam Webster (2003), Kombo and Tromp (2006) describe a sample as a finite part representative of the target population whose properties are studied to gain information about the whole. To select a representative sample requires use of a suitable sampling technique. The population for the youth in Dandora was considered finite and thus a suitable formula (Glen, 1992) was applied to determine the sample size of 165 youth as below.

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(p)^2}$$

Where N was the total target population of 880 as established in Section 3.4.2; p was the precision level (measurement error set to a maximum of 7%). The sample size (n) is shown below.

$$n = 880/[1+880*(0.07*0.07)]=165$$

Hence, a sample of 165 youth was selected as respondents to the structured interviews. 5 per cent attrition rate was calculated for the study.

### **3.7 Research Instruments**

A structured interview schedule was used to collect responses from the 165 youth members from the various YSHGS. This was because the interview schedule allowed probing and observation to get more in-depth information. The instruments were constructed based on the research objectives and contained both closed-ended

and open-ended questions. The researcher constructed the interview schedule with the assistance of the supervisors and experts in the area of study.

### **3.8 Pre-testing**

Pre-testing of the research instrument was carried out on 15 members who were randomly selected from youths with YSHG initiatives in Dandora but not registered with YIKE.

#### **3.8.1 Instrument Validity**

Validity refers to the extent to which an instrument measures what it is intended to measure based on objectives (Straight et al, 1993). Straight et al (1993) further argue that content validity must be based on the area being studied. The content validity of the instrument was established based on the study objectives and gaps identified from literature review. It was also established through expert contribution from researcher's supervisors and others who were knowledgeable in this field of study. It was also established by presenting the research proposal at the department for peer review. The tools were also pre-tested where validity was assessed and the responses reviewed according to the objectives of the study.

#### **3.8.2 Reliability**

Reliability of measurement is the degree to which a particular measuring procedure gives corresponding results over a number of repeated trials (Kothari, 2003). Bell (1993) noted that pre-testing instruments is a good way to check for reliability of the data collection instruments. As such it was necessary to conduct pre-testing of the quantitative tools before field work for the main study. This study applied

Cronbach's alpha to verify reliability of the questionnaire. Cronbach's alpha is a correlation coefficient which is computed by splitting the measurement tool into two and then comparing scores of the two halves from respondents. A tool with an alpha statistic of at least 0.7 is considered as reliable. The questionnaire for this study established a Cronbach's split-half statistic of 0.79 which indicates that the findings conform to high levels of reliability.

### **3.9 Data Collection Techniques**

Two research assistants who had a background on data collection assisted the principal researcher in data collection. They were trained thoroughly on how to collect data before the actual data collection. They were closely monitored and guided by the researcher during the entire study period. The researcher sought permission to interview members from YSHG leaders and the area chief. The appointment for interview was booked in advance through YSHG leaders and date and time agreed. The respondents were notified of the appointment and later reminded and appointment confirmed one day before the appointment day by telephone. The interviews were conducted at the venues where each YSHG hold their weekly/monthly meetings. The selected respondents were interviewed by the researcher with assistance of trained research assistants. The consent form was read and explained to the respondent and signed after he/she agreed to take part in the research. A face-to-face interview was carried out with each responded. It took 30 minutes to interview each respondent. During the interview, the researcher probed and also observed the respondents.

### 3.9 Data Analysis and Presentation

Quantitative data collected was analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 21.0. Data was cleaned and then coded. Both descriptive and inferential data analysis techniques were used. For descriptive statistics, frequencies tables and percentages were used to describe and summarize the data. Inferential statistics used included chi-square to test for relationship between independent and dependent variable for objective 1 to 4, multiple linear regression analysis to determine which independent variable was most predictive and Z-test to test the difference between means for objective 5. The multiple regression model was assumed to hold under the equation;

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + \beta_4X_4 + \varepsilon$$

Where;

Y= Socio-economic wellbeing of youths

$\beta_0$  =constant

$\beta_0$  .....  $X_5$  = parameter estimates

$X_1$  = Initiatives (I)

$X_2$  = Challenges (C)

$X_3$  = Opportunities (O)

$X_4$  = Strategies (S)

$\varepsilon$  is the error of prediction.

### 3.10 Logistical and Ethical considerations

Permission to conduct the research was sought from the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI), area administration chief, YSHG management and the respondents. The research proposal was availed to Kenyatta

University ethical review board for review. The researcher provided adequate and clear explanation on the purpose of the study to all the respondents. The participants in the study were assured of anonymity and confidentiality throughout the research process. Participants voluntarily agreed to participate and signed a consent form.

## **CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS**

### **4.1 Overview**

This chapter presents an analysis of the data that was gathered from the respondents using interview schedules. The chapter starts with an indication of the percentage of response to the interview schedule, demographic characteristics of the respondents, while the rest of the sections present the research findings about ratings or comparison of scores according to the research objectives of the study.

The main purpose of the study was to assess the contribution of YSHG initiatives to socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora, Nairobi County, Kenya. The study was able to interview 147 respondents out of the original 165. A good response rate of 89.1% was realized which resulted from the method of administration of the instrument, which was in this case researcher administered. This was acceptable according to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003). The method also allowed for probing. This method also ensured that the respondents' queries concerning clarity were addressed at the point of data collection.

### **4.2 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

The study sought to determine the demographic characteristics of the respondents as they were considered as categorical variables which could give basic insight about the respondents. The characteristics considered in the study were: range of ages of the respondents; highest level of education attained, marital status and the number of years in YSHG. The findings are summarized in Table 4.1

**Table 4.1: Frequency table showing Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

Variable	Category	Frequency (N=147)	Percentage (%)
Age in Years	18 – 22	108	73.7
	23 – 27	19	12.8
	28 – 32	4	2.6
	33 - 35	16	10.9
Highest level of education	No formal education	1	0.7
	Primary level	6	3.9
	Secondary level	81	54.9
	Technical/ Vocational training	26	17.6
	University level	33	22.9
Marital status	Married	32	22
	Single	111	75.3
	Divorced/Separated	2	1.3
	Widowed	2	1.3
Number of years in the YSHG	Below 3 years	122	83
	4 – 6 years	9	6
	7 and above years	16	11

The findings in Table 4.1 indicate that up to two thirds of the membership (73.7%) of the YSHG members were aged 18-22 years implying that most of them had just completed school or were college students. Majority (54.9%) of the respondents had secondary school education as their highest level of education, however, 40.5% of the youth had tertiary education such as university education and Technical/ Vocational training.

It was also evident from the findings that most (75.3%) of the respondents were single possibly since they were young adults and barely out of school. However, majority (83%) had been in their current youth group for less than three years. These

findings concur with the views of Dinning (2010) that youth groups mainly targeted young people who had just recently completed school and were likely to be vulnerable if they could not access higher education or viable economic opportunities. As such the YSHG are conduits through which government and NGOs channel resources for youth development.

There was also need to establish how long the youth groups had been in existence and also how long their initiatives had been in operation. The findings are given in Table 4.2.

**Table 4.2: Duration of operation of the YSHGs**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
How long has your youth group been in existence?	Less than 3years	67	46
	4 - 6years	43	29
	Above 3 years	37	25
How long has your YSHG been in operation?	0-12 months	55	37.3
	13- 36 months	45	30.7
	37 – 60 months	30	20.7
	Above 60 months	17	11.3

The results in Table 4.2 indicate that most (70%) of the groups had been in existence for the last 6 years with majority (46%) of them being registered less than 3 years ago. These findings imply that most of the YSHGs were registered after 2008 probably as an initiative to dissuade the youth from further acts of violence such as the one witnessed in 2007/2008 post election violence. The findings also indicate that all the YSHG had embarked on some youth initiative just after being registered.

### 4.3 Initiatives undertaken by youth in registered YSHG in Dandora

The first objective of the study was to examine whether initiatives undertaken by youth in registered YSHGs in Dandora contribute to their socio-economic wellbeing.

#### 4.3.1 Purpose and objectives of the YSHGs

This objective was realized by asking the respondents to specify the purpose for which they decided to join the YSHG. The findings are presented in Table 4.3.

**Table 4.3: Purpose and objectives for formation of groups in Rank order.**

Objective of the YSHGs	Responses	
	N=147	Percent
Creation of job opportunities	77	52.4%
Increase personal income/ improve livelihood	63	42.9%
Uplift the society	56	38.1%
Initiate youth development	46	31.3%
Impart and improve skills	32	21.8%
Sponsor vulnerable persons in society	32	21.8%
Caring and maintaining the environment	20	13.6%
Unite the youth	16	10.8%
For self employment	8	5.4%
Religious purpose	1	6.8%
Health concerns	1	6.8%

\*\*Multiple responses allowed

Table 4.3 reveals that more than half (52.4%) of the youths primary reason for starting the YSHG was to create job opportunities for youth. Other important reasons were to improve livelihoods of members at 42.9%, uplift the social welfare status of youth 38.1%, to initiate development projects for youth 31.3% and impart skills at 21.8%. These findings may imply the need for a credible guide to direct the youth on selecting, implementing and adopting credible youth initiatives. Youth Empowerment Solutions (YES) is an example of such a guide which was developed

and evaluated by researchers at the University of Michigan, School of Public Health. The YES program is based on Empowerment Theory which includes several empowering processes that support effective participation in community change efforts ( Zimmerman, 2000).

#### 4.3.2 Key Activities Undertaken by Youth Self Help Groups

It was imperative for the researcher to find out the activities undertaken by YSHGs. This objective was realized by asking the respondents to state the types of the initiatives that they were engaged in and also to rate several statements pertaining to the status of the initiatives undertaken by youth in registered YSHG.

The youth self-help groups were asked to specify which project activities they undertake and what kind of goods and services they provide. The findings are given in Table 4.4.

**Table 4.4: Types of YSHG Enterprises**

Key group activity	Responses	
	N	Percentage
Cyber Cafe	32	21.7%
Electronic shop	28	19.1%
Retail shop	22	14.9%
Garbage collection and environment maintenance	20	13.6%
Youth/community resource centre	16	10.8%
Clinical services	15	10.2%
Media House	13	6.9%
M-pesa shop	10	8.8%
Sporting	10	8.8%
Marketing	6	4.1%
Charity works	6	4.1%
Car wash	5	3.4%
Play stations - recreation	4	2.7%
Hotel/catering	1	0.6%

\*\*Multiple responses allowed

The results in Table 4.4 suggest that the main activities the YSHG in the Dandora engaged in were cyber cafes (21.7%) and electronic shops (19.1%). This could be attributed to the propensity on the youth to engage in technology oriented businesses as most were very conversant with the technologies and also had an appeal to the youth from the local community. The findings also suggest that the YSHGs also did pursue other initiatives like environmental conservation through garbage collection (13.6%), sports (8.8%) and charity work (4.1%). However there were others who diversified their initiatives towards security provision in complementing community policing. Other youth self help groups were engaged in reproductive health education and life skills development. In terms of trade, income generating activities included transport via motor cycles (*boda boda*) and bicycles, and fetching water for households and hawking. The findings imply that the initiatives focused more on trade, environmental conservation and recreation. Overall, major activities of the youth groups were structured in such a way as to provide some income to members of the youth groups.

#### **4.3.3: Respondents views on Initiatives undertaken by youth in YSHGs**

The respondents were also asked to rate how they felt regarding certain statements describing the initiatives undertaken by youth in your YSHG. These was rated on a 5 point Likert scale ranging from; 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree. The results on this are summarized in Table 4.5.

**Table 4.5: Respondents views on Initiatives undertaken by youth in YSHGs**

Statement	Mean	Std. Deviation	Totals
All our members abide by contents of our group's constitution	3.19	1.445	147
We have a well instituted investment committee within our group who make investment proposals and advise the group members accordingly	3.57	1.248	147
All the proposals for investment are subjected to feasibility analysis before they are adopted	3.34	1.193	147
All the proposals for investment are subjected to popular vote by members before they are adopted	3.51	1.203	147
It is our group policy to ensure that any investment proposal adopted must be consistent with the group's objectives and financial capability	3.51	1.213	147
We strive to ensure that the business projects we engage in are very profitable and involve less risks	3.74	1.227	147
Our projects are designed to absorb every member either in the management or as fulltime employees	3.83	1.127	147
Engagement of group members in the running of the projects enables some of them to get the monthly subscription fees	3.52	1.104	147
All the projects are registered under the group's name and every product developed within the group remains the property of the group	3.19	1.249	147
We started with one project then diversified when it became profitable	3.34	1.193	147

The results in Table 4.5 suggest that respondents (mean = 3.19) abide by the contents of the groups constitution. Findings also indicate that respondents (mean = 3.57) felt that the groups did have a well instituted investment committees within them who make investment proposals and advise the group members accordingly indicating that they were well structured in terms of management. Respondents (mean = 3.34) felt that the proposals for investment are subjected to feasibility analysis before they are adopted and were then subjected to popular vote by members before they were adopted (mean = 3.51). Respondents (mean = 3.51) agreed that groups' policies stipulated that any investment proposal adopted must be

consistent with the group's objectives and financial capability so as not to strain their resources or get them into unnecessary debt. As a result, the YSHGs strove to ensure that the business projects they engaged in were very profitable and involved less risks (mean = 3.74). It can also be deduced from the findings that most of the YSHGs projects were designed to absorb every member either in the management or as fulltime employees (mean = 3.83) possibly as an economic incentive meant to give them immediate employment or inculcate valuable skills in them for future employers. This had positive results as engagement of group members in the running of the projects enabled some of them to get the monthly subscription fees (mean = 3.52) and this served as an incentive to stay in the group and also stabilized its finances. Respondents (mean = 3.19) felt that groups had their projects registered under their group's name and every product developed within the group remained the property of the group. This indicates that the groups had anticipated legal battles for their property in the future and as such had safeguarded them for posterity. Respondents (mean = 3.34) agreed that groups had also started with one project then diversified them when it became profitable suggesting that their projects were sustainable.

#### **4.4: Key challenges facing registered YSHG initiatives**

Evaluating the influence of key challenges facing registered YSHG initiatives on socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora was the second objective of this study. The study inquired on challenges facing the youth self help groups in Dandora. There were six key challenges facing the YSHGs namely: (1) financial constrains (2) lack of proper management skills (3) government policies on

devolved funds (4) lack of cooperation from members (5) declining markets (6) poor support from the community. It was therefore important to probe these challenges further. The researcher sought to understand what were the leadership practices of YSHGs, who managed the YSHGs, sought to understand the income levels of the YSHGs and if they had any liabilities in form of loans. The findings were presented as follows;

#### **4.4.1 Leadership Practices**

It was important to inquire about leadership practices such as who managed the YSHG, how frequently they met, whether they were guided by a constitution and the level of satisfaction or views about their leaders in general. This section presents summary of the feedback from the field on these questions.

**Table 4.6: Management of Youth Self Help Groups**

<b>Who managed the YSHG?</b>	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Members themselves	131	89.12
Hired personnel	11	7.48
Both members and hired assistants	2	1.36
Volunteers	3	2.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Research findings established that nearly all of the youth self help groups (89%) were managed by members themselves. Only about 8% of the groups had hired office assistants to undertake managerial duties. Meetings were held monthly for almost half of the groups in which leaders were in charge of steering the sessions.. A study by Kristi and Barbara (2009), which assessed Youth Participation in Youth Community Action Projects, concurs with the above findings. The study examined the extent of youth participation in community service, community development and

other types of community projects. The study found out that overall, the youth were highly involved in project planning, decision making, leadership, and implementation but less involved in aspects of publicity and organizational infrastructure, such as financing and organizing meetings.

#### **4.4.2 Financial management**

It was important to assess financial management of the YSHGs since literature review highlighted financial management as one of the management challenges faced by YSHGs.

**Table 4.7 Sources of YSHG finances**

Sources of YSHG finances	Frequency	Percentage
Enterprise activities	123	86.4%
Member subscription fee	82	55.8%
Loans from UWEZO fund, CDF, banks	39	26.5%
Donor Funding	30	20.4%

\*\*Multiple responses allowed

The study found out that more than three quarter of the respondents (86.4%) derived their finances from YSHG activities while more than half (55.8%) contributed subscription fee to run the self help group. About 26.5% relied on borrowing while 20.4 % of the respondents finances came from donor funding.

#### **4.4.3 YSHG Annual Income( Per annum)**

The study also sought to assess the annual income of the YSHGs in Dandora. The findings were tabulated in Table 4.8.

**Table 4.8: YSHG Annual Income**

<b>Range in Ksh.</b>	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Less than 50000	32	22.07
50001-100000	70	48.28
100001-150000	37	25.52
150001-200000	2	1.38
above 200001	4	2.76

Almost half of the the respondents (48.28 %) agreed that YSHGs earned annual incomes that ranged from Ksh. 50,000 and Ksh. 100,000. 22 % had an income of less than Ksh. 50,000 with only 4% of them exceeding returns above Ksh. 150,000.

Overall, the financial management of YSHGs was well rated. Financial management was rated as good by more than half (62% )of members, fair was rated by nearly a quarter of the groups (24% ) and only 14% had poor financial management. This could imply that the youths had good financial management skills. These findings were tabulated in Table 4.9 below.

**Table 4.9 YSHG Financial Management**

<b>Rating of financial management</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Good	91	62%
Fair	35	24%
Poor	21	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>100%</b>

An evaluation of MyPath Saving Initiative by Vernon, Laura and Margaret (2010) emphasized focusing on financial capability of the youth. The study concurred that activities that develop financial capability, which include both financial knowledge and access to financial services, at early stage in life, may be an important

intervention for promoting long term financial stability, particularly among underserved youth. Although there has been mixed evidence from research on efficacy of financial education efforts for youth (Hathaway and Khatiwala, 2008), there is an emerging consensus that focusing on financial capability may be a more effective approach (Johnson and Sherraden, 2007).

#### **4.4.4 Amount of Loan taken up by YSHGs**

The researcher sought to know if the YSHGs had liabilities in form of loans. The findings were tabulated in table 4.10

**Table 4.10: Amount of loan taken up by YSHGs**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	63	42.9
No	84	57.1
Total	147	100

Findings in table 4.10 reveal that more than half (57.1) of the respondents had not taken loans whereas only 42.9% had ever taken loans. This could imply that the YSHGS had challenges in accessing loans.

#### **4.4.5 Rating of key challenges facing registered YSHG initiatives**

On challenges, the respondents were asked to respond to various questions describing the challenges facing their YSHG initiatives. The responses of this variable were rated on a 5 point Likert scale ranging from; 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree. The challenge score was created by calculating the composite score of the items for each construct. Whereby, a high value score corresponded with agreeing they were challenges and a low value score corresponded with disagreeing they were challenges. These results are presented in Table 4.11

**Table 4.11: Key challenges facing registered YSHG initiatives**

	Frequency (N=147)	Percent
<b>Management challenges</b>		
Agreed	76	51.70%
Disagreed	71	48.30%
<b>Financial challenges</b>		
Agreed	77	52.40%
Disagreed	70	47.60%

Findings in table in table 4.11 indicate that half of the youth (51.7%) agreed their YSHG had management challenges. The findings reveal that most of the groups did not have some influential personalities as their group patrons. In addition, most groups, members lacked training in business and project management and this could have a huge impact on their projects outlook. On the other hand 47.6% disagreed experiencing managerial challenges since most the groups did not have problems with group cohesion. Conflict between members and management were not so much and as such had minimal impact on the groups projects. However, the dormancy of some members presented a considerable challenge to the YSHGs as this meant they only existed nominally in the group.

Results in Table 4.11 further reveal that more than half (52.4%) of the youths agreed to have financial problems. With Majority being uncertain about the funding strategies in place in their organizations, their income streams were still low to allow them to undertake bigger projects which have better revenue. The findings also indicate that the revenues from most of the groups initiatives were still small to guarantee every member good income. Also evident in the findings was that

respondents had problems with financial reporting, meaning that they were not fully accountable for all their transactions. In addition, some of the groups long term projects tied up considerable amounts of their capital and as such they were unable to acquire better facilities and technology to enable them to add more value to their products and services. These findings imply that as much as the youth groups were promising in terms of addressing unemployment, they had managerial deficiencies and lacked capacity to take the projects to the next level.

#### **4.5 Key opportunities available for registered YSHG initiatives**

The third objective of the study was to assess key opportunities available for registered YSHG initiatives on socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora.

##### **4.5.1 Factors contributing to success of YSHGs**

It was imperative to explore some of the determinants of the success or failure of YSHGs in achieving their objectives. A multiple response question was formulated with potential for respondents to provide more than one answer. Feedback was analyzed and presented in Table 4.12.

**Table 4.12 Factors influencing success of YSHGs**

<b>YSHG success factors</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Willing investors and funding from finance bodies	92	20.6%
Membership contribution and participation	71	15.9%
Fair cost of operations	54	12.1%
Good management and leadership	52	11.7%
Available assets /raw materials	50	11.2%
Existing policies or framework	36	8.1%
Appropriate job environment or office	35	7.8%
Support from society and consumers	29	6.5%
Skills and expertise	27	6.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

In order of importance, the following factors influence performance of YSHGs: availability of financing, participation and contributions of YSHG members, the level of inflation in the economy, group leadership practices, availability of production inputs, policies affecting the youth, working environment, product market demand and nature of skills among members of youth self help groups.

#### **4.5.2 Benefits accruing to members of YSHGs**

It was important to also determine the benefits accruing to members of YSHG. The following (as shown in Table 4.13, were the benefits accruing to members of YSHGs.

**Table 4.13: Benefits accruing to members of YSHGs**

<b>Benefit</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Economic empowerment/generate income/ financial reliance	80	54.4%
Socialization	66	44.9%
Impart skills	56	38.1%
Access to information	31	21.1%
Access to loans	20	13.6%
Have an employment	6	4.1%
Environment is now cleaner	3	2.1%
Exploiting numerous opportunities	2	1.4%

\*\*Multiple responses allowed

Findings in table 4.13 indicate that more than half (54.4%) of the respondents benefited from economic empowerment, 44.9% benefited from social integration, life skills development at 38.1% and access to information 21.1% were the leading benefits that accrued to members of youth self help groups in the area of study. Other benefits included that once they join YSHGs, young people realize increased access to credit facilities and also a better opportunity for gainful employment (more so for the ones that were hitherto looking for work).

#### **4.5.3 Opportunities available for YSHG initiatives**

It was also important to explore which opportunities were available for YSHG initiatives. The respondent's response on the opportunities available for the YSHGs was tabulated in Table 4.14.

**Table 4.14 Opportunities that YSHGs can tap**

	Responses	
	N	Percent
More profitable opportunities	49	33.3%
New members registration	47	31.9%
Assistance from finance institutions	37	25.2%
Appropriate skill among members	34	23.1%
Community support	33	22.4%
Existing policies and constitutional framework	28	19.1%
Established working environment	27	18.4%
Available market/consumers	19	12.9%

\*\*Multiple responses allowed

There existed a number of new opportunities which youth could tap. Grouped in the order of importance, Venturing into more profitable opportunities at 33.3% ,registration of new members at 31.9%, assistance from financial institutions towards credit access and capacity building (such as literacy and managerial training. Equity bank was already doing this) at 25.2% as well as sharing of appropriate skills among members who are more endowed.

The objective was also realized by asking the respondents to react to various statements regarding the key opportunities available for your YSHG initiatives in the area. The status of this variable was described and rated on a 5 point Likert scale ranging from; 1 = strongly agree to 5 = strongly disagree. The responses on opportunities score was created by calculating the composite score of the items for each construct. Whereby, a high value score corresponded with agreeing they were opportunities and a low value score corresponded with disagreeing they were opportunities.

**Table 4.15: Grouped responses of youths rating of financial opportunities available for registered YSHG initiatives**

	Frequency (N=147)	Percent
<b>Financial opportunities</b>		
Agreed	67	45.60%
Disagreed	80	54.40%
<b>Partnership Opportunities</b>		
Agreed	77	52.40%
Disagree	70	47.60%

Findings in Table 4.15 reveal more than half of the respondents (54.4%) disagreed that there were any financial opportunities for their YSHG. They felt that financial opportunities targeted for the youths like the unveiling of the Youth Enterprise Fund was for a selected few. They also perceived that the banking sector had not yet opened its doors for partnership with the youth in their projects. Only 45.6% of the youth felt that the Youth Enterprise Fund is untapped opportunity for them to access collateral free interest funds. The respondents also said that their groups were innovative/ creative in their fundraising approaches and that their organization had diversified sources of funding.

More than half (52.4%) agreed that there were numerous opportunities in terms of partnership and collaborations with quite a number of NGOs who were willing to partner with the youth groups in the area on their projects. The youths were also in agreement that Dandora was a vibrant and cosmopolitan region with majority of the population being youth which could perhaps explain why their initiatives were mainly targeted at the youth. The huge population of Dandora provided a ready market for the goods and services produced by the youth in the YSHG. On the other

hand less than half(47.6%) of the repondents disagreed with there being opportunitites for partnerships since most of the firms operating in Nairobi were not keen in pursuing partnerships with the youth groups in their Corporate Social Responsibility programs. They also felt hat government policies towards the youth enterprises was yet to give them a significant advantage to thrive well.

#### **4.6 Sustainability strategies adopted by registered YSHG initiatives**

The study also sought to examine the sustainability strategies adopted by registered YSHG initiatives on socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora. To measure the influence of this objective, the respondents were asked to respond to several statements pertaining to the sustainability strategies adopted by their self-help group. The status of this variable was rated on a 5 point Likert scale ranging from; 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree. These results are presented in Table 4.16.

The responses score on sustainability was created by calculating the composite score of the items for each construct. Whereby, a high value score corresponded with agreeing they were sustainable and a low value score corresponded with disagreeing they were not sustainable.

**Table 4.16: Strategies adopted by registered YSHG initiatives**

	Frequency (N=147)	Percent
<b>Resource utilization for sustainability</b>		
Agreed	84	57.1
Disagree	63	42.9
<b>Participatory approaches</b>		
Agreed	87	59.20%
Disagree	60	40.80%

Findings in Table 4.16 reveal that more than half 57.1% agreed that the YSHG were sustainable since their youth groups appropriately utilized available natural resources, that is, they sought to maximize on the available resources and reduce the costs of their operations. The YSHG were able to “make do” with what was available and, resources were utilized and managed to give the greatest possible benefit.

Findings also indicate that YSHG had good participatory approaches which is crucial for sustainable development. With majority (59.2%) of the youths agreeing the YSHG had good participatory strategies since the groups received significant support from the society/community. The groups also approached development partners with a vision consistent with that of the YSHG when looking for donors in order to secure crucial support from them possibly in the long term. These findings indicate that a majority of YSHGs in Dandora were sustainable. However, 40.8% of the youths felt participatory approach was not used during planning for YSHG initiatives challenging the future sustainability of the YSHG.

#### **4.7 Assessing the socio-economic wellbeing of YSHG members in Dandora**

The fifth objective of the study was to assess the socio- economic wellbeing of the youth before and after joining the YSHG. This was the dependent variable of the study and was realized by asking the respondents to respond to various statements pertaining to the changes in their socio-economic wellbeing. The responses of this variable were rated on a 5 point Likert scale ranging from; 1 = strongly agree to 5 =

strongly disagree for Table 4.17 and 1= strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree for Table 4.18. These results are summarized and discussed as follows.

**Table 4.17: Socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora before joining the YSHGs**

Statement	Mean	Std. Deviation	Totals
Before I joined my Youth Group I have been able to improve my access to funds without need for collateral	3.09	1.249	147
Before I joined my Youth Group I was financially stable	3.72	0.989	147
Before I joined my Youth Group I had made savings in other organizations	3.57	1.248	147
I had a regular income before I joined my Youth Group even if it was not so much	3.34	1.193	147
My standard of life was good even before I joined my Youth Group	2.63	1.192	147
I was able to support my family members and other dependants well even before I joined my Youth Group	3.33	1.238	147
Many youth in my area were already doing well even before joining Youth Groups	3.11	1.067	147
Even before joining YSHGs we were able to learn how to live and work as a community	3.42	1.135	147
Crime rates were low in the area even before the introduction of YSHG in the area	3.33	1.268	147
We had better access to education even before we joined Youth Groups in the area	4.05	0.903	147
Most of our group members were already employed as skilled workers in other organizations even before we joined the YSHG	4.11	0.734	147
Most of us had already the values of self- reliance and teamwork even before joining the YSHG	3.52	1.104	147

It is evident from the findings in Table 4.17 that (mean = 3.09) of the respondents were unable to improve their access to funds without need for collateral before they joined their Youth group. As such (mean = 3.72) were not financially stable and had not made any substantial savings in other organizations (mean = 3.57). Respondents

(mean = 3.34) also said they did not have regular income before joining the YHSG. The results also indicate that the standard of life was not good (mean = 2.63) for the respondents before they joined their YSHG. Consequently, (mean = 3.33) of respondents were unable to support their family members and other dependants well. Respondents were not doing well before joining youth groups as indicated by (mean = 3.11). On whether the respondents were able to learn how to live and work as a community even before joining YSHGs, the findings show that (mean = 3.42) of the respondents disagreed indicating that the YSHGs were instrumental in mobilizing the youth into responsible communities. Respondents (mean = 3.33) also disagreed with the statement suggesting that crime rates were low in the area even before the introduction of YSHG in the area. For respondents (mean = 4.05), access to higher education before they joined YSHG in the area was not good. Some of them were now able to join colleges to pursue short courses and other programs since they were able to access funds. Respondents were not employed as skilled workers in other organizations before they joined the YSHGs as indicated by (mean = 4.11) of the respondents. The results also indicate that (mean 3.52) of the respondents did not have the values of self-reliance and teamwork before joining the YSHGs.

Membership to the YSHG had enabled (mean = 4.15) of the respondents to improve their access to funds without need for collateral as shown in Table 4.18. The improved access to funds had enabled them to become more financially stable (mean = 4.00). Membership to the YSHGs had also enabled (mean = 3.55) respondents to increase their savings in the form of shares. According to (mean = 4.07) of the respondents, the initiatives created by my YSHG had enabled them to have a regular

income even though it was not so much. As a result, their standards of living had improved (mean = 4.13) and they were now able to support their family members and other dependants (mean = 3.62).

**Table 4.18: Socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora after joining the YSHGs**

Statement	Mean	Std. Deviation	Totals
Through membership to my current Youth Group I have been able to improve my access to funds without need for collateral	4.15	0.903	147
Membership to my youth group has enabled me to more financially stable	4.00	0.734	147
Membership to my YSHG has enabled me to increase my savings in the form of shares	3.55	1.268	147
The initiatives created by my YSHG has enabled me to have a regular income even if it is not so much	4.07	0.903	147
My standard of life has improved as a result of my joining the YSHG and actively participating in its initiatives	4.13	0.734	147
I am now able to support my family members and other dependants as a result of engaging in the YSHG activities	3.62	1.109	147
Many youth in my area are benefiting considerably from the social programs promoted by the YSHG	3.88	1.127	147
Through the YSHGs we have been able to learn how to live and work as a community	3.52	1.104	147
Crime rates have reduced considerably since the introductions of YSHG in the area	3.17	1.249	147
The YSHGs have enabled us to access better education	3.22	0.989	147
Membership to the YSHG has exposed us to other employment opportunities due to the skills we are able to acquire through it	3.77	1.248	147
Membership to the YSHG has taught me both the values of self-reliance and teamwork	3.14	1.193	147

Respondents were benefiting considerably from the social programs promoted by the YSHG as indicated by (mean = 3.88) of the respondents. Moreover, through the

YSHGs they had learned how to live and work as a community (mean = 3.52) and consequently, the crime rates had reduced considerably in the area (mean = 3.17). In addition, (mean = 3.22) of the respondents claimed the YSHGs had enabled them to access better education. Membership to the YSHG had also exposed them to other employment opportunities due to the skills they acquired (mean = 3.77) such as self-reliance and teamwork (mean = 3.14).

#### **4.7.1 Assessing the rate of change in social wellbeing indicators of members after joining YSHG**

A rating of change in welfare status at group level was also assessed using various indicators and ranking of how YSHG members experienced improvement was calculated for each of these indicators and tabulated in Table 4.19.

**Table 4.19: A rating of change in social wellbeing indicators of members after joining YSHG**

<b>Rating of change in welfare status</b>	<b>Better off</b>	<b>Same</b>	<b>Worse off</b>	<b>Total</b>
Access to training	73%	20%	7%	100%
Opportunity for apprenticeship	63%	24%	13%	100%
Access to credit facilities	30%	56%	14%	100%
Management Skills	55%	22%	13%	100%
Acquisition of life skills	51%	37%	11%	100%
Leadership development	49%	29%	21%	100%
Social and economic status	40%	46%	51%	100%
General self awareness	55%	28%	17%	100%
<b>Mean rating</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Except with regard to access to credit and social economic status, all other indices indicated an improvement for over half of members of YSHGs. The leading improvement was recorded in the area of access to training.

#### 4.7.2: Assessing the rate of change in economic wellbeing indicators of members after joining YSHG

The researcher specifically investigated how YSHG members had transformed their economic indicators after joining their welfare group.

**Table 4.20: A rating of change in economic wellbeing indicators of members after joining the YSHG**

<b>Change in economic status</b>	<b>Improved</b>	<b>Same</b>	<b>Worsened</b>	<b>Total</b>
Income	62%	22%	16%	100%
Assets	47%	39%	13%	100%
Liabilities	31%	31%	37%	100%
Savings	63%	21%	16%	100%
Investments	35%	53%	12%	100%
Business growth	37%	45%	17%	100%
<b>Mean rating</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>100%</b>

At group level, indicators with great improvement were income, savings and asset acquisition. But investment and liabilities were rated significantly better than at individual level.

The researcher further computed socio economic wellbeing by generating a composite score for socio-economic wellbeing where a high value score of (13-24) corresponded with improved socio-economic wellbeing and a low value score of (0-12) corresponded with not improved socio-economic wellbeing.

#### 4.21: Socio-economic wellbeing of youth in YSHG

<b>Socio-economic wellbeing</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Improved	80	54.4%
Not Improved	67	45.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>100%</b>

Findings in Table 4.21 reveal that socio-economic wellbeing of members had improved with more than half (54.4%) of the youths reporting that their socio-economic wellbeing had. Youth whose socio-economic had not improved was at 45.6%.

#### **4.8 Hypothesis Test and Results**

To evaluate the relationships between the dependent and independent variables, Chi-square analysis, multiple regression analysis and the z-tests were done and the findings presented in the following subsections.

##### **4.8.1 Chi-Square Analysis**

In this subsection a summary of the Chi-square analysis is presented. It seeks to determine the relationship between each independent variable with the dependent variable.

**H<sub>01</sub>: There is no significant relationship between the initiatives undertaken by YSHGs and socio-economic wellbeing of the youth.**

Findings in Table 4.22 reveal that more than half (58.3%) felt that the the socio-economic wellbeing of the YSHG had improved as a result of the YSHG initiatives whereas 41.7 % felt that the socio-economic wellbeing of their YSHG had not improved as result of YSHG initiatives.

**Table 4.22: Chi-square Test to Determine relationship between the initiatives undertaken by YSHGs and socio-economic wellbeing of the youth**

Initiatives undertaken by youth	Socio-economic well being		Total
	Improved	Not improved	
Relevant	56	40	96
	58.3%	41.7%	100.0%
Not relevant	24	27	51
	47.1%	52.9%	100.0%
Total	80	67	147
	54.4%	45.6%	100.0%

$$\chi^2=1.170; df=1; p=0.015$$

Chi-square results ( $\chi^2= 1.170$ ;  $df=1$ ;  $p=0.015$ ) show there was a significant relationship between initiatives undertaken by youth and socio economic well being at significance level of 0.05. The relationship evidenced by this finding suggests that the initiatives undertaken by the YSHGs were contributors for the socio-economic wellbeing of the members. Therefore the the null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between the initiatives undertaken by YSHGs and socio-economic wellbeing of the youth was rejected for this study.

**Ho2: There is no significant relationship between the challenges faced by YSHGs and socio-economic wellbeing.**

**Table 4.23: Chi-square Test to Determine relationship between financial challenges faced by YSHGs and socio-economic wellbeing**

Financial Challenges	Socio-economic well being		Total
	Improved	Not improved	
Agreed	35	35	70
	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
Disagreed	45	32	77
	58.4%	41.6%	100.0%
Total	80	67	147
	54.4%	45.6%	100.0%

$$\chi^2=1.350; df=1; p=0.034$$

Chi-square results ( $\chi^2 = 1.3503$ ;  $df=1$ ;  $p=0.034$ ) show there was a significant relationship between financial challenges faced by youth and socio economic well being at significance level of 0.05. The relationship evidenced by this finding suggests that the financial challenges faced by the YSHGs were contributors to the socio-economic wellbeing of the members. Therefore the the null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between the challenges facing YSHGs and socio-economic wellbeing of the youth was rejected for this study.

**Table 4.24: Chi-square Test to Determine relationship between management challenges faced by YSHGs and socio-economic wellbeing**

Management challenges	Socio-economic well being		Total
	Improved	Not improved	
Agreed	41	35	76
	53.9%	46.1%	100.0%
Disagreed	39	32	71
	54.9%	45.1%	100.0%
Total	80	67	147
	54.4%	45.6%	100.0%

$\chi^2=8.176$ ;  $df=1$ ;  $p=0.091$

The significance value of the test for the management challenges faced by YSHG initiatives and the socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora was ( $\chi^2 = 8.176$ ;  $p = 0.091$ ). Since this value is more than  $p < 0.05$ , it is evident that there was no significant association between the two variables. The hypothesis was therefore retained since there was no significant relationship between management challenges faced by YSHGs and socio-economic wellbeing.

**H03: There is no significant relationship between the opportunities available for by YSHGs and socio-economic wellbeing**

**Table 4.25: Financial opportunities and socio-economic wellbeing**

Financial opportunities	Socio-economic well being		Total
	Improved	Not improved	
Agreed	34 50.7%	33 49.3%	67 100.0%
Disagreed	46 57.5%	34 42.5%	80 100.0%
Total	80 54.4%	67 45.6%	147 100.0%

$\chi^2=3.617$ ;  $df=1$ ;  $p=0.041$

Chi-square results ( $\chi^2 = 3.617$ ;  $df=1$ ;  $p=0.041$ ) show there was a significant relationship between financial opportunities available for youth and socio economic well being at significance level of 0.05. The relationship evidenced by this finding suggests that the availability of funding opportunities for YSHGs were contributing to the socio-economic wellbeing of the YSHG members. Therefore the null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between financial opportunities available for YSHGs and socio-economic wellbeing of the youth was rejected for this study.

**Table 4.26: Partnership, collaboration opportunities and socio-economic wellbeing**

Partnerships opportunities	Socio-economic well being		Total
	Improved	Not improved	
Agreed	49 63.6%	28 36.4%	77 100.0%
Disagree	31 44.3%	39 55.7%	70 100.0%
Total	80 54.4%	67 45.6%	147 100.0%

$\chi^2=5.535$ ;  $df=1$ ;  $p=0.013$

The Chi-square Test results in Table 4.26 indicates that there was a significant association between the collaboration and partnership opportunities available for registered YSHG initiatives and the socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora ( $\chi^2 = 5.535$ ,  $p = 0.013$ ), implying that the relationship observed is real and not due to chance. This result implies that the groups had begun realizing the full benefits of the opportunities available for them. For example, some were actively bidding for the government tenders following the government policy allocating 30% of the public tenders to the youth owned enterprises. Thus, the hypothesis was rejected since there was significant relationship between the partnership/collaboration opportunities available for YSHGs and socio-economic wellbeing.

**H04: There is no significant relationship between the strategies adopted by the YSHGs and socio-economic wellbeing**

**Table 4.27 : Chi-square Test to Determine the relationship between resource utilization strategies adopted by the YSHGs and socio-economic wellbeing**

Resource utilization	Socio-economic well being		Total
	Improved	Not improved	
Agreed	48	36	84
	57.1%	42.9%	100.0%
Disagree	32	31	63
	50.8%	49.2%	100.0%
Total	80	67	147
	54.4%	45.6%	100.0%

$\chi^2=3.144$ ;  $df=1$ ;  $p=0.063$

Chi-square results ( $\chi^2=3.144$ ;  $df=1$ ;  $p=0.063$ ) measured at significance level of 0.05 show there was no significant relationship between resource utilization as sustainability strategy adopted by YSHG initiatives and socio economic well being of YSHG members. Therefore, the the null hypothesis that there is no significant

relationship between resource utilization as a sustainability strategy adopted by YSHGs and socio-economic wellbeing of the youth was retained for this study.

**Table 4.28: Chi-square Test to Determine the relationship between participatory strategies adopted by the YSHGs and socio-economic wellbeing**

Participatory approaches	Socio-economic well being		Total
	Improved	Not improved	
Agreed	48	39	87
	55.2%	44.8%	100.0%
Disagree	32	28	60
	53.3%	46.7%	100.0%
Total	80	67	147
	54.4%	45.6%	100.0%

$$\chi^2=4.826; df=1; p=0.048$$

The significance value of the test in Table 4.28 show that that the participatory sustainability strategies adopted by registered YSHG initiatives significantly influenced the socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora  $\chi^2 = 4.826$ ,  $df=1$   $p = 0.048$  which is less than  $p < 0.05$ . This indicates that there was a real and significant association between the variables that could not have arisen due to chance. These results demonstrate the importance of the sustainability strategies adopted by the YSHGs in influencing the socio-economic wellbeing of the youth in the area. The hypothesis was therefore rejected since sustainability strategies were found to impact significantly on socio-economic wellbeing of youth

#### **4.8.2 Regression Analysis Model Summary**

Further, multivariate regression analysis was used to determine how the independent variables influenced the dependent variable collectively. The analysis was also

meant to establish the extent to which each independent variable affected the dependent variable in such a collective set up and which factors were more significant.

**Table 4.29: Multiple Linear Regression Analysis Model Summary**

R	R Square	Adjusted Square	R Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
.661 <sup>a</sup>	0.437	0.406	1.759	1.671
a. Predictors: (Constant), Initiatives undertaken, Key challenges, Key opportunities, Strategies adopted				
b. Dependent Variable: Socio-economic wellbeing of youths				

The multivariate linear regression analysis shows that the relationship between the dependent variable and all the independent variables pooled together was significant with a value obtained for R, which is the model correlation coefficient ( $r = 0.661$ ). This indicates that the model improved when more variables were incorporated when trying to assess the contribution of YSHG initiatives to socio-economic wellbeing of youth. Furthermore, the findings indicate that the model could explain up to 40.6% of the variations of the level of the socio-economic wellbeing of the youth in the registered YSHGs.

#### **4.8.3 Multiple Linear Regression results**

Multiple regression analysis was used to determine which independent variable was most predictive. The results were tabulated in Table 4.30.

**Table 4.30: Multiple linear regression results**

	Unstandardized Coefficients	Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	T	Sig.
(Constant)	4.220	9.251		.456	.656
Initiatives	.463	.143	.369	.647	.019
Challenges	.548	.144	.401	3.822	.000
Opportunities	.303	.101	.266	-.628	.001
Strategies	-.072	.114	-.101	.635	.092

a. Dependent Variable: Socio-economic wellbeing of youths

The p-value was used to determine which independent variable was more important in to the socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora. It is evident from the findings in Table 4.30 that the most important factor in this regard was the key challenges facing their initiatives ( $P = 0.000$ ), implying that effective handling of challenges facing the YSHG was paramount in improving the socio-economic wellbeing of the members.

The key opportunities ( $P = 0.001$ ), was found to be the second most important factor in influencing the socio-economic wellbeing of the youth. It implied that the YSHGs needed to exploit the opportunities available for the YSHG. This in turn would lead to improved socio-economic wellbeing of the youth.

The initiatives undertaken by the YSHGs were found to be third in significant ( $P = 0.019$ ) in influencing the socio-economic wellbeing of the youth. This means the YSHGs needed to choose the initiatives to undertake carefully. It could also imply that they needed professional assistance or mentorship in choosing the type of initiatives. However, the strategies adopted by the youth groups in ensuring the

sustainability of their initiatives were not found to be significant in the model. The resulting model was thus;

$$y = 4.22 + 0.463 I + 0.548 C + 0.303 O - 0.072 S$$

#### **4.8.4 Assessment of the differences in socio-economic wellbeing of members before and after joining YSHG.**

**H<sub>0</sub>: There is no significant difference in socio-economic wellbeing of members before and after joining YSHG.**

A two way z-test was used to determine whether there was a significant difference in the means of the socio-economic wellbeing of the members of the YSHGs before and after joining the groups. The findings on these are given in Table 4.31

**Table 4.31: Z-Test for mean differences of socio-economic wellbeing before and after joining YSHG**

	Mean	Std. Err.	Z-Statistic	P-Value (Sig)
Before joining YSHG	15.1761	1.48078	2.331227	0.016
After joining YSHG	10.3625	0.4923		

Significant at  $p < 0.05$

The results in Table 4.31 indicate that the socio-economic wellbeing of the youth in the area improved significantly as a result of joining the registered YSHGs. The z-tests reveal that  $z = 2.331227 > 1.960$ ;  $\alpha < .05$ ;  $df = 146$ ;  $p = 0.016$  which shows that the socio-economic wellbeing of the youth in the area significantly changed after joining the YSHG. The null hypothesis was therefore rejected since there was significant difference in socio-economic wellbeing of YSHG members before and after joining the YSHG.

## CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION

This chapter discusses the main research findings that were guided by the study objectives which were:

- i. To examine whether initiatives undertaken by youth in registered YSHG in Dandora contribute to their socio-economic wellbeing.
- ii. To evaluate the influence of key challenges facing registered YSHG initiatives on socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora.
- iii. To assess the influence of key opportunities available for registered YSHG initiatives on socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora.
- iv. To examine the influence of sustainability strategies adopted by registered YSHG initiatives on socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora.
- v. To assess the socio-economic wellbeing of YSHG members before and after joining the YSHG.

### **5.1 Initiatives undertaken by youth in registered YSHG in Dandora**

The first objective of the study was to examine the initiatives undertaken by youth in registered YSHG in Dandora for socio-economic wellbeing. The results of this objective indicate that there was a significant relationship between the initiatives undertaken by youth in registered YSHGs in Dandora and their socio-economic wellbeing (  $\chi^2=1.170$ ;  $df=1$ ;  $p=0.015$ ).

It emerged that the main activities that YSHG in the area engaged in were cyber cafes and electronic shops. They also engaged in environmental conservation projects. This could be attributed to the propensity of the youth to engage in

technology oriented businesses, environmental conservation and recreation projects. Most of the groups had also started with one project then diversified them when it became profitable suggesting that their projects were sustainable. A study by Andrew and Audrey (2007) which explored practises and potential programs in Australia concurs with the findings. The study concur that recreation programs for youth have become a popular way of developing youth as well as the communities in which they live. These programs are offered in an attempt to engage youth and communities in healthy lifestyles and to enable them to reap the benefits of participation in leisure, recreation and sport. The willingness of the youth to engage in their group enterprises was evident thus, these findings disagreed with Sykes (2003) that entrepreneurship was seen as an inappropriate career choice whose risk and instability may have social consequences.

The results also suggested that the YSHGs were operating under good group constitutions; as such they highly complied with the terms such as membership and subscription fees. However, it also emerged that the YSHGs were not well structured as far as matters of investment were concerned as the findings also indicated that most of the groups did not have well instituted investment committees and this meant that all the investment decisions were plenary and could be time consuming and delay opportunities. Nevertheless, the groups followed their mission of creating employment for the youth in the area. Most of the YSHGs projects were designed to absorb every member either in the management or as fulltime employees and possibly as an economic incentive meant to give them immediate employment or inculcate valuable skills in them for future employers. These findings agree with

Rosemary and Kumaran (2009) and Brennan, Barnett & Lesmeister (2008) who observed that world over, the youth were playing an increasingly important role in the development of themselves and their communities. As such, Hamilton, Hamilton, & Pittman (2004) and Hamilton (2009) concurred that program and policy planners need to better understand the role and impact of youth in the community development process. Hence, the strong relationship evidenced by this finding suggests that the initiatives undertaken by the YSHGs were contributors to the socio-economic wellbeing of their members.

## **5.2: Key challenges facing registered YSHG initiatives**

Evaluating the influence of key challenges facing registered YSHG initiatives on socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora was the second objective of this study. Williams and Peters (2008), suggest that it is essential to review the operational characteristics of the business (i.e., the barriers, opportunities and indicators), as way to evaluate success or at least, understand how to attain successful outcomes.

The findings of this objective revealed financial challenges facing registered YSHG initiatives significantly determined the socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora (  $\chi^2=1.350$ ;  $df=1$ ;  $p=0.031$  ). It was evident from the findings that most of the YSHGs were facing problems with funding with most saying that their income streams were still low to allow them to undertake bigger projects which have better revenue. In most groups, members lacked training in business and project management and this could have a negative impact on their projects outlook. The

findings also indicate that the revenues from most of the groups' projects were still small to guarantee every member a good income. However, the dormancy of some members presented a considerable challenge to the YSHGs as this meant they only existed nominally in the group. The findings also show that the receptiveness of the immediate community to the groups' initiatives did not impede their progress. However, this was not the case when they were bidding for tenders where they often experienced negative perception due to among other things lack of tax compliance certificates. In addition, some of the groups' long term projects tied up considerable amounts of their capital and as such they were unable to acquire better facilities and technology to enable them to add more value to their products and services.

These findings imply that as much as the youth groups were promising in terms of addressing unemployment, they had managerial deficiencies and lacked capacity to take the projects to the next level. This finding concurs with Kimani and Kombo (2010) who found that management capabilities were crucial to the sustainability and growth of the youth led enterprises. They also stated that management deficiencies include inadequate human resource management, financial management, business administration and/ or project management. In support of this finding MOYA (2007), found out that there was a gap between skills needed and education provided in Kenya. The 8-4-4 education system and tertiary training institutions continue to churn out thousands of graduates, who are neither properly equipped for entry into the labour market nor possess the necessary life skills. Different education characteristics mean differences in venture knowledge.

Beckman and Burton (2007) assert that imprinting is critical to organizations, including impacting outcomes like venture growth potential and turn-over rates.

The findings however did not concur with Mburu and Makori (2015) who state that majority of the youth owned initiatives are managed by individuals who have only a maximum of primary level education and no trainings on business related fields.

### **5.3: Key opportunities available for registered YSHG initiatives**

The third objective of the study was to assess key opportunities available for registered YSHG initiatives and their influence on socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora. The chi-square tests indicated that there was a significant relationship between financial opportunities available for registered YSHG initiatives and the socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora ( $\chi^2=3.617$ ;  $df=1$ ;  $p=0.041$  ). This result implied that the groups had begun realizing the full benefits of the opportunities available for them. For example, some were actively bidding for the government tenders in line with government policy allocating 30% of the public tenders to the youth owned enterprises.

According to the findings the unveiling of the YEDF has been very instrumental in enabling majority of YSHGs to access collateral free interest funds. However, there was a feeling that the banking sector had not yet opened its doors for partnership with the youth in their projects. However, there were quite a number of NGOs who were willing to partner with the youth groups in the area on their projects. Most of the firms operating in Nairobi were not keen in pursuing partnerships with the youth groups in their corporate social responsibility programs. On whether there was a

vibrant and cosmopolitan youth population in the area which made the groups very representative, majority of the respondents agreed and this could perhaps explain why their initiatives were mainly targeted at the youth. The findings also revealed that most of the groups failed to attract influential personalities as their group patrons.

These findings agree with Nwokedi *et al.* (2011) who observed that while there were many initiatives being undertaken by the state and non-state actors, there were still implementation gaps and the youth were not taking up opportunities as was expected. For example the tender quota allocated to youth has remained largely underutilized. In addition, the emphasis was frequently placed on labour market entrants, with little attention to the poor working conditions of many young workers. Further, the youth have not been nurtured to create their own jobs. Consequently, youth are prone to work longer hours under informal, intermittent and insecure work arrangements characterized by low productivity and earnings and reduced social protection. Furthermore, it compromises on the capacity of companies and country to innovate and develop competitive advantages.

#### **5.4 : Sustainability strategies adopted by registered YSHG initiatives**

The study also sought to examine the influence of sustainability strategies adopted by registered YSHG initiatives on socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora. The results established that the partnership and collaboration sustainability strategies adopted by registered YSHG initiatives significantly influenced the socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora ( $\chi^2=4.826$ ;  $df=1$ ;  $p=0.048$ ). The results

revealed that the current materials/financial resources in the YSHGs were not adequate, although youth groups appropriately utilized available natural resources, that is, they sought to maximize on the available resources and reduce the costs of their operations. However, there was uncertainty about the funding strategies in place in their organizations. During planning for YSHG initiatives, consideration was given to the challenges of future sustainability. Findings also indicated that the groups received significant support from the society/community.

The groups also approached partners with a vision consistent with that of the YSHGs when looking for donors in order to secure crucial support from them possibly in the long term. Key members of the groups were involved in budget preparation. Majority of the respondents also reported that their groups were innovative/ creative in their fundraising approaches and that their organization had diversified sources of funding. These findings indicate that a majority of YSHGs in Dandora were sustainable. These findings agree with Parida, Chandra, Sinha & Anushree (2010), who found out that factors influencing the sustainability of YSHGs is a combination of both internal and external factors and include the availability of financing, contributions of YSHG members, group leadership practices, availability of inputs, favourable policies affecting the youth, product market price and demand.

### **5.5 : Socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora before and after joining YSHGs**

It was also important to establish the socio-economic wellbeing of the respondents before and after joining the YSHGs and to determine whether there had been a significant change. Improved access to funds had enabled them to become more financially stable. Membership to the YSHGs had also enabled most of the youth to increase their savings in the form of shares. According to majority of the respondents, the initiatives created by YSHG had enabled them to have regular income. As a result, their standards of living had improved and they were now able to support their family members and other dependants. This suggests that many youth in area were benefiting considerably from the social programs promoted by the YSHG as indicated by most of the respondents. Moreover, through the YSHGs they had been able to learn how to live and work as a community. In addition, most claimed the YSHGs had enabled them to access better education. Membership to the YSHG had also exposed them to other employment opportunities due to the skills acquired.

These findings agree with Ejembi and Ogiji (2007) who pointed out that it can become problematic to run a business if the finances are not available or not managed and the owners cannot make projections hence making their plans to become less sustainable. However, they disagree with Mburu and Makori (2015) who found that leadership challenges and internal control and policy challenges affected the implementation of youth initiatives in Nairobi County.

## **CHAPTER SIX: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **6.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the summary of the findings and the conclusions drawn from them, recommendations. The implications of the research are discussed and suggestions made on areas of further study

### **6.2 Summary of the Findings**

This section presents the summary of the findings for the study objectives. The present study sought to assess the contribution of YSHG initiatives to socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora, Nairobi County. The objectives of the study were to establish: the initiatives undertaken by youth in registered YSHG, the key challenges facing registered YSHG initiatives, the key opportunities available for registered YSHG initiatives and the sustainability strategies adopted by registered YSHG initiatives and their contribution to socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora. Results from multiple regression analysis indicate that all the independent variables combined could explain up to 41 % of the variations in the socio-economic wellbeing of youth in the area.

**Objective 1: To examine whether initiatives undertaken by youth in registered YSHG contribute to their socio-economic wellbeing.**

The first objective of the study was to examine whether initiatives undertaken by youth in registered YSHG in Dandora contribute to their socio-economic wellbeing. The findings revealed that there was a significant relationship between the initiatives undertaken by youth in registered YSHGs in Dandora and their socio-economic

wellbeing implying that that the initiatives being undertaken by the YSHGs in the area were contributing considerably to the socio-economic wellbeing of their members ( $\chi^2=1.170$ ;  $df=1$ ;  $p=0.01$ ).

**Objective 2: To evaluate the influence of key challenges facing registered YSHG initiatives on socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora**

The second objective of the study was to evaluate key challenges facing registered YSHG initiatives on socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora. It was established that the key challenges facing registered YSHG initiatives were significant to their socio-economic wellbeing suggesting that the approaches used by the groups in handling the challenges could significantly affect the socio economic wellbeing of the youth in the area. In other words, the management of the challenges was key to the future of the initiatives being undertaken and which were instrumental in transforming the socio-economic profile of YSHG members ( $\chi^2=1.350$ ;  $df=1$ ;  $p=0.03$ ).

**Objective 3: To assess the influence of key opportunities available for registered YSHG initiatives on socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora**

Assessing the effects of key opportunities available for registered YSHG initiatives on socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora was the third objective of the study. It emerged from the findings that the key opportunities available for registered YSHG initiatives had a significant positive association with the socio-economic wellbeing of youth in the area implying that the groups had begun

realizing the full benefits of the opportunities available for them ( $\chi^2=3.617$ ;  $df=1$ ;  $p=0.041$  ).

**Objective 4: To examine the influence of sustainability strategies adopted by registered YSHG initiatives on socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora**

The fourth objective of the study was to examine the sustainability strategies adopted by registered YSHG initiatives and socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora. Results on this objective revealed that the sustainability strategies adopted by registered YSHG initiatives had a significant influence on the socio-economic wellbeing of youth in the area ( $\chi^2=4.826$ ;  $df=1$ ;  $p=0.048$  ).

**Objective 5: To assess the socio-economic wellbeing of YSHG members before and after joining the YSHG.**

The z-tests reveal that  $z = 2.331227 > 1.960$ ;  $\alpha < .05$ ;  $df = 146$ ;  $p = 0.016$  which shows that the socio-economic wellbeing of the youth in the area significantly changed after joining the YSHG.

### **6.3 Conclusions**

The following conclusions can be drawn from the findings; first, the initiatives being undertaken by the YSHGs in the area were strongly contributing to the socio-economic wellbeing of their members. Second, there were significant challenges facing registered YSHG initiatives that needed to be addressed if the initiatives were to improve the socio-economic wellbeing of the youth in the area. Funding challenges, lack of training in business and project management were among the challenges facing the YSHGs. Third, the groups had begun realizing the full benefits

of the key opportunities available for them. Fourth, there was good sustainability strategies formulation and adoption by registered YSHG initiatives and this significantly influenced the socio-economic wellbeing of youth in the area. Finally, the socio-economic wellbeing of YSHG improved after joining YSHGs.

## **6.4 Recommendations**

### **6.4.1 Recommendations for Practice**

- a). YSHGs to venture into more profitable initiatives, be proactive in recruiting new members and in seeking funds from financial institutions.
- b). There is need for government and NGOs to train the members of the YSHGs in business and project management so as to enable them anticipate and handle the challenges they faced more effectively. This was informed by the finding that in most groups members lacked training in business and project management and this could have had a huge impact on their project prospects.

### **6.4.2 Recommendations for Policy**

YSHGs face financial constraints. Despite the fact that Kenya has social protection funds for youth and multiple commercial financial institutions, a very low uptake of loans by the YSHG implied the possibility of handicaps accessing credit financing. Some of the requirements that banks need to give loans to youth groups are difficult to comply by youth groups, such as credit history or substantial collateral from such groups. Therefore, the following recommendations are made:

- a). Need for the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender to re-think around mechanisms to ease access to Youth Fund.

b). Initiatives that would help create jobs for youth should be promoted. For example, youth organized in “cleaning” groups can be provided with garbage collection tools and car wash equipment as physical capital which they can use to generate incomes.

#### **6.4.3 Recommendations for Further study**

The following is recommended for further study

1. Research should be conducted on the impact of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund on the development of YSHGs.
2. Research should be conducted on a national scope to examine challenges facing YSHGs and opportunities available for YSHGs.

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## **APPENDIX A: INFORMED CONSENT**

My name is Masila Doris Ndinda. I am a master's student from Kenyatta University undertaking an academic study to assess "Contribution of Youth Self- Help Group Initiatives to socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora, Nairobi County." This study will help the area NGOs and YSHGs understand how YSHG initiatives impacts on the wellbeing of the members.

The study is purely a requirement for the award of Master of Science in Community Resource Management at the university. You have been randomly selected to participate in the study as you are a youth aged between 18- 35 years and a member of a registered youth group operating in the study site (Dandora).

### **Procedure to be followed**

Participation in this study will require that I ask you some questions and record them in interview schedule. You have a right to refuse to participate in this study. Your participation in the study is voluntary thus you may stop at any time if need be. Questions relating to the study are welcome both before consenting and any time thereafter. You may refuse to respond to any questions and you may stop the interview any time.

### **Discomforts and risks**

Some of the questions you will be asked may make you uncomfortable. If this happens, you may refuse to answer these questions if you so choose. You may also stop the interview any time. It is estimated that it will take approximately 30 minutes of your time to complete the interview.

**Benefits**

If you participate in this study, you will help us to learn how the YSHGs can be improved. You will also benefit by understanding the challenges faced by YSHGs and opportunities available for the YSHGs.

**Rewards**

No rewards will be given for participating in this study.

**Confidentiality**

The interviews will be conducted at the venue where the youth group holds their weekly meeting and where possible at the location of the initiative. Your name will not be recorded on the interview schedule.

**Contact information**

**Participants Statement**

The above information regarding my participation in the study is clear to me. I have been given a chance to ask questions and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. My participation in this study is entirely voluntary. I understand that my records will be kept private and that I can leave the study at any time. I understand that I will share the benefits of the study whether I decide to leave the study or not.

Name of Participant.....

.....

.....

Signature / Thumb print

Date

**Investigator's statement**

I, the undersigned, have explained to the volunteer in a language s/he understands the procedures to be followed in this study and the risks and benefits involved.

Name of Interviewer.....

.....

Interviewer signature

.....

Date



- b. ....
10. Kindly state the objectives of the youth self help group (YSHG)
- a. ....
- b. ....
- .....
11. What are the key project initiative/activities that your YSHG undertakes?
- .....
- .....
12. Please rate how you agree with the following statements regarding the Initiatives undertaken by youth in your YSHG. (tick as appropriate)

**Key: SA=Strongly Agree; A=Agree; N=Neutral; D=Disagree and SD=Strongly Disagree**

Initiatives undertaken by registered YSHG	Scale				
	SD	D	N	A	SA
All our members abide by contents of our group's constitution					
We have a well instituted investment committee within our group who make investment proposals and advise the group members accordingly					
All the proposals for investment are subjected to feasibility analysis before they are adopted					
All the proposals for investment are subjected to popular vote by members before they are adopted					
It is our group policy to ensure that any investment proposal adopted must be consistent with the group's objectives and financial capability					
We strive to ensure that the business projects we engage in are very profitable and involve less risks					
Our projects are designed to absorb every member either in the management or as fulltime employees					
Engagement of group members in the running of the projects enables some of them to get the monthly subscription fees					
All the projects are registered under the group's name and every product developed within the group remains the property of the group					
We started with one project then diversified when it became profitable					

**Section C: Key Challenges Facing Registered YSHG Initiatives on Socio-Economic Wellbeing of Youth in Dandora**

13. How is your group managed?
- a. By the members themselves
- b. By a hired assistant(s)
- c. Both members and hired assistants
- d. Volunteers
14. How often do the leaders hold meetings?
- None at all  Occasionally  Monthly  Weekly
- Irregular as situation demands
15. Would you say that your group abides by contents of the YSHG constitution?
- Yes  No
16. Do you have confidence in the leaders?
- Yes  No
17. What are the main sources of your group's finances?
- Enterprise activities
- Members subscription fee
- Loans from uwezo, CDF, banks
- Donor Funding
16. What is your group's annual income?
- a. Less than Kshs. 50,000
- b. Between Kshs. 50,001- Kshs. 100,000
- c. Between Kshs 100,001- Kshs 150,000
- d. Between Kshs 150,001- Kshs 200,000
- e. Above Kshs 200,001

18. In your opinion, what is your comment on the financial management of your group?

a. Good       b. Fair       Poor

18. Has your YSHG ever taken a loan?

Yes       No

21. If the answer is yes in question 17, indicate the amount.....

22. Please rate how you agree with the following statements regarding the Key challenges facing your YSHG initiatives. (tick as appropriate)

**Key: SA=Strongly Agree; A=Agree; N=Neutral; D=Disagree and SD=Strongly Disagree**

Key challenges facing registered YSHG initiatives	Scale				
	SD	D	N	A	SA
Our income streams are still low to allow us to undertake bigger projects which have better revenue					
Our income streams are still low to allow us to expand our projects					
We have problems in financial reporting					
Our group members lack training in business and project management					
The revenues from our projects are still small to guarantee every member a good income					
We have problems with group cohesion and our numbers have declined thus lowering our group profile					
Conflict between members and management often stall our projects					
Some of our members are very dormant					
The community is not very receptive of our initiatives					
We often experience negative perception when bidding for tenders due to among other things lack of tax compliance certificates					
Some of our long term projects tie up considerable amounts of our capital					
We have not been able to acquire better facilities and technology to enable us to add more value to our products and services					

**Section D: Key Opportunities Available For Registered YSHG Initiatives on Socio-Economic Wellbeing of Youth in Dandora**

23. Which factors have contributed to the success of the YSHG?-----

24. What are some of the benefits accruing to the members of YSHG?.....

25. What opportunities would you say are available for your YSHG?

a) -----

b) -----

26. Please rate how you agree with the following statements regarding the Key opportunities available for your YSHG initiatives. (tick as appropriate)

**Key: SA=Strongly Agree; A=Agree; N=Neutral; D=Disagree and SD=Strongly Disagree**

Key opportunities available for registered YSHG initiatives	Scale				
	SD	D	N	A	SA
The unveiling of the Youth Enterprise Fund has been very instrumental in enabling us to access collateral free interest free funds					
The banking sector has opened its doors for partnership with the youth in their projects					
We have quite a number of NGOs who are willing to partner with the youth groups in our area					
We often get involved in the corporate social responsibility programs of firms operating in Nairobi					
We have a vibrant and cosmopolitan youth population in our area which makes our groups very representative					
We have some influential personalities as our group patrons					
The improving infrastructure in our area makes it conducive for us to conduct our business					
The government policies towards the youth enterprises have given us a significant advantage					
The huge population of Dandora provides a ready market for our goods and services					
The improving security in the area is enabling us to conduct our businesses and run our projects more flexibly					

### Section E: Sustainability Strategies Adopted By Registered YSHG Initiatives on Socio-Economic Wellbeing of Youth In Dandora

27. Please rate how you agree with the following statements regarding the sustainability strategies adopted by your Self Help Group. (tick as appropriate)

**Key: SA=Strongly Agree; A=Agree; N=Neutral; D=Disagree and SD=Strongly Disagree**

Sustainability aspect measured	Scale				
	SD	D	N	A	SA
Current materials/financial resources are adequate					
Available natural resources are utilized appropriately by the youth group					
Funding strategy is in place. Planning for YSHG initiatives considers the challenges of future sustainability					
There are significant sources of support from the society/community					
When looking for donors, the group approaches those with a vision consistent with that of the YSHGs					
Key members of the group are involved in budget formulation					
The group is innovative/creative in its fundraising approaches					
The organization is able to “make do” with what is available					
Resources are utilized and managed to give the greatest possible benefit					
The organization has diversified sources of funding					

### 28. SECTION F: Socio-economic wellbeing of youth in Dandora

Please rate how you agree with the following statements regarding the Socio-economic wellbeing and that of your colleagues in your Self Help Group before joining the YSHG. (tick as appropriate)

**Key: SA=Strongly Agree; A=Agree; N=Neutral; D=Disagree and SD=Strongly Disagree**

Socio-economic profile of youth in Dandora	Scale				
	SD	D	N	A	SA
Before I joined my Youth Group I have been able to improve my access to funds without need for collateral					
Before I joined my Youth Group I was financially stable					
Before I joined my Youth Group I had made savings in other organizations					
I had a regular income before I joined my Youth Group even if it was not so much					

My standard of life was good even before I joined my Youth Group					
I was able to support my family members and other dependants well even before I joined my Youth Group					
Many youth in my area were already doing well even before joining Youth Groups					
Even before joining YSHGs we were able to learn how to live and work as a community					
Crime rates were low in the area even before the introduction of YSHG in the area					
We had better access to education even before we joined Youth Groups in the area					
Most of our group members were already employed as skilled workers in other organizations even before we joined the YSHG					
Most of us had already the values of self reliance and teamwork even before joining the YSHG					

29. Please rate how you agree with the following statements regarding the Socio-economic wellbeing and that of your colleagues in your Self Help Group after joining the YSHG. (tick as appropriate)

**Key: SA=Strongly Agree; A=Agree; N=Neutral; D=Disagree and SD=Strongly Disagree**

Socio-economic profile of youth in Dandora	Scale				
	SD	D	N	A	SA
Through membership to my current Youth Group I have been able to improve my access to funds without need for collateral					
Membership to my youth group has enabled me to more financially stable					
Membership to my YSHG has enabled me to increase my savings in the form of shares					
The initiatives created by my YSHG has enabled me to have a regular income even if it is not so much					
My standard of life has improved as a result of my joining the YSHG and actively participating in its initiatives					
I am now able to support my family members and other dependants as a result of engaging in the YSHG activities					
Many youth in my area are benefiting considerably from the social programs promoted by the YSHG					
Through the YSHGs we have been able to learn how to live and work as a community					
Crime rates have reduced considerably since the introductions of YSHG in the area					

30. Looking at the following items, would you say members are collectively better off (B) , Same (S) or worse off (W) as a result of belonging to the Youth Self Help Group?

<b>Area of assessment</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>W</b>
Access to training and skills development			
Opportunities for apprenticeship			
Access to credit facilities			
Management skills			
Acquisition of life skills			
Leadership development			
Social and economic status			
General self awareness			

31. Looking at the following items, would you say members are collectively better off (B) , Same (S) or worse off (W) as a result of belonging to the Youth Self Help Group?

<b>Area of assessment</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>W</b>
Income			
Assets			
Liabilities			
Savings			
Investment			
Business growth			

*Thank You Very Much for Your Cooperation  
-God Bless You-*

**APPENDIX C : SAMPLING FRAME**

	<b>GROUP NAME</b>	<b>MALE</b>	<b>FEMALE</b>
<b>1</b>	Educational center for youth development	40	15
<b>2</b>	Eka –meko welfare group	40	10
<b>3</b>	Tushirikiane brothers	64	14
<b>4</b>	Zur youth	35	10
<b>5</b>	Youth with a vision maili saba	37	10
<b>6</b>	Jitihada yetu youth group	10	7
<b>7</b>	Dadora youth development project	25	10
<b>8</b>	Buruburu farm youth	20	14
<b>9</b>	Ruai youth for action	38	18
<b>10</b>	Prime self help group	72	17
<b>11</b>	Arising self help group	81	15
<b>12</b>	El toto self help group	40	18
<b>13</b>	Better link	33	9
<b>14</b>	Forward ever back never group	51	9
<b>15</b>	Matopeni youth	20	3
<b>16</b>	Niinue nikuinue group	70	25
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>204</b>

**APPENDIX D : MAP SHOWING DANDORA**



**APPENDIX E: KENYATTA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL  
APPROVAL LETTER**



**KENYATTA UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE SCHOOL**

E-mail: [dean-graduate@ku.ac.ke](mailto:dean-graduate@ku.ac.ke)

Website: [www.ku.ac.ke](http://www.ku.ac.ke)

P.O. Box 43844, 00100  
NAIROBI, KENYA  
Tel. 8710901 Ext. 57530

Our Ref: H60/20187/2010

DATE: 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2014

The Permanent Secretary,  
Ministry of Higher Education, Science & Technology,  
P.O. Box 30040,  
**NAIROBI**

Dear Sir/Madam,

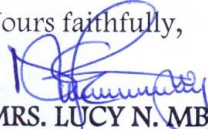
**RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION MASILA DORIS NDINDA- REG. NO. H60/20187/2010**

I write to introduce Ms. Masila Doris Ndinda who is a Postgraduate Student of this University. She is registered for M.Sc degree programme in the **Department of Community Resource Management and Extension**.


Ms. Masila intends to conduct research for a M.Sc proposal entitled, **“Community Based Project Management Outcomes of Youth Self-Help Group Initiatives in Dandora, Nairobi County, Kenya.”**

Any assistance given will be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

*for*   
**MRS. LUCY N. MBAABU**  
**FOR: DEAN, GRADUATE SCHOOL**

## APPENDIX F: KU ETHICAL REVIEW PERMIT



**KENYATTA UNIVERSITY  
ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE**

KENYATTA UNIVERSITY  
P. O. BOX 43844 - 00100 NAIROBI  
**APPROVED**  
P.O. Box 43844  
Nairobi, 00100  
Tel: 8710901/12  
Fax: 8711242/8711575  
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN  
ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE  
Date: 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2014

Email: [kuerc.chairman@ku.ac.ke](mailto:kuerc.chairman@ku.ac.ke)  
[kuerc.secretary@ku.ac.ke](mailto:kuerc.secretary@ku.ac.ke)  
 Website: [www.ku.ac.ke](http://www.ku.ac.ke)

Our Ref: KU/R/COMM/51/332

Doris Masila Ndinda,  
 Dept. of Community Resource Management and Extension,  
 Kenyatta University,  
 P.o Box 43844, Nairobi

RE APPLICATION NUMBER PKU/189/1 166 – “COMMUNITY BASED PROJECT MANAGEMENT OUTCOMES OF YOUTH SELF – HELP GROUP INITIATIVES IN DANDORA, NAIROBI COUNTY KENYA – VERSION 2

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1. **IDENTIFICATION OF PROTOCOL**  
 The application before the committee is with a research topic “Community based project management outcomes of youth self – help group initiatives in Dandora, Nairobi County Kenya” – **Version 2** dated 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2014.

2. **APPLICANT**  
 Doris Masila Ndinda, Dept. of Community Resource Management and Extension


3. **STUDY SITE**  
 Dandora, Nairobi County Kenya

4. **DECISION**  
 The committee has considered the research protocol in accordance with the Kenyatta University Research Policy (section 7.2.1.3) and the Kenyatta University Ethics Review Committee Guidelines AND **APPROVED that the research may proceed for a period of ONE year from 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2014.**


5. **ADVICE/CONDITIONS**


- i. Progress reports are submitted to the KU-ERC every six months and a full report is submitted at the end of the study.
- ii. Serious and unexpected adverse events related to the conduct of the study are reported to this board immediately they occur.
- iii. Notify the Kenyatta University Ethics Committee of any amendments to the protocol.
- iv. Submit an electronic copy of the protocol to KUERC.

When replying, kindly quote the application number above.  
 If you accept the decision reached and advice and conditions given please sign in the space provided below and return to KU-ERC a copy of the letter.

  
**PROF. NICHOLAS K. GIKONYO**  
 CHAIRMAN ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE

1. DORIS NDINDA MASILA accept the advice given and will fulfill the conditions therein.

Signature.......... Dated this day of.....29 MAY..... 2014.  
 cc. Vice-Chancellor  
 Director: Institute for Research Science and Technology

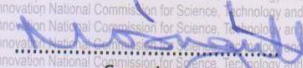


### APPENDIX G : NACOSTI RESEARCH PERMIT

**THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT:**

**MS. DORIS NDINDA MASILA**  
**OF KENYATTA UNIVERSITY , 0-200**  
**NAIROBI, has been permitted to conduct**  
**research in Nairobi County**  
**on the topic: COMMUNITY BASED**  
**PROJECT MANAGEMENT OUTCOMES OF**  
**YOUTH SELF-HELP GROUP INITIATIVES**  
**IN DANDORA, NAIROBI COUNTY, KENYA**  
**for the period ending:**  
**31st October, 2014**

**Permit No. : NACOSTI/P/14/6015/1880**  
**Date Of Issue : 25th June, 2014**  
**Fee Received :Ksh 1,000**

**Applicant's Signature** 

**Secretary**  
**National Commission for Science,**  
**Technology & Innovation**

