



KABARAK UNIVERSITY

6TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

**SELF-RELIANCE PROJECTS; THE FUTURE CORE DRIVER OF
RURAL YOUTH LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES**

JOHN M. KING'AU

20/07/2016

Introduction / Background

- This paper examines the self-reliance projects as a future core driver of rural youth livelihood development outcomes in Kenya.
- The paper is based on a study conducted to determine the effects of self-reliance projects on the livelihoods of youth in selected rural areas of Nakuru County

Background ...Cont'd

Rural youth are still the demographic majority in most parts of Kenya and Nakuru County in particular,

in Kenya over **half of the total population is youth**

majority of them **living in rural areas** and are unemployed

➤ **This is why most rural youth engage in self-reliance projects to improve their livelihoods.**

Background cont'd

- ▶ Kenyan Government has implemented a series of Empowerment support programmes;
 - ▶ the Small Scale Business Project,
 - ▶ Kenya Youth Empowerment Project and the Youth Enterprise Fund (Ministry of Youth Affairs, 2006).
 - ▶ The UWEZO Fund which was established in 2014
- ▶ Government initiatives seek to ensure access to credit facilities for young women and men in Kenya to enable them establish businesses and earn income to improve their lives

Background cont'd

- ▶ youth need to improve in all sorts of areas
 - ▶ such as income,
 - ▶ information,
 - ▶ knowledge and skills, education,
 - ▶ and access to capital through the services of the intervention agencies.
- ▶ To achieve sustainability in rural development, youth should be involved more in self-reliance development processes.
- ▶ Access to financial services such as savings and loans to rural youth may be of fundamental importance to start any self-reliance activities.

Statement of the problem

- ▶ Unemployment has become a perennial problem in Kenya and very few youths are entering the formal job market
- ▶ Majority of jobs created in Kenya have been through self-reliance projects
- ▶ In Nakuru County, youth in the rural areas are engaged in a diverse range of self-reliance activities, both agricultural and non-agricultural.

Statement of the problem Cot'd

- Rural youth face many hurdles in trying to earn a livelihood.
- while self-reliance projects are widely being undertaken by many youth in Nakuru County and other counties in Kenya, their effect is less understood.
- No study has been done exhaustively to determine the effect of the self-reliance projects on the livelihoods of the youth in rural areas

Study objectives

- To determine the effects of self-reliance projects on the livelihoods of youth in selected rural areas of Nakuru County
- To determine the kind of self-reliance projects being implemented by youth in selected areas of Nakuru County
- To evaluate the relationship between financial access, entrepreneurial skills and viability of self-reliance projects on livelihoods of youth in selected rural areas of Nakuru County

Brief literature review

Structural Review

> Youth participation in social capital and empowerment

Low education levels among many rural youth further limit training possibilities (IFAD, 2010). Thus rural youth have repeatedly reported lack of skills in areas such as leadership and business management as well as the need for apprenticeship opportunities (GoK, 2007)

> Concept of self-reliance development and rural youth projects

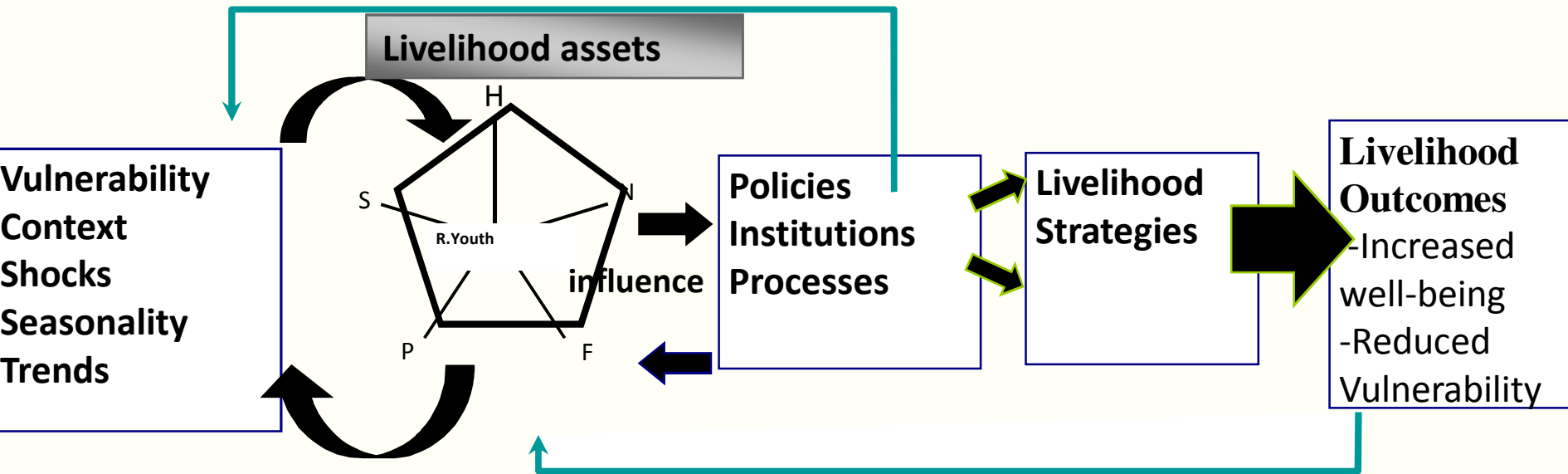
While financial services have become increasingly available to young people, there is still much to be achieved to improve the availability of such services to young people in rural enterprises (Dalla, 2012).

> Opportunities for rural youth socio-economic development

The new counties' dispensation should promote and facilitate entrepreneurship by making it easier to start and run rural youth enterprises in order to provide more and better jobs for young women and men (GoK, 2013).

literature review con't

Theoretical Review



DFID Livelihoods Framework (adopted from Ellis, 2000)

Key: **F**=Financial asset, **P**= Physical asset, **S**= Social asset, **H** = Human asset, **N** = Natural asset

Methodology

- . This study adopted the descriptive research design **where both qualitative and quantitative research methods**
- . Questionnaire administration was conducted face to face with the help of trained research assistants
- . Data collected was analyzed using SPSS where frequencies and percentages were derived.
- . The quantitative analysis was used, to determine frequencies and percentages of the responses while qualitative analysis was used to determine relationships.

Introduction / Background

	Frequency	Percent
Kuresoi	56	40.6
Subukia	31	22.5
Njoro	51	37.0
Total	138	100.0

Findings / Results

Demographic Characteristics of the youth

Age

majority of those surveyed were in the age bracket 26 – 35 years. This group represented 69.3% of all the respondents. They were followed by those in the age bracket 19 – 25 years at 29.2%. The least numbers were those aged 18 years and below at just 1.5%.

Gender

Among the sampled respondents 93 (67.4%) were male and 45 were female (32.6%).

Findings / Results continued

- **Married 62.3%**, followed by the single individuals at 37.0%. the widowed stood at only 0.7 %.
- This finding indicates that the married youth are more involved in self-reliance projects.
- Majority of those surveyed had **secondary education (46.4 %)**. followed by **tertiary/college/university education at 34.1 %** and the least were those with **primary education at 19.6 %**.

Findings / Results

- A majority - 51.1% were involved in crop farming/livestock farming
- Bee keeping; only 3.0%.
- Table banking (7.4%) and savings scheme (6.7%)
- Other projects (17%) such as community development, milk collection and distribution, peace building, dip management, fish farming,.

Findings / Results

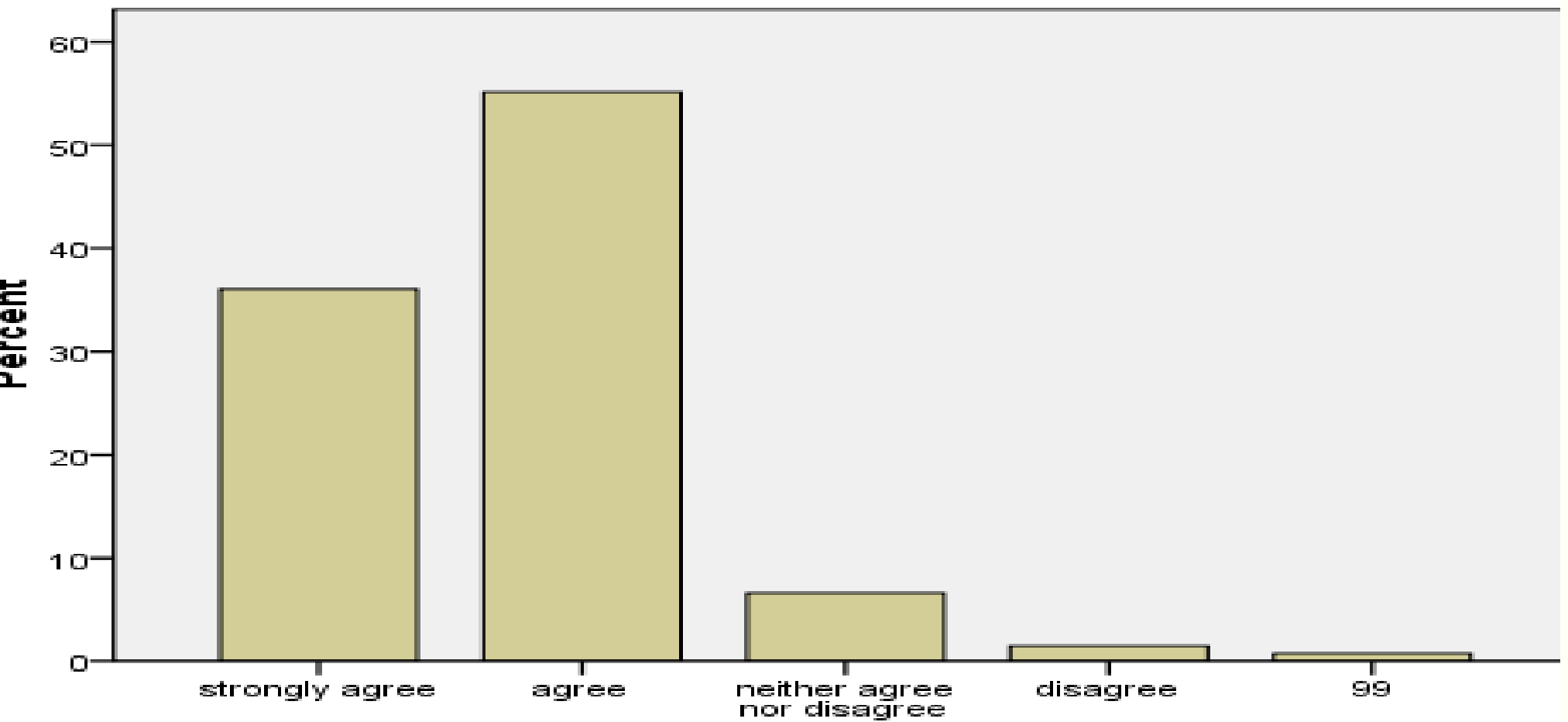
Majority of the youths at **86.7%** said that they would expand the project while only **13.3%** said they would not expand the project.

Varied reasons were given for expanding the project with

- 43.9% -**increase income/profits,**
- 11.4% -**meet customers demand.**
- 9.3 %- **Personal satisfaction/needs**
- 7.9% -**to provide family needs**
- 6.0 % -**Future growth**

Hence reason for stating that **SRPs are the future Core driver of Rural Youth Livelihood Development outcomes**

have better ways of selecting projects



Conclusions

- Many rural youth lack adequate knowledge and information on how to access the available capital.
- Rural youth ranked access to group support, new ideas and a sense of self confidence or courage as being more important to their self-reliance projects success.
- Self-reliance projects are core drivers of positive youth livelihood outcomes

Recommendations

Youth Service Organizations' and the Government should provide opportunities to learn how to develop youth self-reliance projects and programmes existing as part of livelihood development programmes.

Facilitate need-based education and training that is relevant to youth involvement in SRPs

Introduce youth to new support networks and contacts

Encourage Establishment rural youth's self-help groups and develop leadership among rural youth

Policy options be part of an integrated framework to promote self-reliance projects and livelihoods enhancement.

Areas for further study

- Investigate the impacts of the SRPs in the rural countryside as this requires some years before the impacts can be interrogated.
- Further research should be carried out to establish how the UWEZO, Youth and other enterprise funds have benefited female youth since the study revealed that more males as compared to females were involved in SRPs for their livelihoods enhancement

A red banner with a wavy bottom edge, featuring two light blue circles on the right side. The text "Ending Remarks" is centered in white.

Ending Remarks

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

I WELCOME ANY CRITIQUE AND SUGGESTIONS