Youth Employment Creation Initiatives in Rural Iringa, Tanzania: An Examination of the Role Played by Family, Community and Local Government Institutions

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Abstract

This article examines the role of the family, community and local government institutions in rural Iringa, Tanzania, to enable youth create viable self-employment opportunities. The study was carried out area in Iringa region where three rural district councils were involved. To obtain the data, interviews and FGDs instruments were employed. Qualitative approach was applied in data analysis. The study revealed that the institutions played a significant role to nurture youth positive socio-economic traits such as spirit of hard work and self-efficacy, trustworthiness, and resilience. For instance, through mobilising voluntary works and formulation of strict bylaws which force all village residents to engage in Income Generation Activities (IGAs), the institutions provided significant impetus towards youth adapting hardworking spirit in various self employment activities. Moreover,, the study established that lack of designed youth programmes to install multiple socio-economic skills had a direct negative impact in terms of hindering youth to create sustainable IGAs. Despite the availability of abundant resources in the region, youth lacked training forums and reliable credit facilities that would empower them to initiate and manage sustainable IGAs. The article concludes that persistence youth unemployment in the region which is endowed with potential resources is somewhat manifestation of poor parental guidance and lack of benevolent leadership style. These would mentor youngsters on identifying multiple socio-economic capabilities to strengthen youth knowledge and skills relevant to discover and utilise their individual talents. The study recommends that youth development actors in Iringa to cooperatively work hard to create potential forums and provide multiple forms of resources to create self employment opportunities using available abundant natural resources found in the region.

Key words: family, community, local government, youth, self employment, rural Iringa, *Tanzania.*