

Participation of Youths in Decision Making for the Economic Development of Zanzibar

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| Received: 08.02.2023 | Accepted: 13.03.2023 | Published: 15.03.2023 |

Abstract: The study of assessing youth participation in decision making for economic development was conducted in the Urban West Region of Zanzibar. The objectives of the study were to investigate youth involvement in the decision making process in the economic programs in Zanzibar; to examine the factors that constrain youth participation in the economic development of Zanzibar; and to analyse existing government policies on youth participation in the economic development of Zanzibar. A quantitative research method was adapted to collect and analyse primary data from respondents. Data was collected from 181 respondents using a structural questionnaire. Data was statistically analysed by using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) and was represented in the form of frequencies and tabulations. The key findings revealed that youths are neither participating nor involved in decision making in economic development programs as a majority. On the other hand, 105 (58%) of respondents said that youths are not involved in decision making. 71 (40%) of respondents said that lack of information accessibility is a challenge to youth participation in decision making. And lastly, the majority 96 (53%) of respondents also said that a low level of education is a hindering factor for youth participation. The findings also revealed that the majority of the respondents 149 (82%) agreed that the participation of youths will influence an effective outcome in economic development; 96 (53%) of the respondents agreed that, low level of education is the major factor that hinders youth participation in economic development programs; and the majority of respondents 59 (33%) disagreed that policies do not address youth participation in decision making. The study recommends that, the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar should invest much on youth for sustainability economic development programs so as to avoid joblessness in the nation that results in substance abuse, the Urban West Region of Zanzibar should use the allocated funds to mobilise and sensitise youth participation in economic development projects that directly affect their lives and the existing national youth policy should be reviewed to consider the participation of youths in decision making for the economic development programs in Zanzibar.

Keywords: Youth participation; decision making, economic development.

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.1.1 Globally

The World Bank Report (2018) shows that about 42% of the world population is young people and children. Young people constitute a high proportion of the population (Felix, 2003). The high population of youth represents an opportunity for development in a situation where a country can develop a younger workforce who can quickly drive economic development in their country (Bartle, 2007).

It is said that there are nearly 1.8 billion youth aged between 15 and 24 years in the world, with the majority of them living in developing countries. Many youth are unable to participate fully in society. Around 175 million young people in low-income countries cannot read a full sentence. Among those aged 15-24, some 500 million live on less than \$2 a day, and over

73 million are unemployed. For girls, the barriers to participation are even higher (UNFPA Report, 2018).

The 1995 world summit on social development led nations to agree upon the need to create an enabling environment for increased equity and empowerment of all people at all levels in development activities through the sound of governance, participation, and enhanced capacity. Youth are potential agents to be included in the development processes.

1.1.2 African Context

The young population in Africa is growing rapidly, and at present the number of young people aged between 15 and 24 years has reached 50% of the total population. Indeed, the opportunities and constraints of young people's participation in development continue to play a major role (UNDESA, 2015).

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Citation: Hafidh Ali Hafidh (2023). Participation of Youths in Decision Making for the Economic Development of Zanzibar. *Cross Current Int Peer Reviewed J Human Soc Sci*, 9(3), 16-27.

The importance of youth participation is recognized in the African Charter for Participation in Development and Transformation as the right of the people to participate in the decisions affecting their lives. Young people aged 15 to 24 make up more than 50% of Africa's population. The recent African Youth Charter defines youth as those young people aged 15 to 35 years.

1.1.3 Tanzania Context

The UN (1981) defined youth as being (15-24 years old. About 20% of the population in Tanzania are young people, while using the Tanzanian definition (18-35) 35% of the population are youths (NBS, 2003). Tanzania has experienced an average annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of 7% (THDR, 2014), though the economy has not generated enough employment opportunities for the available workforce, of which young people account for more than 65% (THDR, 2014). The government statistics show that the unemployment rate is 12.7% (THDR, 2014), but the unemployment rate among young people is more than 50% (TSYR, 2011).

According to the Tanzania State of the Youth Report (2011), the involvement of youth in decision making bodies in central and local governments is below 50%, whereas youth make up the majority of the population share in Tanzania. Therefore, the need to involve this social group in all levels of decision making, from the central government to local government, is of necessity for the development of their country (Tanzania Youth Manifesto, 2015).

Tanzania has a population of 49.08 million (2012 Census), one-third of that population is young people between the ages of 10 to 24 years. The National Youth Policy recognizes that the youth, who constitute about 65% of the labour force and 35% of the total population, are not represented in various forums and do not participate adequately in decision making bodies. According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, only 0.6% are parliamentarians aged under 30, while as per the National Election Commission (2015)-NEC the number of voters between the ages of 18 and 35 is 6,155,613 (27% for young men) and 6,738,964 (30% for young women). This shows that in spite of youth being a key deciding vote for those seeking power, they are still lagging behind in terms of themselves being in the ballot box, as a result, there is inadequate involvement of youth in decision making and most of the decisions which have been made do not take concerns of the youth AFRINYPE, (2017).

1.1.4 Zanzibar Context

According to the International Labour Force Survey (2016), the total youth population in Zanzibar aged 15 - 24 is 219,824, or 35.7% of the working age population (614,987) of the total youth population aged 15 - 24 (219,824), 106,730 (48.6%) are young men and

113,094 (51.4%) are young women. The total youth population aged 15 - 35 is 379,038 and 61.6% of the working age population (614,987). Out of the total youth population aged 15 - 35 (379,038), 173,811 (45.9%) are young men and 205,228 (54.1%) are young women.

A total of 13,026 young people in the age group 15 - 24 are unemployed. Among them, young women (9,052) suffer more from unemployment than young men (3,974). The total unemployment rate for young people aged 15 to 24 is 8.7%. The total female unemployment rate is 12%, which is higher than 5.3% of male. The male unemployment rate in the urban areas is 11.7%, which is higher compared with rural areas, with a rate of 1.7%. The female unemployment rate in the urban areas was 23.7%, which is higher than 5.1% in the rural areas (ILFS Report, 2016).

Therefore, the study went to examine youth participation in decision making for economic development of Zanzibar.

1.1.5 Youth Related Policy Review

Different global, national and local policy documents were reviewed in relation to the problem of youth participation. On the International level the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1995 highlight new insights and perspectives that reinforce the developmental role of young people in the world. Following its guidelines and mandates, the African Union has adopted the African Youth Charter as a policy whose agenda is focused on the development of the youth for socio-economic growth on the continent (African Union, 2006). Following these steps, the South Revolutionary government of Zanzibar has adopted the National Youth Policy as a responsive institutional structure to address youth problems and encourage development unique to the country (ZYDP, 2005). Overall, these policies concur that young people are intrinsic to development and are thus considered decision makers in the global, regional and national sphere.

1.1.6 The United Nations World Programme for Action for Youth (2000 and Beyond)

The World Programme Action for Youth (WPAY), (2000 and Beyond) is the current United Nations blueprint policy framework for international and national action that supports and fosters conditions to improve the well-being and livelihoods of the youth. In particular, it focuses on strengthening national capacities to "increase the quality and quantity of opportunities available to the youth for full, effective and constructive participation in society.

Investing in the youth by the international and national communities can also be viewed as a means to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

(United Nations, 2010). The youth are affected by each of the goals and are thus responsible for their achievement. Therefore, the WPAY emphasises that the youth are the *makers* in society and are the resource that can lead to the development of the current and future generations (United Nations, 2010).

In complementing the WPAY and the MDGs, the African Youth Charter supports the calling of the youth, specifically in the development of the sub-Saharan region and, through its action plans, identifies obstacles and options to further youth development in the region.

1.1.7 The African Youth Charter

The authors of the African Youth Charter (AYC) believed that the youth are the most important resource in surmounting the socio-economic problems on the African continent, if they are given the opportunity. According to Article 11 of the AYC stipulates that “every young person shall have the right to participate in development of all spheres of society” To reinforce this, the Charter instructs all member states to develop a comprehensive and coherent national youth policy, as noted in Article 12. This will be supported by the AU, as mentioned in Article 28 of the charter, by collaborating with governments and NGOs to identify best youth participation practices for implementation while simultaneously facilitating co-operation between youth organisations in order to develop national youth solidarity.

1.1.8 Zanzibar Youth Development Policy in 2005

The government of Zanzibar through the ministry responsible for youth affairs formulated the Zanzibar Youth Development Policy in 2005 in which the issues of youth participation is well reflected. The policy aimed at enhancing national wide economic growth and social progress by encouraging youth in all sectors to participate in the development activities in terms of social, economic and political as well as in the planning and protection of environment and build up their capacities for them to develop their potentials. The purpose is to prepare viable economic plans to attract investments and improve private sectors to enable youth secure jobs and so contribute to the national economic growth.

1.1.9 Zanzibar Youth Employment Action Plan (2007)

Zanzibar Youth Employment Action Plan (2007) is another step taken by the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar towards the employment creation strategies to the youth and participation of youth in decision making programs. This action plan aims at making employment creation at the centre of national socio-economic policy; creates conducive environment that will make it easier to start and run enterprises in order to provide more and better jobs to

youth and promoting equal access to employment opportunities, skills and resource for youths.

1.1.10 Zanzibar Apprenticeship Policy of 2011

The Apprenticeship Policy of 2011 in Zanzibar is another important step towards the employment creation and opportunity to youth participation. The main objective of this policy is to promote and regulate the provision of apprenticeship and prepare apprentices for productive employment for all and youth in particular irrespective of the gender. Among the specific objective of this policy is to contribute significantly in solving of unemployment and poverty related issues through a flexible and quality apprenticeship system.

1.1.11 Zanzibar Employment Policy in 2007

In reducing the problem of unemployment to youth, the Government of Zanzibar established the Employment Policy in 2007. The overall objective of this policy is to increase national productivity, and attain full, gainful and freely chosen productive employment, in order to reduce unemployment, and underemployment rates, enhance labour productivity, and reduce poverty levels as envisaged in MKUZA (MLYWCD, 2007).

Among the key specific objectives of this policy is to promote a common understanding of the unemployment problem among key stakeholders and generate collaborative and current efforts towards solving it; Promote equal access to employment opportunities for men and women as well as skills and resources endowments and address the age- specific needs of vulnerable groups, such as women, youth and people with disabilities.

1.1.12 Zanzibar Youth Council Act in 2013

Establishment of Zanzibar Youth Council Act in 2013 is another government initiative that facilitates youth participation in decision making through youth council at Shehia, district and national level. The council is platform to discuss matter of concern to the youth of Zanzibar. One among the main objective of the council is to advocate for the empowerment of youth in order to make them productive members in the society. Zanzibar youth council is an organ whose crucial role it plays is representing and strengthening the voice of the youths in Zanzibar.

1.1. 13 Barriers to Effective Youth Participation

A host of factors have been identified as obstacles to effective youth participation in development programs. Oakley (1991) discussed three major obstacles to people’s and youths’ participation which are structural, administrative and social barriers. Structural obstacles form part of the complex and centralized organizational systems that control decision making, resource allocation and information, and are not oriented towards people’s participation. This

situation is usually typified by a 'top-down' development approach. Administrative obstacles relate to bureaucratic procedures, operated by a set of guidelines and adopt a blue print approach, providing little space for people to make their own decisions or control their development process. The social impediments include mentality of dependence, culture of silence, domination of the local elite, gender inequality, and low levels of education and of exposure to non-local information (JOE, 2007).

Standardization of approaches is another obstacle identified by (Guijt and Shah, 1998) which contradicts the original aims of participation to move away from the limitations of blue print planning and implementation towards more flexible and context-specific methodologies. This approach practically faced resistance from both the urban and rural elites. Consequently, by the late 1970s emphasis was imparted to 'people's participation' in planning and administration. The prime objective was to involve people in decision making process (Finn, 2001). During the same period the idea of 'decentralization' also attracted wide attention of the development mentalists as a strategy for ensuring people's participation in development activities.

Since 1970s scholars, development practitioners, donors as well as governments particularly those in developing countries, began to consider people's participation through decentralization as a new strategy for development (Kuzilwa, 2000). In the new paradigm, decentralization is regarded as a means to achieve people's participation in development. Consequently, decentralization has emerged as a reform package and people's participation through decentralization came to be regarded as one of its vital objectives (Ahmed, 1987).

In line with the barriers or factors hindering youths' participation, a number of issues limit active participation of some primary development activities (Masanyiwa and Kinyashi, 2008). For example a research done by Masanyiwa and Kinyashi (2008) a major impediment to people's participation in Mpunguzi and Mundemu according to the views of many respondents is poverty. Most community respondents were concerned that their involvement interventions entail some costs in terms of their time, labour and resources. Because of high levels of poverty among communities where stakeholders work, most community members fail to involve themselves in development initiatives especially when such involvement requires cash contributions.

As such, it was observed that some construction activities for example, delay to be accomplished because mobilization of community resources which are required as part of their contribution in such structures takes long time (Molle,

2013). Jazairy (1989) notes that projects conceived and implemented by outside organizations have failed because adequate consideration was not given to the importance of youth or peoples' participation.

So project beneficiaries or the community people (youths in particular) should be included in all phases of development projects – from the process of needs assessment for the design and development of a project, through project implementation to project monitoring and evaluation. Several decades of development initiatives have shown that without meaningful participation of the local people and the inclusion of youths in the development process, sustainable improvement in the standard of living of the people cannot be achieved (Annie, 2007).

Despite the influences and motivations, significant obstacles exist that inhibit, and often discourage, community activeness among youth. Among the leading obstacles is not being taken seriously, not being asked, and not being assigned or having an identifiable role are consistently noted in various literature (Independent Sector, 2001). Felix (2003) identified other barriers to youth involvement in communities, including a lack of communication and awareness of opportunities, turf issues among organizations competing for youth participants, youth fears of speaking out, lack of diversity, and adults or the systematic mistreatment of young people simply because of their age.

1.2 Specific Objectives

In the course of implementing the general objective, the researcher carried out the following specific objectives:-

1. To investigate youth involvement in decision making process for economic development programs in Zanzibar;
2. To examine the factors that constrain youth participation in economic development of Zanzibar;
3. To analyse existing government policies on youth participation for the economic development of Zanzibar.

2.1 THEORETICAL LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1.1 Triangle of Youth Participation

A triangle of youth participation is a participation model which was propounded by Marc Jans and Kart De Barker (2002) and is very much relevant to this study. The model identified the dynamic balance of three dimensions that young people will actively participate in society, namely: challenges, capacity and connection. Jan and Barker suggest that young people need to be hooked by a challenge which necessitates their participation; need to feel that they can and will be able to cope with and have personal capacity to deal with the challenge; and young people need to feel and understand that their involvement have

some connection with that of others. The model was relevant to this study which described challenges and described capacity of youth for involvement in decision making for the economic development.

2.1.2 Ladder of Participation

Ladder of participation is a model of participation which was developed by Roger Hart in (1992) with the aim of enabling young people takes an active part in decision making and gets an opportunity to have a voice in society. The model shows that, in different activities seemingly involving young people but they have nothing in common with the true participation.

It is a model with eight levels aiming at helping adults establish conditions and environment for youth participation. The level of manipulation, decoration, participation for show, assigned and informed, another level is adults make decision, the level of adult initiative, the level of young people initiative and leadership and the last one is the level of young people initiative and the decision made in partnership with adults (Roger Hart, 1992).

The model was useful to the study because it helped the researcher to understand level of participation that establishes conditions and environment for youth participation.

2.1.3 Economic Development Theory

Economic Development Theory proposed by Patrick (1966) explains that, in the beginning stages of economic development, causation runs from economic development to social development. This view has been labelled "demand- following" with the social sectors where youth can be vulnerable in participation in construction of economic development, in underdeveloped countries viewed as an indication of the law of demand for their services. As economic growth occurs the direction of causality may re-verse and a "supply-leading" relationship develops, where the efficiency gains associated with the intermediation process help stimulate continued economic growth in the later stages of a county's economic growth cycle, this demand and supply of economic opportunities can leads to participation of the youth in economic development since they are labour force as explained as one of the three economic factors which are land, capital and labour.

This theory helps the study in relating the demand of the youth in decision making of economic development, since then the economic factor of productions must involve labours, here the labours are the human resources who are able and willing to work in decision making in economic development so in that aspect youth are very vulnerable group in labour intensive to reach economic development in production in any sectors.

2.1.4. Neo-Classical Economic Growth Theory

This theory was first developed by Solow (1956) and criticized the Harrod-Domar model that even in the long run, the economic system is at best balanced on a knife-edge of equilibrium growth by using the key parameters: the saving ratio, the capital output ratio, the rate of increase of the labour force and youth can be participated as a labour force.

His theory is devoted to a model of long run growth which accepts all the Harrod-Domar assumptions except that of fixed proportions, Solow (1985). This theory points out that in a closed economy output is a function of varying shares of labour and capital, given assumptions for youth population growth, saving and technology. It assumes that a key component of economic growth is saving and investment, such that an increase in saving and investment raises the capital stock and thus raises the full employment and on so doing the youth participation in employment as an economic activity of raising their income in order to increase their purchasing power.

2.1.5 Decision Making Theory

In the theory of participation, it is useful to review broad theories of decision-making structures. De Sario and Langton, in their book *Citizen Participation in Public Decision Making* (1987), explore the role of technology in public policy decisions. They explained that public decisions are increasingly being influenced by the youth in community.

Democratic decision making, in contrast to bureaucratic is based on the assumption that all who are affected by a given decision have the right to participate in the making of that decision. Participation can be direct in the classical democratic sense, or can be through representatives for their point of view in a pluralist-republican model. Kweit and Kweit (1986), point out that criteria for evaluating policies in a democratic process are the accessibility of the process and/or the responsiveness of the policy to those who are affected by it, rather than the efficiency or rationality of the decision. Decision making theory is relevant in this study because it is providing a framework for analysing the role of youth in decentralized of power and its functions to the community.

2.2 Empirical Literature Review

According to the study conducted by Tebatso (2015) exploring youth participation in community development organizations in the Western Cape of South Africa, the 18youth respondents between the age of 14-35 through purposive sampling technique from five communities in Western Cape were employed. The study adopted qualitative exploratory approach using structured interview to collect data. The findings revealed that young people are capable of making positive contributions by getting involved in meaningful activities in their communities. The study recommended

that, the positive youth development approach and youth development programmes and initiatives across the country should be adopted for the development of their country.

The comparative study conducted by Sakiluzzaman (2018) determined the extent of participation of rural youth in commercial agriculture in a Bhola district of Bangladesh, 80 youth were randomly selected as the respondents and data were collected through interview. The finding of the study revealed that more than 51.2% of youths have medium extent of participation in commercial agriculture whereas 43.8% of them have low extent of participation and only 5% have high extent of participation in commercial agriculture.

Adesope (2017) admits that, many youths have been trained in one form of formal education or the other, but these young people who are formally educated still lack specific skills that can make them perform technical tasks in their locality. He further stated that since the youths are lacking in skills, it is difficult to make a living, because they are ill-prepared and not ready for the demand of socio-economic development.

The study conducted by Murimi (2009) evaluated the youth participation in economic development and poverty reduction activities in Garowe district of Somalia, 278 youth were randomly selected and data were collected using questionnaire, the study opted qualitative and quantitative approach and data were analysed using Principal Analysis Factoring through Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS). The study finding revealed that, the level of youth participation through formal job assignments was low, while practice of youth groupings into business ventures was high. The study was concluded by establishment of policies that help youths' engagement in economic and poverty reduction activities.

Angba (2014), Research has shown that some relationship exist significantly between some socio-demographic characteristics such as indigene(native) of a community, length of residence in community, gender, age, occupation, educational level and the attitude of youths towards community development projects. Study findings indicate that educational level of respondents correlates significantly and positively with age. The implication of this finding is that as one attains a higher level of education, attitude towards participating in community development projects is likely to be more favourable. However, attitudinal level may vary. In essence the higher the educational level attained the more favourable the attitude towards participating in community development projects.

The study conducted by Japhet Wengwe (2015) aimed at assessing youth participation in

agriculture and water development projects at Mkinga district, Tanga, a descriptive cross sectional research design both qualitative and quantitative methods was adapted to collect and analyse both primary and secondary data from respondents. The study used structural questionnaire and semi-structural interviews to collect data from 80 respondents. The key findings revealed that, Youths are neither participating nor involved in development projects as majority 46 (63.9%) of respondents said that youth are not participating in conceptualization of projects, on the other hand majority 43 (59.7%) of respondents said that youth are not involved in decision making process of projects and lastly majority 40 (56%) of respondents also said that youth are not participating in project implementation. Conclusively, youth participation in development projects is very low.

According to the study done by Fernandes (2006) to evaluate the nature of children's participation in a national child helpline project in India. The study was involving an in-depth study of 4 cities where the helpline is operational. The study used group discussions and interviews with approximately 300 children - street children, children in residential homes, children living in slum communities and 40 frontline workers working with the child helpline in order to get data.

Whilst the study examining the relationship between the level of participation and project outcomes, the study revealed that, helplines with higher levels of participation were reaching out to more marginalised groups of children and were more credible amongst children.

The understanding of participation played a key role in this process by influencing the way outreach was conducted in the four cities. How ever there was no observable relationship between the level of participation and the effectiveness of the helpline in changing attitudes of allied systems (police, doctors) or in affecting policy change.

The study suggested that participation should be linked to influencing decisions; that participation does play a role in affecting project outcomes; and that policies and programmes with children should be grounded in a child rights framework to be flexible and responsive to the diversity in life situations of children.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

Kothari (2004) defines research design as a plan that constitutes a blue print for the collection, measurement and analysis of the data. This research adopted a descriptive research design since the researcher ought to obtain responses to questions like; to what extent are youths involved in decision making process in economic development programs of

Zanzibar, what factors constrain youth's participation towards economic development of Zanzibar and in which ways are the existing Zanzibar government policies enabling youth participation in economic development of Zanzibar.

Consequently, this study focused at youth participation in decision making process, factors that constrain youth participation and exploration of existing government policies on youth participation.

3.2 Study Population

The population which was targeted in this study were young men and women from Urban West Region of Zanzibar in formal or informal employment who in one way or another are victims of this phenomenon.

The study population were constructed by young people who are employed and who are not employed from the Urban West Region of Zanzibar. The researcher focused at the young people from the Ministry of Labour, Empowerment, Adults, Women and Children and young people who are not employed from four shehias at the Urban West Region of Zanzibar. The Shehias that were used as sources of data were Malindi, Vikokotoni, Shangani and Michenzani.

Therefore, the total population of this study is 331, whereby 150 are young people working at the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Adults, Women and Children and 181 (MLEAWC, 2019) are young people who are not employed living in four Shehias of the

Urban West Region of Zanzibar (Shehas' Report, 2019). Sample size was 181 respondents.

3.3 Data Analysis

Analysis refers to the computation of certain measures along with searching for patterns of relationship that exists among data-group (Kothari, 2004). Data analysis was necessary because it enabled the researcher to summarize, categorize and organized the collected data in such a way that it was adequately answer the research question or hypothesis. Data obtained from questionnaire was statistically analysed by using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) and was represented in the form of frequencies and tabulations.

4.0 STUDY FINDINGS

4.1 To investigate youth involvement in decision making process for economic development programs in Zanzibar

This study started to analyse the data to investigate youth involvement in decision making process for the economic programs in the area of the study. The study has discussed the data interpretations from the general research question to the sub question formulated by the study in the questionnaire which wanted the respondents to respond if young people are involved in the decision making process. The study discussed the findings by considering the frequencies of youth participation in the decision making process. Table 4.3 demonstrates the results of the findings.

Table 1: Are young people involved in the decision making process?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	71	39%	39%	39%
No	105	58%	58%	97%
I don't know	5	3%	3%	100%
Total	181	100.0%	100.0%	

Source: Field data, 2023

Table 1 demonstrates that, the majority 105 (58%) of the respondents indicated that, young people do not participate in decision making process while 71 (39%) responded that, they do participate in decision making process. This shows that, there is low youth inclusion in decision making especially in the economic development programs. Then, only 5 (3%) of the respondents said that, they don't know if youths are involved in decision making process. The results show that, youth participation in the decision making is not taking into account for the greater. The findings depict that, there is a need to involve youths in decision making, this is similar to the findings of Japhet

Wengwe (2015) whereas her findings revealed that Youth are not participating neither involved in development projects as majority. But this responds concurs with Sakiluzzaman (2018), his findings revealed that more than 51.2% of youth have medium extent of participation in commercial agriculture.

The second sub question to be interpreted was the one which wanted the respondents to respond the challenges facing young people when they are involved in the decision making process. Results are found in Table 2.

Table 2: Challenges that youths face to Participate in the decision making process

Challenges	Frequency	Percent
Lack of Educational Skills	47	26%
Lack of information accessibility	71	40%
When youths advise is not listened	63	34%
Total	181	100.0%

Source: Field data, 2023

Table 2 illustrated an analysis of the challenges faced by the youth to participate in the decision making process. The table indicates that, 47 equals to 26% of the respondents responded that lack of educational skills is one of the obstacles faced by the youth, 71 equals to 40% of the respondents also stated lack of information accessibility, another 63 equals to 34% of the respondents stated that when they advise are not listened. This implies that the lack of information is the most challenge for the youth involvement in the decision making process. The findings concur with

Adesope (2017), youth in urban slums are faced not only by lack of adequate accessibility to basic urban services but also lack of clarity in accessibility to participation in development opportunities.

The study went on interpreting the third sub question under the first research objective. The study sought to establish on whether the involvement of young people in development programs can lead to effective outcome. The results are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: The involvement of young people in development programs can lead to effective outcome

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	149	82%	82%	82%
No	32	18%	18%	100%
Total	181	100%	100%	

Source: Field data, 2023

The findings in Table 3 show that, the majority of the respondents at 149 (82%) agreed that, the participation of the youths will influence effective outcome in economic development. This has the implication that the higher the level of youth participation in the development programs the higher the effective outcomes in economic affairs. The results also indicated that only 32 (18%) of the respondents said No for the youth involvement in economic

development programmes can lead to economic development.

The fourth sub question to be interpreted under this first specific objective was whether the voice of youth is heard or valued regarding their involvement in decision making process. The results are portrayed in Table 4.

Table 4: The voice of youth is heard or valued regarding their involvement in decision making process

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	36	20	20	20
No	135	75	75	95
I don't know	3	5	5	100
Total	181	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field data, 2023

Table 4 explained an analysis of the whether the voices of youth are heard or valued regarding their involvement in decision making process: Majority 135 (75.5%) of the respondents said NO which implies that youth voices are not heard or valued when they are involved in decision making process while 36 (20%) said YES that youth voices are not heard or valued when they are involved in decision making process and the rest 3 (5%) responded that, they don't know.

4.2 To examine factors that hinder youth participation in the economic development of Zanzibar

The study discussed the factors that hinder youth participation in the economic development. In order to ascertain the general perception of respondents, statistics was employed using Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS) and the results were interpreted with the same research question as follows in Table 5 which indicates the responses of the factors that hinder youth participation in economic development.

Table 5: The factors that hinder youth participation in the economic development programs

Statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Low level of education	44 (24%)	96 (53%)	41 (23%)	0
Superiority complex	27 (15%)	90 (50%)	44 (23%)	20 (12%)
Inferiority complex	61 (34%)	48 (27%)	34 (19%)	28 (15%)

Source: Researcher, 2023

Findings in Table 5 show that, majority 96 (53%) of respondents agreed that, low level of education is the major factor that hinders youth participation in economic development, 44 (24%) of the respondents were strongly agree that low level of education can hinder youth participation in economic development and only 41 (23%) of respondents disagreed that low level of education is the factor that hindering youth in the economic development. This infers that for the youth to have a chance for involvement in economic development they have to be acquiring a certain level of education in order for them to participate in economic development.

Data further show that, 90 (50%) of respondents agreed that superiority complex is one of the factors that hinder the youth involvement in economic development and those who responded in strongly disagreed were 44 (23%). Majority 61 (34%) of youth sample shows in strongly agree and 28 (15%)

strongly disagreed that inferiority complex is a factor which hinder youth participation in economic development. These imply that both status (superiority and inferiority complex) have an adverse impact on the youth participation in economic development. The findings are similar with Angba, (2014) education levels are highly significant in the extent, intensity and pattern of participation. In essence the higher the educational level attained the more favourable the attitude towards participating in community development projects.

4.3 To analyze existing government policies on youth participation for the economic development of Zanzibar

The question was asked if the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar facilitates the development of responsive policies, practices, and approaches of international levels to address youth participation objectives.

Table 6: Responds for the government to facilitate development of responsive policies, practices and approaches of international levels to address youth participation objectives

Achievements	Strongly Agree 1	Agree 2	Disagree 3	Strongly Disagree 4	I Don't Know 5
i) Full youth participation	-	9 (3%)	106 (59)	41 (23%)	25 (14%)
ii) Youth at higher management level	13 (7%)	16 (9%)	72 (40%)	74 (41%)	6 (3%)
iii) Youths voices are heard	25 (14%)	47 (26%)	69 (31%)	29 (23%)	11 (6%)
iv) Provision of youths rights	75 (41%)	42 (23%)	20 (11%)	29 (16%)	15 (9%)

Source: Researcher, 2023

From the analysis of the Table 6, the respondents show that, 106 (59%) of them which are majority disagreed that the government provides full youth participate, others 41 (23%) of them they responded who strongly disagreed on the full youth participation to facilitate development. And others replied that they don't know if the government involves youth fully in participation in development and they were 25 (14%) and only 9 (3%) of the respondents they agree that the government give full youth participation.

On the responds of youth at higher management level, the results showed that majority of the respondents have strongly disagreed 74 (41%), followed by 72 (40%) of the respondents disagree on the youth at higher management level, only 16 (9%) agree that there were youth at the higher management level. This result implies that, there is small Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar facilitation the development of responsive policies, practices and approaches of international levels to address youth participation objectives.

On responds to the youth voices most of the respondents disagree by 69 (31%), but 47 (26%) agree on the youth voices are heard and only 11 (6%) who don't know about the youth voices are heard.

Majority of the respondents 75 (41%) strongly agree that there is provision of the youth rights, 42 (23%) agree that provision of the youth right are there, but 29 (16%) of the respondents strongly disagree that provision of the youths voices, and only 20 (11%) of the respondents agree the provision of the youths voices are there, 15 (9%) of the respondents they don't know if there is provision of the youth rights.

Coming to another sub question which was asked on the government policies addressing youth participation in decision making issues has achieved success. Response on the policies addressing youth participation in decision making issues has achieved success.

There are studies (such as Tebatso 2015; Angba2014) that have provided insights into why the government to facilitate development of responsive policies and practices. The most cited reasons include

lack of information, selection criteria in decision body and commitments of government authorities in regulations.

Table 7: Response on the policies addressing youth participation in decision making issues has achieved success

		Frequency	Percent
The policies addressing youth participation in decision making issues have been achieved	Strongly agree	42	23%
	Agree	27	15%
	Disagree	59	33%
	Strongly disagree	32	18%
	I don't know	21	11%
	Total	181	100.0%

Source: Researcher, 2023

The results from Table 7 revealed that, 59 (33%) of the respondents disagreed on the policies addressing youth participation in decision making issues has achieved successfully, 42 (23%) show that they strongly agreed in policies addressing youth participation in decision making issues has been achieved and only 27 (15%) of the respondents shows that, they agreed, 32 (18%) strongly agreed. But 21 (11%) responded that, they don't know.

From these results it showed that, the policies addressing youth participation in decision making issues has not been achieved. The findings concur with Checkoway (2006) government policies with regard to development projects are of critical importance in determining the direction of participation by any kind of grassroots levels.

5.1 CONCLUSION

The main focus of the empirical research was to primarily assess the participation of youth in the decision making in the economic development of Zanzibar. In effect this assessment sought to understand how inclusion of the youth in decision making process affects the economic development of Zanzibar.

According to the findings undertaken the conclusion has been drawn that involvement of young people particularly in the decision making process is essential for the economic development of Zanzibar. Accordingly, including this group in these processes is seen as an opportunity for them to develop their thinking capacity to bring forth ideas, perceptions and knowledge that will facilitate the economic development of their country.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Taking into account the above findings and conclusion, the following recommendations is proposed:

- i. Encourage youth involvement in local government: Local government officials should create platforms for youth to participate in decision-making. This can include youth advisory committees or town hall meetings

where young people can voice their opinions on economic development.

- ii. Provide education and training: Youth need access to education and training to build their skills and knowledge in areas such as entrepreneurship, leadership, and financial management. This will enable them to contribute effectively to economic development.
- iii. Support youth-led initiatives: Zanzibar can create programs that provide financial and technical support for youth-led businesses and initiatives. This can include funding for start-ups, mentorship programs, and business incubators.
- iv. Engage youth in policy development: Policies that affect young people should involve them in their development. The government can use social media and other platforms to get input from youth on economic development policies.
- v. Encourage collaboration between youth and established businesses: Established businesses can mentor young people and provide them with opportunities to learn and grow. This can also lead to partnerships that drive economic development.
- vi. Create opportunities for youth to participate in international forums: Youth participation in international forums can expose them to different perspectives and ideas. This can inspire new thinking and drive economic development in Zanzibar.
- vii. Create awareness of the benefits of youth involvement in economic development: The government can use media campaigns and other outreach efforts to raise awareness of the importance of youth involvement in economic development. This can help create a culture of youth engagement in decision-making processes.th in decision making for the economic development programs in Zanzibar.

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