

# Assessing The Impact Of Government Programs On Youth Empowerment In Communities, A Case Study Of Mityana Central Division, Mityana District

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**Abstract :** *The objectives served as the study's guidelines as it sought to evaluate the effects of government initiatives on community capacity building using a case study of Mityana Central Division in the Mityana District: To explore how socioeconomic conditions affect the lives of young in Mityana Central Communities, to assess how the availability of start-up capital affects the livelihood of youth in Mityana Central Neighbourhoods, and to analyze how financial education training sessions affect those sections of the community' youth. According to the results, 29.9% of the participants said that education level did, in fact, significantly impede comprehension of the training provided. These opinions were expressed by young people who had completed elementary school (11.7%) and secondary school (15.6%). Other responses included 11.7% who said it interfered much, 14.3% who were unsure, 15.6% who claimed it hampered very somewhat, and 28.6% who believed it hampered only very slightly. According to the study's recommendations about financial education training, this is an important course that should be offered to assist businessmen in setting aside enough money to invest in their companies.*

**Keywords:** government programs and youth empowerment

## Background of the Study

Compared to the 7.5 billion people in the world, the quantity of today's youth is just under 1.8 billion (World population prospects UN report, 2017). Every nation may see a never-before-seen impact if its youth population suddenly increased significantly. This primarily depends on how governments respond to the effects of this expanding population, whether they are favorable or harmful, by establishing strategies for meeting the requirements of young people and encouraging them to participate fully and responsibly in their economic and civic affairs (UNFPA report, 2014). Rural kids frequently face barriers while trying to access livelihood possibilities, such as a significant reliance on the services and networks that allow them to enter the workforce and support them. In rural areas, there is a significant need for various livelihood options, including the pursuit of white-collar jobs (Gina Porter, 2018).

In order to promote mineral resource economies, particularly in the face of ecological, climatic, and market moves that need the adaption of new solutions, access to management of natural resources and agricultural information, expertise, and public services is essential. The current power structures frequently exclude the rural poor from obtaining knowledge, engaging in productive activities, and taking advantage of newer technologies. Importantly, the main aim of research and technology development in natural resource management and agriculture is to attend to the wealthy or large-scale farmers and livestock producers, while the inadequacy in acknowledging and backing the formal research & development for the smallholder-led technology and knowledge production remains unrecognized (OECD, 2012).

## Statement of the Problem

The youth in Uganda confront a number of issues, including a shortage of employment possibilities. Each year, 500,000 students graduate from various higher institutions, yet 75% of them are still unemployed due to weak economic growth, corruption, discrimination, and a requirement for experiences. The inclusion of young people in transformational activities is the second biggest problem, which is centered on youth empowerment and participation. The youth in Uganda are discouraged from engaging in public forums because they are viewed as unproductive, immature, rude, and unconcerned with the welfare of the community. In order to have an influence through youth-led development efforts, these young people need to be recognized on forums where they may talk and express oneself.

## Objectives of the study

1. To analyze how financial literacy trainings influence livelihoods of youth in Mityana Central Communities
2. To evaluate how the provision of start-up capital influence the livelihood of youth in Mityana Central Communities.
3. To examine how market linkages influences livelihoods of youth in Mityana Central Communities.

### Research Questions

1. How do financial literacy trainings influence livelihoods of youth in Mityana Central Communities?
2. How does the provision of start-up capital influence the livelihood of youth in Mityana Central Communities?
3. How do market linkages influences livelihoods of youth in Mityana Central Communities?

### Methodology

#### Research Design

This study used a research design called descriptive survey. Descriptive survey research design was employed in exploratory and preliminary studies to permit the study to collect information, summarize, present and construe for the principle reason of clarification (Orodho,2002). Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) and also give the reason for descriptive research as reporting and determining the state in which things are.

#### Target Population

The target population for this project consisted of all the registered youth groups in Mityana district. According to the statistics from the Youths Livelihood Program office, there are 99 registered youth groups. The target population for this study was 2,024 members of the groups.

#### Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

##### Data Collection Instruments

Primary data were used in this investigation project's data sources. Questionnaire survey were used in the study to gather the main data. Because the assessments were simple and took less time to complete for both the investigator and the subjects, they were selected (Owens, 2002). Surveys were considered acceptable for the project because they sought knowledge on human perspectives, emotions, opinions, motives, and achievements, which was knowledge that could not be seen directly (Borg and Gall, 1996).

##### Data Analysis and Presentation

After gathering all the data and using SPSS to evaluate it, the researcher cleaned the data. In order to enhance the accuracy of the responses, the identified erroneous or incomplete responses have to be corrected as part of the data cleaning procedure. Data was cleaned, coded, and entered into a computer using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 22 for analysis. Data from this study were both quantitative and qualitative. The data was examined in accordance with study's goals. Based on a review of the interpretations and consequences drawn from data provided by respondents and the data that was recorded, qualitative data were studied qualitatively using textual analysis.

The following formula will be used in the regression model:

$$Y = \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + \beta_3X_3 + \epsilon.$$

Where  $Y$  = Livelihood

$X_1$ = Financial Literacy Training

$X_2$ = Startup Capital

$X_3$ = Market Linkages

$X_4$  = Horticulture Enterprises

$\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3$  are coefficients of determination

$\epsilon$  is the error term.

### RESULTS

#### Response Rate

A total of 110 questionnaires were distributed to the sampled respondents. Amongst these,101 respondents were able to respond to the questionnaires. The study achieved a resposnerate of 91.8% (N=110)

**Table 1 Response Rate**

Sample	Response	Rate

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110	101	91.8%
110	101	91.8%

**Source: Primary Data (2022)**

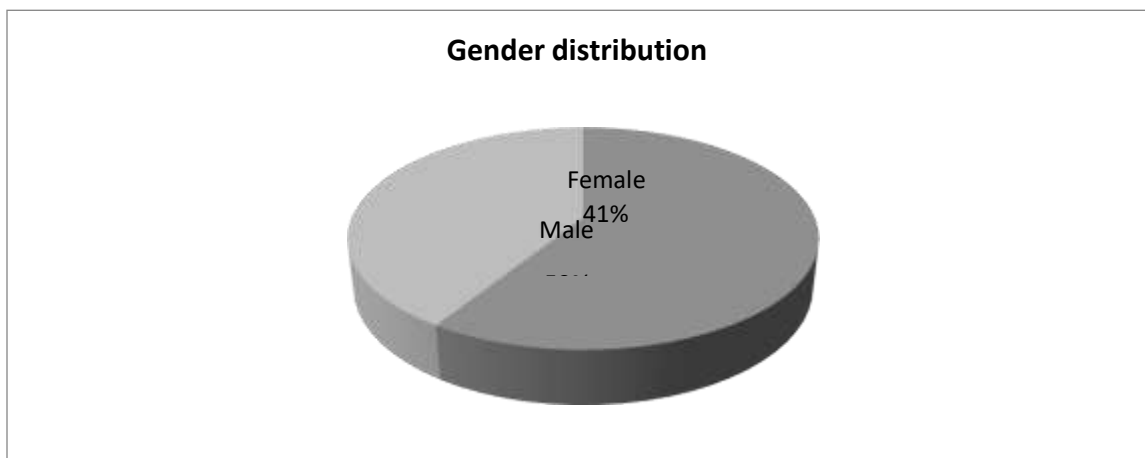
The response rate is greatly creditable since it was far above the threshold of 75% that is proposed for analysis of the data by Mugenda (2008) who states that the response rate of 50% is adequate for analysis and reporting while a rate of 60% is good and a response rate of 70% and above is excellent. This high rate was achieved since questionnaires were administered under close supervision of the researcher thus satisfactory to make conclusions of the study.

**Demographics Characteristics**

**Gender Distribution**

The researcher sought to establish the gender of the respondents.

**Figure 1: Gender distribution**

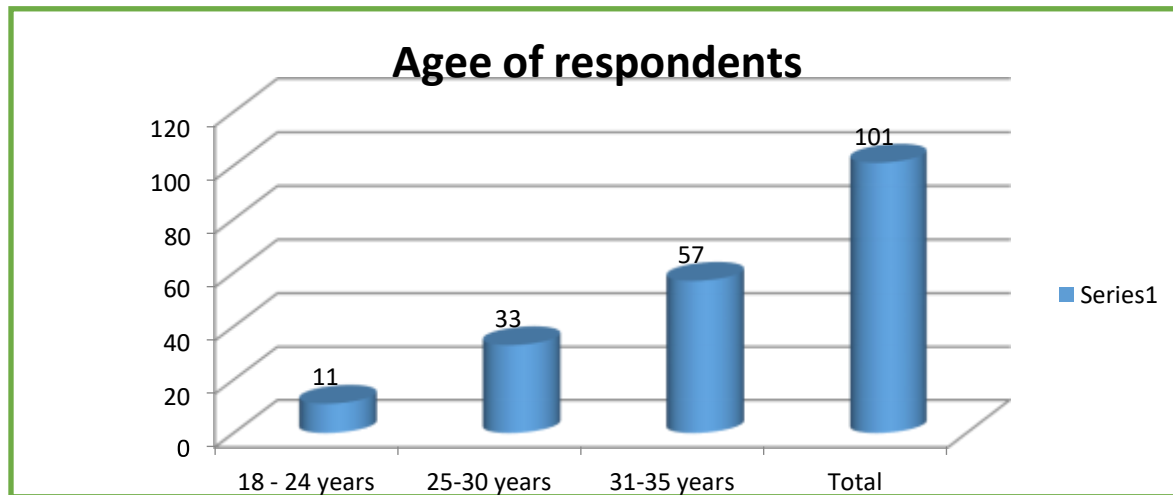


As shown in the results from Figure 1, the majorities (59.0%) of the respondents were male and 41% were female. The analysis showed that there was almost an equal participation of the males and females in the horticulture production activities.

**Composition of Respondents by Age**

The researcher sought to establish the age of the respondents.

Figure 2 Composition of respondents by Age



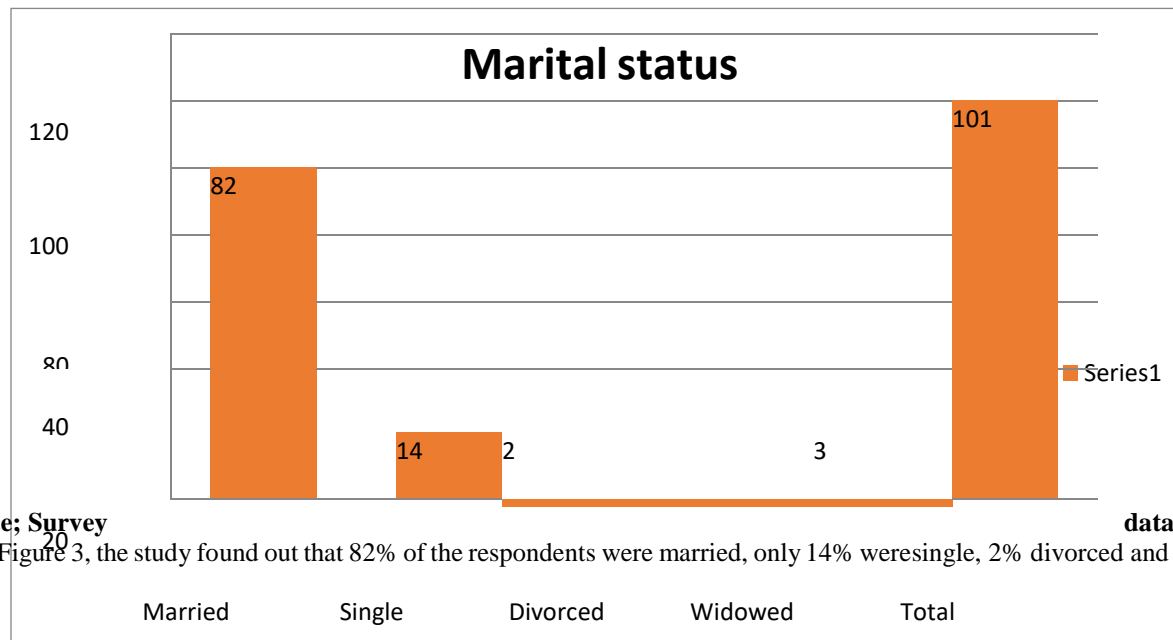
**Source; Primary data (2022)**

Figure 2 showed that majority of male and female who were empowered government empowerment programs are between the age of 31-35 which indicates 57% of the respondents, while those under the age of 25-30 years had 33 %, and the remaining 11% were of ages between 18-24.

**Marital Status**

The researcher sought to establish the marital status of the respondents.

Figure 3: Marital status



**Source; Survey**

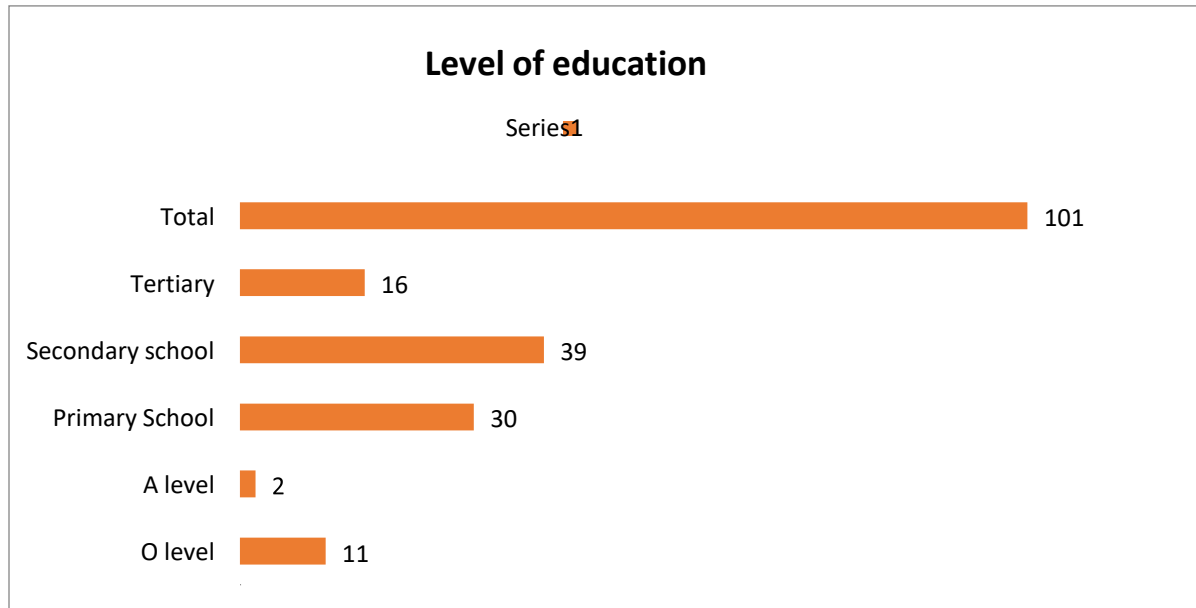
From Figure 3, the study found out that 82% of the respondents were married, only 14% were single, 2% divorced and 3% widowed.

**data (2022)**

### Level of Education

The researcher sought to establish the level of education of the respondents.

**Figure 4 Level of Education**



**Source: Survey data (2022)**

From figure 4, the results from the project found that most of the respondents engaged in horticulture enterprise farming were not highly educated as only 16% had schooled up to tertiary level, 39% of the youth respondents had reached secondary level, and 30% had reached primary level while O level and A level had 11% and 2% respondents. The results show that the highest level of education reached by the youth is secondary school level compared to primary, tertiary, O level and A level.

**Education and Financial Literacy Training**

The researcher sought to establish the extent to which education level hindered the provision of the financial literacy trainings to the respondents.

**Table 2: Education and financial Literacy training**

		Level of education					Total	
		O level	Primary School	Secondary school	Tertiary	None		
Extent to which education hindered understanding of these trainings	Strongly Agree	0	9	12	1	1	23	29.9%
	Agree	1	4	4	0	0	9	11.7%
	Undecided	2	6	2	1	0	11	14.3%
	Disagree	3	1	6	2	0	12	15.6%
	Strongly disagree	4	6	9	3	0	22	28.6%
Total	Count	10	26	33	7	1	77	
	% of Total	13.0%	33.8%	42.9%	9.1%	1.3%	100.0%	

**Source: Survey data (2022)**

Table 2 shows that 29.9% of the respondents thought that education level indeed hindered understanding of training offered to a very great extent. These views were conveyed by those youths who had secondary school (15.6%) and primary school (11.7%). Other response was at 11.7% who thought it hindered to a great extent, 14.3% were undecided, another 15.6% said it was on a small extent while 28.6% said it hindered to a very small extent.

**Descriptive Statistics for the Research Variables**

This section presents the findings based on the research objectives of this study. The study used descriptive and inferential statistics in the analysis and discussion

**Financial Literacy Training and livelihood**

The section sought to assess the literacy levels of the youth's groups and the running of their business since the main aim of the engagement in the activity is to get income. Financial literacy among youths Mityana Municipality is hindered by the level education as per table 4.8

**Table 2: Financial Literacy Trainings**

**Descriptive Statistics**

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation

Financial record challenges	98	1.38	0.487
Any financial literacy training	101	1.31	1.056
Whether financial literacy training was useful	88	1.85	0.878
Whether level of education is a hindrance to understanding these training	91	1.69	0.464
Extent to which education hinder understanding of these trainings	83	1.63	1.631
Training benefits	90	1.7	0.8
Valid N (list wise)	70		

**Source: Primary Data (2022)**

According to Table 2, the mean for issues with financial documents was 1.38, and the standard error was 0.487, which is higher than the mean and indicates there was an even wider range of responses from most of the respondents.

The results show that mean was at 1.31 and the standard error was at 1.056, which is less than the median and indicates that there were very few differences in the responses from the respondents. The respondents all agreed that they had gotten sufficient personal finance training. The standard deviation at 0.878 is further away from the mean of 1.85, suggesting that there were a variety of answers to the effectiveness of the financial literacy trainings. The respondents felt the trainings to be useful at varying degrees. Stone (2012) asserts that by taking into account the interests of the personnel and organisation, education has a clear role to play in achieving an organizational goal.

The mean at 1.69 and the standard deviation at 0.464 indicate that the respondents' opinions regarding whether or not their educational qualification hampered their capacity for comprehending financial literacy trainings varied slightly. It is evident from the standard deviation of 1.631.

**Table 3: Financial records challenges**

			Any financial literacy training		Total
			Yes	No	
Financial record challenges	Yes	Count	46	15	61
					62.2%
	No	Count	31	6	37
					37.8%
Total		Count	77	21	98
		% of Total	78.6%	21.4%	100.0%

**Source; Survey data (2022)**

Table 3 shows that 62.2% of the respondents faced challenges in keeping financial record despite having received financial trainings.

These results show that 78.6% of the respondents received financial trainings and 21.4% of the respondents did not receive any financial literacy trainings.

**Provision of start-up capital and livelihood**

**Table 4: Provision of start-up capital**

**Descriptive Statistics**

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Whether providing startup capital is good for youth empowerment	99	1.10	1.005

Capital empowerment with Youths in Mityana Municipality	101	1.42	.604
Government support programs support useful	96	1.10	.307
Always be provided with government support programs	100	1.93	.924
Rate government programs support	99	1.60	.669
Whether startup capital enabled you work productively	99	1.04	.198
Valid N (list wise)	92		

**Source: Survey Data (2022)**

According to the mean of 1.1 and the sample variance of 1.005, which is more similar to the average and shows that there was very little variety in the responses, providing startup financing appears to be a successful business plan.

The based on the descriptive analysis demonstrate that the capital enfranchisement of Youths in Mityana Municipal government was highly valued and that there was little variability in their reactions, as demonstrated by means of 1.42 on capital autonomy of Teenagers in Mityana Municipality, 1.93 on ever receive government support programs, and 1.6 on government support programs rate, which had mean and standard deviation of 0.6.4, 0.924, and 0.669, including both.

**Table 5: Income generated  
Descriptive statistics**

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
If monthly income has increased since start of farming	99	1.01	.101
Range of income per month before government support programs intervention	101	1.93	.711
Range of income per month after government support programs intervention	101	2.67	1.106
Having access to different food types influenced your health status	99	1.09	.289
Whether income improved your housing	97	1.07	.260
Income influenced number of meals taken in a day	96	1.29	.457
Valid n (list wise)	91		

**Source: primary data (2022)**

These results reveal that the start-up money given to the youngsters in the Mityana Municipality's project has resulted in a significant rise in their monthly income, with a mean of 1.01 and a standard deviation of 1.01 showing no differences in their answers. The means of 1.93 and 2.67 for the incomes created before and following the manipulations of government support programs, respectively, with standard deviations of 0.711 and 1.106 reflecting minor fluctuations in the answers, show an improvement in the monthly earnings generated. The adolescents in Mityana Municipality have been able to access a variety of foods, eat more meals each day, and experienced improvements to their home to some extent thanks to their incomes.



**Market Linkage and livelihood****Table 6: Engagement of market supplied**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Through personal market search	7	6.9	7.1	7.1
	By organizations	56	55.4	56.6	63.6
	Through other youths in Mityana Municipality	35	34.7	35.4	99.0
	By chance	1	1.0	1.0	100.0
	Total	99	98.0	100.0	
Missing	System	2	2.0		
Total		101	100.0		

**Source: primary data (2022)**

These findings show that most respondents got involved with the current markets they supply through a linkage by an organization depicted by 56.6% response. The other respondents interacted with the market through information from other youths in Mityana Municipality and personal market search indicated by 35.4% and 7.1% respectively. Only 1% of the respondents engaged with the market by chance

**Horticulture empowerment and livelihood**

This study sought to assess the importance of savings and credit to rural youth engagement and empowerment through ~~lidl~~ activities.

**Table 7: Savings and credit****Descriptive Statistics**

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Do age limit exist for participation in savings and credit activities	101	1.94	2.063
Participate in savings and credit activities	101	1.17	.376
Whether credit or loan is a source of capital for business	94	1.50	2.184
Is age a hindrance to accessing loans in credit institutions	101	1.35	1.062
Whether you have ever accessed credit for your horticulture	99	1.34	.477
Pay loan consistently without defaulting	88	1.03	.183
Pay from horticulture enterprise income	89	1.08	.271
Borrowed credit in form of farm inputs	99	1.67	1.069
Would you recommend a saving culture to fellow youth	99	1.03	.172
Valid N (list wise)	80		

**Source: Primary data (2022)**

The standard deviation 2.063 for age restriction for membership in saves and credit and 2.184 about whether savings and credit are just as capital sources are bigger than their means which seem to be 1.94 and 1.5 respectively. These findings suggest that age may not be a barrier to saving behavior and that money saved is in fact a source of funding for young people interested in horticulture ventures. The averages of 1.17 and standard deviation on 0.376 for youth involvement in saves and credits and 1.34 and measures of dispersion on 0.477, which demonstrate a minor variance in response, indicate that age is not a factor in the popularity of savings and credit operations among such rural youth.

### **Conclusions**

The research draws the conclusion that equality of opportunity had a favorable effect on the financial security of rural youth. The study's conclusion about money management teaching is that youth financial literacy training courses played a significant role in the development of long-term horticulture production firms in Mityana Municipality. These training exercises did not, however, have a good effect because the youngsters in Mityana Municipality found it difficult to maintain accurate records with which to measure their enterprises. The gap in record keeping was brought out by the fact that the education level was one of the major factors in the delayed rate of adoption of any business acumen and entrepreneurial training sessions. The goal of these money management trainings was to provide the young people with information and skills.

### **Recommendations of the Study**

On financial literacy training, the study recommends that financial literacy is a vital training that should be conducted to help entrepreneurs save enough to provide adequate capital to invest in their businesses.

Financial literacy training should be based on income and education levels because highly educated consumers with high incomes can be just as ignorant about financial issues as less educated, lower income consumers.

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