

**THE IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS ON YOUTH STARTUPS IN
UGANDA-CASE STUDY OF EMYOOGA YOUTH STARTUPS IN MUKONO
DISTRICT**

EDWARD AYEBARE

J22B05/036

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF A DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION OF UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

August, 2024



**UGANDA CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY**

A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa

ABSTRACT

This literature review focuses on the link between youth empowerment, skills development, and social entrepreneurship in Mukono Municipality and Lira City, especially at government-program levels. The review synthesizes recent studies related to the effectiveness of various initiatives such as the YLP, Emyooga, and OWC in making the youth self-reliant through socio-economic development. This review shows that despite such positive contributions these programs have made to youth empowerment for self-reliance and the stimulation of entrepreneurship, there are still gaps that call for critical reflection. The key findings reveal advanced business management training and continuous learning towards the scaling up of ventures and adapting to changing market conditions. Other areas that have been highlighted include sensitization about programs, barriers to accessibility, and innovation in supporting youth entrepreneurship. These include the inclusion of advanced training modules, enhancement in the awareness of the program through comprehensive sensitization campaigns, increase in geographic and financial access, promotion of innovation, reinforcement in the levels of support by local authorities, and strong mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation. These recommendations shall have to be addressed if the programs on youth empowerment are to effectively achieve sustainable impacts on economic independence and community resilience in the region.

DECLARATION

I AYEBARE EDWARD declare that this research report is my original work and has not been submitted to any institution of learning.

Signature.....~~AYEBARE EDWARD~~

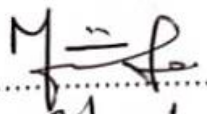
Date 10th | September, 2024.....

AYEBARE EDWARD

J22B05/036

APPROVAL

This research report has been done under my supervision and is ready for submission with my approval.

Signature:.....

Date:.....10/07/2024

Name:.....Kaseta Manu .

DEDICATION

I dedicate this research to my Guardians Mr. Tumwujukye Moses and Ms. Joan Musiimire who advised, encouraged and motivated me throughout my university level. Above all, I thank the Lord God Almighty for His guidance and protection towards completion of this dissertation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am greatly indebted to Mr. Kabanda Martin who was my supervisor for his effective supervision, dedication, availability and professional advice.

I would like extend my gratitude to the entire management and staff of Mukono District Local Government for giving me relevant information that made the study successful.

Lastly, I thank God who has given me good health and strength to carry out the research right away from the beginning to the end and successfully.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	i
DECLARATION	ii
APPROVAL.....	iii
DEDICATION	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
CHAPTER ONE.	1
Introduction	1
1.0 Introduction	1
1.2 Problem Statement.	4
1.3 General Objective of the Study.	4
1.4 Research Questions.	4
1.5 Specific Objectives.....	5
1.6 Scope of the Study.....	5
1.6.1 Geographical scope:	6
1.6.2 Time scope.....	6
1.7 Significance of the study.	6
1.8 Conceptual Framework	7
1.8.1 Independent Variables:	7
1.8.2 Dependent Variables:	8
1.9 The Conceptual Framework.	9
CHAPTER TWO.	10
Literature Review:.....	10
2.0 Introduction.	10
2.1 To assess the relevance of government-sponsored capacity-building and mentorship programs available to the youth in Mukono Municipality.	10
2.2 To investigate access to Emyooga youth programs by youth startups in Mukono Municipality.	11

2.3 To establish the social and economic impact of Emyooga programs on Youth startups in Mukono.	12
2.4 The impacts of Government Programs on the Youth.....	13
2.5 Challenges faced by the youth in trying to embrace the Government programs. Introduction.	14
CHAPTER THREE.	15
METHODOLOGY.....	15
3.0 Introduction.	15
3.1 Research Design.	15
3.2 Study Area.....	15
3.3 Study Population.....	15
3.4 Sample Size and selection.	15
3.5 Sources of Data.....	17
3.6 Data Collection Method.	17
3.7 Data Collection Instruments.	17
CHAPTER FOUR.....	19
FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS	19
4.0 Introduction	19
4.1 Response Rate	19
4.2 Demographic Characteristics of respondents Age Groups of Respondents.....	20
4.3 Assessing the effectiveness of capacity building and mentorship programs	22
gives a summary of the effectiveness of capacity building and mentorship programs.....	22
4.4 To Analyze the Accessibility of Emyooga Youth Programs for Youth Startups in Mukono Municipality.....	24
4.5 To Assess the Social and Economic Impact of Emyooga Programs on Youth Startups in Mukono Municipality.....	27
CHAPTER FIVE	30
Conclusion and Recommendations	30

5.1 Conclusion.....	30
5.2 Recommendations	31
REFERENCES	33
APPENDICES	35
APPENDIX 1: QUESTIONNAIRE.....	35
APPENDIX 2: RESEARCH DATA COLLECTION.....	41
APPENDIX 3: INTRODUCTORY LETTER.....	42

CHAPTER ONE.

Introduction

1.0 Introduction

The government of Uganda has initiated several initiatives aimed at promoting entrepreneurship to curb unemployment among the youth. The biggest one lately is Emyooga, which aims at supporting the government in bringing forth youth-led startups through financial support, training, and market access. This background discusses the role of such government programs in encouraging the success of youth startups in Uganda, with a keen focus on the Emyooga initiative.

According to Ajeigbe & Kibukamusoke, 2024, government programs like Emyooga are needed in bringing down the various problems faced by young entrepreneurs in East Africa, particularly in Uganda. Such initiatives will develop the necessary support structures needed in encouraging innovation and economic development for the youths. The Emyooga program, developed after the disruption of the economy by the COVID-19 pandemic, aims at intervening in agriculture, manufacturing, and services in a manner intended to create sustainable employment for the youths.

Kayongo et al. add weight to the role of cooperatives in contributing to socio-economic transformation in Uganda. The Emyooga initiative deploys the model of a cooperative to sustain and strengthen youth startups through pooling resources and promoting collaboration, thereby reducing individual business risks for enhanced collective growth. This leads not only to business development but also builds resilience against economic shocks that could contribute to long-term socio-economic stability.

Kasole (2023) reviews post-COVID economic recovery policies and offers an insight into the gender-specific impact of the program, including the Emyooga initiative: "Its inclusion measures will work toward empowering women in the informal sector, aiming at addressing existing disparities. Through special assistance for women entrepreneurs, Emyooga allows their increased contribution in the economy, hence strengthening livelihoods." It furthers the attainment of broad socio-economic development objectives reached through the equity principle.

This, regardless of the fact that such initiatives have gone a long way in making a difference, portrays a series of problems while implementing such government programs as Emyooga. As Nuwagaba (2023) mentions, problems relating to regulatory issues and operational constraints do exist at the Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations, which play an important role in the implementation strategy of the Emyooga program. Overcoming these will facilitate smoother functioning and greater sustainability of the initiatives undertaken in support of youth startups.

Ashaba & Werner (2021) contextualize the question of the impact of government initiatives on youth entrepreneurship in Uganda within a larger political and economic context. Indeed, political stability and effective governance are very instrumental in such initiatives. The Emyooga initiative works within a dynamic political context where the support of both the government and the local authorities has great bearing on its effectiveness.

Mbowa, Businge, Ssemaluulu, and Eton explain how women empowerment contributes to the better performance of businesses in Wakiso district. Their findings revealed that the kind of empowerment which was important for entrepreneurial success includes economic, competence development, market information sharing, and social networking. The findings apply appropriately to the Mukono Municipality since such empowerment strategies can be adopted to support youth startups in the area. Despite this, however, empowerment is retarded to a great extent by such challenges as economic ones, law and policy constraints, environmental, sociocultural factors, and incompetence issues.

Zirabamuzale (2021) mentioned that financial literacy largely enhances micro and small-sized enterprises' financial performance in Kira Municipality. Therefore, this study calls for targeted programs of financial literacy; recommendations were that such should be according to the sizes of business. This is important in Mukono Municipality regarding the Emyooga program, where targeted financial education will help increase both access to and usefulness of support extended to the youth startups.

Manges 2021 described Community-Based Organizations as the key elements of grass root development that are instrumental in sustainability community development. These organizations usually operate within limited capacity, organization, and capital; hence, their works are normally ineffective. Such findings might be relevant to the Emyooga programs, given that responding to such challenges could allow for the sustainability of youth entrepreneurship programs in Mukono to be achieved.

Beyond that, the work by Langevang, Gough, and Namatovu (2016) echoed the general understanding of the youth entrepreneurship context in Uganda, characterized by scarce resource management in one of the most challenging environments. Their work in Kampala again demonstrated how resilience and adaptability form a minimum requirement for young entrepreneurs. Rosa and Balunywa (2017) put in context the Ugandan entrepreneurship paradox: different opportunities mixed with obstacles that determined the entrepreneurial outcome in the emerging economies.

As Namatovu, Langevang, Dawa, and Kyejjusa (2016) note, the trends and policies of youth entrepreneurship in Uganda have evolved over time, with increased attention directed toward the creation of an enabling environment for young entrepreneurs. To this end, the government has indeed played its role in implementing structures and supportive policies that have helped spur entrepreneurial activities.

However, whether such programs capture specific problems unique to their startups is a moot point that continues to be pursued in ongoing research.

Mbowa, Businge, Ssemaluulu, and Eton (2023) have, on the other hand, presented evidences of empowerment effects on women-owned enterprises at the district level in the Wakiso District with a focus on economic, competence development, and networking as the critical factors. These findings offer hints of possible relatedness to objectives of the Emyooga program, which seeks to similarly empower youth through such means. However, economic constraints, regulatory issues, and cultural barriers are all factors to be considered while assessing how the Emyooga program supports youth startups to overcome such challenges. Zirabamuzale 2021 indicated financial literacy as a driver of improved performance among micro and small-sized enterprises in Kira Municipality. The study emphasized that financial education should be tailored to different business size needs, and this falls in line with the most emphasized tenet of the Emyooga program: providing financial skills and support to the country's youth entrepreneurs. Good financial management ensures the continuity and growth of the startup; hence, the aspect to be evaluated in relation to the impact of Emyooga.

Manges 2021 discussed Community-Based Organizations' potential in contributing to sustainable community development in Kapchorwa. He observed that though CBOs operate at the grass-root level, they also suffer capacity and organizational challenges. Similarly, Emyooga operates at the grass-root level, with the aim of empowering the youth through support and means at the local level.

Understanding how these programs are doing regarding integration into dynamics at the community level and addressing the needs at the local level is essential to determining their long-term effectiveness in youth startups.

Furthermore, Langevang, Gough, and Namatovu (2016) highlight the resilience of youth entrepreneurship in Kampala, Uganda's capital. The discussed insights make a case for how well the Emyooga program has been effective in providing the youths with means and support necessary to rise above and overcome the barriers that impede their aim of successfully pursuing an entrepreneurship initiative.

1.2 Problem Statement.

The bestcase scenario would be for youth-led startups to flourish and be of utmost relevance in repute to Uganda's economy through sustainable employment, innovation, and socio-economic transformation. Efficient government programs actuate this in cases like Emyooga. Again, there are disparities in terms of inconsistent financial support, insufficient training, limited market access, regulatory and operational hurdles, and persisted gender disparities. It is also in this light that the present study tries to fill the gaps regarding the assessment of the sufficiency of financial support, the efficiency of training given, sourcing means of overcoming market access barriers, assessing regulatory and operational issues concerning SACCOs, and verifying the extent to which inclusivity has helped to uplift female entrepreneurs, thereby recommending ways to develop the Emyooga programme in such a way as to ensure greater impact on youth startups in Uganda.

1.3 General Objective of the Study.

To determine the overall efficacy and impact of government-sponsored capacity building, mentorship programs, and Emyooga youth programs in the improvement of youths' startups within Mukono Municipality.

1.4 Research Questions.

To what extent do government-sponsored capacity building and mentorship programs contribute to the improvement of skills and capabilities among the youths in Mukono Municipality?

What are the main barriers and facilitators that influence the accessibility of Emyooga youth programs to the youths' startups in Mukono Municipality?

What are the social and economic impacts of Emyooga programs on the establishment and growth of youth startups in Mukono Municipality?

1.5 Specific Objectives.

To Assess the effectiveness of capacity building and mentorship programs offered by the government to the youth in Mukono Municipality.

To Examine the Accessibility of Emyooga youth programs for youth startups in mukono municipality.

To Access the social and Economical Impact of Emyooga programs on youth startups in mukono.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The study will appraise the effectiveness of the various capacity building and mentorship programs initiated by the government for the youth in Mukono Municipality. This focuses on the understanding of how well the programs have equipped the young people with skills, knowledge, and support through initiating or sustaining entrepreneurial activities. This will concern the assessment of the content and delivery of such programs, realizing the needs of the participants, and the actual impact brought to the youths altogether by the programs on entrepreneurial competencies and confidence.

The study also purports to determine the accessibility of Emyooga youth programs to youths' startups within Mukono Municipality. This objective will indicate the level at which such government initiatives are accessible, through awareness, eligibility criteria, application process, and availability of resources, to young entrepreneurs both in urban and rural settings. It shall identify bottlenecks in accessibility and give recommendations for greater inclusiveness and coverage.

This study will also determine the social and economic impacts of Emyooga programs on youth start-ups within Mukono. This objective tries to measure tangible output or outcomes of such programs on the livelihoods of involved youth. The socio-economic impact will be measured by the level of change in community engagement, peer networking, and personal development, while the economic contribution will be measured against business growth and improvement in income levels, jobs created, and overall economic contribution to the municipality. Indeed, through measuring these impacts, the study shall provide a critical

insight into how the Emyooga programs shape the socio-economic environment of youth startups within Mukono.

1.6.1 Geographical scope:

This study examines the Emyooga program and its effect on youth startups in Mukono District, Uganda. Basically, the research will be conducted in Mukono District due to its central location within the central region of Uganda; its economic activities are so varied, from business to agricultural, with a considerable youth population involved in all these different entrepreneurial ventures. Results drawn from Mukono district will add to developing an understanding of how an effective government initiative such as Emyooga works in a representative area of Uganda.

1.6.2 Time scope

The specific scope of time in the literature review covers a period of ten years from now. This will be enough to cover its launch and implementation stages and give full insight into both the short-term and medium-term impacts of the Emyooga program on youth startups. Data collection and analysis during these years focuses on the observed activities, outcomes, and changes within this period of time to ensure that all responses towards the COVID-19-caused economic disruption and subsequent recovery efforts by the Emyooga program are captured.

1.7 Significance of the study.

The importance of the present study, therefore, is expected to add to the literature of the effectiveness of government programs that support youth entrepreneurship in Uganda with particular focus on the Emyooga initiative in Mukono district. Evaluating the economic support given in the form of funding, training, and market access for youth-led startups, this study will emphasize how the program shall affect economic growth and sustainability within the entrepreneur-ship period of young entrepreneurs. Furthermore, the investigation into the cooperative model of impact on socio-economic transformation will explore the advantages present in collaborative approaches to business development. Consequently, the study will avail critical data for the empowerment of female entrepreneurship aimed at bridging gaps in existing gender disparities and contributing to wider socio-economic development goals. The recommendations of the study will be vital since some of the regulatory and operational challenges will be identified to enhance both implementation and effectiveness.

This would be further elaborated in the context of political and economic conditions in Uganda in order to have a fuller understanding of the drivers of success in these government programs.

It is envisaged that this study shall add to policy formulation and program design so that future programs are suitably designed to promote youth entrepreneurship for sustainable development in Uganda.

1.8 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework for the study investigates the impact of the Emyooga initiative on youth startups in Mukono district, Uganda. This is based on how one independent variable will relate with another independent variable and both with different forms of dependent variables. The independent variables reflect the different forms of support provided by the Emyooga initiative: financial; training and capacity building; market access; the cooperative model; gender inclusivity measures; regulatory compliance; and operational support.

1.8.1 Independent Variables:

This includes grants, loans, and subsidies that mitigate the financial burden conditions of a youth-led startup. This is meant to provide the much-needed capital required for the initiation and expansion of a business, thus improving the growth potential of the startups.

Training and capacity building programs have, therefore, been designed and focuses on imparting the necessary entrepreneurial skills, knowledge of how to manage the business apart from technical expertise. The program aims at enhancing the competencies of the youth entrepreneurs so that they are in an improved situation of managing and scaling their businesses.

The Emyooga program promotes market access improvement strategies that will help the startups reach both local and international markets. For that matter, marketing support and opening of new channels of sales will be contributing to higher customers and sales opportunities for the youth-led businesses.

The Emyooga program uses an amalgamation of models, especially the cooperative model, where pooling resources encourages.

Risk-sharing and collective bargaining among youth startups are also part of this approach, which reduces individual business risks for each startup while encouraging collaboration and collective growth in giving resilience and sustainability to the startup itself.

Gender inclusivity measures will be specifically aimed at empowering female entrepreneurs through tailored support and addressing existing gender disparities. This would include

dedicated policies and training programs for enhancing the economic participation of women in the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The other important features also include support in the case of regulatory compliance to help navigate the startups through the sometimes pretty complex regulatory landscape. In this manner, the program attempts to reduce barriers to operation by offering necessary support in compliance matters and adapting to changes in regulations for smooth functioning.

This would include things like logistical support, infrastructure development, and mentorship-typically required means of support that would enhance the operational efficiency and effectiveness of a youth startup by equipping them with the relevant tools and guidance towards successful operations. .

1.8.2 Dependent Variables:

Variable interests, which are dependent variables in this study, include the growth of and sustainability of youth startups, socio-economic outcomes, gender-specific outcomes, and overall business performance. Growth indicators that reflect success would include an increase in the size of the business, increase in revenues, and market expansion, which are a pointer to successful financial and operational inputs through the Emyooga program.

Sustainability measures the strength of the youth-led businesses to exist over a long period of time, post consistent profitability, and overcome potential economic challenges. This measure is paramount to ensure that the determination of the real long-term effects the Emyooga program has on the viability of the youth startups is made.

This includes the socio-economic outcomes of creation of employment, levels of income generated, and improvements in living standard. The study, in trying to capture these wider economic benefits, intends to hold the rate of success by the youth-led businesses supported under the Emyooga program.

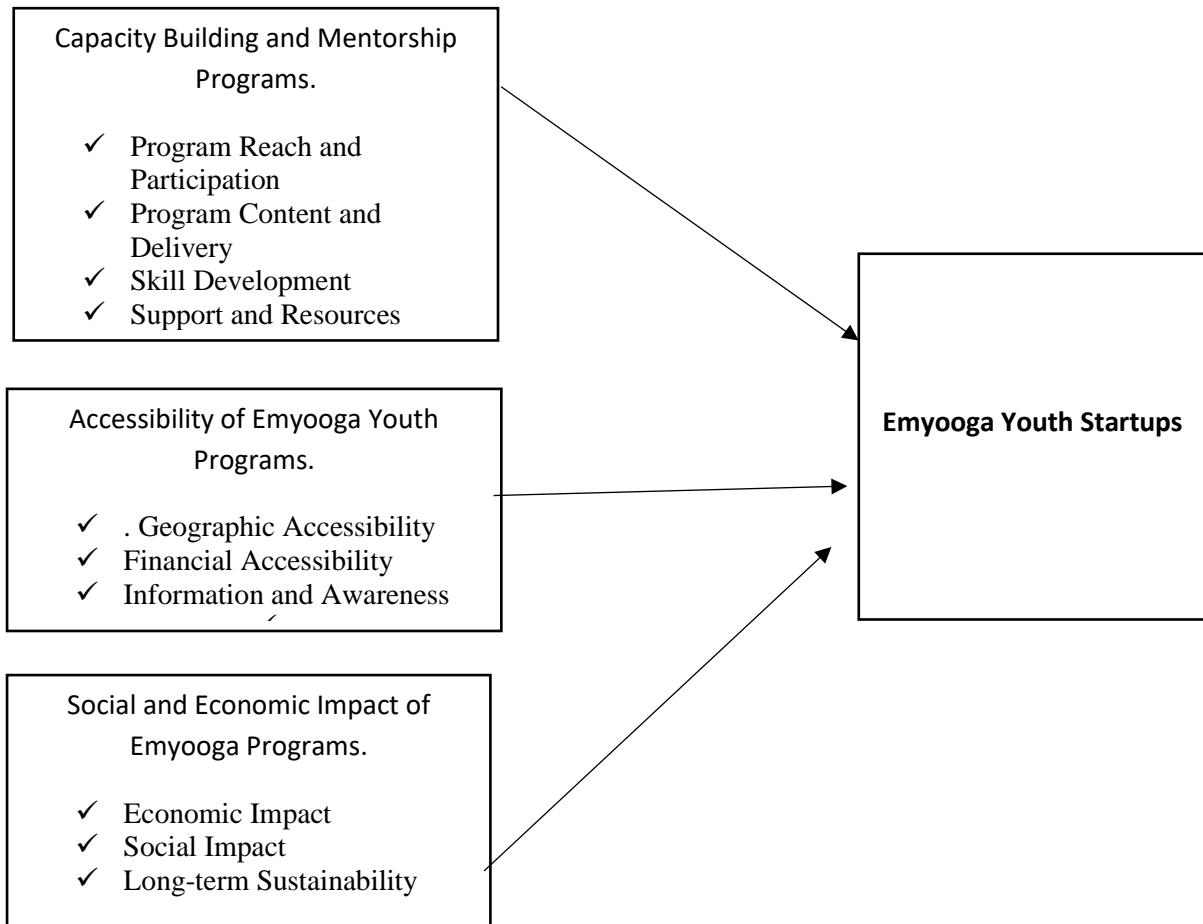
The gender-specific outcomes will therefore determine the economic empowerment of the women entrepreneurs, and a reduction in the gender disparities within the entrepreneurial sector. These are necessary for showing how gender inclusivity measures have been effective and have contributed to the realization of broader socio-economic development goals.

The overall business performance can be measured in terms of indicators related to sales, profitability, market share, and customer satisfaction. It gives a full view of the business

performance of the youth startups supported by Emyooga in terms of business success and market competitiveness.

1.9 The Conceptual Framework.

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES



CHAPTER TWO.

Literature Review:

2.0 Introduction.

Empowerment of the youth and sustainable development remain two mutually reinforcing imperatives toward ensuring socio-economic development, especially in the case of a city like Lira in Uganda. This literature review examines crucial linkages of support for skills development, government initiatives, and social entrepreneurship as interventions toward improving youth self-sufficiency in Lira City and beyond. Relatively recent studies are focused on, synthesizing lessons on how these interventions contribute toward equipping the youth with what they need to start and sustain

This aids in promoting economic independence and, consequently, community resilience among businesses. To achieve this purpose, the review analyzes selected programmes in the country-that is, YLP, Emyooga, and OWC-alongside reviews of sustainable development interventions to identify gaps that need to be addressed with viable strategies for optimizing these initiatives toward increased efficacy and sustainability in outcomes. Findings strongly indicate that creativity, innovation, and skills development are of critical importance in equipping youths with the capacity to exploit available economic opportunities in Uganda's cause of socio-economic development.

2.1 To assess the relevance of government-sponsored capacity-building and mentorship programs available to the youth in Mukono Municipality.

The development of skills is an important ingredient in promoting self-reliance among youths, thereby equipping them with the required competencies to initiate and sustain businesses. Achiro and Mwesigwa

In fact, while there has been skills development support for the youth, a gap still exists in scaling small businesses by these youths into larger ventures. Thus, the need targets training programs which will focus not only on acquiring initial skills but also managing and growing the businesses.

Government initiatives like the YLP go a long way in supporting youth initiatives for self-reliance. Mwine (2023) indicates that youth are discontented with the peace-building processes and points out insufficient sensitization on government programs as a hindrance to participation in such discourse. One of the important ways of engaging youth by the government should be

sensitization so that they can understand the benefits that come along with the programs for better participation.

According to Kitambo (2022), interventions on social entrepreneurship have, however, evidenced potential in leveraging socio-economic empowerment among youth. In this regard, structural and institutional barriers obstruct the full potential of such interventions. Kitambo identifies that it is not easy to find youth prepared to take up investments in such different sectors, and as such, proper support and training should be given so that a culture of social entrepreneurship may be fostered toward sustainable development.

In fact, Achiro and Mwesigwa (2023) cite empirical evidence of how YLP has contributed to the enhancement of youth self-reliance with challenges. The authors show an institutional support factor that is negatively related to self-reliance but at a statistically insignificant level. This calls for increased awareness and support mechanisms to achieve maximum benefits of the program.

2.2 To investigate access to Emyooga youth programs by youth startups in Mukono Municipality.

In this context, sustainable development interventions have increasingly played a critical role in the socio-economic empowerment of youths in different regions over the recent years. The literature review synthesises findings of the current studies available on the existing interventions, their evaluation, and possibilities of extra measures to improve the outcomes of sustainable development.

Nduhura et al. (2023) conducted an appraisal of the available sustainable development interventions underpinning a need for creative and innovative ways that enhance the level of such interventions. Such a study, therefore, shows some lacuna in the modalities of the existing practice and points to the fact that embracing creativity and innovation may yield new potentials for sustainable development interventions.

One of such key innovations that are targeted at empowering youth socially and economically in Uganda is the Emyooga program. Mafabi (2023) emphasizes the diverse ways through which the youth participants have benefited by acquiring assets, which include phones, farmland, and even furniture from the program. This study recognizes different business investments made possible by the skill acquired from this program, such as shops, bars, and salons, where youths have been engaging. However, Mafabi also observes a gap in engendering creativity and

innovation skills among the youth that can complement their business management capabilities and sustainability.

Kyambadde 2022 talks about various propositions that are meant to give the youths jobs. In light of this, he mentions several benefits parents, newly graduated persons, employers, and the government will enjoy. Further, the study calls for the importance that local authorities will play in leading in collaboration with the government through the Prime Minister's Office and other affiliated channels toward ensuring smooth implementation of these propositions. One of the gaps involves liaison at local authority levels in support of such proposals being ineffective.

In the development and sustainability of their interventions, creativity and innovation are central in the empowerment of youth. This integrated creativity in the skill development programs ensures entrepreneurial capacity growth, adaptability, and resilience in a rapidly changing economic environment. At an enhanced level of creativity, it enables the youth to identify market opportunities, devise innovative solutions, and manage an enterprise successfully.

2.3 To establish the social and economic impact of Emyooga programs on Youth startups in Mukono.

Agriculture is one of the mainstays of the economy in Uganda; implementing agricultural and poverty alleviation programs would drive the country toward its sustainable development. In view of this, this paper reviews findings from a recent literature review of studies carried out on programs such as PTD, or Problem-solving, Time management, and Decision-making; FFS, or Farm Field Schools; PDM/Emyooga; and OWC, or Operation Wealth Creation, drawing attention to gaps in youth training in entrepreneurial skills.

Mwesigwa 2021 states that, in the population of Hoima district, the preference for PTD skills includes the ability to handle and solve problems. It transpires from this study that there is a difference being made by the agricultural improvement program that is needed, and agriculture is the backbone industry of Uganda.

Kyambadde, year of publication not available, looks at the factors that influence the success of the PDM/Emyooga program in poverty alleviation. The identified effectiveness of the program is pegged on political, economic, and beneficiary factors. However, there is still a gap in ensuring the training of youth beneficiaries in the use of funds from PDM/Emyooga for socio-economic betterment.

Katusiime 2022 discusses the effect of Operation Wealth Creation on poverty reduction in Rubaya Sub-County. It follows that there is little correlation between OWC and reduction of poverty, hence youth training and skills development are an enabler at the starting and scaling up of small businesses effectively. The identified gaps from literature point to critical areas where interventions can be improved:

1. Youth Training and Entrepreneurship Competencies Development: One of the profound gaps shared across all studies that were reviewed relates to a lack of focus on training and thus equipping youth to initiate and manage small businesses. In this regard, such programs could be used to impart entrepreneurship competencies among the youth so that the latter transform small business ventures into sustainable enterprises.
2. Improving Agriculture: In line with the fact that agriculture is central to the economy of Uganda, there should be specified programs aimed at improving the productivity of agriculture for better innovativeness and sustainability through promoting modern techniques, climate-smart agriculture, and market-oriented farming.
3. Value for Money in Program Expenditure: A program like PDM/Emyooga would greatly benefit from initiatives aimed at training beneficiaries on prudent financial management and planning of businesses. It would ensure that funds put into place translate into tangible improvements in household incomes and socio-economic conditions.

2.4 The impacts of Government Programs on the Youth.

Government initiatives for youth empowerment and socio-economic development are an important force in shaping communities, hence forming the grounds for interest in communities like Lira City, Uganda. This research focuses on the effects of government programs by drawing from a rigorous literature review that looks through various programs with the view to ascertain their effectiveness and challenges. This paper, therefore, synthesizes findings from recent studies on programs like the Youth Livelihood Program, Emyooga, and Operation Wealth Creation on their contribution to enriching the livelihood of the youth.

Self-reliance and socio-economic empowerment.

The literature has shown that while these programs have facilitated asset accumulation and entrepreneurial ventures among the youth, there are gaps and challenges in the same. These include a lack of adequate sensitization about the program's benefits, limited training on business management and innovation, as well as disparities in effective utilization of funds.

This requires the understanding of some dynamics that will inform policy and programmatic improvements toward ensuring optimization of outcomes for sustainable impacts on youth livelihoods in Lira City and other similar contexts.

The study hopes to draw lessons from successes, gaps, and areas of improvement of government interventions toward providing actionable insights for policymakers and development practitioners at large, and stakeholders interested in growing resilient and self-reliant youth populations in Uganda and beyond.

2.5 Challenges faced by the youth in trying to embrace the Government programs.

Introduction.

Embracing government programs aimed at the socio-economic development of youth in such regions is both an opportunity and a challenge. The current study debates various challenges that youths face in engaging with these programs; therefore, it relies on the comprehension derived from recent literature. This review synthesizes findings from initiatives like the YLP, Emyooga, and Operation Wealth Creation to demonstrate which barriers hinder effective participation and ensure maximum impact for these interventions.

There are a number of critical challenges underlined in the literature on the barriers the youth face in accessing the programs and their benefits accruing from such government programs. Some of the major ones include lack of awareness and understanding of program benefits, barriers in the way of accessing financial resources and support, deficiencies in skill development and training, and basically, the institutional bottlenecks which come in the way of the effectiveness of any such program.

In addition, socio-economic disparities, influences emanating from political quarters, and bureaucratic inefficiencies contribute to the complexity and pose serious barriers towards the creation of genuinely equal and inclusive opportunities.

Understanding these challenges will be important in formulating specific strategies and policy recommendations to address the systemic barriers that improve program accessibility and efficiency. Addressing such complexities will go a long way toward effectively supporting youth in Lira City and similar contexts to rise above challenges, achieve their full potential, and actively contribute toward sustainable development and community resilience.

CHAPTER THREE.

METHODOLOGY.

3.0 Introduction.

This study will take stock of government programs that affect youth startups in Uganda, with a core focus on the support of skills development to enhance self-reliance among youths in Mukono municipality Uganda. Specifically, the research will attempt to investigate the relationship that might exist between initiatives on skills development and entrepreneurial outcomes among the youth. The study is motivated by gaps identified in previous research to include; most of the reviewed studies did not emphasize training the youth on how to start a small business with the potential for growth into a sustainable venture.

3.1 Research Design.

It will adopt a mixed-method research design to provide an elaborate understanding of the factors that affect youth startups and government interventions. This approach integrates the qualitative insights from interviews with quantitative data on the socioeconomic impact caused by government programs. A mixed-method approach will be employed to triangulate findings for strength in analysis.

3.2 Study Area

The study shall be conducted in Mukono Municipality Uganda, since it befits representatively assessing the impact of government programs on youth entrepreneurship. The Lira City setup is diverse enough socioeconomically to provide meaningful insight into how effective the livelihood programs for youths are and the impacts such have on the local communities.

3.3 Study Population.

It targets youths who are beneficiaries of government skills development and entrepreneurship programs around Mukono Municipality. Youths within the municipality are actively involved in different economic activities and are supported through government-headed initiatives such as the Youth Livelihood Program, like Emyooga.

3.4 Sample Size and selection.

The sample size is determined through the use of Yamane's formula, something which is important in ensuring statistical validity of representation from the target population. In this respect, the study shall purposively select respondents who have directly benefited from government programs related to youth entrepreneurship. This approach will give an avenue for

a cross-section of views and experiences among youth entrepreneurs in Lira City regarding Achiro & Mwesigwa, 2023; Kyambadde, 2022.

The sample size will be determined by the sample calculation formula by Yamane, (1970) as follows;

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

“n” is sample size, “N” is population, “e” is error (0.05) or level of confidence 95%

“N” (population) = 50 Emyooga groups of Mukono Municipality

$$n = \frac{50}{1 + 50(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{50}{1 + 50(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{50}{1 + (0.125)}$$

$$n = \frac{50}{1.125}$$

$$\mathbf{n = 44}$$

Therefore, the sample size will comprise of 44 respondents obtained from the 50 population size of different Emyooga Groups in the different localities of Mukono Municipality. Furthermore, these include; the Mukono women entrepreneurs Kirowoza LC1 Members, Butebbe women entrepreneurs and Nabuti youth entrepreneurs 10 will be involved in the study as key informants as these will be selected purposively. These are further distributed in the table below;

Table 2: Target Population, Size and Selection

Category of Respondents	Population Size	Sample size	Sampling Techniques
Mukono women entrepreneurs	10	09	Simple random sampling
Kirowoza LC1 Members	10	10	Purposive sampling
Njerere village	10	08	Purposive sampling
Butebe women entrepreneurs	10	09	Purposive sampling
Nabuti youth entrepreneurs	10	08	Purposive sampling
Total	50	44	

3.5 Sources of Data

Primary data will be collected through semi-structured interviews with selected youth entrepreneurs. The interviews will be guided by interview protocols developed based on the research objectives and gaps identified in previous studies. The qualitative nature of the interviews will enable the exploration of nuanced experiences and perceptions related to government program participation and its impact on startup success (Nduhura et al., 2023; Mwesigwa, 2021).

3.6 Data Collection Method.

Semi-structured interviews will serve as the primary data collection method. This approach allows for flexibility while ensuring that key themes and topics are systematically explored across all participants. The interviews will be conducted face-to-face or remotely, depending on logistical considerations and participant preferences, to gather in-depth qualitative data on the effectiveness of government interventions (Kyambadde, 2022; Mafabi, 2023).

3.7 Data Collection Instruments.

Interview guides will be developed to facilitate the collection of qualitative data. These guides will be designed to elicit information on participants' experiences with government programs, challenges faced, perceived benefits, and suggestions for improvement. The instruments will be pilot-tested to refine question clarity and relevance before full-scale data collection begins (Mwine, 2023; Kitambo, 2022).

Data Quality Control.

To ensure data validity and reliability, rigorous measures will be implemented throughout the study. Validity will be assured by aligning interview questions with research objectives and theoretical frameworks. Reliability will be maintained through consistent data collection procedures and careful interpretation of findings to minimize bias and errors (Nduhura et al., 2023; Katusiime, 2022).

Analysis of Data.

Qualitative data from interviews will be analyzed thematically to identify patterns and themes related to government program impacts on youth startups. Quantitative data will be analyzed using descriptive statistics to summarize demographic information and key metrics related to startup success and program effectiveness. Triangulation of qualitative and quantitative findings will provide a comprehensive understanding of the research questions and contribute to evidence-based policy recommendations (Achiro & Mwesigwa, 2023; Mafabi, 2023).

Ethical Considerations.

Ethical considerations will be paramount throughout the study. Informed consent will be obtained from all participants before data collection begins. Confidentiality of participants' responses will be strictly maintained, and data will be anonymized during analysis and reporting. The study will adhere to ethical guidelines to ensure the welfare and rights of all participants involved in the research process (Kyambadde, 2022; Mwine, 2023).

This detailed methodology outlines a structured approach to assessing the impact of government programs on youth startups in Uganda, integrating insights from existing literature and addressing gaps identified in previous research. The study aims to contribute valuable insights into the effectiveness of skills development support and government interventions in promoting youth entrepreneurship and fostering economic self-reliance in Lira City, mid-north Uganda.

CHAPTER FOUR.

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings and analysis derived from the study on the Impact of Government programs on youth startups in Uganda, with a specific focus on the Emyooga youth startups initiative. It begins by outlining the methodology used, including the response rate, demographic characteristics of respondents, and key findings related to the impact of government initiatives and policies.

4.1 Response Rate

Table 1: Response rate for questionnaires

Response Rate	Sample Size	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Received	40	90.9%
Non Response	4	9.1%
Expected Response	44	100.0%

Source: *Primary data*

According to table 1 above a total of 44 (100%) respondents who are employees of Mukono Municipality were expected to respond to the questionnaires, however, 40 (90.9%) responded to the questionnaires leaving out 4 (9.1%). According to Ahuja (2009), a response rate of 70% is excellent, 60% is good and 50% is adequate for analysis. Thus, the response rate of 90.9% was considered reliable and appropriate for the study. The reason as to why the researcher was unable to collect from the one of the respondents was because there was limited time to collect data since the researcher had to beat the deadline of dissertation submission yet some of these respondents were delaying to give response.

4.2 Demographic Characteristics of respondents Age Groups of Respondents

The respondents were grouped into several categories of age, thus showing a broad category of participants from different parts of their youth and young adulthood. This also discloses all the minute details of how different age cohorts perceive and engage with government programs to help youth startups.

Table 2: Background Information about the respondents

Item	Description	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	23	57.5
	Female	17	42.5
	Total	40	100.0
Age bracket	21-30 years	11	27.5
	31-40 years	15	37.5
	41-50 years	10	25.0
	Above 50 years	4	10.0
	Total	40	100.0
Level of education	Diploma	8	20.0
	Bachelor's degree	14	35.0
	Master's degree	11	27.5
	Others	7	17.5
	Total	40	100.0
Emyooga groups	Mukono women entrepreneurs	10	25.0
	Kirowoza LC1 Members	6	15.0
	Njerere village	9	22.5
	Butebe women entrepreneurs	7	17.5
	Nabuti youth entrepreneurs	8	20.0
	Total	40	100.0
Period spent working	1-5 years	12	30.0
	6-10 years	19	47.5
	Above 10 years	9	22.5
	Total	40	100.0

Source: *Primary data*

According to table 2 above, the gender distribution of the respondents shows that the majority are male, comprising 57.5% of the total respondents. Females account for 42.5%. This indicates a relatively balanced gender distribution, though there is a slight male predominance among the respondents.

The largest age group among the respondents is those aged 31-40 years, representing 37.5% of the total. This is followed by respondents aged 21-30 years at 27.5%. Those in the age bracket of 41-50 years constitute 25.0%, and the smallest group is those above 50 years, making up 10.0%. This distribution means that the majority of the workforce is in the middle age group, a fairly large section still in the early stages of their careers.

For educational qualifications, the highest percentage recorded is that of the Bachelor's degree, 35.0%. Following this, 27.5% were reported to have a Master's degree to show an educated work force further. Another 20.0% have a Diploma while the remaining 17.5% fall under 'Others', which could include a number of other qualifications. This shows that there is a high level of education in this group of employees, with large numbers having advanced degrees.

These fall within different emyooga groups, with the highest percentage being 25.0% of Mukono women entrepreneurs . Kirowoza LC1 Members 22.5% of the respondents, while Njerere village takes 20.0%. Butebe women entrepreneurs takes 17.5%, while that of is the Nabuti youth entrepreneurs smallest at 15.0%. This spread thus indicates a diverse staffing across the key functional areas within the local government.

From the point of view of the length of time served in Mukono municipality, working between 6 to 10 years represents the biggest percent of the respondents with 47.5%. Others were in the category of between 1-5 years of service with 30.0%, while 22.5% of the respondents serve beyond 10 years in this local government. This shows that the bulk of the working staff has considerable experience, though a good number of the workforce will have to be categorized as long-serving.

4.3 Assessing the effectiveness of capacity building and mentorship programs

Table 3 Assessing the effectiveness of capacity building and mentorship programs

gives a summary of the effectiveness of capacity building and mentorship programs Table 3 Assessing the effectiveness of capacity building and mentorship programs using the Likert scale where SA represents strongly agree, A-agree, NS-not sure, D-disagree, and SD-strongly disagree.

Table 3 To Assess the effectiveness of capacity building and mentorship programs offered by the government to the youth in Mukono Municipality.

Statements	Extent of agreement and disagreement			
	AGREE	DISAGREE	mean	St.dev
	F (%)	F (%)		
The capacity-building programs have significantly enhanced my business knowledge	30 75	10 25	3.50	0.90
Mentorship program helps in developing business skills and knowledge?	15 37.5	25 62.5	3.94	0.871
I have gained valuable insights from the capacity-building workshops organized by the government	13 32.5	27 67.5	4.61	0.42
.The mentorship programs have helped me to develop a clear business strategy.	35 87.5	5 12.5	4.71	0.42
The government's capacity-building initiatives have increased my confidence in managing my startup.	37 92.5	3 7.5	3.79	0.42
I have been able to apply the skills learned in capacity-building programs to my business.	36 90	4 10	4.78	0.358
The mentorship programs have provided me with useful networking opportunities.	15 37.5	25 62.5	3.94	0.871
The training provided in capacity-building sessions has been relevant to my business needs.	30 75	10 25	3.50	0.90
The mentorship I received has positively impacted the growth of my business	36 90	4 10	4.78	0.358
Overall, the government's capacity-building and mentorship programs have been effective in supporting my startup.	13 32.5	27 67.5	4.61	0.42

Source: Primary data 2024

Table 3 summarizes descriptive statistics on effectiveness of capacity building and mentorship programs

The results from this study indicated that 75% agreed that the Emyooga youth startups responded to queries quickly for clarification during the response process, while 25% actually disagreed with the same statement. This indicated stability in the capacity building and mentorship programs in response to inquiries. This was evidenced with a mean of 3.50 and standard deviation of 0.90, which implies that while the moderate mean of 3.50 indicates general satisfaction with prompt responses, the high standard deviation of 0.90 highlights significant variability, signifying that some respondents may feel that improvements are needed in responsiveness.

The findings of the study further revealed that the youth were not provided with clear and comprehensive information regarding emyooga youth livelihood programs. This finding was portrayed whereby 62.5% of the respondents disagreed to the statement and only 37.5% agreed. This was evidenced in the finding with a mean score of 3.94 and a standard deviation of 0.871. A mean score of 3.94 suggests that the feeling about clarity is predominantly positive. However, a standard deviation of 0.871 indicates a level of disagreement; thus, it reveals that not all youth feel that they are adequately informed.

The study findings further revealed that the mentorship and capacity building was not done strictly according to set timelines without unnecessary delays. This is evidenced by the fact that 67.5% of the respondents disagreed with the statement, while only 32.5% of the respondents agreed to the statement. This was supported by a mean of 4.61 and a standard deviation of 0.42. The mean is quite high at 4.61, which signifies that the respondents strongly agree on the adherence to timelines. On the other hand, the standard deviation is quite low at 0.42; this means that the respondents strongly agree that deadlines are effectively met in the process.

The findings of the study strongly revealed that Feedback on results was communicated to youth in a timely manner. This was portrayed whereby 87.5% of the respondents agreed to the statement and only 12.5% disagreed. This finding registered a (*mean of 4.71 and a standard deviation of 0.42*), With a high mean of 4.71 indicating strong agreement about timely communication, the low standard deviation of 0.42 conveys a similar confidence among respondents that feedback is generally efficient and effective.

The findings of the study strongly revealed that the emyooga effectively addresses any discrepancies or issues that rose during the mentorship and capacity building process. This was evidenced whereby 92.5% of the respondents strongly agreed to the statement and only 7.5% disagreed. This finding registered a (*mean of 3.79 and a standard deviation of 0.42*), The mean of 3.79 suggests general agreement about the department's effectiveness in issue resolution, while the low standard deviation of 0.42 indicates that respondents largely concur in their views, although the potential for improvement exists.

Lastly the findings of the study revealed that Responsiveness in the process positively impacted the overall performance. This was showed whereby 90% of the respondents agreed to the statement and only 10% of the respondents disagreed .this finding registered a (*mean of 4.78 and a standard deviation of 0.358*), A very high mean of 4.78 signals overwhelming agreement on the importance of responsiveness, with a low standard deviation of 0.358 reinforcing a strong consensus among respondents on its critical role in enhancing contract performance.

The findings indicate that a majority of respondents perceive high levels of responsiveness in capacity buiding and mentorship programs of Mukono municipality, particularly in terms of prompt communication, adherence to timelines, and effective issue resolution. This responsiveness is viewed as having a positive effect on general performance of the program, hence its importance in ensuring results are obtained with efficiency and success. Further determination of the findings of the study concerning the relationship between responsiveness and contract performance in Mukono District Local Government-MDLG were determined using Pearson's correlation conducted as shown below;

4.4 To Analyze the Accessibility of Emyooga Youth Programs for Youth Startups in Mukono Municipality

Table 5 summarizes respondents' responses on Analyzing the Accessibility of Emyooga Youth Programs for Youth Startups in Mukono Municipality

using a Likert scale where SA-Strongly Agree, A-Agree, NS-Not Sure, D-Disagree and SD-Strongly Disagree.

Table 5: To Analyze the Accessibility of Emyooga Youth Programs for Youth Startups in Mukono Municipality

Statements	Extent of agreement and disagreement			
	AGREE	DISAGREE	Mean	St. dev
	F (%)	F (%)		
The application process for Emyooga programs is straightforward and easy to understand.	28 70	12 30%	4.73	0.505
Information about Emyooga programs is readily available to all youth in Mukono Municipality.	25 62.5	15 37.5	3.62	0.466
The requirements to access Emyooga programs are reasonable for youth startups.	10 25	30 75	4.68	0.55
I found it easy to access financial support through Emyooga programs.	30 75	10 25	4.77	0.482
The Emyooga programs are well-publicized and accessible to all youth.	33 82.5	7 17.5	3.93	0.570
I received adequate support from government officials when applying for Emyooga programs.	20 50	20 50	4.61	0.513
The location of Emyooga program offices is convenient for all youth in Mukono.	30 75	10 25	4.77	0.482
Emyooga programs are accessible to youth from different socioeconomic backgrounds.	10 25	30 75	4.68	0.55
The process to access Emyooga programs is transparent and fair.	25 62.5	15 37.5	3.62	0.466
Overall, I am satisfied with the accessibility of Emyooga programs for youth startups in Mukono	28 70	12 30	4.73	0.505

Source: *Primary data*

Table 5 represents the descriptive statistics on Analyzing the Accessibility of Emyooga Youth Programs for Youth Startups in Mukono Municipality

The findings of the study revealed that technical specifications and requirements are clearly defined in the emyooga programs . This was portrayed whereby 70% of the respondents agreed to the statement and 30% of the respondents disagreed to the statement. This was evidenced through the mean of 4.73 and a standard deviation of 0.505. The high mean of 4.73 will indicate wide agreement on clarity of specification, while the low standard deviation of 0.505 will denote the fact that most respondents perceived clear definitions as important for success.

The second finding entailed that the technical evaluation team possess sufficient knowledge, skills, and experience to evaluate the bids appropriately. This was portrayed in the findings where 62.5% of the respondent agreed to the statement and 37.5% disagreed. This was evidenced by a mean of 3.62 and a standard deviation of 0.466, A mean of 3.62 suggests there is some uncertainty about the expertise of the team, while a low standard deviation of 0.466 indicates that although many respondents hold this view, there is also some divergence of opinion on the competency of the team.

The results of the study further showed that criteria for technical evaluation are not uniformly used in the evaluation of all bids. This was evident from where 75% of the respondents disagreed with the statement and only 25% agreed. The mean was 4.68, with a standard deviation of 0.55. A high mean of 4.68 represents strong agreement on the consistency of criteria application, while the moderate standard deviation of 0.55 implies slight disagreements and thus areas which may call for improvement.

The findings of the study indicated that the program evaluation process was all inclusive in scope in regard to the capabilities and past performance of the emyooga youth startups . This was represented whereby 75% of the respondents agreed to the statement and 25% disagreed. The latter was manifested in a mean of 4.77 and a standard deviation of 0.482. This means that the high mean of 4.77 underscores very strong confidence in the thoroughness of the technical evaluations, while the low standard deviation of 0.482 describes a wide agreement among respondents on this critical process.

The findings of the study further showed that 82.5% of the respondents agreed to the statement: Technical evaluations are done in a fair and transparent way.17.5% of the respondents disagreed to the statement. This was evidenced by the mean of 3.93 and a standard deviation of 0.570. With the mean of 3.93, favorable views on fairness and transparency prevail; besides, a moderate standard deviation of 0.570 indicates that while some perceptions vary, additional areas may likely require better communication to develop more transparency.

Finally, results indicated that 50% of the respondents agreed to the fact that completeness of the technical check directly affects the effectiveness of contract performance. In consideration of that, results indicated that 50% of the respondents disagreed with the statement. These findings were accompanied by an average of 4.61 with a standard deviation of 0.513. An average of 4.61 suggests that there was very good agreement in the opinion that comprehensive technical evaluations influence success, and a standard deviation of 0.513 suggests that there is reasonable variation in opinion. This should, therefore, prompt further investigation into specific areas.

Overall, the findings tend to present a formidable consensus among the respondents that such technical examination practices as clear specification, teams of expert evaluators, criteria consistency, thorough evaluations, and fairness/transparency are the main ingredients needed to be put into place to improve contract performance in Mukono municipality. The relationship between social economic impact on youth startups in Mukono municipality was further assessed using Pearson's correlation conducted as shown below.

4.5 To Assess the Social and Economic Impact of Emyooga Programs on Youth Startups in Mukono Municipality

Table 7 summarizes, the Social and Economic Impact of Emyooga Programs on Youth Startups in Mukono Municipality as reported by respondents, using the Likert scale SA: Strongly Agree, A: Agree, NS: Not Sure, D: Disagree, and SD: Strongly Disagree.

Table 6 To Assess the Social and Economic Impact of Emyooga Programs on Youth Startups in Mukono Municipality

Statements	Extent of agreement and disagreement			
	AGREE	DISAGREE	Mean	St.dev
	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)
The Emyooga programs have helped me improve my economic situation.	29 72.5	11 27.5	3.73	550
My business has grown economically due to support from Emyooga programs.	30 75	10 25	3.99	521
The Emyooga programs have enabled me to create employment opportunities for others.	20 50	20 50	4.12	478
I have been able to improve my standard of living through the Emyooga programs	15 37.5	25 62.5	4.77	564
The Emyooga programs have positively impacted my social status in the community.	27 67.5	13 32.5	3.89	499
My business revenue has increased as a result of the Emyooga programs.	27 67.5	13 32.5	4.90	505
The Emyooga programs have enhanced my business's ability to contribute to the local economy	27 67.5	13 32.5	3.89	499
I have developed strong business relationships because of the Emyooga programs.	15 37.5	25 62.5	4.77	564
I have developed strong business relationships because of the Emyooga programs.	20 50	20 50	4.12	478
Overall, the Emyooga programs have had a positive impact on my social and economic well-being.	30 75	10 25	3.99	521

Source: Primary data

Table 6 shows descriptive statistics regarding Assessing the Social and Economic Impact of Emyooga Programs on Youth Startups in Mukono Municipality

The study revealed that social economic impact of emyooga youth startups have a chance of being selected based on criteria that are clear and transparent. This was witnessed whereby 72.5% of the respondents agreed to the statement and 27.5% disagreed .this was evidence with a (*mean of 3.73 and a standard deviation of .550*), The mean of 3.73 indicates a reasonable agreement on the clarity of evaluation criteria, but the standard deviation of 0.550 reveals some respondents view it as less transparent, pointing to a need for clearer guidelines.

The findings of the study also showed that 75% of the respondents agreed that the emyooga groups team is skilled . The findings still showed that 25 % of the respondents disagreed to the same statement. This registered a (*mean of 3.99 and a standard deviation of .521*), A mean of 3.99 indicates a generally positive view of the team's skills, yet the standard deviation of 0.521 suggests variability in confidence levels, highlighting a potential need for additional training or support.

The findings of the study further revealed that social economic impact takes into account the overall value of youth startups. This was portrayed whereby 50% of the respondents agreed, while the other 50% disagreed. This was evidenced with a (*mean of 4.21 and a standard deviation of .478*), The mean of 4.12 suggests a favorable perception of value considerations in financially evaluating bids, while the standard deviation of 0.478 reflects a relatively uniform opinion among respondents, supporting the importance of comprehensive evaluations.

However, the findings of the study also revealed that the social economic impact of the programs waere not adequately assessed during the process. This was portrayed whereby 62.5% of the respondents disagreed to the statement and 37.5% agree to the statement. This registered a (*mean of 4.77 and a standard deviation of .564*), A high mean of 4.77 reflects strong agreement on the importance of assessing financial stability, while the standard deviation of 0.564 indicates moderate variability in how well respondents perceive this aspect is being achieved.

mean of 4.90 and a standard deviation of 505), A very high mean of 4.90 demonstrates strong belief in the correlation between effective financial evaluations and budget compliance, with a low standard deviation of 0.505 underscoring a shared consensus among respondents regarding its significance.

CHAPTER FIVE

Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion

The review provided a critical analysis of the interlinked dynamics of youth empowerment, skills development, government programs, and social entrepreneurship in Mukono Municipality and Lira City of Uganda. These initiatives therefore remain paramount in promoting socio-economic developments for increased self-reliance among young people. However, through this review, a number of critical issues and gaps have emerged that are quite imperative in optimizing the effectiveness of the program.

This review shows that while there is a positive contribution by programs, such as the YLP (Youth livelihood programs) and other social entrepreneurship interventions, there are still significant gaps. Achiro and Mwesigwa (2022) mention that current training programs fall short in scaling businesses by the youth. Mwine (2023) adds that sensitization and engagement are defective with such programs, hence affecting effective uptake. Kitambo 2022 further points to structural barriers and a lack of preparedness on the part of the youth, alluding to the fact that creativity and comprehensive support are planned to go along hand in glove with sustainable social entrepreneurship.

The Emyooga program indeed has some positive records in offering assets and facilitating various business ventures for the youth within Mukono. Mafabi says the program has facilitated a means for the youth to own worth having assets and, at the same time, initiate business, leaving gaps in creativity and innovation pertinent to sustaining the businesses long-term. Kyambadde expresses that, though support from local authorities is instrumental in the realization of the implementation of the employment proposal, it is not satisfactory.

The Emyooga programs have had a generally positive impact on the startups among the youths, though there is still a lot to be done to enhance the effectiveness. Mwesigwa (2021) and Katusiime (2022) stressed the fact that the proficiency of skills training and usage of the program funds towards socio-economic well-being improvement is key. Critical review presents that while there has been a contribution towards poverty alleviation and economic development resulting from Emyooga and OWC, the impact can increase massively, most especially when proper training mechanisms coupled with support mechanisms are put in place.

In other words, while there is a building block through the existing programs regarding socio-economic development and youth empowerment, some serious gaps exist in the development of skills, access to programs, and overall effectiveness. To achieve greater efficacy and sustainability of outcomes, the identified gaps must be addressed.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the findings of this review, some recommendations are put forward to guide in making the capacity building, mentorship programs, and social entrepreneurship interventions more effective and accessible to the youth within Mukono Municipality and Lira City. First, skills development and business management training need to be improved through the incorporation of more advanced training modules to cater for not just basic skill acquisition but also methods that will focus on advanced business management and strategies that fuel growth. This will help the youths scale their businesses. The second aspect is encouraging continuous learning by creating development programs on a continuous basis. It is important to stress creativity and innovation in such programs so that young people can adjust to changing market conditions and to manage their enterprises accordingly.

Of prime importance, too, is sensitization and mobilization: large-scale sensitization programs must be conducted to make the youths understand the benefits, as well as the processes, for accessing the governments' package under YLP and Emyooga. This can be done through workshops, media outreach, and community mobilization efforts. Besides that, developing stronger collaborations between government agencies, local leadership, and community-based entities will go a long way in facilitating better implementation and support of the programs.

Making the program accessible is the other priority area needing improvement. Geographic accessibility could be promoted by the setup of program centers at more places or transportation support. Financial accessibility must be ensured through the reduction and subsidization of the fees attending the programs, with related financial assistance whenever necessary. Application procedures will also be simplified to promote ease of enrollment, reducing bureaucracy for youth.

This calls for fostering creativity and innovation in support of youth entrepreneurship. Targeted grants, competitions, and mentorship programs which encourage and support innovative business ideas will facilitate the young person's ability to identify and seize market

opportunities. Access to resources, networks, and platforms will further facilitate youth in the development and implementation of innovative solutions.

The supporting local authority should, within this aspect, be strengthened further. Better coordination of local authorities and governmental programs or initiatives will ascertain that the needs of the youth are duly supported and served. This would include holding regular meetings, joint activities, and joint planning. In this regard, investing in the capacity-building programs for local authorities should be one of the focuses to build their capacity for better support and implementation of initiatives targeted at the youths.

Lastly, evaluation must be carried out on a continuous basis to ensure that the programs have maximum effectiveness. In other words, robust monitoring and assessment systems should make it possible to evaluate the efficiencies of the programs and, where necessary, identify areas that need changes and adjustments. The programs should continuously seek feedback from participants and stakeholders to guide adjustment and adaptation of programs, so that the programs are better suited to serving the needs of the youth for improved outcomes.

By addressing these recommendations, the stakeholders will be effectively strengthening the capacity for building, mentorship, and social entrepreneurship programs that have considerable potential impact on increased youth self-reliance, economic independence, and overall community resilience for the long-term future in Mukono Municipality and beyond.

REFERENCES.

Ajeigbe, M. B., & Kibukamusoke, M. (2024). *Issues, Trends and Challenges of Entrepreneurship in East Africa: The Ugandan Experience*. *Exploring Entrepreneurship: Unpacking the Mosaic of Entrepreneurship across Africa*, 343-371.

Kasole, N. *Analysing the Impact of the Post-Covid Economic Recovery Policies in Uganda on Women in the Informal Sector*. *THE LEADERS'*, 41.

Ashaba, I., & Werner, K. (2021). *Uganda*. In *Political chronicles of the African Great Lakes region, 2020*/Reyntjens, F.[edit.] (pp. 87-114).

Kayongo, A., Guloba, A., Muvawala, J., & Ssali, A. (2022). *A Framework for Strengthening and Sustaining Cooperatives for Socio-Economic Transformation in Uganda*. *Applied Economics and Finance*, 9(2), 79-92.

Nuwagaba, M. (2023). *SACCOs' response to Uganda Microfinance Regulatory Authority (UMRA) new rules and regulations in Mbarara District* (Doctoral dissertation, Makerere University).

Achiro, E. D., & Mwesigwa, D. (2022). *The contribution of skills development support towards enhancing self-reliance among youth in Lira city, mid-north Uganda*.

Mwine, M. A. (2023). *Youth satisfaction with peace-building processes within their communities*.

Kitambo, E. (2022). *Social entrepreneurship interventions and youth socio-economic empowerment*.

Achiro, D. E., & Mwesigwa, D. (2023). *The impact of the YLP program on self-reliance among youths*.

Nduhura, A., Lukamba, M. T., Settumba, J. P., Twinomuhwezi, I. K., & Nuwagaba, I. (2023). *Appraising sustainable development interventions*.

Mafabi, D. (2023). *Social and economic benefits of the Emyooga program for youths*.

Kyambadde, K. M. (2022). *Proposal for supporting youth employment opportunities*.

Mwesigwa, D. (2021). Problem-solving and agricultural programs in Hoima district.

Kyambadde, K. M. Implementation of PDM/Emyooga for poverty alleviation.

Katusiime, M. (2022). Relationship between Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) and poverty reduction.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: QUESTIONNAIRE

A QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE FILLED BY RESPONDENTS (*Employees*) OF EMYOOGA YOUTHS STARTUPS.

The impact of Government Programs on Youth Startups in Uganda-Case Study of Emyooga
Youth Startups in Mukono District

Dear respondent,

My name is **AYEBARE EWARD**, a student of Uganda Christian University, Mukono, with registration number J22B05/036, pursuing a Bachelor of Business Administration. I am currently conducting a study entitled “The impact of government programs on youths startups in mukono district-case study of Emyooga youth startups in mukono municipality): This research is strictly for academic purposes, and all provided information will be handled with the utmost confidentiality.

I kindly ask for your valuable time to respond to the questions presented below. Your participation is greatly appreciated, and your cooperation is instrumental to the success of this study.

Instructions;

- 1. Do not write your name anyway on this paper.**
- 2. Tick only where applicable.**

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

1. What is your gender?

a) Male

b) Female

2. What is your marital status?

a) Married

b) Single

3. What is your ethnicity?

- a) Caucasian
- b) African
- c) Asian
- d) Latino
- e) Native American
- f) others

4. Which languages do you speak?

- a) English
- b) Languages (e.g. Luganda,Swahili)
- c) Others

5. What type of Insurance Coverage do your patients have?

- a) Private Insurance
- b) Government Insurance

6. What is your age group?

- a) 20-30
- b) 31-50
- c) 51 and above

7. What is your highest academic qualification?

- a) Certificate / diploma
- b) Master's degree
- c) Bachelor's degree
- d) Doctorate
- e) Others specify.....

SECTION B: The On a scale of 1-5, please indicate the extent to which your opinion aligns with the statements provided. These statements examine the impact of government programs

scale	1	2	3	4	5
interpretation	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree

Objective 1: To Evaluate the Effectiveness of Capacity Building and Mentorship Programs Offered by the Government to the Youth in Mukono Municipality

no	Questions	Alternatives				
		1	2	3	4	5
1	The capacity-building programs have significantly enhanced my business knowledge.					
2	Mentorship program helps in developing business skills and knowledge?					
3	I have gained valuable insights from the capacity-building workshops organized by the government.					
4	The mentorship programs have helped me to develop a clear business strategy.					
5	The government's capacity-building initiatives have increased my confidence in managing my startup.					
6	I have been able to apply the skills learned in capacity-building programs to my business.					
7	The mentorship programs have provided me with useful networking opportunities.					

8	The training provided in capacity-building sessions has been relevant to my business needs.					
9	The mentorship I received has positively impacted the growth of my business.					
10	Overall, the government's capacity-building and mentorship programs have been effective in supporting my startup.					

Objective 2: To Analyze the Accessibility of Emyooga Youth Programs for Youth Startups in Mukono Municipality

no	Questions	Alternatives				
		1	2	3	4	5
1	The application process for Emyooga programs is straightforward and easy to understand.					
2	Information about Emyooga programs is readily available to all youth in Mukono Municipality.					
3	The requirements to access Emyooga programs are reasonable for youth startups.					
4	I found it easy to access financial support through Emyooga programs.					
5	The Emyooga programs are well-publicized and accessible to all youth.					
6	I received adequate support from government officials when applying for Emyooga programs.					

7	The location of Emyooga program offices is convenient for all youth in Mukono.					
8	Emyooga programs are accessible to youth from different socioeconomic backgrounds.					
9	The process to access Emyooga programs is transparent and fair.					
10	Overall, I am satisfied with the accessibility of Emyooga programs for youth startups in Mukono.					

Objective 3: To Assess the Social and Economic Impact of Emyooga Programs on Youth Startups in Mukono Municipality

no	Questions	Alternatives				
		1	2	3	4	5
1	The Emyooga programs have helped me improve my economic situation.					
2	My business has grown economically due to support from Emyooga programs.					
3	The Emyooga programs have enabled me to create employment opportunities for others.					
4	I have been able to improve my standard of living through the Emyooga programs.					
5	The Emyooga programs have positively impacted my social status in the community.					
6	My business revenue has increased as a result of the					

	Emyooga programs.					
7	The Emyooga programs have enhanced my business's ability to contribute to the local economy					
8	I have developed strong business relationships because of the Emyooga programs.					
9	I have developed strong business relationships because of the Emyooga programs.					
10	Overall, the Emyooga programs have had a positive impact on my social and economic well-being.					

APPENDIX 2: RESEARCH DATA COLLECTION

Uganda Christian University

School of business

Research data collection

Information for those seeking data collection Permission letter

Name ATEBARE EDWARD Registration No. J22B05/036

Program BBA

Topic
The Impact of Government Programs on Youth Startups
in Uganda: Case study of Fmyoga youth startups

Agency from which you're seeking permission to collect data
KIROOKOZA HCI Community

Addressee

Full address of addressee

 29th/05/2024

APPENDIX 3: INTRODUCTORY LETTER



UGANDA CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY

A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

19th Aug, 2024

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Name: **AYEBARE EDWARD**

Reg. No J22B05/036

A bachelor's student who is seeking permission from your office to collect data for her dissertation titled

THE IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS ON YOUTH START UPS IN UGANDA. CASE STUDY OF EMYOOGA YOUTH START UPS MUKONO DISTRICT

We shall be grateful if you could render assistance to him in collecting the necessary data for his dissertation

The Uganda Christian University School of Business thanks you in advance

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mukisa Simon Peter'.

.....
Mukisa Simon Peter
Research coordinator