



NATIONAL DEFENCE UNIVERSITY-KENYA

RESEARCH PROJECT

**ENGAGEMENT OF THE YOUTH TOWARDS PROMOTING NATIONAL SECURITY
IN KENYA**

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
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DECLARATION

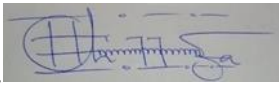
I, ROSE CHANANI hereby declare that this research project is my original work and has not been presented for a Degree in any other University.

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This research project has been submitted for examination with my approval as the University Supervisor.

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It is by God's amazing gracing that this work was possible. I would like to thank my leaders at National Youth Service who accorded me the opportunity to undertake this course. Thank you to my lecturers at National Defence College who were so committed to the training and guiding and specifically Maj (Dr) Cliff Obwogi, my supervisor who keenly guided this work. I highly appreciate my colleagues in the course. I am forever grateful to God.

DEDICATION

To my late husband, My Son and Daughter.

ABSTRACT

The study sought to explain the extent of young people's contributions to national security. The research focused on understanding the various forms of youth participation in Kenya's national security endeavors. The general objective of this study is to evaluate the engagement of the youth toward promoting national security in Kenya. Specific objectives of the study are to evaluate the nature of youth engagements in contributing to national security, to examine the role of the youth on national security and analyze the challenges of not engaging the youths in national development activities in Kenya. Additionally, the study aimed to investigate the impact that young individuals have on the overall state of Kenyan national security, the research aimed to evaluate the challenges and drawbacks associated with excluding young people from national development initiatives in Kenya. The Purposive research employed, also known as purposeful or selective sampling, is a non-probability sampling technique used in qualitative research. It involves intentionally selecting individuals, cases, or events that are most likely to provide rich and valuable information relevant to the research objectives. Interviews, surveys, and focus groups were conducted to gather data, which was then analyzed using statistical techniques and thematic analysis for comprehensive insights. By examining these aspects, this study provides valuable insights into the significance of youth involvement in ensuring robust national security. The study emphasizes the need to prioritize youth engagement in community development, social change, and national security. The challenges faced by young people in Kenya include limited access to resources, under-representation in decision-making processes, and a lack of skills and capacity. To address these challenges, the study recommends providing access to information and resources, promoting youth participation in leadership positions, and offering mentoring and coaching. Implementing these strategies can create an environment that empowers youth and benefits both the youth and society as a whole. The study highlights the critical role that youth play in national security in Kenya and emphasizes the need for government and stakeholders to prioritize youth development and address the risks and challenges faced by young people. Investing in education, employment, and civic participation programs can enhance the resilience of young people and reduce their vulnerability to security risks. The study postulates that youth can contribute to national security through community-based initiatives aimed at preventing and countering violent extremism and advocating for policies that promote social justice and inclusion. In conclusion, the study emphasizes the importance of prioritizing youth engagement in promoting national security in Kenya. This can be achieved by implementing recommendations such as increasing youth representation in national security institutions, enhancing youth education and training, promoting youth entrepreneurship and innovation, creating partnerships with youth-led organizations, fostering positive ties between youths and law enforcement, promoting civic engagement and advocacy, and increasing access to information. It is crucial for the government and stakeholders to work together to develop and implement strategies and policies that empower and engage the youth in the country's development process to ensure long-term peace and stability.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

FDSE	Free Day Secondary Education
FPE	Free Primary Education
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ILO	International Labor Organization
KIPPRA	Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis
KTTC	Kenya Technical Teachers College
KTTC	Kenya Technical Teachers College
MRC	Mombasa Republican Council
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSIS	National Security Intelligence Service
NYS	National Youth Service
NYS	National Youth Service
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
TVET	Technical and Vocational Training
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations
UNSCR	United Nations Security Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security
USA	United States of America
USD	United States Dollar
WHO	World Health Organization

YPS	Youth Polytechnics
YPS	Youth Polytechnics
MRC	Mombasa Republican Council

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This chapter covers background information of the study, its goals, literature review, research questions, research gaps, theoretical framework, and the research methodology.

1.2 Background of the study

Africa's population is growing rapidly, and the majority of the population consists of young people. While the youth are perceived as opportunities and threats to development, they have designed positive innovations and socially contributed towards economic growth and development. However, the youth have been perceived as a threat to security and development due to the risk factors attributed to them.¹ Unemployment and socio-economic vulnerabilities can easily attract young individuals towards engaging in violence. The international community is increasingly recognizing the significance of youth in promoting peace, national security, and countering violent extremism.

The adoption of the UN Security Resolution on Youth, Peace, and Security (SCR 2250) in December 2015 emphasized the importance of equipping young people with the necessary resources to shift their role from being victims of violence to becoming active agents of peace and positive transformation.² One of the biggest challenges in the implementation of this framework in the African continent is a lack of opportunities for the youth. Kenya, like other

¹Deery, Hamish A. "Hazard and risk perception among young novice drivers." *Journal of safety research* 30, no. 4 (1999): 225-236.

²Ward, Elizabeth, Kaodi McGaw, and Carl Marsh. "Youth, peace and security case study, Jamaica." United Nations Population Fund and PBSO, November (2017).

African countries, has limited opportunities for the youth who opt to engage in illegal activities. The Kenyan youth have limited chances of getting decent jobs, and the majority of them live in the slums where life is affordable for them. These youths engage in criminal activities such as radicalization and terrorism, cyber-crime and social media crimes, robbery with violence, and drug abuse, among other social crimes. Due to their poverty conditions, the youth have become easy prey for Al-Shabaab terrorist recruiters. The youth also join illegal armed gangs that execute a robbery with violence and the killing of culprits.³ The security of Kenya as a nation has been severely affected by various challenges such as terrorism, the widespread availability of small arms and light weapons, corruption, and the illegal trafficking of goods and people. These issues have a detrimental impact on the social, economic, and political progress of the Kenyan people. It is crucial to safeguard both the citizens and the state from violent conflicts and criminal activities.

According to the United Nations, Africa's population is projected to double by 2050, with 60% of the population being under 25 years old.⁴ With a high youth population, the continent presents a great opportunity for economic growth and development. However, the increasing number of unemployed and underemployed youth poses a significant challenge for the continent. According to the World Bank, more than 400 million people in sub-Saharan Africa live on less than \$1.90 a day, making it the world's poorest region.⁵

In Kenya, the youth unemployment rate is estimated to be around 39%, which is higher than the national average of 10.4%. This is largely due to the lack of job opportunities, especially

³ Rodgers, Dennis. "Joining the gang and becoming a broder: The violence of ethnography in contemporary Nicaragua." *Bulletin of Latin American Research* 26, no. 4 (2007): 444-461.

⁴ De Zeeuw, Henk, and Marielle Dubbeling. "Cities, food and agriculture: challenges and the way forward." RUAF Foundation, Leusden (2009).

⁵ Valensisi, Giovanni. "COVID-19 and global poverty: Are LDCs being left behind?" *The European Journal of Development Research* 32, no. 5 (2020): 1535-1557.

in the formal sector.⁶ The majority of the youth live in slums, where access to education and healthcare is limited. These conditions make the youth vulnerable to social crimes and violent extremism.

The Al-Shabaab terrorist group has been recruiting Kenyan youth since 2011, especially those living in marginalized areas.⁷ The group uses social media platforms and face-to-face interactions to radicalize the youth and lure them into joining their ranks. This has resulted in a rise in terrorist attacks in the country, posing a threat to national security.

The Kenyan government has been implementing various strategies to counter violent extremism, including military interventions, community policing, and rehabilitation programs. However, these strategies have had limited success in addressing the root causes of violent extremism, such as poverty, unemployment, and marginalization.⁸

Therefore, there is a need to develop sustainable and long-term solutions that address the socio-economic challenges faced by the youth in Kenya. Empowering the youth through education, skills training, and job creation can help reduce their vulnerability to social crimes and violent extremism. Additionally, involving the youth in peacebuilding initiatives can help build a culture of peace and social cohesion in the country.

⁶Adesugba, Margaret, and George Mavrotas. "Youth employment, agricultural transformation, and rural labor dynamics in Nigeria." (2016).

⁷Botha, Anneli. "Political socialization and terrorist radicalization among individuals who joined al-Shabaab in Kenya." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 37, no. 11 (2014): 895-919.

⁸Badurdeen, Fathima Azmiya, and Paul Goldsmith. "Initiatives and perceptions to counter violent extremism in the coastal region of Kenya." (2018).

1.3 Statement of the Research Problem

Kenya faces a critical national security challenge stemming from a substantial and growing population of disengaged youth. With over 40% of Kenyan youth lacking meaningful employment opportunities, there is a concerning nexus between this unemployment and the rise in insecurity. This insecurity is manifested through various criminal activities, including cyber-crime, social media offenses, robbery, militia groups, gangs, terrorism, and theft. According to a report by the Institute of Economic Affairs Youth Compendium, an alarming 57% of crimes in Kenya are perpetrated by these disengaged youth.

Moreover, the current severe drought, the worst in four decades, has compounded the issue by causing food and nutrition insecurity and conflicts, disproportionately affecting the youth who lack sources of livelihood. These young individuals also face barriers in terms of acquiring technical skills, access to capital, and hands-on experience for income generation and recreational activities. Furthermore, the scarcity of long-term, sustainable youth initiatives, limited opportunities, and pervasive corruption within the system exacerbate their vulnerability to criminal activities.

To mitigate these threats to national security, it is imperative that the Kenyan government focuses on empowering and engaging the youth. This research aims to investigate how meaningful engagement of Kenyan youth can be achieved, thereby contributing to enhanced national security and socio-economic stability.

1.4 Study Objectives

This study was made up of both general and specific research objectives.

1.4.1 General Objective

The general objective of this study is to evaluate the engagement of the youth toward promoting national security in Kenya

1.4.2 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the study are:

- i.To evaluate the nature of youth engagements in contributing to national security in Kenya
- ii.To examine the role of the youth on national security in Kenya
- iii.To analyze the challenges of not engaging the youths in national development activities in Kenya

1.5 Research Questions

- i.How can the youth be engaged so that they meaningfully contribute towards national security in Kenya?
- ii.What is the role of the youth in national security in Kenya?
- iii.What challenges is Kenya experiencing as a result of unengaged youths towards national security in Kenya?

1.6 Literature Review

This section reviews the literature relevant to the objectives of the study. More specifically, the section reviews theories that are relevant to national security such as securitization theory. Further, the chapter discusses the empirical literature that gives the empirical evidence of how the youth can be engaged meaningfully, how their engagement can contribute to national

security and some of the challenges that Kenya has experienced as a result of not engaging the youth in nation building activities.

1.6.1 Empirical Literature Review

1.6.2 Nature of youth engagements in Nation Building Activities in Kenya

A country that consists of a young population such as Kenya cannot talk about socio-economic development and social change without involving the youth. Youth are social and political agents who need to be empowered and mentored for leadership opportunities. Youth represents a potential for development in the developing societies.⁹ Equipping the youth with the right skills will enhance their participation in nation-building activities. Economists and educators both agree that there is a substantial positive relationship between education and employment. Kenya has favorable policies that promote youth education. However, Kenya's official work market is unable to absorb school-age youths. It is important for the Kenya to devise ways to prepare the youth for nonexistent jobs as well as the mid-level employment such as the Jua-kali sector and technical employments.¹⁰

Kenya offers technical and vocational education and training institutions that give young people the skills they need to become economically productive and escape marginalization and poverty.¹¹ According to Anaele, educating people entrepreneurial skills makes them

⁹Achinstein, Betty, and Steven Z. Athanases, eds. "Mentors in the making: Developing new leaders for new teachers. Teachers College Press," 2006.

¹⁰Nafukho, Fredrick Muyia. "Entrepreneurial skills development programs for unemployed youth in Africa: A second look." *Journal of Small Business Management* 36, no. 1 (1998): 100.

¹¹Rotich, Reuben, Paul Wanyeki, and Hebert Dimo. "Influence of Occupational Stereotyping on Enrolment in Technical Courses: A Case of Female Students in Technical Training Institutions in North Rift Region, Kenya." *African Journal of Education, Science and Technology* 5, no. 4 (2020): 250-257.

employable, knowledgeable, and able to support the growth of their country's economy.¹² He further posits that human development through TVETS also contributes to reduction in unemployment, and enhanced social inclusion. TVET continues to play an important role in Kenya's socioeconomic development. Youth who are educated and trained have the capacity to propel Kenya's economic growth and development. The kids are equipped with skills that will increase production, income, and access to potential for employment.

Recent developments have highlighted the importance of TVETs in globalization, technical progress, and trade liberalization. It is thus wise to be equipped with greater productivity capabilities in order to integrate into the current sectors of small and medium companies. According to Nyerere, J. (2009), TVET provides entrepreneurial, communication, financial, and leadership abilities, which convert into higher wages and employment prospects.¹³

Kenya emphasizes the importance of education and training in raising GDP and believes that the TVET industry would be able to accelerate economic growth in order to achieve Vision 2030.¹⁴ In Kenya TVET education is offered in training institutions such as (NYS), Youth Polytechnics (YPs), (KTTC), Technical Training Institutes, Institutes of Technology and some universities. The ministry of agriculture has Agricultural training institutes that are fully equipped for training and practical demonstrations. Despite gender disparities, statistics show that enrollment in TVET institutions in Kenya has been increasing gradually resulting in to more technical skills and entrepreneurs in the job market.¹⁵

¹² Ikebuaku, Kenekwuwu, and Mulugeta Dinbabo. "Beyond entrepreneurship education: business incubation and entrepreneurial capabilities." *Journal of Entrepreneurship in Emerging Economies* 10, no. 1 (2018): 154-174.

¹³ Nyerere, J. (2009). *Technical & vocational education and training (TVET) sector mapping in Kenya for the Dutch Schokland TVET programme*. Endukan Foundation.

¹⁴ GoK. Vision 2030.

¹⁵ Ngugi and Purity 2017.

In Kenya, the youth that have been empowered with skills and basic scientific knowledge have a high chance of securing employment and promoting national security. According to a study by Kiruga et, al (2018), TVET institutions in Kenya offer diverse courses among which are business, automotive, medical, building and construction, textile, hospitality and secretarial. These courses do not necessarily equip the students with employability skills and therefore the need for the TVETs to collaborate with the industry to develop competent skills.¹⁶

Like-wise, the youth ought to be self-motivated and go for the skills they purpose to have in life. According to the self-transformative model, the steps that youths take to identify themselves are essential components of healthy growth over the course of life.¹⁷ However the youth need to become life-long learners by being curious and interested in the world around them so that they are motivated to try new things. They need to gain new knowledge through reading and researching and synthesizing information from various sources. The youth need to be exposed to interesting presentations that give them important skills to use in life.

1.6.3 The Role of Youth in National Security

A nation cannot develop unless it has national security; no meaningful development that can happen in a nation ravaged with conflicts and violence. This is why many nations devote a big share of their budget towards national security. A government should be able to protect the state and its citizens through various power projections such as economic power, military

¹⁶ Kiruga, Abraham Mutitu, Benson Odongo Wandago, and Kihu Miano. "An Investigation on Youth Employability Skills in TVET Institutions in Mombasa County." *Africa Journal of Technical and Vocational Education and Training* 3, no. 1 (2018): 78-93.

¹⁷ Eichas, Kyle, Marilyn J. Montgomery, Alan Meca, and William M. Kurtines. "Empowering marginalized youth: A self-transformative intervention for promoting positive youth development." *Child Development* 88, no. 4 (2017): 1115-1124.

power, political power and diplomacy.¹⁸ Security has to do with statehood relationship with poverty and inequality; the higher the poverty levels in a country, the higher the rate of insecurity. These insecurities are border security, health security energy security, cyber security, information security, food security, demographics security and more. A country cannot be secure if it faces one or two of the insecurities. The big question of concern is who are those used as instruments of violence and who sponsors them? The unemployed and unpowered youth are being used as the available instruments of violence by those in power, psychologically and economically.

The operational area and the actor's identity define an action's contribution to peacebuilding and national security. When there are instances of instability, conflict, or violence, it is individuals inside structures who are able to mobilize and reduce risk in order to create positive connections and frameworks for individuals to practice peace. Nation building includes gendered components, and the places made and supported by women and young people illustrate the potential for imagining worthwhile activities. Nation-building is based on social constructs that are based on gender, youth, and age groups. The age categories are a collection of meanings and values that are ingrained in social interactions, legal and political norms, and societal regulations. Political acts that are involved in conflict transformation processes serve as their means of survival.

The youth-led dimensions in nation building are negotiated by young men and women. Young people have taken up responsibilities in dealing with armed conflicts as they survive in the challenges of inadequate food and shelter, caring for their families and inability to access

¹⁸ Ogbuanya, T. C., and Obiajulu Loretta Obierika. "Functional technical vocational education and training (TVET): A catalyst for youth empowerment and national security in Nigeria." *Journal for Studies in Management and Planning* 1, no. 11 (2015): 309-317.

education. The youth are highly involved in daily efforts of advocating for their rights and their space in the society. The social spaces within which the youth stuck and disappointed have been used to assert their own rights and voices despite being marginalized. In Africa, transition of the youth to social norms are stalled by neoliberal economic policies, corruption, and inadequate education. The youth have their creative practices of resilience e.g., the boda boda transport services in Busia, who have created new dimensions of space, resistance and survival. Youth practices in national security are not necessarily private. Young people have been mobilizing through social movements to deal with injustices. In Colombia in 2008, the youth mobilized one million voices against FARC. Youth practices in peace building collapse the public/private divide.¹⁹

1.6.4 Challenges of not engaging the youths in national development activities in Kenya

National security in Kenya is on the increase compromising safety of humans, property and wellbeing of citizens. According to a study by Oganga (2019), there is a strong relationship between youth unemployment and insecurity.²⁰ Another research by Adenike (2021) revealed that the Nigerian government spends more on national security when unemployment rises, poverty levels rise, and all of these factors are related to unemployment.²¹ High rates of youth unemployment are an obstacle for the young people to become self-reliant. The youth's hunt

¹⁹ Berents, Helen, and Siobhan McEvoy-Levy. "Theorising youth and everyday peace (building)." *Peacebuilding* 3, no. 2 (2015): 115-125.

²⁰ Banks, Nicola. "Youth poverty, employment and livelihoods: social and economic implications of living with insecurity in Arusha, Tanzania." *Environment and Urbanization* 28, no. 2 (2016): 437-454.

²¹ Adenike, Egunjobi T. "Poverty, unemployment and insecurity challenges in Nigeria." *Tanzanian Economic Review* 11, no. 1 (2021).

for employment is made more difficult by local and global frameworks, according to research. Youths in urban areas face unsurmountable obstacles due to poverty.

Idle youth have been linked with social crimes such as burglaries, robberies, muggings, abductions, gun crimes, sex-related crimes and terrorism.²² Further, Hurry notes that because of the consequence of permissiveness, celebrity culture, decline in parental discipline, a lot of pocket money, childhood crisis, and adolescence, youths are posing a threat to the social order now that in the past.²³ Vambe (2016) argues that the heightened increase in social insecurity amongst the youth in Kenya is responsible for the increase in crime with adverse consequences in national development.²⁴ One of the global issues of concern is international terrorism and the rate at which the youth are being radicalized to join militia groups such as Al-Shabaab. Socially isolated youth

turn to extremism in search of identity and acceptance. Youth without jobs are an easy pray for radicalization in to extremism.²⁵

Nations should have a broad perspective on national security where governments and stake holders emphasize on provision of social amenities food security, tackling unemployment, addressing corruption and ensuring that the education system is functional. The government should also engage the conventional security agencies as well as encouraging the religious leaders and peace commissions to preach peace.

²² Ongaga, Machuma D. "Factors That Account for the Prevalence of Insecurity in Nyamira Township, Nyamira County." PhD diss., University of Nairobi, 2019.

²³ Goldson, Barry, and John Muncie, eds. *Youth crime and justice*. Sage, 2015.

²⁴ Vambe, Jeremiah T. "Poverty, insecurity and national development in Nigeria: An overview." *Global Journal of Applied, Management and Social Sciences (GOJAMSS)* 13 (2016): 141-149.

²⁵ Bizina, Margarita, and David H. Gray. "Radicalization of Youth as a Growing Concern for Counter-Terrorism Policy." *Global security studies* 5, no. 1 (2014).

1.7 Theoretical Framework

1.7.1 Securitization Theory

This study is underpinned by the theory of Securitization. Among the proponents of Securitization theory are Barry Buzan, Ole Wøever, Jaap de Wilde of Copenhagen School in the 1990s.²⁶ The Securitization theory from the perspective of international relations explores the nature and purpose of security. The theory highlights the contextual nature of security and threats. This theory considers security as a state-of-being or socio-political practice. According to the theory, the security of a nation is not natural but designated by politicians and law makers. The theory advocates for political issues that are dangerous, threatening or alarming to be dealt with urgently by a securitizing actor who has powers beyond politics.

The securitization theory illustrates the rhetorical framework decision-makers employ to frame issues and persuades the audience to steer the debate away from politics. Securitization is the phrase used when a group of people think that a problem is dangerous and advocate taking drastic action. Securitization will have failed if the audience doesn't respond favorably to the actor's remarks. Because the theory suggests securitization as a protracted process in social constructions and agreements by audience and speakers, scholars have critiqued it. This theory contests traditional approaches to security that are focused on the security of a state. According to this theory, engagement or creating jobs / opportunities for the youth should not be taken for granted because it is a security objective that is driven by interests.

In the context of this study, failing to engage the youth can trigger national security which is a political issue of high concern and requires action through engaging the youth to be busy in

²⁶ Wøever, Ole, and Barry Buzan. "Racism and responsibility—The critical limits of deepfake methodology in security studies: A reply to Howell and Richter-Montpetit." *Security Dialogue* 51, no. 4 (2020): 386-394.

development issues.²⁷ As such, government leaders should urgently and diligently work on ways of engaging the youth in nation building activities to be productive and avoid indulging in activities that hurt national security.

Securitization theory is different from the traditional security theories because it views issues as not threatening by themselves, but when they are referred to as security issues, they become security problems. The idea, for instance, demonstrates why it is erroneous to discuss matters like terrorism as though it affects everyone in the globe equally. One should ask important questions as who needs the security? Why should security be provided? And who provides the security?

1.7.2 Nation-Building Theory

Nation building concept is perceived differently by different people. Nation-building means that somebody is intentionally doing the building. The proponents of this theory are Reinhard Bendix, Karl Deutsch, Almond, Coleman, Lucian Pye and Dudley Seers. Karl concentrated on the function of social communication and national integration in nation-building in Western Societies, whereas Bendix concentrated on citizens and their rights to political involvement. When analyzing and contrasting the political systems of developing nations, Almond and Coleman placed emphasis on the functional approach. They made the case that political systems' input mechanisms may be used to distinguish between distinct political growth stages. Different approaches were used to develop and put into practice the roles and activities involved in nation building. These activities included political socialization, recruitment,

²⁷ Clara, Eroukhmanoff. 2018. Securitisation Theory: An Introduction.

interest expression, interest coordination, and political communication. The functions related to producing outcomes were defined as establishing rules, implementing rules, and resolving conflicts related to rules. Post-World War II, the emphasis in nation building endeavors largely shifted towards the execution of these output functions.²⁸

According to Lucian Pye, modernization is linked to westernization and globalization. Political development is linked with advanced technology, science, secular approach to social relations, justice and acceptance of political realm in nation-state. According to Pye, political development is economic development, industrious society, political modernization, legal development, public participation, democracy and stability. He alludes that equality is a basic theme running through all his definitions. However, all of these meanings do not seem to play a major role in practice.²⁹ Dudley Seers approaches the concept from human development perspective in terms of poverty, unemployment, inequality.³⁰ Many UN programs, World Bank and Non-governmental Organizations efforts focus on these aspects but the US in Afghanistan and Iraq seems not. Almond and Verba refers to civic culture as the one that combines tradition and modernity to sustain democracy. They defined civic culture as the obligation to participate and emphasized on the importance of education in civic culture development.

Nation-building in the Kenyan context refers to providing support for the growth of governmental infrastructure, conflict settlement procedures, economic aid, and civil society to boost economic stability. Nation-building, according to James Dobbins (2003), is the use of force following conflicts to usher in democracy. In the past, democratization has been supported by the use of military force in places like Germany, Japan, Somalia, Bosnia, Haiti,

²⁸ Kolstø, Pål. "Nation-building and social integration theory." In *Nation-Building and Ethnic Integration in Post-Soviet Societies*, pp. 44-62. Routledge, 2019.

²⁹ Pye, Lucian W. "Political culture revisited." *Political Psychology* (1991): 487-508.

³⁰ Seers, Dudley. "The meaning of development." *New Delhi* 3 (1969).

and other places. This meaning of nation-building differs from other definitions, where it is thought to be the responsibility of the populace in democratic nation-building processes.³¹

Following World War II, the idea of nation-building became popular among American political scientists. Due to the fact that citizenship increased devotion to the contemporary nation state, they used it to denote the closer integration of the state and society.

Utilizing the military for the purpose of establishing democracy can present inherent contradictions. The issues of whether external imposition of nation-building is viable and whether the military is suited for such a task are elements that warrant further exploration within this discourse. If nation-building is to succeed in the 21st century, we may wish to adopt democratic principles of civic society, civic culture, and increased social, political, and economic fairness as well as human development, not simply economic growth. Building a nation involves not just creating a state, but also promoting democracy and peace. To bring about enduring peace, nations must spend money on electoral processes, the expansion of free markets, and raising their GDP per capita.

1.7.3 Gaps in the Literature

The empirical literature has pointed out that youth are very key in development of a nation and as such they should be equipped with technical and leadership skills. As such Kenya has TVETs that equip the youth with entrepreneurial skills to make the secure employment, create employment to contribute to the development of a nation. Further, the literature shows that the

³¹ Dobbins, James F. "America's role in nation-building: From Germany to Iraq." *Survival* 45, no. 4 (2003): 87-110.

youth have been used as instruments of violence while other engage in vices such as crime and terrorism because they are socially isolated.

There is scanty information on how the youth have contributed towards nation building because most of the literature is biased on repercussions of not engaging the youth. Many studies concentrate on the global and regional level, whose findings cannot be generalized to a specific country in East Africa. With globalization and the rate at which life is dynamic, there is need to carry out study in a specific context and get recent information that can be relied on in decision making and revising the existing policies on youth engagement and nation building initiatives.

1.8 Justification of the Study

1.8.1 Academic Justification

The academic justification for studying the engagement of youth towards promoting national security in Kenya lies in the significance of understanding the role and impact of young individuals in safeguarding the country's security. This research topic addresses a critical aspect of national security and youth participation, which is relevant not only to Kenya but also to other countries facing similar challenges. By examining the engagement of youth in promoting national security, researchers can contribute to the existing body of knowledge in several ways.

Firstly, it provides insights into the specific contributions and innovative approaches that young people bring to the table in terms of ensuring national security. This understanding can inform policymakers, security agencies, and community leaders in designing more effective strategies that tap into the potential of youth. Secondly, the study sheds light on the barriers

and challenges faced by young individuals in actively participating in national security initiatives. Identifying these obstacles can guide policymakers and stakeholders in developing targeted interventions to address the needs of young people, enhance their engagement, and overcome any systemic limitations that may exist.

Furthermore, the academic exploration of youth engagement in national security can contribute to the broader literature on youth empowerment, civic participation, and social development. It can highlight the role of young individuals as agents of positive change, capable of making meaningful contributions to their communities and nation-building processes, studying the engagement of youth in national security aligns with the principles of inclusive governance and sustainable development. Understanding how young individuals can actively participate in decision-making processes related to security not only fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility among them but also contributes to a more inclusive and democratic society.

1.8.2 Policy Justification

The findings of the study are to inform the government of Kenya on what they can do to better improve on youth engagement and the nature of engagements in enhancing nation-building. The research findings shall be disseminated to stakeholders in different forms such as policy briefs, stakeholders' workshops and reports. Policy makers can use this information and recommendations in developing guidelines and policies for youth engagement in nation building and enhancing national security. This study shall provide data back up to be used by ministry of devolution and TVETs in decision making processes.

1.9 Research methodology

This section outlines the methodology that was used in the research study. It encompasses the design of the study, the population under scrutiny, the size of the sample, the techniques and procedures utilized for sampling, as well as the instruments employed for data collection.

1.9.1 Research design

Research design is a word that has been used to describe the entire research process (research methodology), which is defined as the creation of the circumstances for data collection and analysis with the aim of balancing the necessity of the study and the economy of the procedure.³² It generally shows the general plan for conducting research and an outline of how different formulated hypothesis will be tested. The study proposes to use descriptive research design to document the available information on the engagement of the youth in nation-building and enhancing national security in Kenya. Descriptive research design systematical obtains information to describe youth engagement and national security in Kenya.

1.9.2 Scope of the study

The study evaluates engagement of the youth towards enhancing national security in Kenya. The research shall be conducted for the youth aged 19 – 35 years and those in TVET institutions, absorbed in SMEs and security sector. The study was undertaken between 2022-2023.

³² Kothari, C. R. (2004). *Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques*. Delhi: Nwe Age International Publishers.

1.9.3 Limitations and Delimitations of the study

The researcher faced limitations of time constraints and limited resources. However, a statistically agreed sample size was used with a triangulation of methods applied in data collection.

1.9.4 Population of the Study

A population is any group of people or items that share at least one trait, according to Mugenda & Mugenda. A population should consist of all components that satisfy the requirements for research inclusion.³³ The whole group that interests the researcher and from which they intend to draw conclusions is known as the target population.³⁴ The population of this study comprised of the youth engaged in the various TVET sectors and the job market / industry as a result of the skills gained. These may be small and medium enterprises, security sector, jua-kali and other sectors. The unemployed youth were also be interviewed.

1.9.5 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

Kothari points out that, “the total sample size can be arrived at via calculations, through the use of what is known as fisher formulae.”³⁵ This mean that to be able to calculate what is considered an adequate sample size ,a simple formulae is put to use, this formulae requires some practical approaches in selecting the values for the assumption requited in the chosen formula, and in some given situation, the final decision to select the most appropriate values

³³ Okongo, Rachel Bosibori, Gladys Ngao, Naftal K. Rop, and Justus Nyongesa Wesonga. "Effect of availability of teaching and learning resources on the implementation of inclusive education in pre-school centers in Nyamira North Sub-County, Nyamira County, Kenya." (2015).

³⁴ ibid

³⁵ Kothari, Chandra. “Research methodology methods and techniques.” New age-international-publisher, (2011) P.11

for these assumptions are not always direct (simple).³⁶the following simple formula would be used for calculating the adequate sample size in prevalence study;

$$n = \frac{z^2 \times p(1-p)}{d^2}$$

in the formula and for the purpose of this research study the **N** represent the sample size under investigation, the **Z** stands for the statistical representation corresponding to the level of confidence, **P** is the expected prevalence, that can easily be obtained from same studies and or pilot research conducted by the research, **d** is the precision (corresponding to the effect sizes).³⁷

It is worth noting that the confidence interval (CI) in this study was about 95 per cent. This in effect means that:

$$n = \frac{z^2 \times p(1-p)}{d^2}$$

where: n = the required sample size

z = the standard normal deviation at the confidence level

p = the proportion of the target population estimated to have characteristics being measured

q = 1-p (probability of non-success)

d = level of statistical significance set at 0.05

³⁶ Turner, Anthony G. "Sampling frames and master samples. Expert group Meeting to review the draft handbook on Designing of Household Sample Surveys. United Nations Secretariat, Statistics division." ESA/STAT/AC. 93/3. https://unstats.un.org/UNSD/demographic/meetings/egm/Sampling_1203/docs/no_3.pdf, 2003.

³⁷ Kothari, Chandra. "Research methodology methods and techniques." New age-international-publisher, (2011)P.11

$$n = \frac{(1.95)^2 \times 0.019 \times (0.981)}{(0.05)^2} = 98.64 (\text{approximately}) = 99$$

The exercise of sample size calculation is one of the main steps in designing a successful research study, this is because the sample size is taken as the number of participants or total units that are to be included in the study, in order to be able to answer the research questions.

1.9.6 Data Collection Method

This study relied on both primary and secondary data. Secondary data was sourced from the library and online sources such as books, publications, journal articles, reports and policy document. Desktop literature search was necessitated by internet to visit the sites with relevant materials. The available literature was reviewed and evaluated on the subject matter. The information was surveyed, synthesized and critically analyzed by identifying the gaps.^{38,39}

Through the use of a standardized questionnaire, primary data was gathered. The format of the questionnaire gives the respondent instructions on how to respond to each question. The respondent was given the opportunity to fill in some blanks on the questionnaire with the information requested by the questions. The respondent got the questions through email. Telephone calls were used to administer other questions.

³⁸ Berents, Helen, and Siobhan McEvoy-Levy. "Theorising youth and everyday peace (building)." *Peacebuilding* 3, no. 2 (2015): 115-125.

³⁹ Daas, Piet, and Judit Arends-Tóth. 2012. *Secondary Data Collection*. Hague: Statistics Netherlands.

1.9.7 Data Analysis and Presentation

The data gathered was processed and examined using SPSS software. Thematic analysis was conducted to identify and explore the emerging challenges being studied. The results were presented visually through charts, tables, and graphs, enabling readers to assess the alignment between the interpretation and the data.

1.9.8 Ethical Considerations

The proposed observed professional ethics in data collection and reporting. While collecting data for the study, participants were allowed to exercise voluntary participation such that they can skip a certain question if they are not comfortable responding or can stop responding to the questionnaire. The respondent's identity was not revealed and reporting was done in form of statistics and from an institution's point of view and not individual opinions. The youths interviewed were those in the age of between 18-34 years.

1.10 Chapter Outline

Chapter one introduces and gives background information of the study. It explains the problem being evaluated and gives justification of the study. This is followed by literature review that gives empirical literature, theoretical framework and gaps identified in the literature. Chapter two delves in the nature of youth engagement towards enhancing national security in Kenya. This looked in to the TVET institutions and the skills they offer to the youth preparing them for economic development and social integration. Chapter three looked in to the role of the youth in securing national security in Kenya. This included the micro and medium enterprises, business opportunities and security sector. Chapter four looked at the challenges of not

engaging the youth in national development activities. Chapter five gives summary, conclusion and recommendations of the study.

CHAPTER TWO

NATURE OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENTS IN CONTRIBUTING TO NATIONAL SECURITY IN KENYA

2.1 Introduction

There are various ways of working with the youth in encouraging them to contribute towards meaningful nation building hence national security. This chapter delves into the ways in which the youth can be engaged productively towards nation building.

2.2 Inspiring the Youths to Volunteer

Cnaan et al defines volunteering as spending time actively contributing in selfless acts that benefit others.⁴⁰ Volunteering has increasingly become an important activity in the society as it provides an opportunity for individuals to actively contribute to selfless acts that benefit others. This activity has been defined by Cnaan et al as spending time in selfless acts that benefit others. Volunteering has a great impact on the society because it provides opportunities for individuals to engage in various activities that turn out to be beneficial in the long term, not only to the community but also to the volunteers themselves.⁴¹ In this paper, we will discuss the impact of volunteering on the youth in Kenya in contributing to national security.

The youth are the backbone of any society, and their engagement in volunteering activities is crucial in developing the community. According to Musick and Wilson, when the youth are given an opportunity to volunteer, they benefit themselves, they become competent,

⁴⁰ Cnaan, Ram A., Femida Handy, and Margaret Wadsworth. "Defining who is a volunteer: Conceptual and empirical considerations." *Nonprofit and voluntary sector quarterly* 25, no. 3 (1996): 364-383.

⁴¹ *ibid*

employable and can meet their set objectives in life.⁴² Through volunteering, young people can gain a variety of life skills that are crucial to their development both personally and professionally. Communication, leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, and decision-making are some of these life skills. When the youth participate in volunteer activities, they also learn discipline, commitment, and a sense of responsibility. Youth may become well-rounded individuals who can positively impact their communities by volunteering.⁴³

National security is a critical aspect of any country, and the involvement of the youth in contributing to national security cannot be overlooked. The youth can contribute to national security by engaging in various volunteering activities that promote peace, stability, and safety in the community. For instance, the youth can volunteer in community policing, disaster response and management, and promoting conflict resolution through dialogue and mediation. These activities not only promote national security but also help the youth to develop important skills that can help them in their future careers.⁴⁴

The youth in Kenya can engage in various volunteering activities that promote national security. One of the areas where the youth can volunteer is in community policing. Community policing involves working closely with the police to maintain law and order in the community. The youth can assist the police in monitoring the community, reporting suspicious activities, and educating the public on crime prevention strategies. By engaging in community policing, the youth can develop leadership, communication, and teamwork skills that are essential in their personal and professional growth.

⁴² Musick, Marc A., and John Wilson. *Volunteers: A social profile*. Indiana University Press, 2007.

⁴³ *ibid*

⁴⁴ *ibid*

Disaster response and management is another area where the youth can volunteer to contribute to national security. Disasters such as floods, droughts, and earthquakes are common in Kenya, and the youth can volunteer in various organizations that respond to such disasters. By volunteering in disaster response and management, the youth can develop important skills such as problem-solving, decision-making, and critical thinking, which are essential in their personal and professional growth.

Promoting conflict resolution through dialogue and mediation is another area where the youth can volunteer to contribute to national security. Kenya has experienced conflicts in the past, especially during elections, and the youth can volunteer in organizations that promote peace and conflict resolution through dialogue and mediation. By engaging in such activities, the youth can develop important skills such as communication, negotiation, and conflict resolution, which are essential in their personal and professional growth.⁴⁵

In this study, only the youth aged 19-34 years were interviewed. They were from technical and vocational and training institutions in Kenya. All of the 80 respondents were drawn from NYS. 67.5% were males while 32.5% were females as shown below:

Table 0-1: Gender of the Respondents

Gender of Respondent	Percentage
Male	67.5
Female	32.5
total	100

⁴⁵ ibid

The researched intended to know whether the youths are inspired to volunteer in Kenya. The respondents were trainees volunteering to serve the government as they trained as masons, carpenters, mechanical engineers, athletes, videographers, dancers, models, hospitality, accountants, media and service men. The National Youth Service is a program by the government of Kenya whereby young men and women are encouraged to join to train in different careers. As they train, they volunteer in government activities to sharpen their skills. The government gives full sponsorship of the programs to the youth. They are assigned to protect government facilities, seaports, airports and high-profile sites. Every year, thousands of youth graduate from NYS with knowledge and skills that they use to hunt for jobs. NYS and TVETs produce quality service men in Kenya.

2.3 Motivating the Youth

Developing motivated youths is a process that takes time. Firstly, the youth should be guided to define the purpose of why they need to volunteer in a certain program. The youth should not be encouraged to volunteer because they will be learning new skills and credit for school. They should understand the real impact of undertaking or being involved in a certain volunteering program. They should first understand the weight of what they are about to undertake and how they can use the opportunity to make a difference in the world. Edmond insinuates that the youth should be helped to develop social and emotional intelligence, conflict resolution and problem solving, articulating a vision and knowledge in their areas of interest.⁴⁶

When the youth are granted more time and opportunity to use their skills, they feel competent and get more committed. The youth can be invited to highlight their distinctive elements and

⁴⁶ Redmond, Susan, and Pat Dolan. "Towards a conceptual model of youth leadership development." *Child & Family Social Work* 21, no. 3 (2016): 261-271.

build their strengths in a highly competent environment. Weaknesses are strengthened to enrich a community. Communities are working with their resources and strengths because each individual has the best chance of development and as the best skills, which are important in developing partnerships with the young people.

In a community context, when working with the young, you get invited to believe and trust the potential of the young people and develop a positive opinion towards them. Griffith and Johnson posit that leadership within a program builds trust of the youth and supports skill development.⁴⁷ Youth need to be granted opportunities to use their experiences and strengths. As such, adults should acknowledge the positive work on the young people and encourage them to develop strategies towards working on their differences and challenges.⁴⁸ Adults should be available and have energy to support and work with the youth.

The young people should be engaged to have a vision. When young people adhere to a vision and believe in what they are doing, they develop a passion that compels them to engage more. The vision of the youth can be supported by developing a project where they are involved and feel important. The community should be willing to integrate to integrate the vision of the youth, set values and a plan of action that corresponds to their orientation. In this manner, decision making for the youth is an opportunity for adult partnership and creation of youth-led initiative. This vision infuses the community with new energy because the youth feel more committed and motivated to contribute because they are invited to work together with the adults in defining strategic parameters.

⁴⁷ Griffith, Aisha N., and Haley E. Johnson. "Building trust: Reflections of adults working with high-school-age youth in project-based programs." *Children and Youth Services Review* 96 (2019): 439-450.

⁴⁸ Grant Jr, Donald E. "Social learning theory and strength-based approaches to counseling adolescent African American males." *African American male series. Counseling in African American males: Effective therapeutic interventions and approaches* (2016): 215-235.

When a community is doing a reflection about the young people, it is important to integrate the young people from that community right from the beginning because they can contribute to improve the process. Encourage the young to own the parameters they were involved in creation or those already in place. The young people will therefore understand the possible implications of their engagement right from the beginning of the process. the community should firmly believe in youth participation around the table and engage them more to infiltrate into the organization. Christens and Dolan observed that community organizing groups that are building coalitions for local change are now involving the youth so as to improve quality of life, weaves youth development together with community development and brings about social change.⁴⁹

The youth should be allowed to be independent by granting them full autonomy of their choices and decisions. In a study on qualitative and adequacy in preparing youth for independent living, it was found out that young adults about living independently and making decisions. this was attributed to failure by staff in preparing the youth in advance to be able to discharge their duties.⁵⁰ The youth should not be forced to do anything but rather independent and trusted to as responsible persons. Whenever they don't feel understood, the youth should not be dismissed as being irresponsible and selfish.⁵¹ Dialogue with them is important in understanding their challenges. Empathizing with them is an entry point to motivate and encourage them to volunteer.

⁴⁹ Christens, Brian D., and Tom Dolan. "Interweaving youth development, community development, and social change through youth organizing." *Youth & Society* 43, no. 2 (2011): 528-548.

⁵⁰ Freundlich, Madelyn, Rosemary J. Avery, and Deborah Padgett. "Preparation of youth in congregate care for independent living." *Child & family social work* 12, no. 1 (2007): 64-72.

⁵¹ Ballard, Parissa J., and S. Leonard Syme. "Engaging youth in communities: A framework for promoting adolescent and community health." *J Epidemiol Community Health* 70, no. 2 (2016): 202-206.

When the youth have clear roles and are aware of their responsibilities, they tend to commit more. according to recent researches, young people are forcing adults to do things differently in favor of them, but not just the initial way of transferring knowledge – adults should therefore work with the youth as co-creators and partners.⁵² The youth need opportunities to increase their awareness of responsibility, have discussions and debates with their communities. In assessing the effectiveness of a responsibility model-based cross-age teaching program for youth, it was discovered that the program was beneficial in equipping urban young leaders with teaching skills and getting familiar with the University setting, responsibility development, and personal growth.⁵³ Adults need to share leadership and transfer responsibility with the youth. It is imperative to delegate power to young people by involving both in clear roles and responsibilities as we clarify their expectations and boundaries.

Effective mentors should walk their talk. There are those youth, especially teenagers who may not listen to their elders or parents. When you lead by example, they may imitate your actions and if your passion is in good use, they will be inspired to do the same. Volunteer work is not boring and tiring per se. mentors should create time for physical strength, fun and motivators. This creates time for bonding and avoiding stress in life. In a study on participative leadership in an organization, Shaltout found out that there was a significantly direct correlation between leadership and the youth in the institution. Shaltout concluded his study that delegation of power is important with inclusion of the youth.⁵⁴

⁵² Munson, Michelle R., Bethany R. Lee, David Miller, Andrea Cole, and Cristina Nedelcu. "Emerging adulthood among former system youth: The ideal versus the real." *Children and Youth Services Review* 35, no. 6 (2013): 923-929.

⁵³ Hammond-Diedrich, Krista C., and Dave Walsh. "Empowering youth through a responsibility-based cross-age teacher program: An investigation into impact and possibilities." *Physical Educator* 63, no. 3 (2006): 134.

⁵⁴ Shaltout, Abeer Fathi Mohammed. "Participative leadership and its relationship with organizational identification among specialists in youth welfare departments, Helwan University." *International Journal of Sports Science and Arts* 4, no. 04 (2019): 37-58.

The community should support the youth and let them access resources and material to enhance them commit and grow. When the youth have been granted opportunities to be influential in the community, it is important for the influential people to support them to achieve their goal and success. The friendly leaders become role models for the youth and positively impact their lives. Youth should get engaged in projects that meet their needs, preferences and future aspirations.⁵⁵ When leaders of an organization do not back up change, the change may never happen in the organization. Hart children participation theory expounds on the theory and practice of involving young citizens in community development and developmental work. The theory suggests the young people should be given an opportunity and involved in decision making.⁵⁶ Opening up opportunities for the youth creates change that is met with a lot of resistance. There is need for some little push in those sensitive areas to promote the participation of young people in making difference.

The adults should allow the youth to have an influential role and make decisions that they can commit to. This involves identifying opportunities for power sharing and decision making with the youth. Adults should have the let go of some power and let the youth with abilities share it.⁵⁷ Young people have difficulties in showing their skills because there are few opportunities to show them off. This has made shared leadership to grow slowly and power to remain in the hands of adults. However, a decision taken together generates more commitment for the youth

⁵⁵ Evans, Scot D. "Youth sense of community: Voice and power in community contexts." *Journal of community psychology* 35, no. 6 (2007): 693-709.

⁵⁶ Hart, Roger A. *Children's participation: The theory and practice of involving young citizens in community development and environmental care*. Routledge, 2013.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

and adults. Akiva and Smith advise that involving the youth in programs and sharing decision making with them is highly recommended in youth-adult partnership.⁵⁸

The more the youth feel recognized for their contributions, they tend to commit more. Providing positive feedback to the youth helps to build their motivation especially when their work contributes towards making a difference. When their efforts are recognized, they are likely to work harder. Training institutions should be able to do this by giving extra credit to the youths. According to Sprouls et al, positive feedback is one of the best practices recommended for teachers, trainers and mentors especially to those young people experiencing behavioral problems. Sproul posits that positive feedback reduces the risk of emotional and behavioral disorders for the young people.⁵⁹ Parents, guardians and training institutions should work together with the youths in their volunteering programs so as to encourage them to build a civic behavior. More opportunities should be created for the youth and encourage them to start young. Give them the purpose, guide them trust and let them do the work, appreciate their efforts and you will join them in reaping the benefits. This will make the youth to grow, well-rounded and competent and useful members of the society.

The community should re-think its practices and open dialogue forums with the youth so they can harmonize rhythms and realities of all. Some youth could be very busy at school, work, volunteering, sports and leisure whereas others have a lot of free time. The approaches need different strategies to reach and engage the youth in the community. Before engaging the youth, there is the need to review the way of doing things. In communities with strong cultures,

⁵⁸ Akiva, Thomas, Kai S. Cortina, and Charles Smith. "Involving youth in program decision-making: How common and what might it do for youth?." *Journal of Youth and Adolescence* 43, no. 11 (2014): 1844-1860.

⁵⁹ Sprouls, Katie, Sarup R. Mathur, and Gita Upreti. "Is positive feedback a forgotten classroom practice? Findings and implications for at-risk students." *Preventing School Failure: Alternative Education for Children and Youth* 59, no. 3 (2015): 153-160.

it will be observed that after a few months of partnerships, the youths will look more like adults they have been working with.

Young people are usually creative and the community should encourage this creativity. Today, new thoughts and ideas are shaping the future with innovations and technologies that have been created by the young people. To prepare for the new way of doing things, communities should encourage and invite the youth to support with the new ideas and creativity. Collaboration of adults and the youth can either undermine or support creativity of the youth, even when they were working in creative and open environments. According to Lin and Bruce, engaging creativity of the youth ensures that there is no educational experience disconnect with community needs. the youth can thus be supported through a collective community action.⁶⁰

In NYS, the youth are motivated to be engaged in the nation building and peace building activities. As they volunteer in government projects and activities, the youths are encouraged to define their purpose in life and guided accordingly. As reported by a senior official from NYS, once the youth have been recruited to NYS, they are taken through paramilitary training to gain self-discipline and the ability to work when they are not being monitored and supervised. The youth are also taken through guidance and counselling and training to know what they want in life. This motivates them to get engaged in important professions based on their passion and motivation.

⁶⁰ Lin, Ching-Chiu, and Bertram C. Bruce. "Engaging youth in underserved communities through digital-mediated arts learning experiences for community inquiry." *Studies in art education* 54, no. 4 (2013): 335-348.

2.4 Youth Engagement Approaches

There are various approaches in engaging the youth to be successful in nation building and ensuring national security. Youth should be engaged within our communities to feel at ease and fully contribute while exploiting their potentials. The driving force behind engaging the youth is to make them have a vision, to make them feel competent, to make them be responsible human beings, to make them be recognized, to have influence and to be creative. This section will look at the different ways the youth can get engaged to achieve these objectives.⁶¹

2.4.1 Capacity Building and Training Programs

Capacity building and training programs to the specific needs and interests of young people is crucial for their success.⁶² Accessible and affordable programs are also essential, as they ensure that all young people, regardless of their socioeconomic background, can benefit from these programs.⁶³

Workshops, mentoring programs, internships, apprenticeships, and online courses are all effective ways to provide capacity building and training to young people. Workshops and mentoring programs can provide hands-on training and guidance, while internships and apprenticeships offer opportunities for practical experience in a professional setting. Online courses are also becoming increasingly popular, as they allow young people to learn at their own pace and from anywhere.

⁶¹ Hart, Roger A. *Children's participation: The theory and practice of involving young citizens in community development and environmental care*. Routledge, 2013.

⁶² National Research Council. *Community programs to promote youth development*. National Academies Press, 2002.

⁶³ *ibid*

Governments, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and private businesses can all play a role in providing capacity building and training programs to young people. Collaboration between these different actors is essential to ensure that programs are comprehensive and effective.

When the respondents were asked on how best the government can engage the unemployed youth in nation building, they mentioned several approaches as shown in the table below.

Table 0-2: Approaches in engaging the youth in Kenya

Nature of Engagement	Percentage of Respondents
Training in technical skills and industrialization through seminars and other fora	30%
Engaging the youth in government projects such as Kazi mtaani and kazi kwa vijana	30%
Funding youth initiatives through youth groups (loans with low interests),	20%
Initiating empowerment programs for the youths	10%
Creating employment opportunities	70%
Supporting social and cultural activities	5%
Encouraging self-employment	20%
Building more paramilitary academies	5%
Encouraging youths to start businesses	5%
Government incentives	2%

Nb: the respondents mentioned more than one approach that the government can take to engage the youth.

2.4.2 Youth-Led Initiatives

Youth-led initiatives refer to projects, programs, and activities that are initiated and led by young people. In the context of national security in Kenya, youth-led initiatives can play a crucial role in promoting peace, security, and stability in communities. Some examples of youth-led initiatives that can contribute to national security in Kenya include:

2.4.2.1 Peacebuilding initiatives

Peacebuilding initiatives led by young people can play a critical role in promoting social cohesion, reducing violence, and building sustainable peace in communities affected by conflict. By engaging in dialogue sessions, community events, and educational campaigns, young people can facilitate the process of reconciliation and promote understanding and tolerance among different groups.⁶⁴ young people can use their creativity and innovative ideas to develop new approaches to peacebuilding, such as art exhibitions, cultural performances, and sports events that bring together individuals from different backgrounds. These initiatives can help promote a sense of shared identity and common purpose, which is essential for building trust and reducing the risk of future conflicts.

In addition, youth-led peacebuilding initiatives can help create opportunities for dialogue and engagement between youth and government officials, civil society actors, and community leaders. By providing a platform for youth to voice their concerns and perspectives on issues related to peace and security, these initiatives can enhance their participation in decision-

⁶⁴ Ozcurumez, Saime, and Julinda Hoxha. "Practicing social cohesion in the dark: Diverse processes and missing indicators in forced migration contexts." *Frontiers in Human Dynamics* 2 (2020): 569682.

making processes and strengthen their sense of ownership and responsibility for their communities.

2.4.2.2 Community policing initiatives

Community policing is a cooperative strategy for preventing crime that entails the collaboration of both the police and the community to identify and tackle security issues. In promoting community policing and crime prevention, young individuals hold a crucial position as they can actively contribute to enhancing public safety by working alongside law enforcement agencies.⁶⁵ One-way young people can contribute to community policing initiatives is by collaborating with the police to identify crime hotspots and develop strategies to prevent crime. This can involve conducting patrols, monitoring public spaces, and reporting suspicious activities to the police. Young people can also organize community events and awareness campaigns to educate the public on crime prevention measures and promote a culture of safety and security.

Furthermore, young people can support efforts to improve police-community relations by organizing dialogues and meetings between the police and the community. These dialogues can help build trust and understanding between the police and young people, which is essential for effective community policing. In Kenya, young people can play a crucial role in promoting human rights and advocating for the protection of vulnerable groups through youth-led initiatives. They can create programs and activities that raise awareness of human rights issues, such as gender-based violence, discrimination, and child abuse. They can also engage in advocacy and lobbying efforts to push for policy changes that protect the rights of marginalized

⁶⁵ Ngoveni, Tinyiko David, Witness Maluleke, and Christopher Mabasa. "Insights on the use of community policing forum for crime prevention: A case study of the Brooklyn police station, South Africa." *International Journal of Research in Business and Social Science* (2147-4478) 11, no. 5 (2022): 482-494.

groups.⁶⁶ By working with civil society organizations and other stakeholders, young people can help ensure that human rights are respected and protected in their communities, thereby contributing to national security and social stability.

2.4.2.3 Disaster management initiatives

Disasters, both natural and man-made, can have significant impacts on communities, including loss of lives and property damage. Young people can play a vital role in improving disaster management and emergency response in communities by leading initiatives aimed at promoting disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. One way that youth-led initiatives can contribute to disaster management is by providing training and education on disaster preparedness to communities. This can involve educating communities on how to create emergency plans, stockpile necessary supplies, and respond to various types of disasters. By doing so, young people can help to ensure that communities are better equipped to deal with disasters when they occur.

Another way that young people can contribute to disaster management is by mobilizing resources for disaster response. This can entail activities such as initiating fundraising campaigns, coordinating donation efforts, or collaborating with governmental institutions and non-profit organizations to deliver emergency assistance and aid to communities that have been impacted. In addition, young people can support communities affected by disasters by providing physical and emotional support. This can involve volunteering time and resources to assist with cleanup and recovery efforts, offering counseling and support services to those

⁶⁶ Majic, Samantha. "Serving sex workers and promoting democratic engagement: Rethinking nonprofits' role in American civic and political life." *Perspectives on Politics* 9, no. 4 (2011): 821-839.

affected by the disaster, and advocating for policies and resources to support long-term recovery and reconstruction.

2.4.2.4 Cybersecurity initiatives

Measures and combat cyber threats. Young people can also develop innovative technological solutions to address cybersecurity challenges and protect individuals and organizations from cyber-attacks. By promoting cybersecurity, youth-led initiatives can contribute to protecting national security by safeguarding critical infrastructure, preventing data breaches, and reducing the risk of cybercrime. In addition to promoting safe online behavior, youth-led initiatives can also focus on identifying and addressing cyber threats and vulnerabilities in different sectors. For example, young people can work with government agencies and private sector partners to identify and mitigate cyber risks in banking, healthcare, and other critical sectors. By doing so, they can help to ensure the resilience and continuity of these sectors and minimize the impact of cyber-attacks on national security.⁶⁷

2.4.3 Mentoring and Coaching

Mentoring and coaching are critical strategies that can be used to enhance youth voice and advocacy in Kenya. These strategies involve pairing young people with experienced professionals who can provide guidance, support, and feedback as they develop their advocacy skills and engage in decision-making processes. Mentoring and coaching can be provided through formal programs, such as mentorship and internship programs, or through informal networks and relationships. Mentors and coaches can provide young people with valuable

⁶⁷ Berkeley, Alfred R., Mike Wallace, and Constellation Co. "A framework for establishing critical infrastructure resilience goals." Final report and recommendations by the council, national infrastructure advisory council (2010): 18-21.

insights and knowledge about decision-making processes, advocacy strategies, and leadership skills. They can also help young people build their networks, connect with other advocates and decision-makers, and identify opportunities for engagement and influence.

Mentoring and coaching can also help young people build their confidence and self-esteem, which is essential for effective advocacy. By providing positive feedback and encouragement, mentors and coaches can help young people overcome self-doubt and fear of failure, and develop the resilience needed to persevere in their advocacy efforts. In addition to providing individual mentorship and coaching, group mentorship and coaching can also be effective in enhancing youth voice and advocacy. This involves bringing together young people with similar interests and goals to share experiences, learn from each other, and develop their advocacy skills collectively. Group mentorship and coaching can be provided through workshops, conferences, and other events that bring young people together to network, learn, and collaborate.⁶⁸

2.4.4 Youth Voice and Advocacy

Youth voice and advocacy refer to the active participation of young people in decision-making processes that affect their lives, communities, and the nation. It involves harnessing the collective power, knowledge, and skills of young individuals to tackle social, economic, and political issues that impact their demographic. Youth voice and advocacy are crucial for national security as they promote active citizenship, contribute to peace, security, and stability, and facilitate effective governance.

⁶⁸ Conroy, David E., and J. Douglas Coatsworth. "Coach training as a strategy for promoting youth social development." *The Sport Psychologist* 20, no. 2 (2006): 128-144.

2.4.4.1 Youth voice and Advocacy in Kenya

In Kenya, youth voice and advocacy are essential for promoting youth participation in decision-making and ensuring that their voices are heard in matters that affect them. The youth have been at the forefront of advocating for their rights and calling for increased youth representation in leadership and decision-making positions. One notable example of youth voice and advocacy in Kenya is the youth-led movement dubbed "Team Courage" that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic. Team Courage was a coalition of young activists, influencers, and artists who used their platforms to raise awareness about the pandemic and advocate for the rights of vulnerable populations, including the youth.

The movement called for the government to provide support to vulnerable populations, including small business owners, daily wage earners, and those who had lost their jobs due to the pandemic. They also advocated for increased funding for healthcare, particularly for testing and treatment of COVID-19. Another example of youth voice and advocacy in Kenya is the "Ushikusaidie" campaign. The campaign was launched in response to the rising cases of teenage pregnancies and early marriages during the COVID-19 pandemic. The campaign aimed to raise awareness about the negative effects of early marriages and teenage pregnancies on the health, education, and economic outcomes of young girls.

Through the campaign, young people were able to use social media platforms to share their stories, experiences, and recommendations on how to address the issue. The campaign also involved partnerships with civil society organizations, government agencies, and the private sector to provide support to vulnerable populations and advocate for policy changes that would protect the rights of young girls. Additionally, there have been several youth-led initiatives aimed at promoting peace, security, and social cohesion in Kenya. One such initiative is the

"Shujaaz" platform, which uses media and technology to engage young people in discussions about social and economic issues affecting their communities. Through the platform, young people have been able to share their experiences and perspectives on issues such as violence, drug abuse, and social exclusion. The platform has also been used to mobilize young people to take action and promote peace and social cohesion in their communities.

2.4.5 Strategies to enhance youth voice and Advocacy in Kenya

To enhance youth voice and advocacy in Kenya, the government, civil society organizations and other stakeholders should consider the following strategies:

2.4.5.1 Enhancing access to information and resources

Young people play a crucial role in promoting national security in Kenya through their voice and advocacy. They possess a distinct viewpoint on the problems that affect them and their communities, and their involvement in decision-making processes can help to ensure that national security policies and strategies are tailored to their requirements and interests. Nonetheless, young people confront several hurdles in effectively engaging in decision-making processes, such as insufficient access to information and resources, inadequate representation in political leadership positions, and limited skills and capacities.

To enhance youth voice and advocacy in Kenya, the government, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders should consider several strategies. First and foremost, the government should provide young people with access to information on government policies, laws, and regulations, as well as financial and technical resources to support their advocacy efforts.⁶⁹ To

⁶⁹ Dawes, Sharon S. "Stewardship and usefulness: Policy principles for information-based transparency." *Government information quarterly* 27, no. 4 (2010): 377-383.

facilitate youth participation in decision-making processes, one strategy involves setting up information centers specifically tailored to engage young individuals. These centers can provide valuable resources and training programs aimed at equipping young people with the requisite skills and knowledge needed for effective engagement. Moreover, civil society organizations have a significant role to play by offering mentorship, coaching, and support to young individuals in areas such as advocacy skills, leadership development, communication, and critical thinking. Furthermore, these organizations can provide financial backing to youth-led initiatives and projects that contribute to the enhancement of national security.⁷⁰

One effective strategy for promoting youth voice and advocacy in Kenya is to create youth councils or committees that serve as platforms for young individuals to actively participate in decision-making processes. These councils can be implemented at various levels, including national, regional, and local, and serve as channels for young people to interact with government representatives and other relevant stakeholders. Through these platforms, young individuals can express their perspectives, engage in discussions, and contribute to shaping policies and initiatives that directly impact their lives. The under-representation of young people in political leadership positions also limits their ability to influence policy and decision-making processes. Therefore, political parties and other political institutions should adopt affirmative action policies that promote the inclusion of young people in political leadership positions. In addition, the media can contribute to promoting youth voice and advocacy by offering a platform for young people to express their perspectives and experiences on issues that impact them. Media outlets can provide training and capacity-building programs to young journalists and media practitioners to report effectively on issues related to national security.

⁷⁰ *ibid*

2.4.5.2 Promoting political representation

Promoting youth participation in political leadership is crucial for ensuring that the voices and perspectives of young people are heard and represented in decision-making processes. Despite constitutional provisions that provide for youth participation in decision-making, young people in Kenya are often excluded from key decision-making forums, limiting their ability to influence policy and decision-making processes. Therefore, the government and other stakeholders should take steps to promote youth participation in political leadership positions.

One way to promote youth participation in political leadership is by creating affirmative action policies and quotas that reserve seats for young people in government and other leadership positions. Such policies would provide young people with a platform to actively participate in decision-making processes and influence policies that affect their lives. The government could also consider implementing mentorship and internship programs that provide opportunities for young people to gain the experience and skills necessary for political leadership.⁷¹ Additionally, the government should create more opportunities for young people to participate in political parties and engage in the political process. This could be achieved by creating youth wings within political parties that focus on promoting youth participation and engaging with young people on issues that affect them. The government could also consider providing funding and technical support to youth-led organizations and initiatives that focus on promoting political participation and advocacy.

It is crucial to promote youth participation in political leadership to ensure that young people's voices are heard in decision-making processes. The government and other stakeholders must

⁷¹ Inzer, Lonnie D., and Chris B. Crawford. "A review of formal and informal mentoring: Processes, problems, and design." *Journal of leadership Education* 4, no. 1 (2005): 31-50.

take steps to create affirmative action policies, offer mentorship and internship programs, and provide opportunities for young people to engage in political parties and the political process. This can help create a more inclusive and participatory political system that reflects the needs and aspirations of all Kenyans, including young people. By doing so, we can help build a brighter future for Kenya and its citizens.

2.4.6 Civic Engagement and Advocacy

Civic engagement and advocacy are critical components of democracy and good governance. Civic engagement refers to the active participation of citizens in the decision-making processes that affect their lives and communities. Advocacy involves the promotion of policies, ideas, or causes that seek to address specific issues or problems in society. In Kenya, civic engagement and advocacy play a significant role in promoting accountability, transparency, and social justice.

There are several ways in which young people in Kenya can engage in civic activities and advocacy. For example, they can participate in community-based organizations, political campaigns, or civil society organizations that promote social justice and accountability. They can also join youth-led advocacy groups that focus on specific issues such as education, gender equality, and environmental protection. Through civic engagement and advocacy, young people in Kenya can raise their voices and influence policy decisions. They can bring attention to issues that affect their lives and communities, and advocate for policies that promote equity and justice. Additionally, civic engagement and advocacy can help young people build their

leadership skills, develop their networks, and contribute to the development of their communities.⁷²

In recent years, there have been several successful youth-led advocacy campaigns in Kenya. For example, the "My Freedom Campaign" led by young people successfully pushed for the removal of tax on sanitary pads, making them more accessible and affordable for young girls and women. Similarly, the "Shujaaz" campaign, which uses comics, social media, and radio to engage young people, has been successful in promoting education, entrepreneurship, and positive social behaviors among youth.⁷³ In conclusion, civic engagement and advocacy are essential for promoting good governance, accountability, and social justice in Kenya. Young people have a critical role to play in these efforts and can engage in civic activities and advocacy through various channels. By raising their voices and advocating for change, young people can contribute to the development of their communities and create a brighter future for all Kenyans.

2.4.7 Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Entrepreneurship and innovation have become buzzwords in recent years, and for good reason. By encouraging young people to explore their ideas and pursue their passions, we can help them to become more self-sufficient, less reliant on external factors for their livelihoods, and more engaged in their communities. This is especially important in communities with high levels of unemployment or economic instability, where entrepreneurship and innovation can

⁷² Muriu, Abraham Rugo. "Decentralization, citizen participation and local public service delivery: A study on the nature and influence of citizen participation on decentralized service delivery in Kenya." Master's thesis, Potsdam: Universitätsverlag Potsdam, 2013.

⁷³ Hutchinson, Paul, Anastasia Mirzoyants, and Alejandra Leyton. "Empowering youth for social change through the Shujaaz multimedia platform in Kenya." *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth* 24, no. 1 (2019): 102-116.

provide a much-needed boost to local economies. Simultaneously, the promotion of entrepreneurship and innovation can contribute to the emergence of novel technologies, products, and services that bring advantages to society at large. By nurturing a climate that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship, we can generate fresh prospects for progress and advancement, all the while addressing significant social and environmental issues.

There are many reasons why we should encourage young people to pursue entrepreneurship and innovation. For one, it can provide them with a sense of autonomy and self-sufficiency that can be empowering and transformative. Rather than relying on others to provide them with jobs or income, they can learn to rely on their own skills, creativity, and resourcefulness to create a livelihood. This can be especially valuable for individuals who have faced barriers to traditional employment or who come from disadvantaged backgrounds. Moreover, entrepreneurship and innovation can also create new jobs and industries, which can help to stimulate local economies and provide opportunities for people to earn a living. By encouraging young people to start businesses and pursue their ideas, we can help to create a more diverse, dynamic, and resilient economy that is better able to adapt to changing circumstances and challenges.

In addition to the economic benefits of entrepreneurship and innovation, there are also important social and environmental benefits to consider. Many young entrepreneurs are passionate about making a positive impact on society and the environment, and their ideas and innovations can help to address important challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and more. By supporting their efforts, we can help to create a more just, sustainable, and equitable society that benefits everyone. Of course, encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation among young people is not without its challenges. It can be difficult to navigate the

complexities of starting a business, securing funding, and overcoming obstacles along the way. However, with the right support and resources, young people can overcome these challenges and succeed in their endeavors. This might include access to mentorship, training, networking opportunities, and funding or financing options.⁷⁴

2.5 Involvement of Youth in Decision-Making

Including young people in decision-making processes is crucial to ensuring that policies and programs take young people's needs and opinions into account. Unfortunately, in many countries, youth are often underrepresented in decision-making processes, and their voices are not heard. This lack of representation can lead to policies that do not reflect the realities of young people and may even marginalize them.

There are several ways in which youth representation can be improved in decision-making processes. One way is to create platforms that enable young people to engage in policy-making processes. For example, youth councils and forums can be established to provide young people with opportunities to express their views and opinions on issues that affect them. These platforms can also enable young people to engage with decision-makers and policymakers, providing them with the chance to advocate for policies that promote their interests. In addition to creating platforms for youth engagement, there is also a need to ensure that young people are included in decision-making bodies. This means creating opportunities for young people to participate in governance and leadership roles. For example, political parties and

⁷⁴ Davis, Susan M. "Social entrepreneurship: Towards an entrepreneurial culture for social and economic development." Available at SSRN 978868 (2002).

organizations can create youth wings that enable young people to participate in political processes and decision-making.⁷⁵

Moreover, there is a need for youth to be included in all sectors of society, not just politics. This includes sectors such as education, health, and business, where youth can provide valuable insights and perspectives. For example, youth can be included in education reform committees to provide input on the education system's needs and priorities. The benefits of youth representation in decision-making processes are numerous. By involving young people in policy-making and governance, we can ensure that policies and programs are relevant to their needs and priorities⁷⁶. This can lead to more effective policies and programs, which can ultimately improve the well-being of young people and society as a whole. Additionally, youth representation can promote a sense of ownership and investment in national development and security.

Youth representation in decision-making processes is essential for promoting good governance and ensuring that policies address the needs of all citizens, including young people. Creating platforms for youth voices to be heard and providing opportunities for young people to participate in decision-making bodies can help ensure that their perspectives, needs, and priorities are taken into account, ultimately leading to a more equitable and inclusive society. It is our responsibility to create a world where young people have a say in shaping their future.

⁷⁵ Tweve, Godfrey. "Youth development: building youth organisational capacity for community development processes." PhD diss., Southern New Hampshire University, 2005.

⁷⁶ Zeldin, Shepherd, Linda Camino, and Matthew Calvert. "Toward an understanding of youth in community governance: Policy priorities and research directions." *Análise Psicológica* 25, no. 1 (2007): 77-95.

2.6 Chapter summary

The chapter highlights the significance of youth engagement in community development, social change, and national security. It identifies the challenges faced by young people in Kenya, such as limited access to resources, under-representation in decision-making processes, and lack of skills and capacity. The chapter also provides strategies for enhancing youth voice and advocacy, including providing access to information and resources, promoting youth participation in leadership positions, and offering mentoring and coaching. By implementing these strategies, stakeholders such as the government, civil society organizations, and community leaders can create a conducive environment for youth engagement and empowerment, which ultimately benefits the youth and society as a whole.

CHAPTER THREE

ROLE OF THE YOUTH ON NATIONAL SECURITY IN KENYA

3.1 Introduction

The youth play a very important in all dimensions of national security. This chapter discusses national security in the context of Kenya, the dimensions of national security and how Kenyan youth can be engaged in all these dimensions to ensure a secure Kenya.

3.2 National Security

National security refers to the security of a sovereign state, which includes its inhabitants, institutions, and economy. According to Walter Lippmann (1943), a nation is safe if it does not have to surrender its interests in order to prevent conflict and can keep its interests even during times of war.⁷⁷ According to Harold Lasswell, a country is safe if it is not subject to foreign dictation. It is the government's responsibility to guarantee national security. Initially, national security was understood to be the protection of the military against any attacks or political coercion, but today, nonmilitary must be protected from terrorism and crime, as well as economic, energy, environmental, cyber, and food security.⁷⁸ National security is also at risk due to actions of other states, non-state actors, narcotic cartels and natural disasters.

National security can also be viewed in terms of the protection and preservation of a nation's political, economic, and social institutions. In order to achieve this, countries must identify potential threats and take appropriate measures to mitigate them. Threats to national security

⁷⁷ Romm, Joseph J. (1993). *Defining national security: the nonmilitary aspects*. Pew Project on America's Task in a Changed World (Pew Project Series). Council on Foreign Relations. p. 122.

⁷⁸ Bali, ITB STIKOM Jimbaran, and ITK Permata Ilmu Maros. "National security."

can be internal, such as social unrest, political instability, and economic crises, or external, such as terrorism, cyber attacks, and border disputes. In Kenya, national security is a top priority due to the country's strategic location in the East African region, its diverse population, and its role as a regional economic and political hub. The government has identified a number of key threats to national security, including terrorism, organized crime, cybercrime, piracy, and border disputes. These threats pose a significant risk to the stability and prosperity of the country, and efforts are being made to address them through a range of measures.

3.3 Types of National security

National security can be classified into various types as discussed below:

3.3.1 Military security

Military security refers to the protection of a country's borders and sovereignty. It involves the use of military forces to defend against external threats such as terrorism, invasion, or aggression by foreign countries. The military is responsible for maintaining national defense and protecting the citizens and the country's interests. It plays a crucial role in ensuring the security of the country and preserving its territorial integrity. The military security of a country involves a range of activities, including intelligence gathering, surveillance, and reconnaissance. These activities are designed to monitor and detect any potential threats to the country's security. In addition, the military is responsible for the development and maintenance of advanced weapons systems and technology to defend against potential threats.

Military security is essential for the protection of a country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It ensures that the country's citizens are safe from external threats and that the

country's interests are protected. The military also provides support in times of national emergencies and disasters, such as natural disasters and pandemics.

3.3.2 Economic security

Economic security refers to a state where a country's economy is stable and can withstand internal and external shocks. It is essential for a country's growth and development as it enables the government to provide essential services and infrastructure for its citizens. Economic security includes factors such as job security, availability of essential resources, foreign investment, trade policies, and access to financial services. In order to ensure economic security, a country must focus on creating a favorable business environment for investors, implementing sound economic policies, and promoting trade with other countries. This can be achieved by encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation, investing in infrastructure development, and promoting a diversified economy that is not overly reliant on one industry or sector.

Additionally, countries must also work to address issues such as poverty, income inequality, and unemployment, as these can destabilize the economy and lead to social unrest. By promoting economic security, a country can improve the well-being of its citizens, attract foreign investment, and enhance its global competitiveness.

3.3.3 Political security

Political security refers to the measures taken by a country to protect its political system and institutions from internal and external threats. It involves ensuring the stability of the government, safeguarding against political violence and unrest, and protecting against foreign interference in domestic affairs. Political security also includes promoting democratic

principles such as free and fair elections, respect for human rights, and the rule of law. A stable and secure political environment is essential for economic growth, social stability, and overall national security.⁷⁹

3.3.4 Cybersecurity

In today's technology-driven era, cybersecurity involves protecting computer systems, networks, and electronic devices from unauthorized access, theft, and harm. The rise of cyber threats presents a substantial obstacle to national security. These threats encompass various forms, such as hacking, phishing, malware, and ransomware attacks. Their potential impact includes compromising sensitive data, disrupting vital infrastructure, and inflicting substantial economic harm. Therefore, it is essential for governments to invest in cybersecurity measures to protect national security. This includes developing secure networks, implementing firewalls, and encryption, as well as training personnel to recognize and respond to cyber threats. In addition, collaboration with international partners to share information and coordinate responses to cyber threats is also critical in ensuring cybersecurity and national security.

3.3.5 Environmental security

Environmental security refers to the protection of a country's natural resources and environment. This type of security is becoming increasingly important as climate change and environmental degradation have the potential to cause significant harm to communities and nations. Environmental security measures may include policies and regulations to reduce pollution, protect natural habitats and biodiversity, and promote sustainable resource use. Additionally, environmental security may also involve preparing for and responding to natural

⁷⁹ Bush, George. National security strategy of the United States. White House, 1991.

disasters, such as floods, droughts, and wildfires, that can have significant impacts on the security and well-being of a country's citizens.

3.3.6 Social security

Social security is a type of national security that pertains to the protection of a country's citizens and their well-being. It involves providing a safety net for individuals and families who may face economic or social challenges. The aim is to ensure that every citizen has access to basic necessities such as food, shelter, healthcare, and education. Social security programs are usually implemented by governments to provide support to individuals and families in need.

Social security programs take many forms, depending on the specific needs of the society. Government-sponsored social insurance programs are intended to give people and families financial help when they're in need, such as during retirement, a disability, or unemployment. Taxes and contributions from companies and employees often fund these initiatives. Social Security, which gives retirement, disability, and survivor benefits to eligible individuals, and Medicare, which offers health insurance to people over 65, are two examples of social insurance systems in the United States.⁸⁰ Other examples of social insurance programs include unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, and disability insurance.

Social insurance programs are intended to provide a safety net for individuals and families who may face financial hardship due to circumstances beyond their control, such as job loss, disability, or retirement. These programs can help to mitigate the negative impact of economic shocks on individuals and families, reduce poverty, and promote social inclusion.

⁸⁰ Feldstein, Martin. "Rethinking social insurance." *American Economic Review* 95, no. 1 (2005): 1-24.

Social assistance programs are initiatives developed by governments to provide financial support to individuals and families who face economic hardships. These programs aim to alleviate poverty, disability, or other challenges that may prevent people from supporting themselves. Eligibility for these programs is usually determined based on means-testing, which considers the applicant's income and assets. The United States has several social assistance programs, including TANF and the SNAP, which provide cash and food assistance, respectively, to eligible low-income families and individuals.⁸¹ Other examples of social assistance programs include housing assistance, such as rental assistance and public housing, and medical assistance programs like Medicaid, which provides health insurance to low-income individuals and families.

Social assistance programs are intended to provide a safety net for individuals and families who may be at risk of falling into poverty or experiencing economic hardship. These programs can help to reduce poverty, improve health outcomes, and promote social inclusion.

Healthcare programs provide access to healthcare services to individuals and families who may not be able to afford them. Healthcare programs are usually funded by the government and include public health services, Medicaid, and Medicare.

Education programs can take many forms, but they are all designed to provide access to education and training for individuals who may not be able to afford it. Some of the most common education programs include scholarships, grants, and student loans, which can help to cover the costs of tuition, books, and other expenses associated with education and training, education programs may also include initiatives aimed at improving the quality of education

⁸¹ Aussenberg, Randy Alison, and Gene Falk. "The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Categorical Eligibility." Report R42054, Congressional Research Service (2019).

and training, such as teacher training programs, curriculum development, and the provision of educational resources and materials. These initiatives are important in ensuring that individuals have access to high-quality education and training that can prepare them for success in the workforce and in society more broadly.

In Kenya, the government has prioritized education initiatives with a focus on enhancing all children's access to high-quality education, irrespective of their socioeconomic status. The government has put in place a variety of programs to increase access to education, such as the introduction of FPE in 2003 and FDSE in 2008.⁸² These initiatives have helped to increase enrollment rates and reduce the gender gap in education.

3.3.7 Cultural security

Cultural security refers to the protection and preservation of a country's cultural heritage and identity. This type of security is important for promoting social cohesion and maintaining a sense of national identity. Cultural security measures may include policies and regulations to protect cultural sites and artifacts, promote cultural education and awareness, and support the development of cultural industries and tourism. Preserving cultural security holds great significance in Kenya, given the nation's abundant cultural heritage and diversity. The government has undertaken various initiatives to foster the promotion and conservation of Kenya's cultural legacy. For instance, the establishment of the National Museums of Kenya demonstrates the government's commitment to safeguarding and managing the country's cultural and natural heritage. Additionally, the designation of specific locations as national monuments and the creation of cultural centers serve to amplify and celebrate the diverse

⁸² Orodho, John Aluko, Peter Ndirangu Waweru, Miriam Ndichu, and Ruth Nthinguri. "Basic education in Kenya: Focus on strategies applied to cope with school-based challenges inhibiting effective implementation of curriculum." *International Journal of Education and Research* 1, no. 11 (2013): 1-20.

cultures and traditions that flourish within Kenya. These efforts collectively contribute to the preservation and appreciation of Kenya's cultural security.

Additionally, the Kenyan government has also supported the development of cultural industries, such as music, film, and art, as a means of promoting cultural exchange and generating economic growth. The country is home to a vibrant arts scene, with a number of festivals and events celebrating Kenya's cultural diversity.

3.4 Threats to Kenya's national security

Kenya faces various threats to its national security. These includes border disputes, cyber-crime, environmental degradation, organized crime, transnational crime, terrorism, community conflicts, natural disasters and political instability as discussed below.

3.4.1 Border disputes

Border disputes are a significant threat to Kenya's national security. Kenya shares borders with five countries: Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. These borders have often been a source of tension and conflict due to disputed territories, smuggling, and illegal border crossings.⁸³One of the most significant border disputes is with Somalia over the ownership of the oil-rich maritime territory in the Indian Ocean. The dispute has been ongoing for several years and has led to heightened tensions between the two countries. In 2014, Somalia sued Kenya at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) over the maritime boundary, and the case is still ongoing. Another border dispute is with Ethiopia over the Ilemi Triangle,

⁸³ Feyissa, Dereje, and Markus Virgil Hoehne. "Resourcing state borders and borderlands in the Horn of Africa." (2008).

a region claimed by both countries. The dispute has been ongoing for decades and has led to sporadic clashes between the two countries' security forces.

Border security is also a significant concern due to the rise of terrorism and extremism in the region. Kenya has experienced several terrorist attacks by the Somalia-based Al-Shabaab militant group, leading to increased security measures along its border with Somalia.⁸⁴ Additionally, Kenya's porous borders have made it vulnerable to illegal activities such as smuggling, human trafficking, and drug trafficking. These activities not only threaten Kenya's economic stability but also compromise its national security by allowing the entry of criminals and potential terrorists.

3.4.2 Cybercrime

Cybercrime is a growing threat to Kenya's national security. As more and more Kenyans go online and use digital platforms, the risk of cyber-attacks increases. Cybercrime can take many forms, including hacking, phishing, identity theft, and malware attacks. These attacks can compromise sensitive information, disrupt essential services, and cause financial losses. Kenya has experienced several high-profile cyber-attacks in recent years. For example, in 2019, the Kenyan government's IFMIS was hacked, resulting in the loss of over KES 11 billion (\$100 million).⁸⁵ In the same year, a major mobile phone operator suffered a data breach, exposing the personal information of millions of its customers.

Cybersecurity is an ever-changing and complex field that requires a coordinated and comprehensive approach to be effective. In Kenya, the government has taken steps to improve

⁸⁴ Lind, Jeremy, Patrick Mutahi, and Marjoke Oosterom. "'Killing a mosquito with a hammer': Al-Shabaab violence and state security responses in Kenya." *Peacebuilding* 5, no. 2 (2017): 118-135.

⁸⁵ Marks, Jesse. "Distributed Ledger Technologies and Corruption the Killer App." *Colum. Sci. & Tech. L. Rev.* 20 (2018): 42.

the country's cybersecurity posture, such as the establishment of the National Cybersecurity Centre and the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act. However, there is still much work to be done to protect Kenya's digital infrastructure and ensure the safety and security of its citizens online. In order to contribute towards this goal, individuals and organizations should assume accountability for their own cybersecurity by incorporating robust passwords, frequently updating software, and exercising caution when sharing personal information on the internet.

3.4.3 Environmental degradation

Environmental degradation is another significant threat to Kenya's national security. Kenya is a country with a rich biodiversity and natural resources, but these resources are under threat from environmental degradation caused by human activities such as deforestation, illegal logging, and pollution. Environmental degradation has far-reaching consequences on the social, economic, and political stability of the country.⁸⁶ One of the main effects of environmental degradation is food insecurity. Environmental degradation has contributed to the depletion of natural resources such as water and arable land, leading to reduced agricultural productivity and food insecurity. This, in turn, has led to increased poverty and social unrest, as people struggle to meet their basic needs.

Environmental degradation also contributes to climate change, which is a global threat to national security. Climate change has led to unpredictable weather patterns, such as droughts and floods, which have devastating effects on communities and the economy. Climate change has also contributed to the spread of diseases such as malaria and dengue fever, which threaten public health. Illegal trade in wildlife and natural resources is also a threat to Kenya's national security. Poaching of wildlife, such as elephants and rhinos, has resulted in significant losses

⁸⁶ Myers, Norman. "Ultimate security: The environmental basis of political stability." New York 8 (1993).

of revenue from tourism, which is a key sector of the Kenyan economy. Additionally, the illegal trade in natural resources such as minerals and timber has contributed to conflict and instability in some regions of the country.

3.4.4 Ethnic and communal conflicts

Ethnic and communal conflicts refer to conflicts that arise between different ethnic or communal groups within a society. These conflicts can be driven by a range of factors, including competition for resources, political power, historical grievances, and cultural or religious differences. Ethnic and communal conflicts can have significant and long-lasting impacts on affected communities, including loss of life, displacement of populations, and destruction of property and infrastructure. They can also contribute to the erosion of social cohesion and trust, as well as exacerbate political and economic instability.

3.4.5 Natural disasters

Natural disasters are catastrophic events that occur naturally and have a significant impact on the environment, property, and human lives. Examples of natural disasters include earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, landslides, wildfires, and droughts. Natural disasters can have devastating effects on communities and economies, resulting in loss of life, destruction of infrastructure, displacement of populations, and economic disruption. They can also have long-term effects on the environment, such as soil erosion, deforestation, and water pollution.⁸⁷

Governments and organizations around the world work to prepare for and respond to natural disasters by implementing disaster risk reduction measures, developing emergency response

⁸⁷ Cooke, Steven J., Diana MP Galassi, Bronwyn M. Gillanders, Sean J. Landsman, Neil Hammerschlag, Austin J. Gallagher, Erika J. Eliason et al. "Consequences of "natural" disasters on aquatic life and habitats." *Environmental reviews* 31, no. 1 (2022): 122-140.

plans, and providing aid and support to affected populations. These efforts can include evacuations, search and rescue operations, providing food, water, and medical care, and rebuilding infrastructure and communities. The anticipated consequences of climate change include heightened occurrence and severity of certain natural calamities like hurricanes and floods. Hence, it is imperative to prioritize endeavors aimed at tackling climate change and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions to effectively alleviate the future impacts of natural disasters.

3.4.6 Organized crime

Organized crime is a significant threat to Kenya's national security, with criminal syndicates such as drug cartels and human trafficking networks posing a particular danger. These groups engage in a variety of criminal activities, including drug trafficking, money laundering, cybercrime, and other illegal activities that undermine the rule of law and social and economic stability. Drug cartels are known to operate in Kenya, trafficking illegal drugs such as heroin and cocaine, and contributing to the spread of drug addiction and related problems. This illicit drug trade often fuels corruption, leading to a lack of trust in government institutions and perpetuating a culture of impunity.

Human trafficking networks are also prevalent in Kenya, exploiting vulnerable individuals, including children, for labor or sexual exploitation. This trade in human beings undermines the dignity of the victims and contributes to social instability. The government and law enforcement agencies in Kenya must work diligently to combat organized crime and dismantle these criminal networks. Measures such as increased border security, stronger law enforcement efforts, and the establishment of specialized units to tackle specific forms of organized crime can help reduce the threat posed by these criminal syndicates. Moreover, efforts to promote

social and economic development and to address poverty and inequality can help to reduce the vulnerability of individuals to exploitation by criminal groups. This requires a comprehensive approach that involves not only law enforcement but also broader societal efforts to address the root causes of organized crime.

3.4.7 Political instability

Political instability is a condition where a government or a political system of a country is unable to maintain order, stability, and control over its people.⁸⁸ It can be caused by various factors such as corruption, economic crises, social tensions, ethnic or religious differences, and external forces. When political instability occurs, it can have severe consequences for the country and its citizens, including a collapse of law and order, economic stagnation, and the loss of trust in the government. Furthermore, it can lead to violence, social unrest, and the displacement of individuals and communities.⁸⁹

Corruption is one of the most significant contributors to political instability, as it erodes the legitimacy of the government and its institutions. When government officials engage in corrupt practices, such as embezzlement, bribery, or nepotism, it undermines public trust in the government and leads to widespread discontent among the population.⁹⁰ Consequently, these circumstances can give rise to demonstrations, labor strikes, and various manifestations of civil unrest that have the potential to undermine the stability of the political system. Similarly, economic crises characterized by elevated inflation, unemployment, and poverty can also

⁸⁸ Kay, Aaron C., Steven Shepherd, Craig W. Blatz, Sook Ning Chua, and Adam D. Galinsky. "For God (or) country: the hydraulic relation between government instability and belief in religious sources of control." *Journal of personality and social psychology* 99, no. 5 (2010): 725.

⁸⁹ IBID

⁹⁰ Desta, Yemane. "Manifestations and causes of civil service corruption in developing countries." *Journal of Public Administration and Governance* 9, no. 3 (2019): 23-35.

contribute to political instability. When the government is unable to provide basic needs, such as jobs, food, and housing, the population may become dissatisfied and resort to protests and strikes. If these protests are met with a violent crackdown by the government, it can escalate into a full-blown political crisis.

Social unrest, caused by ethnic or religious tensions, can also lead to political instability. When different ethnic or religious groups feel marginalized or oppressed, they may resort to violence to achieve their goals. This can lead to social upheaval and, in some cases, civil war, which can destabilize the country's political system. External forces, such as foreign interference, can also contribute to political instability. When foreign countries meddle in the internal affairs of a country, it can undermine the legitimacy of the government and fuel political tensions. This can result in protests and other forms of civil unrest that can destabilize the political system.

3.4.8 Terrorism

Kenya has been a target of several terrorist attacks in recent years, particularly from Al-Shabaab militants based in neighboring Somalia. The most notable attacks were the Westgate mall attack in Nairobi in 2013 and the Garissa University College attack in 2015.⁹¹ Al-Shabaab aims to undermine Kenya's government and economy, and has carried out bombings, killings, and kidnappings in East Africa. The Kenyan government has been taking steps to address the threat of terrorism, such as enhancing security measures and increasing cooperation with international partners. However, the threat of terrorism remains a significant challenge, and there is a need for continued efforts to prevent and respond to terrorist attacks. Some of the factors contributing to the continued threat of terrorism in Kenya include political and social

⁹¹ odhiambo, elijah onyango standslause, stella wasike, and sussy namaemba kimokoti. "learning institutions'vulnerability to terrorism. an overview of issue coverage in nowadays'media and specialised literature & a case study of garissa university college, kenya." journal of defense resources management 6, no. 2 (2015).

instability, porous borders, and recruitment of youth by extremist groups. The government has also faced criticism for its handling of counterterrorism efforts, including accusations of human rights abuses and the use of excessive force.

3.4.9 Transnational crime

Transnational crime refers to criminal activities that are conducted across national borders or that involve individuals or groups from different countries. This type of crime can take many forms, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, arms smuggling, money laundering, cybercrime, and terrorism. Transnational crime is a significant global issue that affects both developed and developing countries, and it can have serious economic, social, and political consequences. One of the challenges of combating transnational crime is that it often involves multiple jurisdictions and legal systems, making it difficult to investigate and prosecute. In response to this challenge, many countries have established international cooperation mechanisms, such as extradition treaties and mutual legal assistance agreements, to facilitate cross-border law enforcement efforts. Additionally, international organizations like the United Nations and Interpol work to coordinate and support the efforts of national law enforcement agencies in combating transnational crime.⁹²

3.5 Youth in Kenya

It is difficult to define the term youth because different organizations have come up with their definitions. Youth is the period of transition from childhood to adulthood where one can be

⁹² Treiber, Michael U., Lars Kåre Grimsby, and Jens Bernt Aune. "Reducing energy poverty through increasing choice of fuels and stoves in Kenya: Complementing the multiple fuel model." *Energy for Sustainable Development* 27 (2015): 54-62.

independent. According to UN, youth is the age of 15-24 years.⁹³ This is the age in which one is in high school, tertiary education level or have finished school and can engage in employment and reproductive health services. The WHO reporting on violence and health defines youth as the range of 10-29 years. Kenyan youth are defined as those at the age of 18-35 years of age.⁹⁴ Kenya is a youthful country with the youth shaping the future of the country.⁹⁵ It has been projected that the population of the youth around the world will decline perhaps because of various happenings in the different parts of the world. E.g., in the developed countries, people want to raise small households. Nevertheless, currently, the population of the youth in the developing countries is burgeoning despite poverty, food security and health security challenges experienced there.

The ration of Kenyan youth to the population stands at over 35% according to Population Reference Bureau. This is an indicator that youth population is burgeoning. There are limited employment opportunities for the youth which is also characterized by marginalization. Majority of the employed youth are the working poor who work under deplorable conditions and earn from hand to mouth. There is an urgent need for innovations and decent employment opportunities for the youth.

3.6 Youth and Unemployment in Kenya

The issue of youth unemployment poses a challenge to nations across the globe, regardless of their level of development. As the burgeoning population of the youth attend to the challenges of unemployment, they engage in social evils, and violence such as violence, terrorism and social crime as witnessed in Kenya. A study by Sam Shem Otoi found out that Kenya was

⁹³ UN. Definition of Youth. <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-definition.pdf>

⁹⁴ GoK. Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

⁹⁵ Awiti, A., Scott, B. (2016). The Kenya Youth Survey Report. *East Africa Institute*, 1-4.

highly experiencing national security linked to youth unemployment and this challenge could be solved through increased foreign investments, increased Gross Domestic Product and reduction in external debt.⁹⁶ Because of unemployment, youth in Kenya are vulnerable to social crime and unrest. According to a study by Muniyao Bernard in Mathare slums, youths are unemployed due to lack of education and employable skills. Youth unemployment especially in the urban areas has led to social crimes such as prostitution, housing challenges, school drop outs, rape, marginalization, increased spread of HIV/AIDs infections.⁹⁷

Unemployment in Kenya has caused many young university graduates to be demoralized. In every 10 youths with skills in Kenya, 4 are unemployed.⁹⁸ Ali and Farah found out that lack of employment in Kenya resulted in crime, nepotism, favourism and, corruption.⁹⁹ These findings are in line with those of Katumo Mutua who found out that African youth entering the job market are the most educated ever but have lacked employment opportunities. Every year, about 800,000 youths enter the labor market with youth unemployment hitting 35% as compared to the 10% unemployment rate in Kenya. 80% of those unemployed Kenyans are below 35 years of age.¹⁰⁰ from a survey by Ichikowitz in 2021, Kenya has the highest unemployment rate in East Africa.¹⁰¹

⁹⁶Sam, Shem Otoi. "Modelling economic determinants of youth unemployment in Kenya." *Journal of Emerging Trends in Economics and Management Sciences* 7, no. 1 (2016 6): 31-38.

⁹⁷ Muiya, Bernard Muniyao. "The Nature, Challenges and Consequences of Urban Youth Unemployment: A Case of Nairobi City, Kenya." *Universal journal of educational research* 2, no. 7 (2014): 495-503.

⁹⁸ Farah, Salah Abdirahman, and Hussein Abdi Ali. "A Study on the Causes of Unemployment among University Graduates in Kenya: A Case of Garissa County, Kenya." *European Journal of Social Sciences Studies* (2018).

⁹⁹ Farah, Salah Abdirahman, and Hussein Abdi Ali 2018.

¹⁰⁰ UNDP. Tackling Youth Unemployment in Kenya Through Public-Private Collaboration accessed on 13th Jan 2023 from <https://www.businesscalltoaction.org/news/tackling-youth-unemployment-in-kenya-through-public-private-collaboration> April 28, 2017.

¹⁰¹ Njoka Lewis. Kenya Youths Most Concerned About Joblessness and Corruption. Retrieved from People Daily 4th Nov 2022. From <https://www.pd.co.ke/news/study-kenyan-youths-most-concerned-about-joblessness-corruption-156650/> on 13th Jan 2023.

3.7 Youth and National Security in Kenya

Youth play a crucial role in promoting national security in any country, including Kenya. With a young population that makes up a significant percentage of the total population, it is important to recognize the contributions that young people can make towards ensuring a secure and prosperous nation. There are various ways in which young people can promote national security in Kenya. One of the most important ways that young people can contribute to national security is by actively engaging in peacebuilding efforts. In Kenya, conflicts have arisen due to various factors, including political and ethnic differences, land disputes, and resource scarcity. These conflicts have had far-reaching consequences, including loss of lives, displacement, and economic losses. Young people can play a crucial role in peacebuilding efforts by promoting inter-ethnic and inter-religious dialogue, organizing peace marches and rallies, and participating in conflict resolution programs. By promoting peace and stability, young people can help reduce the risk of violence and conflicts, which are a threat to national security.

Another way in which young people can promote national security is by promoting economic development. Unemployment and poverty are major factors that contribute to insecurity in Kenya, as they often lead to social unrest and crime. Young people can promote economic development by engaging in entrepreneurship and innovation, advocating for policies that promote job creation and economic growth, and participating in training and mentorship programs that equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in the job market. By promoting economic development, young people can help create opportunities for themselves and their communities, which can lead to improved living standards and a more secure future.

Additionally, young people can contribute to national security by promoting cyber security. With the increasing use of technology and the internet, cyber security threats are becoming more prevalent and pose a significant risk to individuals, businesses, and the nation as a whole. Young people can promote cyber security by advocating for policies and regulations that protect against cyber threats, participating in cyber security training and awareness programs, and promoting responsible online behavior. By promoting cyber security, young people can help safeguard critical infrastructure and sensitive information, which is vital for national security.

The youth can contribute to national security in Kenya is by reporting suspicious activities to the relevant authorities. This includes reporting activities that may be related to terrorism, extremism, or other criminal activities that threaten the safety and security of the country. The youth can act as the eyes and ears of their communities and can play an important role in detecting and reporting suspicious activities. They can also help to raise awareness about the importance of reporting such activities and encourage others in their communities to do the same.

In order to effectively report suspicious activities, the youth need to be educated about what to look out for and how to report it. This includes knowing the relevant authorities to contact, such as the police or the NSIS, and the necessary information to provide, such as the location and description of the activity and any individuals involved.¹⁰² By reporting suspicious activities, the youth can help to prevent potential security threats and protect their communities and the nation as a whole. This makes their role in national security critical and indispensable.

¹⁰² Carter, David L., and Joseph A. Schafer. "The future of law enforcement intelligence." *Policing* (2020): 226-256.

The youth can participate in community policing in Kenya. Community policing involves collaboration between law enforcement agencies and community members to prevent crime and maintain order. By participating in community policing initiatives, young people can help to improve public safety and promote trust between law enforcement officials and community members.

Youth can participate in community policing in several ways. For example, they can serve as community police officers or volunteers, working alongside law enforcement officials to patrol their neighborhoods, respond to emergencies, and provide assistance to community members in need. Additionally, young people can attend community meetings and engage in discussions about crime prevention strategies and ways to improve public safety in their communities.

By participating in community policing initiatives, young people can also develop valuable skills and gain experience in law enforcement and public safety. This experience can be helpful for those who are interested in pursuing careers in law enforcement or related fields, and it can also benefit the community by providing additional resources and support for crime prevention and public safety efforts.

Countering violent extremism is another area where youth can play a vital role in promoting national security. Kenya has faced numerous incidents of violent extremism in recent years, particularly from the Somalia-based terrorist group Al-Shabaab. To counter this threat, the government and civil society organizations have implemented several initiatives aimed at preventing radicalization and extremism among young people.

The youth can help in countering violent extremism by promoting a culture of peace and tolerance within their communities. They can also help to identify and report any signs of radicalization among their peers, which can be instrumental in preventing extremist ideologies

from taking root. Additionally, youth-led initiatives can help to provide alternative pathways to employment, education, and personal growth, which can help to reduce the appeal of extremist groups among marginalized youth.

Promoting cyber security is another important role that the youth can play in ensuring national security in Kenya. With the increasing reliance on technology and the internet, cyber security threats are becoming more prevalent and pose a significant risk to individuals, businesses, and the nation as a whole.

The youth can help promote cyber security by raising awareness about the risks associated with online activities, such as sharing personal information, clicking on suspicious links, and downloading malware.¹⁰³ They can also advocate for the implementation of stronger cybersecurity measures in schools, businesses, and government agencies. Furthermore, the youth can be trained in cyber security skills such as coding, ethical hacking, and data analysis, which can equip them with the knowledge and tools needed to identify and prevent cyber-attacks. With the right skills and knowledge, young people can play a significant role in protecting themselves and their communities from cyber threats.

The youth can contribute to national security in Kenya through supporting disaster response efforts. This can involve participating in disaster preparedness training programs, volunteering with local disaster response organizations, and supporting relief efforts in the aftermath of natural disasters or other emergencies. The youth can be trained and prepared to respond to disasters by participating in training programs offered by government agencies or non-

¹⁰³ Rawat, Romil, Vinod Mahor, Sachin Chirgaiya, and Abhishek Singh Rathore. "Applications of social network analysis to managing the investigation of suspicious activities in social media platforms." In *Advances in Cybersecurity Management*, pp. 315-335. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2021.

governmental organizations (NGOs).¹⁰⁴ These programs can equip young people with the knowledge and skills necessary to respond to emergencies, including basic first aid, search and rescue, and evacuation procedures.

Young people can also work as volunteers for regional disaster relief agencies like the Kenya Red Cross Society, which offers emergency services during catastrophes like floods, landslides, and droughts. The youth can assist in activities such as distributing relief supplies, providing psychological support to survivors, and assisting in the reconstruction of homes and infrastructure. In the aftermath of disasters, the youth can also support relief efforts by providing assistance to those in need. This can include volunteering in shelters, distributing food and other supplies, and providing emotional support to survivors. Additionally, young people can leverage social media and other digital platforms to raise awareness about disaster response efforts and encourage their peers to get involved.

By being trained and prepared to respond to disasters, young people can play a crucial role in ensuring that their communities are able to recover quickly and effectively from any unexpected events. This approach can help to strengthen community resilience and promote stability and security in the country.

Youth-led entrepreneurship and innovation can indeed play a significant role in promoting national security by fostering economic development and reducing the risk of radicalization. Encouraging young people to start their own businesses or social enterprises can provide economic opportunities, which, in turn, can contribute to social stability and help prevent youth from engaging in extremist activities. Moreover, promoting entrepreneurship and innovation

¹⁰⁴ Raungratanaamporn, I-soon, Penpathu Pakdeeburee, Akio Kamiko, and Chaweewan Denpaiboon. "Government-communities collaboration in disaster management activity: Investigation in the current flood disaster management policy in Thailand." *Procedia Environmental Sciences* 20 (2014): 658-667.

among the youth can help create a culture of creativity, problem-solving, and risk-taking that can be applied to other aspects of life, including national security. Start-ups and social enterprises can develop solutions to pressing social and security challenges, such as improving disaster response, enhancing cyber-security, or addressing environmental threats.

To support these initiatives, governments can provide funding and technical assistance to youth-led start-ups and social enterprises, as well as mentorship programs that connect young entrepreneurs with experienced business leaders. Additionally, governments can help promote entrepreneurship and innovation through education and training programs that equip young people with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed. By promoting entrepreneurship and innovation among the youth, governments can help build more resilient communities and promote national security in the long term

Information sharing and awareness are crucial components of national security. The youth can use their extensive knowledge of social media and communication channels to spread important information and raise awareness of national security issues. They can share information about security threats, encourage reporting of suspicious activities, and promote public safety campaigns to their peers and communities.¹⁰⁵ Young people can also leverage their social media presence to promote positive messaging on national security issues, encouraging others to become more aware and engaged. For example, they can share stories of how individuals have contributed to national security or promote events related to national security, such as community meetings, training sessions, or public awareness campaigns.

¹⁰⁵ Thomas, Paul, Michele Grossman, Kris Christmann, and Shamim Miah. "Community reporting on violent extremism by "intimates": emergent findings from international evidence." *Critical studies on terrorism* 13, no. 4 (2020): 638-659.

Governments and security agencies can also leverage social media and other digital communication channels to engage with the youth and share information on national security issues. They can establish partnerships with influencers and youth-led organizations to disseminate information and reach a broader audience.

The involvement of youth in decision-making processes is essential for guaranteeing that national security policies and strategies effectively address the needs and interests of young individuals. Their distinct perspectives and experiences offer valuable insights that can contribute to shaping and informing national security agendas. The government can create opportunities for youth participation by establishing youth councils or committees, inviting young people to participate in national security discussions and consultations, and creating mentorship and internship programs that provide opportunities for youth to gain experience in security institutions. These opportunities can help to build trust and confidence between young people and security institutions, promote mutual understanding, and create a more inclusive and participatory national security system, youth engagement can help to ensure that national security policies and strategies are sustainable over the long term, as young people will inherit the responsibility of ensuring the security and stability of their country.¹⁰⁶ Engaging young people in decision-making processes can help to foster a sense of ownership and responsibility for national security, ensuring that they are invested in the success of these policies and strategies.

Community engagement is a critical component of promoting national security in Kenya, and the youth can play an essential role in this effort. Youth-led community initiatives can help to build trust and social cohesion, prevent violent extremism, and promote peaceful coexistence.

¹⁰⁶ Clinton, Bill. A national security strategy for a global age. US Government Printing Office, 2000.

Youth can act as community organizers and leaders, mobilizing their peers to participate in community policing efforts, such as neighborhood watch groups or community patrols. They can also work with local leaders and organizations to promote dialogue and understanding among different ethnic and religious groups, fostering social cohesion and reducing the risk of conflict.

Youth may also function as mentors and role models for other youth, inspiring them to participate in constructive activities like sports, the arts, or business and steer clear of joining criminal or extremist groups. They can assist guide young people away from criminal activity and radicalization by offering advice and support and pointing them in the direction of more constructive and successful routes. Initiatives for youth-led community participation can be supported by the government through financing, programs for technical support, and training. More young people may get involved by recognizing and celebrating youth-led projects that support social cohesion and national security.

Advocacy is a critical role that the youth can play in promoting national security. Young people can use their voices and platforms to advocate for policies and practices that promote national security and address security threats. They can use social media and other communication channels to raise awareness about security threats, encourage their peers to take action, and promote positive messaging on national security issues.

In particular, the youth can advocate for policies that promote social cohesion, inclusivity, and community engagement, which are crucial components of national security. They can also advocate for policies that address the root causes of insecurity, such as poverty, unemployment, and marginalization, and promote initiatives that provide economic opportunities and support to vulnerable populations, the youth can advocate for policies that address emerging security

threats, such as cybercrime and terrorism. They can raise awareness about the risks and consequences of these threats, encourage their peers to take measures to protect themselves and their communities, and promote initiatives that address these challenges.

The government can support youth advocacy efforts by creating opportunities for young people to engage in policy development, providing technical assistance and mentorship, and recognizing and celebrating youth-led advocacy initiatives.¹⁰⁷ Youth-led advocacy can help to promote accountability, transparency, and responsiveness in national security policies and strategies, ensuring that they are effective and sustainable over the long term.

Information gathering is a critical role that the youth can play in promoting national security. Young people can be trained to identify and report information on security threats in their communities, serving as the eyes and ears of security agencies and helping to prevent criminal activities before they occur. By being trained to gather and report information on security threats, the youth can help to increase situational awareness and early warning, enabling security agencies to respond quickly and effectively to security incidents. They can also help to identify potential threats and vulnerabilities in their communities, which can inform the development of targeted prevention and intervention strategies.

Moreover, youth-led information gathering initiatives can help to build trust and cooperation between communities and security agencies, promoting community policing and strengthening the overall security architecture. By involving young people in security efforts, the government can also create opportunities for youth engagement and empowerment, enhancing their sense of ownership and responsibility for national security. The government can support youth-led

¹⁰⁷ Zia, Sana, and Hira Rehman. "Engaging and Mainstreaming Youth in Development Agenda Youth Make it Happen." Available at SSRN 2041170 (2011).

information gathering initiatives by providing training, technical assistance, and mentorship programs. They can also recognize and reward young people who contribute to national security through their information gathering efforts, promoting a culture of civic responsibility and community engagement.

The implementation of youth empowerment programs can serve as an effective means to enhance national security. These programs offer various opportunities such as education, vocational training, and leadership development, which can help to develop the capabilities and self-assurance of young people. By doing so, youth are empowered to become successful members of their communities and contribute positively to national security. Education and vocational training programs play a significant role in equipping young people with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in the job market and contribute to the economy. Consequently, providing these opportunities can help reduce unemployment and poverty rates among youth, which are often linked to insecurity and violence. The government can play a critical role in supporting and funding these programs to ensure that they are accessible to all youth, regardless of their socio-economic status.

In addition, programs that focus on developing leadership skills can empower young people to become leaders in their communities, leading to positive changes.¹⁰⁸ Such programs can instill a sense of civic duty and promote community engagement, encouraging youth participation in community policing and other initiatives that foster peaceful coexistence and prevent extremist behavior. Ultimately, these youth empowerment programs can help to foster inclusivity and social cohesion, both of which are critical for promoting national security. By bringing together

¹⁰⁸ Folta, Sara C., Rebecca A. Seguin, Jennifer Ackerman, and Miriam E. Nelson. "A qualitative study of leadership characteristics among women who catalyze positive community change." *BMC public health* 12 (2012): 1-12.

youth from diverse backgrounds and creating opportunities for them to collaborate towards shared objectives, these programs can help build bridges and promote mutual respect and understanding.¹⁰⁹

The government can support youth empowerment programs by providing funding, technical assistance, and mentorship. They can also partner with civil society organizations and other stakeholders to provide a comprehensive range of services and support to young people. In conclusion, youth empowerment programs can be a powerful tool in promoting national security. By providing education, vocational training, and leadership development opportunities, these programs can help to build the capacity and confidence of young people, promote social cohesion and inclusivity, and contribute to the overall security architecture of the country. The government can support these efforts by providing funding, technical assistance, and mentorship, and partnering with civil society organizations and other stakeholders to provide a comprehensive range of services and support to young people.

However, there are challenges that hinder the ability of young individuals to actively contribute to national security in Kenya. These challenges encompass restricted access to information and resources, limited representation in decision-making, and inadequate capacity and skills. To overcome these obstacles, it is crucial for the government, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to invest in programs and initiatives that promote youth engagement. This includes providing young people with access to information, financial and technical resources, facilitating their participation in decision-making processes, and offering training and mentorship programs to enhance their skills and knowledge for effective civic engagement and advocacy.

¹⁰⁹ *ibid*

In conclusion, young people have a critical role to play in promoting national security in Kenya. By actively engaging in peacebuilding efforts, promoting economic development, and promoting cyber security, young people can help build a more secure and prosperous nation. However, there are also challenges that must be addressed to enable young people to make meaningful contributions to national security. By investing in youth engagement programs and initiatives, we can empower young people to become active citizens and leaders who can contribute positively to their communities and society as a whole.¹¹⁰

3.8 Hinderances of the Youth Participation in National Security

The Kenyan youth have not all been engaged in national security due to various challenges as discussed below.

3.8.1 Limited access to resources

One major concern that hinders youth engagement in national security, not only in Kenya but also in many other countries, is limited access to resources. When young people lack access to education, training, and employment opportunities, they may not have the necessary skills and knowledge to contribute to national security effectively. This also exposes them to the risk of being recruited by extremist groups or criminal gangs due to their economic vulnerability. To address this challenge, the government and other stakeholders should invest in education, training, and employment programs that specifically target the youth to enhance their capacity to engage in national security activities.

¹¹⁰ Hutchinson et al. 2019

3.8.2 Under-representation in decision-making processes

The youth face a major hurdle in their involvement in national security, as they are often left out of decision-making processes related to security. This lack of inclusion can impede their ability to have a say in policies and programs that impact their lives, leading to a sense of distrust and lack of confidence in government institutions. To tackle this issue, it is crucial to establish avenues for youth to participate in decision-making processes and encourage their involvement in leadership positions within security-related institutions. This will promote a more inclusive and participatory approach to national security and foster trust and confidence between the government and young people.

3.8.3 Lack of skills and capacity

Lack of skills and capacity is a significant challenge that can hinder youth engagement in national security activities. Many young people may not have the necessary skills and knowledge to participate in security-related activities effectively. For instance, intelligence gathering requires specific skills such as critical thinking, analysis, and communication. Similarly, risk assessment and conflict resolution require specialized training and experience. The lack of skills and capacity among young people can be attributed to various factors, such as limited access to quality education and training, inadequate mentorship and coaching, and a lack of opportunities to gain practical experience. To tackle this issue, it is crucial to ensure that young individuals have opportunities to access high-quality education and training initiatives that equip them with the essential skills and knowledge required for effective engagement in national security efforts. Additionally, mentorship and coaching programs can play a vital role in enhancing the capabilities of youth by offering guidance and support from experienced professionals. Youth mentorship programs can also help to foster positive

attitudes towards national security and instill a sense of responsibility and commitment among young people.

3.8.4 Stigmatization and discrimination

Stigmatization and discrimination against young people based on their age, gender, ethnicity, or other factors can also limit their engagement in national security activities. Young people who are perceived as a threat or are discriminated against may not have the opportunity to contribute their skills and ideas to the development of policies and programs related to national security. Additionally, stigma and discrimination can lead to a lack of trust between young people and law enforcement agencies, making it difficult to build positive relationships and promote collaboration. Therefore, it is essential to address and eliminate discrimination and stigma against young people to ensure their full participation in national security activities. Achieving these goals can be accomplished by implementing awareness campaigns and training initiatives that foster tolerance and appreciation for diversity. Additionally, policies and practices should be established to ensure equal access to opportunities and encourage active participation in decision-making processes.

3.9 Strategies for Enhancing Youth Engagement in National Security

To enhance youth engagement in national security, the government and other stakeholders can implement various strategies, including:

3.9.1 Increasing youth representation in national security institutions

Increasing youth representation in national security institutions is an important strategy for enhancing youth engagement in national security. The government can promote diversity and inclusion in recruitment and promotion policies to increase youth representation in institutions

such as the police, military, and intelligence services.¹¹¹ This can help address the under-representation of youth in decision-making processes and ensure that their perspectives and experiences are included in national security strategies. By having a more diverse and inclusive representation in these institutions, the government can benefit from the fresh ideas and perspectives that young people bring to the table, and also create opportunities for young people to contribute to national security efforts. Additionally, youth representation can help improve public trust and confidence in these institutions, particularly among young people who may have previously felt marginalized and excluded.

3.9.2 Enhancing youth education and Training

Enhancing youth education and training is another strategy for enhancing youth engagement in national security. The government can invest in education and training programs that equip young people with the skills and knowledge needed to participate in security-related activities, such as intelligence gathering, risk assessment, and conflict resolution. This can include offering scholarships, vocational training, and internships in national security institutions to provide hands-on experience. Additionally, incorporating national security topics into school curricula can help raise awareness and understanding of security issues among young people, encouraging them to engage in related activities. By increasing the skills and capacity of young people, they can contribute meaningfully to national security activities and make a positive impact on their communities.

¹¹¹ Bastick, Megan. Integrating gender in post-conflict security sector reform. Geneva: DCAF, 2008.

3.9.3 Promoting youth entrepreneurship and innovation

Promoting youth entrepreneurship and innovation is another strategy for enhancing youth engagement in national security. This can be done by creating policies and programs that support and incentivize youth entrepreneurship and innovation. For example, the government can provide funding and support for youth-led startups and initiatives that have the potential to contribute to national security. In addition, the government might establish entrepreneurship training courses and incubators to aid young people in acquiring the abilities and expertise required to launch and manage successful enterprises. By encouraging young people to start businesses and innovate, the government can give them jobs and lower the likelihood that they would engage in criminal or extremist activity.

3.9.4 Creating partnerships with youth-led organizations and civil society groups

Creating partnerships with youth-led organizations and civil society groups can be an effective strategy for enhancing youth engagement in national security. These organizations can provide a platform for young people to voice their concerns and participate in decision-making processes related to national security. Additionally, they can collaborate with government and security agencies to develop programs and initiatives that involve youth in security-related activities. By working together, youth-led organizations, civil society groups, and government agencies can enhance trust, understanding, and cooperation between young people and security institutions, ultimately promoting national security and social cohesion.

3.10 Chapter Conclusion

The youth play a vital role in national security in Kenya, and their empowerment and engagement are crucial to the country's development process. The youth bulge presents both

challenges and opportunities, and it is imperative for the government and stakeholders to prioritize youth development and address the risks and challenges faced by the youth. Investing in education, employment, and civic participation programs can help to enhance the resilience of young people and reduce their vulnerability to security risks. Moreover, the youth can contribute to national security by participating in community-based initiatives aimed at preventing and countering violent extremism, as well as advocating for policies that promote social justice and inclusion. Reporting suspicious activities is also a critical role that the youth can play in national security. Therefore, it is crucial for Kenya to develop and implement strategies and policies that enable the youth to fully participate in the country's development and ensure long-term peace and stability.

CHAPTER FOUR

CHALLENGES OF NOT ENGAGING THE YOUTHS IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN KENYA

4.1 Introduction

According to a study conducted by Balongo, Okuto and Wamuyu in 2019, youth idleness in Kenya increased from 17.1% in 2015 to 20.1 % in 2017.¹¹² The figures have increased due to increasing graduates and population of the youth. Today, the youth unemployment stands at 55% with the youth population at 67% in Kenya.¹¹³ The reasons for the widespread youth inactivity in Kenya will be covered in this chapter, along with its implications. The growing number of young people in Kenya, together with the idle graduates who prowl the streets after completing their higher education, add to the social unrest there. Youth inactivity has contributed to the growth of gang organizations like Mungiki, Chinkororo, Al-Shabaab, and others. These armed groups engage in public mugging, robbery, extortion, child trafficking, drugs trafficking and prostitution.

4.2 Idleness Affecting the Economy of Kenya

Every Kenyan has an impact on the economic concept. The working population is engaged in the production of products and services. According to ILO, idleness is defined as an economically active group of people who do not have job but are available to work. These are the folks who have been laid off or who have willingly quit their jobs.¹¹⁴ Idleness is as a result

¹¹² Balongo, C. V., E. Okuto, and T. W. Wamuyu. "Causes and effects of youth idling on urban streets in Kenya. *The Strategic Journal of Business & Change Management*, 6 (3), 694–702." *The Strategic Journal of Business & Change Management. ISSN* (2019): 2312-9492.

¹¹³ Ibid

¹¹⁴ Ibid

of lack of jobs and is the responsibility of the government to care for their citizens so that there are job opportunities.

With frictional unemployment, the job opportunities may be there but the citizens do not have the skills required to for the type of jobs or they are not aware about the job, or the companies lack raw materials or there is a mechanical breakdown. From these definitions, it can then be concluded that idleness can be reduced when an economy of a country is doing well, which lowers unemployment.¹¹⁵ Residual unemployment is the one resulting from old age, disability, inadequate skills and poor attitude towards work. With the advancements in technological development, many people are being rendered unemployed, idling in the streets.¹¹⁶

4.3 Idleness Amongst the Kenyan Youth

According to 2009 research done by KIPPRA, Kenyan youths are inactive because they are not employed. The survey also discovered that there were significant rates of young unemployment and idling in urban regions, which was due to rural-urban migration in quest of work possibilities. The rural areas of Kenya have been for a long time been underdeveloped with poor infrastructure, and opportunities which makes them unattractive. This causes the youth to move to urban areas where there are industries and they can look for employment. Urban areas also have social amenities such as hospitals, good schools.¹¹⁷

¹¹⁵ KIPPRA 2020. Kenya Economic Report 2020.

¹¹⁶ Okafor, Emeka Emmanuel. "Youth unemployment and implications for stability of democracy in Nigeria." *Journal of sustainable Development in Africa* 13, no. 1 (2011): 358-373.

¹¹⁷ Riechi, Brian. "Youth Unemployment and Security in Kenya: The Case of Kwale County (2010-2018)." PhD diss., United States International University-Africa, 2019.

Since 1990s Kenya's population has been growing rapidly with an average of 3.9 births per woman. This is due to decrease maternal and child mortality rates, with young men starting their families.¹¹⁸ The United Nation states that when a country has youth more than 20% of the population, then it becomes youth bulge. Youth bulge can be viewed either positively because a country stays hopeful of the future generation. Negatively, youth bulge poses various risks to socioeconomic development. UN, 2013. In Kenya, youth bulge has provided socioeconomic and political structures with increased workforce and intellectual minds for technological developments. Negatively, there have been negative impacts of youth bulge in Kenya

There is an upsurge of Rural Urban Migration in Kenya, where a great number of the youth migrating to the urban areas escaping rural poverty. This has resulted in urban congestion and low employment. Second, unregulated development has resulted in environmental pollution and deterioration, as well as overcrowded infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, and highways. As the youth comprise the majority of the jobless in Kenya, this contributes to the country's high levels of unemployment, hence creating socioeconomic inequality. Unemployment rate is 35-60% in the urban areas as compared to 20-25% in the rural areas, with female youth being the majority in the urban areas.¹¹⁹

¹¹⁸ Muiya, Bernard Munyao. "The Nature, Challenges and Consequences of Urban Youth Unemployment: A Case of Nairobi City, Kenya." *Universal journal of educational research* 2, no. 7 (2014): 495-503.

¹¹⁹ Keya, C. N., and M. B. Lubang'a. "Youth Unemployment—The Plight of Female Youths." *Youth Unemployment in Kenya. A Ticking Time Bomb. Nairobi* (2016): 171-180.

4.4 Effects of Youth Idleness and Unemployment

Idle youngsters succumb to the lure of attempting anything that comes their way. According to Barash and Webel,¹²⁰ the society has two social classes, one has and the other don't have. The second class are the majority. This inequality has led to increased numbers of unemployed youth, increased poverty levels and social crimes. According to a survey done by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 22% of Kenyans control 65% of the country's wealth, implying that the money is concentrated in the hands of a few while the remainder struggle in poverty. According to Wamuyu, the majority of today's social crises are the result of the government's failure to address citizens socioeconomic concerns.¹²¹

For instance, as a result of the terror assaults carried out by Al-Shabaab and the MRC, Kenya saw a fall in foreign direct investment from USD 6.34 billion to 5.12 billion in 2014. Furthermore, political barriers and corruption are blamed for Kenya's poor growth rate. Today, Kenyans remain divided ethnically because of high levels of unemployment between different tribes. Kenyans are suffering poor quality life because of low income levels, poor health, education and shelter. It is important to note that high rates of youth idleness and employment have far reaching implications on stability of a country (good governance, democracy and socioeconomic power). Unemployed and idle youth are a threat to security such that citizens are not at liberty and peace and their human rights are not protected. Such a nation may not consider Solutions to Youth Unemployment and Idling in Kenya itself as having wealth.¹²²

¹²⁰ Barash, David P., and Charles P. Webel. *Peace and conflict studies*. Sage Publications, 2021.

¹²¹ Wachira, Teresia Wamuyu. "Exploring violence through the narratives of youth in Kenyan secondary schools: Implications for reconceptualising peacebuilding." PhD diss., University of Bradford, 2014.

¹²² Morphy, R. "Nigeria: youth unemployment, poverty—a time bomb for country. leadership." (2008).

Underutilization of youth potential refers to a situation where young people are not able to fully develop and utilize their talents, skills, and abilities due to various factors such as lack of opportunities, discrimination, or social and economic barriers. When young people are not given the chance to reach their full potential, it can have negative effects on their personal growth and development, as well as the economy and society as a whole. For individuals, it can lead to feelings of frustration, hopelessness, and low self-esteem. It can also limit their future opportunities and hinder their ability to contribute to society. On a larger scale, the underutilization of youth potential can lead to a lack of innovation, decreased productivity, and reduced economic growth. By not fully engaging young people in the workforce and society, there is a missed opportunity for new ideas and perspectives that can drive progress and development.

4.5 High youth unemployment

Youth unemployment has been a persistent issue in many countries, including Kenya. It is defined as the unemployment rate for individuals aged between 15 and 24 years old. In Kenya, the youth unemployment rate stands at around 22.5%, which is almost three times the national average of 7.5%.¹²³ This high rate of youth unemployment has negative social, economic, and political consequences, including reduced economic growth, increased poverty, and social unrest. This essay will discuss the causes and effects of high youth unemployment in Kenya, as well as possible solutions to address this issue. Youth unemployment in Kenya is caused by various reasons:

¹²³ Luebker, Malte. "Employment, unemployment and informality in Zimbabwe: Concepts and data for coherent policy-making." (2008).

Lack of skills is a major contributing factor to high youth unemployment in Kenya. Many young people are unable to secure jobs in the labor market because they lack the necessary skills and education. The education system in Kenya has been criticized for not providing relevant skills and knowledge to students, leaving them ill-equipped for the job market.¹²⁴

As a result, there is a mismatch between the skills required by employers and the skills possessed by young people. This mismatch has made it difficult for young people to find employment in their chosen fields. Many young people are forced to take low-paying jobs that do not match their skills and education level, leading to underemployment and low job satisfaction.

Limited job opportunities are another major factor contributing to high youth unemployment in Kenya. The Kenyan job market is highly competitive, and many young people face challenges in securing employment due to the limited number of job opportunities. The situation is made worse by the fact that the economy is growing at a slower rate than the population, resulting in a situation where there are more job seekers than available jobs. This scarcity of job opportunities has led to intense competition for the available jobs, with many qualified and skilled young people competing for a limited number of positions. As a result, many young people are left unemployed or underemployed, leading to economic and social challenges. The lack of job opportunities also forces many young people to resort to informal employment or entrepreneurship, which may not provide sustainable livelihoods or growth opportunities.

¹²⁴ *ibid*

Corruption is a significant factor contributing to high youth unemployment in Kenya.¹²⁵

Corruption can lead to a distorted job market where positions are filled based on bribes and nepotism rather than merit and qualifications. This can create a situation where young people who lack connections or cannot afford to pay bribes are unable to secure jobs, regardless of their qualifications and skills.

corruption can also discourage foreign investment, which can limit job creation and economic growth. Companies could be reluctant to invest in a nation where corruption is rife since it might raise operating costs and lower earnings. Mismanagement of public resources brought on by corruption can also prevent the government from making investments in fields like infrastructure and education that can contribute to job growth. This might have a cascading effect on the economy, resulting in slow job creation and high rates of youth unemployment.¹²⁶

Gender disparities can be a major factor contributing to high youth unemployment in Kenya, especially for young women. These disparities are rooted in cultural and societal norms that limit women's access to education and employment opportunities. Discrimination and bias against women in hiring processes, as well as lower pay for women in many industries, further exacerbate the problem.¹²⁷ In addition, many women in Kenya are also responsible for caring for their families, which can limit their ability to pursue education and career opportunities. This is especially true in rural areas where women may have limited access to childcare or other support services.

¹²⁵ ONCHARI, Douglas. "The relationship between corruption and unemployment rates in Kenya." *Akademi Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi* 6, no. 17 (2019): 309-318.

¹²⁶ *ibid*

¹²⁷ Ortiz, Susan Y., and Vincent J. Roscigno. "Discrimination, women, and work: Processes and variations by race and class." *The Sociological Quarterly* 50, no. 2 (2009): 336-359.

As a result of these gender disparities, young women in Kenya may face additional barriers to securing decent and well-paying jobs, leading to higher levels of unemployment and poverty. To address this issue, it is important to promote gender equality and empower women to access education and employment opportunities. This can include initiatives such as providing financial support for women's education and training programs, promoting women's entrepreneurship, and implementing policies to address discrimination and bias in hiring practices...

4.5.1 Effects of high youth unemployment in Kenya

High youth unemployment in Kenya means that many young people are unable to secure jobs and generate income, which can lead to poverty. This can also create a cycle of poverty, as those who grow up in poverty are more likely to experience difficulty accessing education and job training programs, which can make it even more challenging to secure employment and escape poverty. Additionally, poverty can have negative impacts on physical and mental health, and limit access to basic needs such as food, shelter, and healthcare.

High youth unemployment can lead to social unrest and insecurity in Kenya. Unemployed youth who are unable to find opportunities to generate income may resort to criminal activities such as theft, drug abuse, and even violence. This can lead to an increase in crime rates and insecurity, as well as a breakdown of social cohesion in communities. Additionally, the frustration and hopelessness that come with unemployment can lead to social unrest, protests, and demonstrations, which can further destabilize the society. Addressing high youth unemployment is crucial to promoting social stability and security in Kenya.

High levels of youth unemployment can have negative impacts on economic growth in a country. When young people are unable to find jobs, they are unable to contribute to the

economy through productive work and consumption. This can lead to decreased demand for goods and services, which can in turn result in reduced production and employment in other sectors. Ultimately, this can lead to reduced economic growth. In addition to reduced consumption and decreased demand for goods and services, high youth unemployment can also lead to increased social spending on programs such as welfare and job training. This increased spending can put a strain on government budgets and divert resources away from other important areas of development, such as infrastructure, education, and healthcare.

Therefore, reducing youth unemployment is crucial for promoting economic growth and development. This can be achieved through policies that promote job creation, entrepreneurship, and skills training. By providing young people with the necessary tools and resources to succeed in the job market, they can contribute to the economy and help drive economic growth.

4.6 Solutions to high youth unemployment in Kenya

4.6.1 Education and training

Education and training are critical solutions to address high youth unemployment in Kenya. The education system in Kenya should be reformed to provide relevant skills and knowledge to students, which will help to address the skills gap and increase the employability of young people. This can be achieved through a curriculum that focuses on vocational and technical training, entrepreneurship, and innovation. Additionally, there should be more investment in technical and vocational training institutions to provide young people with practical skills and experience in various fields. This will help to bridge the gap between the skills required by employers and the skills possessed by young people, increasing their employability.

There should be programs that provide young people with internship and apprenticeship opportunities to gain hands-on experience in their desired fields. This will help to enhance their skills and make them more attractive to potential employers. Finally, there should be a focus on continuous learning and upskilling, as the job market is constantly evolving. Young people should be encouraged to take advantage of opportunities for further education and training, such as online courses and professional development programs, to enhance their skills and increase their chances of securing employment.

4.6.2 Promotion of entrepreneurship

Promoting entrepreneurship among young people is another solution to high youth unemployment in Kenya. This involves encouraging young people to start their own businesses and providing them with the necessary resources and support to do so. This can be achieved through initiatives such as entrepreneurship training programs, mentorship programs, and access to financing. The government can provide incentives such as tax breaks and grants to encourage young people to start their own businesses. Additionally, private sector organizations can support entrepreneurship by providing mentorship, training, and financing opportunities for young entrepreneurs. By promoting entrepreneurship, young people can create jobs for themselves and for others, which can help to reduce youth unemployment and boost economic growth.¹²⁸

4.6.3 Addressing corruption

Addressing corruption is another solution to high youth unemployment in Kenya. Corruption has a significant impact on the job market, as it creates an uneven playing field for job

¹²⁸ Chigunta, Francis. "Entrepreneurship as a possible solution to youth unemployment in Africa." *Laboring and learning* 10, no. 2 (2017): 433-451.

seekers.¹²⁹ It also leads to a misallocation of resources and a lack of investment in key sectors, which can limit job opportunities. To address corruption, the Kenyan government should strengthen anti-corruption measures and improve transparency in government processes. This will help to create a more level playing field for job seekers and encourage investment in key sectors, which can lead to increased job opportunities.

Additionally, there should be increased efforts to hold corrupt individuals and institutions accountable for their actions. This can be achieved through the establishment of independent oversight bodies, such as the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, and the provision of resources to support their work. By addressing corruption, the Kenyan government can create a more fair and transparent job market, which will benefit young people and improve their chances of finding employment.

4.6.4 Gender equality

To address gender disparities in youth unemployment, there needs to be a focus on promoting gender equality and providing equal opportunities for all. This includes addressing cultural and societal norms that limit women's access to education and employment opportunities. There needs to be an effort to promote gender-sensitive policies and practices in the labor market, such as equal pay for equal work and non-discrimination in hiring processes. Additionally, targeted programs and initiatives that focus on empowering young women and providing them with the skills and resources they need to succeed in the job market can also help to address gender disparities in youth unemployment.¹³⁰

¹²⁹ Jain, Arvind K. "Corruption: A review." *Journal of economic surveys* 15, no. 1 (2001): 71-121.

¹³⁰ Broussard, Nzinga, and Tsegay Gebrekidan Tekleselassie. "Youth unemployment: Ethiopia country study." International Growth Centre. Working Paper 12, no. 0592 (2012): 1-37.

4.6.5 Social unrest

Excluding youth from national development activities in Kenya can lead to social unrest. Social unrest arises when the basic needs and expectations of citizens are not met, and this can be amplified by the feeling of being left behind and excluded from the country's development activities. Unemployment, poverty, inequality, and lack of access to education and healthcare are some of the factors that contribute to social unrest. When the youth are excluded from meaningful participation in the country's development, they are likely to become disillusioned, frustrated, and even angry. This can lead to social unrest, including protests, strikes, and even violent demonstrations, which can disrupt the country's social and economic activities, thus threatening national security and stability. Therefore, it is crucial for the government and other stakeholders to create opportunities for youth to participate in the country's development activities to prevent social unrest and promote national security and stability.

4.6.6 Limited perspectives

Another implication of not including youth in Kenya's national development activities is the limited perspectives that result from excluding such a large and diverse segment of the population. The youth bring fresh ideas, energy, and innovation that can help drive progress and improve the effectiveness of national development efforts. Without their input and participation, development initiatives may lack the creativity and diversity of thought needed to tackle complex challenges and address the needs of all members of society. Additionally, excluding youth from national development activities may reinforce existing power structures and prevent the emergence of new leaders and voices who could help drive change and shape the future of the country.

4.6.7 Lack of sustainability

This can lead to the creation of solutions that are short-sighted and fail to address the underlying causes of social and economic challenges. By engaging young people in the planning and implementation of development initiatives, there is a better chance of creating sustainable solutions that can benefit the country in the long-term. Young people bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas that can help to ensure that development activities are effective, efficient, and sustainable.¹³¹ Involving young people in national development activities can also help to build a sense of ownership and responsibility for the future of the country, which can encourage continued efforts towards sustainable development.

4.6.8 Lack of Skills

Young people in Kenya face a significant obstacle to effective participation in activities for national development because of a lack of education and training. Young individuals who lack the requisite skills feel left out of the chances accessible to them and are unable to take advantage of them. As a skilled workforce is necessary for sustainable development, this not only has an impact on the individuals' prospects but also on the nation's economic growth. Investment in education and training programs that provide young people the skills they need to take part in national development initiatives is crucial for the government and other stakeholders to overcome this problem. This can include vocational training, entrepreneurship programs, and initiatives that promote STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math)

¹³¹ O'Riordan, Timothy, ed. *Globalism, localism, and identity: "fresh perspectives on the transition to sustainability.* Earthscan", 2001.

education, among others. By investing in the skills development of young people, Kenya can build a more inclusive, prosperous, and sustainable future for all its citizens.¹³²

4.6.9 Barriers to Participation

The barriers to youth participation are multi-faceted and can be economic, social, or political in nature. Economic barriers include poverty, lack of access to resources, and unemployment. This makes it difficult for youth to invest in their education, health, or start their own businesses. Social barriers, such as gender and cultural norms, can limit the participation of youth, particularly young women. These norms can limit their access to education and employment opportunities and perpetuate gender-based violence and discrimination. Political barriers can also limit the participation of youth, particularly those from marginalized communities. This includes barriers to political participation, such as voter suppression and exclusion from decision-making processes.

4.6.10 Marginalization

Marginalization of youth is a significant issue in Kenya. It is an obstacle to the realization of sustainable development and equitable growth. The youth is the driving force for economic and social transformation in Kenya, and the country's development goals depend on their active participation. However, the marginalization of youth can lead to their exclusion from the development process, leaving them feeling disillusioned and with no stake in their country's progress.

¹³² Winięcki, emma. "at the inter-section of gender and technology."

4.6.11 Impact of Marginalization

The marginalization of youth can have a significant impact on their development and the country's economic growth. When youth are marginalized, they are less likely to have access to education, health services, and other resources, leading to poor health outcomes and limited opportunities for economic mobility. This can lead to a cycle of poverty and exclusion, which can have a negative impact on the country's economic growth.

Additionally, the marginalization of youth can lead to social unrest and instability. When youth are excluded from the development process, they can become disillusioned and engage in criminal activities as a means of survival. This can lead to increased crime rates, which can discourage foreign investment and have a negative impact on the country's economic growth.

4.6.12 Lack of Representation

When young people are not engaged in national development activities, they are often excluded from decision-making processes and political structures, which can limit their ability to contribute to policy development and implementation. This lack of representation can result in policies that do not address their needs or priorities, perpetuating their marginalization and limiting their potential for personal and economic development. Additionally, as you mentioned, high unemployment rates among youth can be a significant challenge in Kenya, and not engaging them in national development activities only exacerbates the problem. When young people are not given opportunities to participate in the country's economic and social progress, they are more likely to be unemployed and lack access to job opportunities. This can put a strain on the economy as a whole, as it means a significant portion of the workforce is not contributing to productivity and growth. By engaging youth in national development

activities and ensuring their representation in decision-making processes and political structures, Kenya can build a more inclusive and sustainable future for all its citizens.

4.6.13 Lack of Access to Financing

Lack of access to financing is another significant challenge that can limit the participation of youth in national development activities in Kenya. Without access to affordable financing options, young people may struggle to start their own businesses, pursue higher education, or invest in other initiatives that contribute to the country's development. This lack of access to financing can perpetuate a cycle of poverty and exclusion, limiting the potential of youth to contribute to the country's economic and social progress.¹³³ To address this challenge, it is important for the government and other stakeholders to invest in initiatives that provide young people with access to affordable financing, such as microfinance programs, grants, and scholarships. By providing youth with the necessary financial resources, Kenya can unlock their potential to drive innovation and entrepreneurship, promoting sustainable economic growth and development for all its citizens.

4.6.14 Decreased productivity

Decreased productivity can be a concern when young people are not engaged in development activities. When young people are not actively pursuing education or participating in programs that enhance their skills and knowledge, they may become disengaged or idle.¹³⁴ This can lead to a lack of motivation and a decrease in productivity. Decreased productivity can have negative effects on the economy as a whole. When individuals are not productive, they may

¹³³ Stevenson, Jacqueline, and John Willott. "The aspiration and access to higher education of teenage refugees in the UK." *Compare* 37, no. 5 (2007): 671-687.

¹³⁴ Maguire, Sue. "NEET, unemployed, inactive or unknown—why does it matter?." *Educational research* 57, no. 2 (2015): 121-132.

not contribute as much to the workforce, and this can result in lower economic growth and reduced competitiveness. Additionally, if young people are not engaged in development activities, they may miss out on opportunities to learn new skills and gain valuable experience that can prepare them for future employment and contribute to the economy.

Therefore, it is important to encourage and support young people in their pursuit of education and development activities to ensure they are prepared for the workforce and able to contribute to the economy. This can include providing access to education and training programs, mentorship opportunities, and job placement services. Brain drain: If young people feel that they are not valued or included in their own country's development activities, they may choose to leave and seek opportunities elsewhere. This brain drain can be detrimental to the long-term development of the country. Social unrest: When young people feel excluded from national development activities, they may become disillusioned and disengaged from the political process. This can lead to social unrest, protests, and even violence.

4.6.15 Poor governance

Poor governance can be a consequence of excluding young people from decision-making processes. When policies are formulated without considering the perspectives and experiences of young people, the policies may not effectively address the needs and concerns of this demographic. This can lead to a lack of trust in government institutions and dissatisfaction among young people, which can lead to social unrest and instability, young people represent a significant portion of the population and have unique needs and perspectives that should be taken into account in policy-making. Their exclusion from decision-making processes can result in policies that are outdated or irrelevant to their needs, which can further exacerbate existing inequalities and perpetuate social injustices.

Therefore, it is crucial to include young people in decision-making processes and provide them with opportunities to voice their opinions and ideas. This can involve creating spaces for youth participation in governance structures, such as youth councils, advisory boards, and other forms of engagement. Additionally, government institutions should actively seek out and listen to the perspectives of young people to ensure policies are effective, relevant, and responsive to their needs. Social and Economic

4.6.16 Instability

When a large portion of the population is unemployed, it can lead to social and economic instability. Unemployment can have a number of negative effects on individuals, families, and communities. It can lead to financial hardship, social exclusion, and a lack of opportunities for personal and professional growth. When these effects are widespread, they can result in broader social and economic consequences. One of the potential consequences is an increase in crime rates. When individuals are unable to find employment or meet their basic needs, they may turn to illegal activities as a means of survival. This can result in an increase in crime rates, which can further contribute to social and economic instability.

Political unrest and instability are other effects of unemployment. People may grow angry and disenchanted with the political system and the government when they are unable to obtain employment. Protests, demonstrations, and in the worst circumstances, political instability may result from this. Therefore, it is important to address unemployment and ensure that individuals have access to employment opportunities and the support they need to find work. This can include initiatives such as job training programs, support for entrepreneurship, and investment in industries that create jobs. By addressing unemployment, we can help to prevent social and economic instability and promote a more stable and prosperous society.

4.6.17 Limited Skills Development

When young people are not engaged in national development activities, they may miss out on opportunities to develop their skills. Skill development holds significance for youth as it enables them to acquire the necessary abilities for future employment prospects and empowers them to make valuable contributions to their communities and the overall progress of their country.¹³⁵ If young people are not given the opportunity to develop their skills, they may find it difficult to access job opportunities in the future. This can lead to limited job opportunities, which can have a negative impact on their future prospects and overall economic development. When a large portion of the population is unable to find employment, it can lead to social and economic instability, which can further exacerbate the problem.

Therefore, it is important to encourage and support the skill development of young people. This can include initiatives such as vocational training, apprenticeships, internships, and mentorship programs. By providing young people with opportunities to develop their skills, we can help to prepare them for future employment opportunities and ensure that they are able to contribute to the development of their communities and the nation as a whole.

4.7 Chapter Conclusion

High youth unemployment is a major challenge facing Kenya today. The reasons for this issue are varied, ranging from limited job opportunities to a lack of skills and education, corruption, and gender disparities. Additionally, the problem of youth unemployment has far-reaching consequences, including poverty, reduced economic growth, and social unrest. Therefore, it is crucial that the Kenyan government and other stakeholders prioritize addressing this issue by

¹³⁵ Hope Sr, Kempe Ronald. "Engaging the youth in Kenya: empowerment, education, and employment." *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth* 17, no. 4 (2012): 221-236.

implementing policies that promote entrepreneurship, reforming the education system to provide relevant skills and knowledge, addressing corruption, and promoting gender equality. Furthermore, creating more job opportunities through foreign direct investments and encouraging youth to venture into innovative sectors such as technology will also be key in tackling this challenge. With these efforts, Kenya can unlock the potential of its youth and spur economic growth, ultimately leading to a more prosperous and stable future for all Kenyans.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 Nature of Youth Engagements in Contributing to National Security in Kenya

Volunteering has become an important activity in society as it provides an opportunity for individuals to contribute to selfless acts that benefit others. In Kenya, the youth can contribute to national security by engaging in various volunteering activities that promote peace, stability, and safety in the community, such as community policing, disaster response and management, and promoting conflict resolution through dialogue and mediation. These activities not only promote national security, but also help the youth to develop important skills that can help them in their future careers. The most important details in this text are that the youth should be guided to define the purpose of why they need to volunteer in a certain program, understand the real impact of undertaking or being involved in a certain volunteering program, and develop social and emotional intelligence, conflict resolution and problem solving, articulating a vision and knowledge in their areas of interest. Additionally, the youth should be invited to highlight their distinctive elements and build their strengths in a highly competitive environment.

The youth should be invited to believe and trust the potential of the young people and develop a positive opinion towards them. Griffith and Johnson suggest that leadership within a program builds trust and supports skill development. Adults should be available and have the energy to support and work with the youth, and the community should be willing to integrate the vision of the youth, set values and a plan of action. This will infuse the community with new energy and motivate the youth to contribute. The most important details are that

community organizing groups should involve the youth to improve quality of life and bring about social change. The youth should be allowed to be independent by granting them full autonomy of their choices and decisions, and should not be forced to do anything.

5.1.2 Role of the Youth on National Security in Kenya

National security is the security of a sovereign state which encompasses its citizens, institutions therein and the economy. It is the government's responsibility to guarantee national security, which is at risk due to actions of other states, non-state actors, narcotic cartels and natural disasters. The dimensions of security in a state are economic, environmental, border security, food security, cyber security, physical security, energy security, and border security. A national security strategy is a tool that creates stable security for all nations in the world. A national security strategy is an important part of a nation's preparation for disasters and emergencies.

It links with happenings within and without the country from the international space, and incorporates the past, current forecasted security issues. States that do not have a National Security Strategy appoint a national security advisor or council to feed the head of state with national security concerns and strategic interests. Physical security involves managing physical threats through military capabilities, while critical infrastructure security involves protecting critical infrastructure from vulnerabilities such as terrorism, sabotage and contamination. Cyber security has changed the focus of critical infrastructure security, and it is important to take note of all digital threats and provide insights into the security strategy. Cyber security is the ability of a state to maintain stability and social order within its borders.

It is closely tied to national security and depends on international political institutions, diplomacy, negotiations between states, laws of war, and international law. Diplomatic efforts can help prevent conflicts from escalating and promote cooperation on issues such as trade,

security, and human rights. International law provides a framework for states to conduct military operations and resolve conflicts in a way that minimizes harm to civilians and promotes stability. Political inclusion of affected groups is also essential for maintaining political security. Economic security is determined by the state's ability to grow and sustain its national economy, which can lead to underpaying of workers and high unemployment rates.

5.1.3 Challenges of Not Engaging The Youths in National Development Activities in Kenya

Youth idleness in Kenya has increased from 17.1% in 2015 to 20.1 % in 2017. This has contributed to the growth of gang organizations like Mungiki, Chinkororo, Al-Shabaab, and others. Idleness affects the economy of Kenya, as it is the responsibility of the government to care for its citizens so that there are job opportunities. Residual unemployment is the one resulting from old age, disability, inadequate skills and poor attitude towards work. Kenyan youths are inactive because they are not employed.

The survey found that there were significant rates of young unemployment and idling in urban regions due to rural-urban migration in search of work possibilities. This has resulted in urban congestion and low employment, environmental pollution, and overcrowded infrastructure. The unemployment rate is 35-60% in the urban areas compared to 20-25% in the rural areas, with female youth being the majority. This inequality has led to increased numbers of unemployed youth, increased poverty levels, and social crimes. 22% of Kenyans control 65% of the country's wealth, implying that the money is concentrated in the hands of a few while the remainder struggles in poverty.

Wamuyu argues that the majority of today's social crises are caused by the government's failure to address citizens' socioeconomic concerns. This has resulted in a fall in foreign direct

investment, political barriers and corruption, and high levels of youth idleness and employment. Not including youth in Kenya's national development activities can have significant implications for the country's future, such as underutilization of youth potential. The underutilization of youth potential in Kenya's national development activities can lead to high levels of unemployment and social unrest, leading to increased crime rates, political instability, and other social challenges. This can lead to a widening gap between the rich and poor and undermine efforts to promote sustainable and inclusive development. Kenya needs to address youth unemployment through policies and programs that promote job creation, skills development, and entrepreneurship. Additionally, the education system should be reformed to equip young people with the skills and knowledge needed in the job market. Social unrest can arise when citizens are left behind and excluded from national development activities. Therefore, it is important for the government and other stakeholders to create opportunities for youth to participate in the country's development activities to prevent social unrest and promote national security and stability. The most important details in this text are the limitations of not including youth in Kenya's national development activities, the lack of skills and training among young people, the marginalization of marginalized youth, the lack of representation in decision-making processes and political structures, the lack of access to financing, and the decrease in productivity.

These issues can have negative effects on the economy as a whole, such as lower economic growth and reduced competitiveness. To address these issues, it is important for the government and other stakeholders to invest in education and training programs that equip young people with the skills they need to participate in national development activities. Additionally, it is important for the government and other stakeholders to prioritize the needs of marginalized youth and invest in initiatives that promote their inclusion and empowerment.

Finally, it is important for the government and other stakeholders to invest in initiatives that provide young people with access to affordable financings, such as microfinance.

The youth bulge is a global phenomenon, and Kenya is not excluded. The youth bulge has presented a lot of social challenges to the youth and the country at large. The findings above have shown that youth have faced persistent risks and challenges yet they are an asset to Kenya. Therefore, Kenya needs to develop and implement strategies and policies that mitigate the risks and challenges that the Kenyan youth are facing. Failure to deal with this challenge can result in consequences in environmental, political, critical infrastructure, energy and all dimensions of security in Kenya. Engaging the youth fully is imperative to Kenya's development process. The government and Stakeholders should analytically discuss the risks and challenges faced by the youth and come up with strategies for empowerment, education and employment.

5.2 Conclusion

In conclusion, Kenya stands at a pivotal juncture where the engagement of its youth holds the key to unlocking a future defined by security, stability, and prosperity. The recommendations provided offer a blueprint for nurturing and harnessing the potential of this vibrant generation. By ensuring increased representation, enhancing education, and fostering entrepreneurship, Kenya can harness the energy and innovation of its youth. Partnerships with youth-led organizations and positive relationships between young individuals and law enforcement are vital bridges to build. Civic engagement, advocacy, and increased access to information not only empower the youth but also enable them to actively contribute to the nation's development.

Yet, we must not underestimate the consequences of neglecting these challenges. Failing to address the unique circumstances of Kenya's youth bulge could lead to a host of issues, from social unrest to economic stagnation. The responsibility falls on the government and all stakeholders to come together, united in their commitment to implement strategies and policies that empower and engage the youth. In doing so, Kenya can transform its demographic challenge into a demographic dividend, ensuring a safer, more prosperous future for all its citizens. The path to a secure nation begins with the proactive inclusion and support of its youth in every aspect of the country's growth and development.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the challenges identified, here are some recommendations for engaging youth towards promoting national security in Kenya:

Increase Youth Representation in National Security Institutions:

Establish a clear timeline and roadmap for increasing youth representation in national security institutions, with specific targets for recruitment.

Develop a formalized application and selection process that considers factors like merit, diversity, and the unique perspective that young recruits can bring.

Institute a mentorship program within these institutions to ensure the smooth integration of youth into the workforce.

Enhance Youth Education and Training:

Develop a comprehensive national curriculum for national security education, including age-appropriate materials for different educational levels.

Establish partnerships with educational institutions and security experts to deliver specialized courses and workshops in disaster preparedness, community policing, and cyber security.

Create a certification system that recognizes the completion of national security training programs and encourages young people to participate.

Promote Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation:

Provide grants and low-interest loans to youth-led start-ups in the security and technology sectors.

Facilitate access to business development support, including mentorship and training, for young entrepreneurs.

Create innovation hubs and incubators focused on security-related solutions, offering resources, funding, and networking opportunities.

Creating Partnerships with Youth-Led Organizations:

Establish a dedicated fund for youth-led organizations working on national security initiatives, with transparent criteria for funding allocation.

Encourage regular dialogue and coordination between government agencies and youth-led organizations, involving joint projects and knowledge-sharing.

Develop an online platform where youth-led organizations can submit project proposals and interact with potential government partners.

Foster Positive Ties Between Youths and Law Enforcement:

Implement a mandatory training program for law enforcement officers on youth engagement, community relations, and de-escalation techniques.

Create a community advisory board comprising law enforcement representatives and young community members to facilitate ongoing communication and problem-solving.

Recognize and reward law enforcement officers who actively participate in community engagement and outreach activities.

Promote Civic Engagement and Advocacy:

Establish a government-sponsored youth advisory council on national security, giving young people a formal platform to voice concerns and ideas.

Organize town hall meetings and online forums where youth can discuss policy matters with elected officials and security experts.

Develop a program to provide resources and training to youth leaders interested in advocacy and community organizing.

Increase Access to Information:

Launch a national security information website and mobile app, regularly updated with relevant resources, educational materials, and real-time alerts.

Develop social media campaigns targeting young audiences to disseminate crucial security information and encourage dialogue.

Engage tech-savvy youth in creating digital content that can effectively communicate security messages to their peers.

Engage Youth in Community-Based Activities:

Fund community-based youth programs that focus on national security issues, including disaster response and preparedness, neighborhood watch, and environmental conservation.

Establish a national recognition program for outstanding youth contributions to community-based security initiatives.

Encourage schools and universities to provide academic credit for participation in community service and security-related projects.

Foster Cultural Understanding and Tolerance:

Support exchange programs and cultural immersion experiences for youth from diverse backgrounds.

Collaborate with local cultural and religious organizations to organize interfaith dialogues and cultural celebrations that foster understanding and unity.

Develop educational materials and workshops that promote diversity, inclusivity, and the appreciation of different cultural backgrounds within schools and communities.

Provide Mentoring and Role Models:

Create a formal mentorship program connecting experienced professionals in national security with young mentees.

Organize regular career fairs, workshops, and shadowing opportunities that expose youth to various career paths within the national security sector.

Offer scholarships, internships, and job placement programs to promising youth interested in national security careers.

These detailed policy recommendations and actionable steps can serve as a comprehensive guide for policymakers and stakeholders, ensuring that efforts to engage youth in promoting national security in Kenya are well-defined and effectively harnessed. It is crucial that these strategies are implemented in a coordinated and transparent manner to achieve the desired results.

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Walter Lippmann was an American writer, reporter and political commentator. With a career spanning 60 years, he is famous for being among the first to introduce the concept of Cold War, coining the term "stereotype" in the modern psychological meaning, as well as critiquing

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Appendix I: Research Questionnaire

Appendix II: Research Permit

Topic: Engagement of the youth towards promoting national security in Kenya

Appendix I: Research Questionnaire

I am Ms. Rose Chenani, a staff from the National Youth Service and studying at the National Defence University. I am conducting research in partial fulfilment of the requirement of Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategy. This research is an appraisal of the engagement of the youth towards promoting national security in Kenya

Kindly, answer the questions below to the best of your ability. Your response shall be treated with utmost confidentiality. You are free to not answer any of the questions that you are not comfortable with. Thank you in advance.

SECTION A: INTERVIEWER AND DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS

Date of the Interview

.....

Gender of the respondent

Male

Female

Age of the respondent

14 – 18 years

19-23 years

24-28 years

29-33 years

34-60 years

Level of education

Primary school

Secondary school

Tertiary / TVET College

University

Not attended school

SECTION B: Nature of Youth engagement in contributing to national security

What is your occupation?

.....

How does your work contribute towards nation building?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

SECTION B: ROLE OF THE YOUTH ON NATIONAL SECURITY IN KENYA

How does your work contribute towards national security?

.....

.....

Are you involved in youth initiatives that advocate for peace and security?

Yes

No

If yes, Name them

.....

.....

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Are you involved in youth initiatives that advocate for peace and security?

Yes

No

If yes, what economic activity are you involved in?

.....
.....

Do you consider your economic activity profitable?

Yes

No

If yes, please explain

.....
.....

SECTION D: CHALLENGES OF NOT ENGAGING THE YOUTH IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN KENYA

Are you aware of the current crimes that the youths are committing in Kenya?

Yes

No

If yes above, please choose which ones

Cyber crimes

Petty crimes e.g. mugging

Murder

Theft

Drug trafficking

Human trafficking

Others. Name them

.....
.....
.....

In your opinion, how best can the government involve the unemployed youth in nation building?

.....
.....
.....

How does your engagement in nation building promote national security?

.....
.....
.....

Thank you so much for your participation in this interview

Appendix II: Research Permit

 REPUBLIC OF KENYA	 NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION
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This is to Certify that Ms.. ROSE VUKUZA CHENANI of National Defence University, has been licensed to conduct research as per the provision of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev.2014) in Nairobi, Nakuru on the topic: ENGAGEMENT OF THE YOUTH TOWARDS PROMOTING NATIONAL SECURITY IN KENYA for the period ending : 04/January/2024.	
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