

# Entrepreneurship: Push and Pull Factors towards Youth Involvement in Radicalization Activities in Mombasa County – Kenya

Kimeu Muindi

To Link this Article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.6007/IJARBSS/v9-i11/6666>

DOI: 10.6007/IJARBSS/v9-i11/6666

*Received: 05 November 2019, Revised: 15 October 2019, Accepted: 27 November 2019*

Published Online: 30 November 2019

**In-Text Citation:** (Muindi, 2019)

**To Cite this Article:** Muindi, K. (2019). Entrepreneurship: Push and Pull Factors towards Youth Involvement in Radicalization Activities in Mombasa County – Kenya. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 9(11), 1300–1316.

**Copyright:** © 2019 The Author(s)

Published by Human Resource Management Academic Research Society ([www.hrmars.com](http://www.hrmars.com))

This article is published under the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY 4.0) license. Anyone may reproduce, distribute, translate and create derivative works of this article (for both commercial and non-commercial purposes), subject to full attribution to the original publication and authors. The full terms of this license may be seen

at: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode>

**Vol. 9, No. 11, 2019, Pg. 1300 - 1316**

<http://hrmars.com/index.php/pages/detail/IJARBSS>

JOURNAL HOMEPAGE

# Entrepreneurship: Push and Pull Factors towards Youth Involvement in Radicalization Activities in Mombasa County – Kenya

Kimeu Muindi, B.A, Msc.

Lecturer, Department of Entrepreneurship and Project Planning Management  
School of Business & Economics, Moi University – Box 3900, 03100, Eldoret – Kenya.

Email: [kmuindi@gmail.com](mailto:kmuindi@gmail.com)

## Abstract

It focused on the push and pull factors that motivate youth towards involvement in radicalization activities in Mombasa County – Kenya, especially the pull factors of entrepreneurship. Radicalization is a global phenomenon and a growing social problem in many different communities. The overall objective has established the state of radicalization interventions being undertaken in the County with the aim of enabling policy environment to effectively plan and execute youth radicalization related programs that can lead to adaptation and mitigation measures at both the National government, County government, and Civil Society organization levels. We hope the study will strengthen both levels of government and institutional capacities to effectively respond to the challenge of youth radicalization and enhancing target communities' capacity mechanisms and options in the reduction of radicalization levels. The study was undertaken in the six constituencies with representation from all the wards that make up Mombasa County.

**Keywords:** Radicalization, Entrepreneurship, Youth, Push-Pull Factors, Mombasa, Kenya

## Background

Globalized radicalization has been on the rise. Religious extremism did not manifest itself in Kenya due to the country's military intervention in Somalia since 2011 but rather or the most significant manifestation of this growing threat in post-independence East Africa can be traced back to the 1998 attacks on the US embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, which were attributed to al-Qaeda (Botha, 2014).

Although official government communication in Kenya and Tanzania advanced the claim that their respective countries had merely been used as a battleground to target the United States and its interests, most of the individuals involved in the terrorist attacks included both foreigners and locals. Due to the involvement of local agents, regional extremism has expanded, offering an insight into suggestions that the growing threat has a local/national and a regional element.

The main objective of this study is on radicalization in Mombasa County, it is critical we look into a historic analysis, the key drivers and agents of radicalization in East Africa more so Kenya. The majority of the attacks in Kenya have either come from al-Qaeda's and al-Shabaab's presence in Kenya. Al-Shabaab's roots are in Somalia (Botha, 2014); the spread and acceptance of their ideology through newly recruited converts allowed al-Shabaab, in particular, to spread throughout the shared border and into the interior of Kenya.

The highlight of their manifestation came when it successfully executed attacks in Kampala, Uganda, on 11 July 2010 and again on 21 September 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya (Botha, 2014). Afterward, there were a series of deadly attacks mainly in the coast, North Eastern Region, and Nairobi. The Westgate attack, in October 2013, was the highlight, the attack left 67 people dead and many others seriously injured. The US embassy bombing and Paradise hotel attack in Mombasa gave the extremists an international perspective with Al-Qaeda terrorist group claiming responsibility.

Kenya and the region have continued to experience further terrorist strikes resulting in multiple deaths, besides, nationals from Kenya and Uganda have been directly involved in recruiting their fellow nationals and youth to join the terrorist organization's ranks. Initially, after being radicalized, these individuals left their countries to fight in Somalia. This trend also gradually change with those locally marginalized, radicalized and recruited individuals inducted into the ranks and being used to carry out attacks inside Kenya. By turning against their fellow citizens in this way means that these radicalized individuals are identifying with something other than being Kenyan (Botha, 2014).

Alkan, (2002); Cantekin, (2006) has argued that the most important element for terrorist organizations is human resources. For instance, a terrorist group may have a very strong ideology, unlimited funding, and domestic-foreign support, but unless it has a constant supply of new converts, its existence is threatened — thus the need to keep recruiting and radicalizing the youth.

There are several factors that pull youth to radicalization, and these pull factors can be ideology (ideational) and material that are mutually reinforcing (Sobek & Braithwaite 2005). Ideational refers to a form of ideology endorsed by a particular religious belief, philosophical

perspective, or cultural beliefs. Radical ideology; refers to the introduction of violent ideas that eventually terrorist activities. Terrorist groups systematically appeal to youth vulnerability by offering various incentives like money and a false sense of the power of having the ability to cause violence.

#### Literature Review

Kenya has suffered an unprecedented and devastating wave of radicalization with the coast of Kenya, where Mombasa County is located experienced a number of these terror activities. Al-Shabaab terrorist has overtime carried out a series of bombings, kidnappings, and cross-border incursions with severe ramifications to the tourism industry (Odero, 2009). In most of these cases, it is the youth who are involved studies have shown that most terror groups gain the loyalty of young recruits through tangible inducements in the form of money, the promise of better lives, and arms (Manriech, 2011). These young people end up becoming combatants, bombers, lookouts, mules, or errand persons.

According to Stern (2011) and Charles (2015), any radicalization prevention or rehabilitation effort must be based, first and foremost, on a clear understanding of what motivates people to join terrorist movements. Accordingly, terrorist movements often arise in reaction to a perceived injustice, as a means to right some terrible wrong, real or imagined. Further, according to the author, ideology is not the only or even the most critical factor in an individual's decision to join a terrorist group, according to him, the operatives are often more interested in the expression of a collective identity. Further, the reasons some people choose to become terrorists are as varied as the reasons other people choose their professions, including market conditions, social networks, and contact with recruiters, education, and individual preferences. As a result, counter-terrorist programs need to take account—and advantage—of these variations.

According to the Change Institute (2008), terrorist cells see it as part of their job to covertly persuade the youth and other people of the legitimacy of their cause and to recruit people to their organizations. A great deal of the time of some members has historically been devoted to this area of work. Consequently, the internet, too, has a critical role to play, the activity of influential and often charismatic propagandists who have covert face-to-face contact with vulnerable people is a vital part of the radicalization process.

In a survey of 516 Guantánamo radicalization detainees, researchers at the Combating Radicalization Centre found that knowing another member of Al-Qaeda was a better predictor of who became a terrorist than believing in the idea of jihad. The survey also revealed that terrorists who claim to be motivated by religious ideology are often ignorant about the teaching of Islam. Further, a vast majority of participants did not have much formal education or proper religious instruction and had only a limited and incomplete understanding of Islam (Hamm, 2009).

According to Ilhan (2008), central to the development of any movement or group is the construction of an ideological framework. Ideology offers its believers a coherent set of ideas that provide the basis for coordinated political action, whether it is intended to preserve, modify, or overthrow the existing system of power. Precht (2007) also observes that ideology is a central factor in the radicalization process. Youth who accept and are motivated by an ideology that violence is acceptable and believe in such an ideology may not only be willing to kill but also to sacrifice their own lives. Challenging that ideology is, therefore, an essential part of a preventative counter-radicalization program.

Kenya has, over the years, become not only a terror attack target but also a significant recruiting ground as more Kenyan youth are joining the terrorist ranks motivated by factors such as the desire to revenge, re-affirm one's identity, and religious motivations (Karanja, 2011). Significantly, Kenya's counter-radicalization measures have been faced by legislative, institutional, and operational challenges (Charles, 2015). In Pakistan, 70.1% of youth believed that extremism and terrorist activities were on the rise among the youth. Further, 85.4% believed the youth of Pakistan could play a constructive role in combating growing extremism and terrorist activities in the country (Ilhan, 2008), thus the question of what attracts the youth to radical activities in Kenya?

## **Theoretical Framework**

### **Strain Theory**

Strain theory states that there are certain strains or stressors that increase the likelihood of a youth participating in crime and radicalization. The strains can lead to negative emotions, such as frustration and anger. These emotions create pressure to undertake corrective action, and crime is one possible option. Crime becomes an avenue for one to reduce or escape from the strain, seek revenge against the source of strain or related targets, or alleviate negative emotions. For instance, unemployment, youth may engage in radicalization acts, theft, or drug selling to obtain money, seek revenge against individuals who dismissed them from gainful engagements, or take illicit drugs to feel better. The strain theory describes the particular strains most likely to lead to crime, why strains increase crime and the factors that lead a person to or dissuade a person from responding to strains through crime.

General Strain Theory focuses on a broad range of strains, including the inability to achieve a variety of goals, the loss of valuable possessions, and perceived adverse treatment by others. General Strain Theory has been applied to a range of topics, including the explanation of gender, race/ethnicity, age, community, and societal differences, which may lead to an increase in radicalization and crime rates. It has also been applied to different types of crime and deviance, including corporate crime, police brutality, bullying, suicide, and radicalization.

Evidence suggests that the strains identified by General Strain Theory increase the likelihood of crime, despite the predictions of General Strain Theory about the types of people most likely to respond to these strains with a crime that have not been fully proved.

### **Prevention of Radicalization**

In address effectively with the problem of radicalization, it is essential to understand the perspective of terrorists' actions, this can allow one to design responses that address the roots causes of radicalization rather than responding to its expression in a specific, often dramatic, acts of violence (Dodd, 2009). Thus, any counter-radicalization strategy should contain a plan to prevent radicalization of the youth and stop would-be terrorists from committing further attacks while support should be provided for people at risk of radicalization (Dodd 2009).

Kundnani (2009) suggests that in dealing with radicalization more projects in education and the criminal justice system should be undertaken to enable understanding of and challenge the terrorist ideology more so when carried out in conjunction with overseas communities who are often better able than to disprove claims made by terrorist groups and to challenge terrorist and associated extremist ideologies. However, any effort geared towards curbing radicalization must not be seen to pass judgment on any faith or to suggest only a particular kind of faith as appropriate or acceptable (Precht, 2009).

According to Lerner (2012), an important direction is to promote positive youth development in developing countries through the promotion of positive outcomes. There are five components of positive youth development, which can help to create a definite sense of identity and are relevant to preventing radicalization: competence, confidence, connection, character, and caring. For instance, if one feels competent and confident one is unlikely to hold the oppositional-foreclosed personal identities common among radicalized youth; while one feels connected to the society is unlikely to feel the anger or hopelessness that draws young people to radical groups; conversely, if one feels cared for by others—including the ones not known to them one would feel comparatively less likely to engage in radical activities. Thus, it is important to introduce positive identity into communities where radicalization and terrorist grievances are prominent. By doing this Governments counter terrorists' propaganda, demystify radicalization, and correct the misperception that governments are hostile to Islam, mainly because most counter-radicalization efforts mostly target the Muslim community. This campaign can be successful through the involvement of Islamic leaders and scholars (Pillar, 2001).

### **Research Methodology**

This study was conducted in Mombasa County that falls within the greater Coast Region, which occupies the South-Western tip-off Kenya towards the border with Somalia to the West. The selection of the study area was because of it being accessible in terms of time and

resources. The fact that almost 80 percent of all terror activities and radicalization have historically been traced to Mombasa County made us choose the County.

The study was carried out in the six Sub Counties that form Mombasa County that included: Likoni, Jomvu, Kisauni, Changamwe, Nyali and Mvita.



Figure: source the Internet

### Design, Population and Instrumentation

Design: This study was conducted within a mixed-method paradigm involving the use of qualitative and quantitative approaches. The quantitative method was used to collect data on demographic information of the youth and Non-governmental organizations and details on policy framework that could be adopted to address the issue of radicalization. As Cooper and Schindler (2008) argues, a quantitative method allows for the generalization of the findings among the youth and institutions and also allows for one to conduct a framework for conducting an extensive survey. A qualitative method was used to collect data on perceived challenges and causes on radicalization through the conduct of focus group discussion involving opinion leaders based within the community. The intention of the qualitative approach was to understand the context in which particular events occurred, particularly involving radicalization

to interpret the findings accurately. This approach allows the respondents to 'tell their story,' thus availing an opportunity to probe and seek clarifications (Yin, 2009).

### **Population and Sampling**

The primary target population for the quantitative data was the youth who are primary targets of radicalization activities. The study also targeted respondents drawn from the institutions addressing themselves on the issue of radicalization, especially Non-governmental organizations involved in the mitigation of radicalization. Mombasa County was selected because of the nature of radicalization cases reported and more so because it bore the effects of terrorism more than other Counties in the Republic of Kenya.

The study adopted a stratified random sampling technique to ensure that the data collected was proportional and representative of the whole. The use of stratified random sampling is to help divide a heterogeneous population into small groups known as strata, each of which is internally homogeneous in which case a precise estimate of any stratum mean can be obtained based on a small sample from that stratum and by combining such estimates, a precise estimate for the whole population can be obtained.

Three hundred and five (305) questionnaires were administered to the youth, all six constituencies making up Mombasa County with representation from each administrative ward in each of these constituencies. Thirty-two (39) questionnaires were administered to NGO bodies working in Mombasa County and addressing themselves to the issue of radicalization; this was backed up with focus group discussion involving community leaders drawn from various cadres within the community.

### **Questionnaire Development.**

The survey instrument involved the use of a fixed-alternative questionnaire. Fixed –alternative questions facilitate ease of scoring to ensure high response rates, Koh, (1996). Such a format facilitates the coding and analysis of data. It consists of two major sections; the first one measures selected demographic variables; this was meant to develop a profile of the youth.

The second part required the youth to state as to what extent each the propositions applied to them. We presented these propositions and requested the youth to indicate their level of agreement on all propositions presented on a Likert scale ranging from strongly disagree/disagree/neither agree nor disagree/agree/strongly agree. Each set of the declarations contained one statement that was reverse-scored and placed in between to minimize response set bias and the halo effect. Previous scholars have reported high internal reliability for such measures (Rose et al. 2006; Hai & Foo 1997; Koh 1996).

### **Data Analysis**

Beyond the identification of problems, challenges, skill levels, and motivations to starting and running a business, the study sought to empirically establish the determinants of motivations to



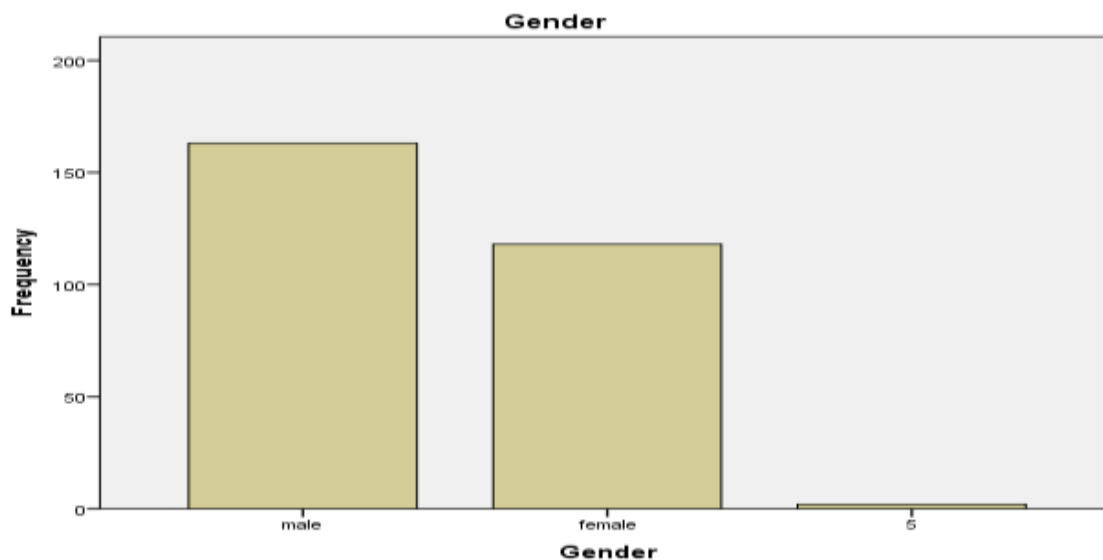
start and run a business using regression models for the selected dichotomous indicators of problems, challenges, and skills gap. Although data on growth included continuous variables, all the continuous measures were converted to dichotomous indicators owing to the skewed distribution of the data which relied mostly on respondent estimation

**Results and Findings**

This section presents the results of the study. The results are organized according to the objectives of the study and presented using tables and figures and regression models. 283 of the respondents participated in the study giving a response rate of 92.8%. This response rate is favorable (Rasmussen et al. 2014).

**Profile the Youth in Mombasa County**

About 163 representing 57.6% of that total number participating in the study were of the male gender, with about 41.7% about 118 were of the female gender, and with about 0.7% did not state they are true gender.



**Age distribution of the Youth**

The majority of the youth participating in the study were aged between 20-30 years representing 73.5%, 19.8% were found to be aged under 20 years, with 6.8% being youth aged between the ages of 31-40 years of female gender with about 0.7% did not state their true gender.

Age group		
	Frequency	Percent

Under 20	56	19.8
20-30	208	73.5
31-40	19	6.8
Total	283	100.0

### Education Levels

Majority of the youth 57.6% in the County listed Secondary school level of education as the highest, while 25.8% listed as having attained at least basic education defined as having attended at least Class 1-8. 6.0% had at least a college diploma, 4.9% were holder of at least a trade certificate, with 3.5% having university education.

Highest level of education		
	Frequency	Percent
No education	3	1.1
Basic education(class 1-8)	73	25.8
Secondary education(Form 1-4)	163	57.6
Trade school(Certificate holder)	14	4.9
College Diploma	17	6.0
University Degree	10	3.5
Professional Qualification	2	.7
Others (Please specify)	1	.4
Total	283	100.0

From the findings above from table 4.12, majority of the respondents felt that radicalization was caused by peer pressure at 15.4% while similar per cent age felt it was fueled by the rise in unemployment. Lack of consisted income, lack of opportunities, lack of role models, political and economic activities and police harassment represented a 7.7% each of the reasons why youth participate in radicalization. However, it's worth noting that some felt 3.8% that radicalization helps the youth in their personal development. 3.8% also felt anti-social behavior, like drug abuse, idleness also play an important link in the rise of radicalization.

### Regression Findings

In the context of the study, the inclination to radicalization was defined by three indicators namely; skills available, problems and challenges facing the youth and the motivations to start and run a business. The dependent variable here was the motivation to start and run a business or an enterprise.

All forty seven items were subjected to a principal component analysis with varimax rotation with Kaiser normalization (Kuckertz & Wagner 2010). All scale items had factor loadings of

between .555 to .926 and were able to load on distinct factors. In regard to propositions to deal with Problems and challenges afflicting the youth the proposition *Shouldering heavy workload* was eliminated due to cross loading see table 1a, same too applied to proposition motivation to run a business two propositions were eliminated *need for recognition and to have a family business*. While in regard to possession of entrepreneurship skills the following two propositions were eliminated *am good at efficiency in producing high quality product/services and am good at marketing strategies (promoting the products)*. Cronbach reliability test was also conducted and all elements loaded at between .864 and .909. So, we can conclude that the tool measures were appropriate to continue working with.

In table 2a,2b, and 2c exploratory factor analysis was run on the constructs that define the constructs of motivation, problem and challenges and entrepreneurial skills. The factor loadings had scale loadings of between .505 *Unattractive opportunities* measuring the problems and challenges facing the youth, and .863 Am good at enhance competitiveness in the market for motivation to do business.. The factor loadings were considered adequate Hurley et al. (1997) with a variance per centage of 41.7%, KMO .906  $\alpha$ .909 for entrepreneurship skills, 36.8%, KMO .871,  $\alpha$ .864 for problems and challenges and 39.8%, KMO .873,  $\alpha$ .869 for the depended variable motivation to do business and therefore we proceeded to conduct regression analysis.

Issues of development and growth	.674	
Discrimination from the government	.739	$\alpha$ .864
Financial constraint due to heavy over heads	.574	
Lack of confidence	.729	
Lack of skills and training in business techniques	.546	
Overloaded with family responsibilities/problems	.733	
Lack of family support	.854	
Shortage of peer support due to family poverty	.755	
Unattractive opportunities engaged in too many businesses/hustles	.505 .683	

Isolation of taking decision alone	.698	
------------------------------------	------	--

Am good at showing confidence, courage and strong will power	.615	$\alpha$ .909
Am good at Decision making Skills	.626	
Am good at leadership skills	.848	
Am good at creative thinking and problem solving	.669	
Am good at being analytical	.685	
Am good at balancing skills between personal and business life	.662	
Am good at flexibility-adopt to changes	.629	
Am good at team building and conducting meetings ably	.725	
Am good at creativity (ventures creation) and systematic	.699	
Am good at financial management to manage monthly cash flow	.751	
Am good at innovative behaviours	.700	
Am good at good strategic management and planning practices	.614	
Am good at risk taking	.560	
Am good at enhance competitiveness in the market	.863	
Am good at computer knowledge	.771	

**Table 2c Motivation to do Business**

The need to achieve personal growth	.571	Cronbach Alpha .869
Job satisfaction(sense of self-worth)	.706	
Sense of self-worth	.755	
Economic payoff	.633	
The need for flexibility	.606	
Meet family commitments	.569	
Supplementary income for the family	.691	
Presence of business opportunity	.654	

Desire/passion to put skills and knowledge to go use	.601	
Autonomy	.671	
Social and political factor in the county	.841	
Traumatic event eg. Death of parent, spouse, guardian	.826	

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

### Regression Results

This study used primary level and secondary data from published sources and actual data collected the youth and other actor in the County to analyse the problems and challenges, skill levels of the youth and the motivation of the youth in starting and running a business with a view of addressing the effect of radicalization in Mombasa County. It focuses on the extent of the existing skills set act as the drivers and barriers to youth growth and development, problems and challenges facing the youth as well as the motivations that encourage the youth into participating in productive ventures. From empirical analysis, the study establishes the determinants motivation to start and run a business from among the problems and challenges facing the youth and selected skills-set that the youth lack or otherwise.

Individual characteristics such as gender, age and levels of education were neither related to the likelihood of being motivated to start and run an entrepreneurial venture. However, you who receive training on entrepreneurship skills are more likely to start and run their businesses ( $\beta=.463$ ,  $p<.000$ ). These results suggest that, to an extent, the kind of trainings offered to a section of youth actually spurs and develop the idea that one can become highly motivated to start a business. This result providence evidence that making the promotion of entrepreneurship skills an integral component of the trainings will greatly increase the odds that the youth will see opportunities and ideas at levels that can profoundly impact growth and self-worth. From these findings, sixteen explanatory variables under entrepreneurial skills were found to bear any significant impact on motivation to start and run a business. The study therefore full accepts the Hypothesis H1 on the contribution of entrepreneurial skills to motivation to run a business. Problems and challenges that the youth variously ae faced with were significant determinants of the motivation to start and run an enterprise ( $\beta=.263$ ,  $p<.000$ ). For example, overcoming the challenge of financial constraints in running or exploiting an existing business would increase the odds that a business would either stagnate on decline at its infancy. While on the other having issues dealing with their personal development and growth would in some ways improve the chances of starting and running their business if this particular problem is addressed.

Table 3 Regression Model results

	Beta	t	Sig.	Tolerance	VIF
(Constant)		4.924	.000		
Gender	-.056	-1.183	.238	.984	1.016
Age	-.025	-.523	.602	.961	1.041
Education	.003	.057	.955	.946	1.057
ENTSKILLS	.463	8.652	.000*	.771	1.297
PBMCHALLENGES	.263	4.967	.000*	.788	1.269
R <sup>2</sup>	.388				
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	.377				

Standardised coefficients, Significant coefficients reported  $p < .000^*$

Overall, youth characteristics such as age, level of education and experience of the youth were poor determinants of the motivation to start and run an enterprise. In part, this finding is attributable to the distributions in the underlying data where most youth were largely identical along these indicators.

#### Youth Problems, Challenges, Opportunities and Skills Set

There were five major challenges found at the level the youth. These included inadequate lack of start-up capital, at 59%, issues to with development and growth of the youth at 55.5%, lack of support from social institutions such as religious bodies, both national and County government structures and other groups ranked number three at 50.2%, the youth also felt that they were engaged in too many side businesses and hustles that not necessarily profit at 45.2% and many sited financial constraints 50.8% as a major problem and challenge that the face. As a widely cited challenge, youth borrowers suffer from low loan amounts profoundly limiting their ability as entrepreneurs to expand and diversify their investments in a way that guarantees both continued growth and innovation. Similarly the bureaucratic processes often diminishes the likelihood that, the youth would follow the procedures to the end in terms of getting assistance from institutions thus being denied access to individuals who are more likely to be more knowledgeable and have the opportunity to avail timely complementary services to support growth and development of the youth. The least challenges and the problems that the youth list on a lesser scale included lack of confidence, lack of family support, and discrimination by the government. In regard to entrepreneurial skills majority did not computer literacy skills 17.3% lacked good strategic management and planning skills 15.9%, did not possess creativity and venture creation skills 15.2% team building and analytical skills possession the least at 9.2%. Five entrepreneurial skills that the youth highly possessed included confidence, courage and strong will power at 72.8%, decision making skills ranked second at 67.5%, leadership skills at 60.4% and being good at flexibility and adapting to

changes in the environment at 62.2%. In regard to the motivation and drive to run entrepreneurial business the youth listed the need to achieve personal growth as the most motivating factor at 75.6%, attaining job satisfaction was second at 64.7%, being in a position to have a supplementary income for the family was at 64.6% an indication that the youth face challenge when trying to meet family commitments and obligations. On the inverse the least motivation to start and run a business was the desire/passion to put skills and knowledge to good use at 40.1% while the need to have a family business was at 20.8%, the need for autonomy was at 30.7% meaning that most youth did not view being autonomous a credible outcome of being business.

### **Conclusions**

The main objective of this study was to investigate the attitudes of youth towards radicalization in Mombasa County. The specific objectives were to establish the reasons why some youth have a positive motivation towards radicalization in Mombasa County, to establish the reasons why some youth have a negative motivation towards radicalization in Mombasa County, establish the actual roles played by the youth in terrorist activities and establish ways of preventing/curbing youth radicalization in Mombasa County.

To address the threat of youth motivation towards radicalization in Mombasa County and the country as a whole, the government has embarked on a systematic counter-radicalization program. Using the recent major terrorist attacks in Mombasa it will attempt to answer the question as to whether or not the Kenyan government's efforts to fight radicalization are becoming more effective in reducing the terrorist threat in the country. A detailed response should reveal the strengths and weaknesses of the government's strategy and the measures it employs, to draw conclusions, and to make further recommendations on how to strengthen its education on youth involvement in radicalization and ways of eradicating the vice in the society and County at large.

From the empirical results presented here the youth continue to face numerous challenges at different levels. The main challenges at the youth level include: inadequate skills set, inadequate institutional facilitation, low access to resources and other factors of production, delays in accessing available resources and a multi layered bureaucratic structure. For organizations dealing with radicalization there is poor dissemination of information, high demand/limited scope of coverage, lack of distinct targeted projects, lack of or poor access to donor support, bureaucratic processes and limited monitoring and program reach.

### **Policy and Institutional Framework for Radicalization Programs**

- i. Build a strategic stream of awareness raising programs that are sector specific in terms of offer radicalization training modules that borrow from best practices and are uniform in nature both in content and context;

- ii. The involvement of and drawing on resources and expertise within civil society and the private sector to build resilience;
- iii. Offering research opportunities to better understand the phenomenon of radicalization in an ever evolving African cultural context;
- iv. Creation of center of learning from best practices by ensuring coordination through linking research and practice;
- v. Continuous study should be carried out to help inform future policy decisions that might affect the programs, including clear policies on area exit strategies and programs. Particularly, we recommend the carrying out of a *Willingness to pay* survey with an aim of finding out whether families and communities can have a motivation of shouldering some of the costs associated with anti-radicalization activities.

### Acknowledgement

This work would not have been possible without the guidance, advice and invaluable support of Salim Mohammed and the funding from the Ford Foundation. I also acknowledge the officers of the Mombasa County Administration, local chiefs and community leaders.

### References

- Botha, A. (2014). Radicalisation in Kenya. 2015.
- Charles, C. (2015). Factors That Motivate Youth Towards Terrorism In Mombasa County , Kenya University of Nairobi . 2015 D
- Teoh, H. Y., & Foo, S. L. (1997). Moderating effects of tolerance for ambiguity and risktaking propensity on the role conflict-perceived performance relationship: Evidence from singaporean entrepreneurs. *Journal of Business Venturing*, 12(1), pp.67–81.
- Koh, H. C. (1996). Testing hypotheses of entrepreneurial characteristics: A study of Hong Kong MBA students. *Journal of Managerial Psychology*, 11(3), pp.12–25.
- Kuckertz, A., & Wagner, M. (2010). The influence of sustainability orientation on entrepreneurial intentions — Investigating the role of business experience. *Journal of Business Venturing*, 25(5), pp.524–539.
- Linan, F. & Chen, Y. (2009). E T & P. , pp.593–617.
- Rasmussen, E., Mosey, S., & Wright, M. (2014). The influence of university departments on the evolution of entrepreneurial competencies in spin-off ventures. *Research Policy*, 43(1), pp.92–106. Available at: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S004873331300111X> [Accessed February 4, 2015].
- Rose, R. C., Kumar, N., & Yen, L. L., (2006). the Dynamics of Entrepreneurs ' Success Factors in Influencing. *Journal of Asia Entrepreneurship and Sustainability*, 11(2), p.22.
- Center on Global Counter-Radicalization Cooperation, (2007). *Discussion paper workshop on human rights and implementation of the UN global counter radicalization strategy*, (20-21 Geneva, Switzerland).
- Charity Commission. (2011). *Compliance Toolkit: protecting charities from harm*.



- (The 'compliance toolkit')*. London: Charity Commission.
- Cilliers, J., & Sturman, K. (2004) *Africa and Radicalization: Joining the Global Campaign in (July 2004)* ISS Monograph Series No. 74
- Dodd, V. (2009). *Government anti-radicalization strategy 'spies' on innocent*. The Guardian, 16 October. Available from: [www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/oct/16/anti-radicalization-strategy-spies-innocents](http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/oct/16/anti-radicalization-strategy-spies-innocents)
- H. M. Government. (2010). *De-centralization and the Localism Bill: an Essential Guide*. London: Department for Communities and Local Government. [www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1793908.pdf](http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1793908.pdf)
- Harbermas. (1985): In Flick, U. (1998). *An Introduction to Qualitative Research*: Sage Publications Ltd, London
- Hamm, M. (2009). *Prison Islam in the age of Sacred Terror*. The British Journal of Criminology.
- Homeland Security Institute. (2009). *Recruitment and Radicalisation of School Aged Youth by International terrorist groups* VA: US Department of Education
- Karanja, S. (2011). *An analysis of militant radical radicalization and counter radicalization measures in Kenya, 1985-2010* UON, Kenya
- Kundnani, A. (2009). *Spooked! How not to prevent violent extremism*. London: Institute of Race Relations. Available from: [www.irr.org.uk/pdf2/spooked.pdf](http://www.irr.org.uk/pdf2/spooked.pdf)
- Limb, N., and Dawyer, C. (2001) *Qualitative Methodologies for Geographers: Issues and Debate*: Oxford University Press Inc. Moech S. (2012). *The Threat of Radicalization*. SAGE Publications: New York
- Mutua, M. (2002). *Radicalization and Human Rights: Power, Culture and Subordination on, 8 Buffalo Human Rights Law Review* 302
- Neumann, P. (2010). *Prisons and Radicalization: Radicalization and De-radicalization in 15 Countries*. London: The International Centre for the Study of Radicalization and Political Violence. pp. 26-31
- Nthamburi, N. (2010). *Fighting terror in East Africa: less Liberty for More security? Analysis of anti-radicalization Legislation and its impact on human rights*