EVALUATION OF THE START AND IMPROVE YOUR BUSINESS YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM IN LESOTHO

TUMISANG NTLALOE

A research Report submitted to the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment, School of Architecture and Planning at the University of the Witwatersrand Johannesburg, in Partial Fulfilment of the requirements of the degree of Master of Science in Development Planning.

Johannesburg, 2011.
DECLARATION

I declare that this research report is my own original, unaided work. It is being submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the requirements of the degree of Master of Science in Development Planning to the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment, School of Architecture and Planning at the University of the Witwatersrand Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination in any other university.

Tumisang Ntlaloe

On the 31st day of March of the year 2011
DEDICATIONS

To my Parents and Kananelo and ‘Makatleho; Likhabiso and Lits’episo and Alexis and Katleho, and Mamello Ntlaloe (1971-2004).
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge my supervisor Professor Aly Karam, for the patience he showed and the guidance he gave me throughout this difficult work. My parents and everyone in my family, for the tireless support and the courage they gave me; as well as my friends and colleagues for being there for me throughout this difficult journey. I would also like to thank the SIYB program coordinators in the Ministry of Gender, Youth Sports and Recreation of Lesotho, and the former program trainees who put all their commitments aside to make time to assist me in my field work. I would not have come this far without you all. Your valuable support comes highly appreciated.
ABSTRACT

The effects of poverty remain continuous in the third world, with the youth being amongst the hardest hit groups in society. The minimal levels of skills among the youth, coupled with a very limited access to financial facilities undermine their abilities to exploit resources that may be available to them to enable them to start their businesses. While the youth should be a priority in the economic growth and poverty eradication targets of the third world states, small business development initiatives and entrepreneurship education become the best options to equip them with the necessary skills to start their own businesses that would create employment for themselves and their unemployed peers. This study evaluates the Start and Improve Your Business Youth Entrepreneurship training program implemented in Lesotho in 2007. It is anchors on a view that entrepreneurship education is a good strategy to equip the youth with the necessary skills to enable them to start their own businesses to create their own employment and that of their unemployed peers. It goes further to suggest that an effective entrepreneurship program is one that goes beyond classroom learning to emphasise action based learning, for a sustained small business sector and generation of sufficient employment prospects.
LIST OF ACRONYMS

AusAID  Australian Agency for International Development
BDS    Business Development Services
DWCP   Decent Work Country Program
EWW    Enterprise Works Worldwide
GIDEM  Entrepreneur Support Centres (Girisimci Destekleme Merkezi)
GTZ    German Technical Cooperation
GYB    Generate Your Business
ILO    International Labour Organisation
LED    Local Economic Development
MGYSR  Ministry of Gender Youth Sports and Recreation of Lesotho
MTICM  Ministry of Trade Industry, Cooperatives and Marketing of Lesotho
OECD   Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
RIDS   Rural Infrastructure Development Scheme
SAPs   Structural Adjustment Policies
SESRTCIC Social, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries
SIYB   Start Improve Your Business
SME    Small to Medium Enterprises
UNDP   United Nations Development Program
UNICEF United Nations Children’s Fund
YEP    Youth Empowerment Programs
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