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The role of NGOs in the development of technical skills among the youth in Alexandra, Johannesburg

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ABSTRACT

The failure of government to provide social services to the people has become an opportunity for the NGOs. NGOs entrance into the development arena was not to take over the work of the government but to assist the government in improving the living condition of the people. NGOs were able to develop various development programmes at grassroots level. These programmes were developed to empower the people and provide them with skills that will enable them gain employment or become self-reliant or entrepreneurial. Irrespective of the successes and failures of NGOs programme in the development arena, they are still faced with challenges of skills scarcity and unemployment.

This report is interrogating the role NGOs play in Johannesburg and Alexandra in particular. This is in the context of technical skills development. It assesses the impact of NGO's on the youth in Alexandra. Various methods are used in the gathering of data – these include written materials, case study, structured and semi-structured Interviews, in-depth Interviews, purposive sampling, focus groups, and sampling methods. We also look at various areas such as, youth attitude towards skills development, and problems faced by the NGOs in the study area. These include lack of NGO autonomy; difficulty of access; lack of finance and the rate of crime. In the end the research demonstrates that the programmes implemented by the NGOs have not had any significant impact.