

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

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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.

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## **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 31<sup>st</sup> 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**

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## **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 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
EWV	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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