



INVESTIGATING ISSUES INTERFERING WITH SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT
OF YOUTH IN KENYA: A CASE STUDY OF KENYA CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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DECLARATIONS

This thesis is my original work
and has not been presented for a degree
in any other university.



Silla O. Onyango

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This thesis is submitted
for examination with my approval
as university supervisor.



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ABSTRACT

Spiritual development of youth is one of the important aspects of any individual both at church and society. An investigation on issues interfering with spiritual development of the youth in Kenya: a case study conducted in the Kenya Central District (KCD) of the Church of the Nazarene. The youth being an integral part of the Kenya Vision 2030, a lot need to be done on them and this study captured on that.

A stratified sample method was used together with intensive focused group discussions, one on one interview, observations and questionnaires. The area of study included three counties: Nairobi city, Nyeri and Machakos, out of the forty-seven counties in Kenya which is considered as KCD according to Church of the Nazarene.

The study realized that Youth face number of issues that make them stay away, drop out of the church and at times remain lukewarm. These effects can be observed through their rebellion, disobedience, and less interaction especially at home, church and society. This makes it difficult and impossible to attain spiritual growth or any other forms of development at whatever levels in the society. The researcher has interacted with churches, youth leaders and pastors within and outside the Nazarene fraternity to identify areas that hamper spiritual development among the youth. This study established numerous challenges a contemporary youth face. They range from the personal conduct, family background, societal expectations, and pursuit of careers to socio economic factors. The study focused on areas of youth empowerment, church roles and inclusion youth vision in church agenda.

There is need for each church to consider the spiritual development of youth in order to have well balanced youth. To achieve this, the research revealed the need to consider the youth and youth needs, to be informed about current youth challenges, have typical youth model in Kenya, and discover ways to reach out, to retain and to disciple and deploy youth despite issues they currently face. The results are that there is need to execute youth curriculum, provide awareness for youth to be able to cope in dynamic world, stakeholders in youth programs to be informed so as to know how to handle youth.