

The effect of training and job creation on civic participation

Effect: NA

Confidence in study findings: Low confidence

Headline finding: Training and job creation interventions particularly those integrating life, social, and livelihood skills can build confidence and participation in community activities.

Short summary

Training and job creation, especially in the form of vocational education, business training, and support for small enterprises were effective in increasing women's empowerment outcomes. These interventions also improved financial literacy, life skills, and access to resources for the vulnerable communities. Although it may seem that they might have enabled increased civic participation, there has been not direct mention of the same

Long summary

The intervention

The interventions included Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), capacity building in life, social and livelihood skills and also combining vocational training with mentoring and peer-based learning.

How the intervention is expected to work

These interventions functioned through the increase in skills and knowledge which led to greater economic independence and access to income and cash flow. Peer groups and support networks helped the participants to gain confidence and decision-making ability, which, over the time, can enable their active participation in their communities.

The evidence base

This summary cell consists of one systematic review which consisted of 104 studies conducted in 29 fragile and conflict-affected countries. Most of the studies were randomized controlled trials; others used quasi-experimental designs. Just one study has evidence relevant to this cell.

Review evidence

The EPAG programme in Liberia used peer groups to promote skill-sharing and social capital; this encouraged classroom participation and confidence in public spaces. This approach not only enhanced participants' economic prospects but also boosted their confidence and community involvement, which may lead to increased civic participation. However, structural barriers from gender norms limited the participation of the beneficiaries.

Effect: The study does not mention any effect size, the data is narratively synthesized

Confidence assessment: The review is rated high confidence, but the cell is low confidence and evidence comes from just one study.

Source: Lwamba (2022)

Lwamba E, Shisler S, Ridlehoover W, Kupfer M, Tshabalala N, Nduku P, Langer L, Grant S, Sonnenfeld A, Anda D, Eysers J, Snilstveit B. Strengthening women's empowerment and gender equality in fragile contexts towards peaceful and inclusive societies: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Campbell Syst Rev.* 2022 Mar 8;18(1):e1214. doi: 10.1002/cl2.1214. PMID: 36913184; PMCID: PMC8904729.