

Effect of training & job creation on political security

Training and job creation programs, particularly technical and vocational education and training (TVET) interventions, show harmful effects on political interest, while evidence indicates moderate improvements in women's political representation.

Geographic region: Sub Saharan Africa, Global

Effect: Harmful effect ($g=-0.577$)

Confidence in study findings: Low (1 study with 1 effect size)

Short Summary

Training and job creation interventions programs are designed to improve economic opportunities and social mobility by providing marketable skills, entrepreneurship training, and support networks. Evidence shows mixed effects on political security: systematic review findings suggest moderate improvements in women's participation in political processes, decision-making, and support for human rights, while a quantitative study in Mozambique found harmful effects on political interest, particularly among young men. This indicates that economic interventions alone may not consistently enhance political engagement, and in some contexts, they could reduce interest in politics.

Long summary

The intervention

The interventions include TVET and employment training programs that offer skills development, entrepreneurship training, and life skills, sometimes combined with mentorship, financial literacy, or self-help groups. These programs target women and marginalized populations to enhance employability, economic empowerment, and long-term engagement in social and political life.

How the intervention is expected to work

Economic empowerment through training is theorized to increase political security by fostering participation in governance and civic life. By improving employment prospects and financial stability, individuals may be more capable of engaging in decision-making processes. For women, economic empowerment can shift gender norms, facilitating representation in governance and community leadership. Peer networks and support mechanisms within these programs may further encourage collective political action and advocacy. However, context-specific factors may limit these pathways, and in some cases, economic interventions may inadvertently reduce political interest.

The evidence base

This cell contains 1 quantitative study and 1 systematic review. The quantitative study is conducted in Mozambique.

The systematic review and meta-analysis included in this cell focused on TVET programs designed to provide individuals—especially women and marginalized groups—with marketable skills, entrepreneurship training, and access to job opportunities.

Evidence findings

The impact evaluation in Mozambique found that both religious sensitization and employment training interventions led to a decline in political interest among young Muslim men. Specifically, the religious sensitization intervention reduced political engagement by 0.44 standard deviations, while the employment training intervention decreased political interest by 0.3 standard deviations, indicating a harmful effect on political participation in this context.

The review evidence

The systematic review and meta-analysis indicate that TVET programs had a moderate positive effect on women's representation in political processes, with a mean difference of 0.28.

The impact evaluation evidence

This cell includes one impact evaluation. Thus, one summary is provided below.

Vicente (2022) evaluates the effectiveness of two interventions—a religious sensitization campaign and an entrepreneurship and employment training module—in preventing Islamic radicalization and anti-social behavior among young Muslim men in Mozambique. The study used a randomized controlled trial (RCT) in partnership with Mozambique's main Islamic authority (CISLAMO). Findings suggest that both religious sensitization and employment training interventions had a negative effect on interest in politics among young Muslim men in Mozambique. The religious intervention led to a 0.44 standard deviation decrease in political interest, while the employment training intervention resulted in a 0.3 standard deviation decrease.

Confidence Assessment:

Overall low confidence: The evidence in this cell is rated as low due to the limited number of studies.

Link to study summaries

Lwamba (2022)

All studies may be accessed via the EGM.

Other outcomes in the study:

Social cohesion / feelings of trust & acceptance of diversity