

Technical and Vocational Vouchers Program (TVVP), Kenya

Introduction:

Factors affecting the demand for vocational education is a concern across the less developed countries. There is lack of resources to ensure that the vocational education is not only aspirational but also accessible to the youth, i.e. to enhance the reach of VET.

To address this issue, the Technical and Vocational Vouchers Program was launched in western Kenya (Busia) in 2008, with an aim to increase access to vocational education by stimulating supply of vocational training through vouchers.

Intervention:

The TVVP programme was launched with 2,163 out-of-school youth in the age group 18-30 years. Half of the participants were chosen by lottery to receive voucher for vocational training. Out of those awarded the vouchers, half were chosen by lottery to receive vouchers that could be used in public institutions (restricted vouchers) and the remaining were given unrestricted vouchers that could be used in both private and public institutions (unrestricted vouchers). Value of the vouchers were sufficient to almost fully cover tuition fee.

Impact/ Learnings :

It was noted that 75 per cent of the people who received vouchers had attended vocational training compared to 4 per cent of those who did not receive the voucher; indicating that cost of accessing training is a potential barrier. The redemption rate of unrestricted vouchers was higher than that of restricted voucher (share of unrestricted voucher holders using the voucher was 10 percentage point higher compared to that of restricted voucher); indicating that more and varied options improve the chance of youth undertaking vocational training. Close to 50 per cent of the participants mentioned “proximity to home” and about 33 per cent mentioned “ability to find accommodation nearby the training centre” as reasons for selecting courses; indicating a need to have a sufficient supply of institutions to accommodate personal constraints, such as family considerations.

Therefore, unrestricted skill vouchers and large supply of public and private training institutions/ centres can increase access to vocational training, thereby aiding the aim of Skill India mission.

Source: Hicks, Joan, Michael Kremer, Isaac Mbiti, and Edward Miguel (2011) “Vocational Education Voucher Delivery and Labor Market Returns: A Randomized Evaluation among Kenyan Youth, Final Report for Spanish Impact Evaluation Fund (SIEF) Phase II. In Adams, V.A. (2013) ‘World Bank, Improving skills development in the informal sector: strategies for Sub-Saharan Africa’, World Bank Group E-library