

Exploring the Role of Youth Initiatives in State Re-Building: Case Study of Mogadishu, Somalia

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Abstract

This paper explores into the significant role of youth initiatives in state rebuilding in Mogadishu, Somalia. As the state grapples with the aftermath of conflict and political instability, youth-led programs have emerged as a major force for positive change. Through a combination of qualitative and quantitative interviews, focus group discussions, and observations, this research sheds light on how these initiatives promote community engagement and social cohesion, and empower young people to play an active role in governance and state rebuilding. The findings of the study reveal that 49.4% of youth-led initiatives promote social cohesion and innovation, while 58.0% enhance public participation. However, 50.6% of youth face political marginalization, and 39.5% encounter financial constraints. Additionally, 44.4% experience security concerns, and 43.2% report issues with innovation theft. Looking ahead, 51.9% of youth-led initiatives require increased support from government and NGOs. The study recommends that government, NGOs, and private entities create safe and sound environment for youth to engage and contribute for the governance and state rebuilding efforts.

Keywords: Youth initiatives, state re-building, community engagement, Mogadishu, Somalia.

Introduction

This paper explores how youth-led initiatives in Mogadishu are playing a critical role in rebuilding the state. By focusing on areas where young people have made a significant difference such as, entrepreneurship, public participation in governance, and state re-building efforts. the

study brings to life the powerful impact of youth involvement Through personal stories and in-depth accounts. The paper highlights the transformative potential of youth engagement, showing how these young leaders are shaping the future of Mogadishu despite facing numerous challenges. From limited access to resources and political exclusion to ongoing security risks, Mogadishu's youth navigate complex obstacles with resilience and determination.(Bank & Nations, 2018) The study also sheds light on the innovative strategies these young people and their organizations use to overcome these hurdles, demonstrating their adaptability and collective strength.(Mithani, 2020) Ultimately, the contribution of Mogadishu's youth to state reconstruction serves as a testament to the power of collective action.(Mohamed, 2014) The study contributes to the knowledge of youth population and equipping essential skills. In addition, it illuminating the modern-day contributions made by young people in Mogadishu.

1. Background of the study

Youth-led initiatives refer to projects, programs, or movements that are led, organized, and driven primarily by young people. These initiatives are characterized by the active involvement and decision-making power of youth in identifying issues, designing solutions, and implementing strategies to address them. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), "Youth-led initiatives are programs, projects, and movements that are designed, led, and implemented by young people themselves, with support from adults and/or institutions as needed." (UNDP, 2018) The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) further emphasizes that youth-led initiatives "provide young people with the opportunity to take an active role in the

development of their communities, to gain experience and skills, and to have a voice in decision-making processes that affect their lives." (UNESCO, 2017) Therefore, youth-led Initiative is an idea from the youth and implemented into action. these ideas related to diverse aspects such as; Initiative for creating youth-led organizations on political matters, Environment and climate change, as well as technology, education and human development. In the context of Somalia, there are many organization and institutions Initiated by local youth, these organizations mostly focus on social affairs, education, and business as well as environment and climate change issues. (Chang et al., 2022). The emerging those multi-sector organizations are the symbol that youth are playing crucial role on reconstruction of the country and development of the society (Policy, 2015).

2. Research Gap

The study aims to fill significant gaps in the existing literature regarding youth-led initiatives in Mogadishu. While previous literature has acknowledged the transformative potential of youth participation, there is a notable lack of empirical studies that specifically examine the unique challenges faced by youth in post-conflict context. Additionally, the literature has not exhaustively explored the innovative strategies employed by youth-led initiatives in overcoming these challenges. By addressing these overlooked areas, this study contributes valuable insights into the dynamics of youth engagement in Mogadishu, offering a more nuanced understanding of their roles in fostering social cohesion and innovation. This research positions itself as a critical addition to the body of knowledge on youth involvement in governance and state-rebuilding efforts in post-conflict context.

3. Statement of the problem

Young people in Somalia have made significant contributions to state rebuilding; however, they encounter numerous obstacles that impede their participation in nation-building activities. These challenges stem from both socio-economic and political factors. Politically, the fragility of Somalia's government results in a lack of effective administration overseeing youth affairs, which

severely limits support for youth-led initiatives, including organizations and business enterprises. This study aims to examine how this absence of government backing hinders the implementation of innovative ideas by young people. Socio-economically, financial constraints often prevent youth from realizing their creative potential, making it crucial to explore the funding challenges faced by youth initiatives in Mogadishu.

4. Challenges Faced by Youth in Mogadishu.

In addition to political and financial hurdles, young people in Mogadishu grapple with limited access to quality education, primarily due to damaged infrastructure and insufficient resources. Many schools operate in insecure environments, deterring attendance and contributing to high dropout rates. The high unemployment rate, with estimates indicating that over 60% of youth lack meaningful work, exacerbates this issue, fostering a sense of hopelessness and disengagement. Consequently, some young individuals resort to informal or dangerous employment, perpetuating cycles of poverty and violence. Security concerns, driven by ongoing conflicts, expose youth to violence and exploitation, stifling initiatives aimed at empowering them. The lack of institutional support further complicates matters, as existing programs often fail to meet the specific needs of young people, leaving many initiatives underfunded and unsupported.

Moreover, youth-led initiatives face the risk of having their ideas stolen when approaching larger companies for investment, which adds another layer of complexity to their challenges. This article will address these interconnected issues in detail, shedding light on the various barriers faced by young people in Mogadishu and highlighting the urgent need for targeted interventions to support their contributions to society.

5. The Objectives

- The study examines the role of youth-led initiatives in promoting peacebuilding, entrepreneurship, and technological innovation in Mogadishu.

6. Research questions

The study aims to respond the following research questions.

1. How youth-led initiatives contribute to state rebuilding in Mogadishu.
2. What are the key challenges faced by youth led initiatives and how they overcome?
3. What are the pivotal achievements and future implications of youth-led initiatives?

Literature review

This study relates to the previous study of the role of youth-led initiatives in state re-building in Mogadishu Somalia, in this paper the researchers will focus on specific selective objectives. the paper focuses on the role of youth initiatives in state rebuilding. Also, the paper discusses the recent contributions of youth to contributions of youth in peace building programs on state reconstruction in Somalia. Literature review will be considered wholly no specific area will be focused on.

1. General concept of youth-led initiatives

Since there is no universal definition of the youth. "Youths" is traditionally defined as a period of transition from childhood to adulthood; the countries of the world are different in the age considered youth, for instance, from a policy angle. America recognizes youth the age under twenty-five years; in Africa, the African Youths Report 2009, "youths" are defined as people between 15 and 39 years of age.(Odoh & Innocent, 2014). However, Somalia's Ministry of Youth and Sports approved that youth might be defined as those between the ages of 15 and 40 in its National Youth Policy.

Furthermore, the Population Estimation Survey for Somalia (PESS), conducted from October 2013 to March 2014, indicates a youthful population of the country's 12.3 percent total population, 45.6% were under the age of 15, and 81% were under the age of 35.(NYP, 2017) On the other hand, Youth-Led Initiatives are projects and programs designed, created, and implemented primarily by young people.(Mateos-Blanco et al., 2022) These initiatives encourage young people to take an active role in tackling difficulties in their

communities, frequently using novel ways to problem solving and community engagement.(Abagun, 2021)

2. Theoretical Framework

The social capital theory emphasizes the value of social networks and relationships in facilitating cooperation and collective action. In the context of youth-led initiatives, social capital theory can help explain how young people build networks, engage in community activities, and influence decision-making processes. By fostering trust and collaboration among peers, youth can effectively mobilize resources and advocate for their interests in state rebuilding efforts. Youth Empowerment frameworks focus on equipping young people with the skills, knowledge, and confidence necessary to participate meaningfully in civic life. Empowerment approaches emphasize the importance of education, mentorship, and access to resources in enabling youth to take an active role in decision-making and community development. By incorporating these frameworks, the study can explore how empowering youth influences their capacity to contribute to state rebuilding and the sustainability of their initiatives.

3. Youth Participation in state rebuilding

Youth participation refers to the active engagement of young people in civic, social, economic, and environmental activities. (Checkoway, 2011) This participation takes various forms, including volunteering, advocacy, and involvement in governance processes. Participation is a field of practice and subject of study that includes initiatives involving young people in areas of education and social activities.(Asia & Asia, 2020) Studies have shown that engaging youth in these activities leads to personal development, increased skills and greater awareness of social issues.(Iwasaki, 2016).

4. Youth and post-war initiatives in state rebuilding

In conflict and post-conflict situations, youth constitute a reservoir of energy. Some young people either choose to engage in combat or find

themselves compelled into a violent life. Others are able to work to improve their communities, contribute to peacebuilding, reconciliation, and reconstruction, and become invested in their countries' future peace. (Release, 2010) These positive participations can be defined as situations where children think for themselves, express their views effectively, and are interactive in a positive way with their communities. (Nur et al., 2017) It means involving children in decisions that affect their lives, the lives of their communities, and the larger society in which they live. (Woods, 2011) Agents of Change uses three cases of post-conflict reconstruction—Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Kosovo—to explore how youth affect the post-conflict reconstruction process and how domestic policy, NGO programming, international interventions, and cultural contexts may change that role. The hypotheses drawn from these comparisons will be useful both in guiding future research on youth's role in post-conflict reconstruction and in helping reconstruction actors facilitate the youth population's transition from war to peace. (Schwartz, 2010)

5. Post-Conflict Case Studies in Africa

Rwanda post-genocide in 1994, Rwanda has made significant strides in rebuilding its society, and youth have played a pivotal role in this transformation. Initiatives such as the National Youth Council and various youth-led organizations have empowered young Rwandans to participate actively in governance and community development (Jacquemin, 2022). The Rwandan government has recognized the importance of involving youth in the reconciliation process and nation-building, promoting programs that enhance skills, education, and civic engagement (Gierszewska & Sinining, 2023). Analyzing these initiatives can provide valuable insights into how youth can contribute to state rebuilding efforts and the challenges they face in navigating post-conflict landscapes.

Liberia: In the aftermath of a protracted civil war, Liberia has also witnessed a rise in youth-led initiatives aimed at fostering peace and rebuilding the nation. Organizations like the Young Women's

Christian Association (YWCA) have mobilized young people to advocate for social justice, gender equality, and community development (Morlue, 2013). The involvement of youth in grassroots movements has been instrumental in addressing issues such as education, health, and economic opportunity (Union, 2020). Examining the successes and challenges of these initiatives can highlight effective strategies for youth engagement in post-conflict recovery and the importance of addressing the unique needs of young people in state-rebuilding efforts (Barakat et al., 2013).

Although, youth-led initiatives play a significant role in state-rebuilding efforts in many countries of the world such as Rwanda, Liberia and Somalia especially in Mogadishu, there is study quest to cover a literature gap relates to this study. However, this paper contributes over this gap and determine the role of youth-led initiative and participation in state rebuilding in Mogadishu Somalia.

Methodology

During this study, mixed-method approaches were employed to comprehensively explore the research questions. The study combined both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods to provide comprehensive analyses through interviews and an online survey to gather quantitative data. utilizing a structured questionnaire collected from a sample size of 81 participants, the survey was designed to capture key variables relevant to the research objectives and was analyzed using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). Additionally, in-depth interviews were conducted with a subset of leaders of youth-led initiatives based in Mogadishu to gain qualitative insights, allowing for a deeper understanding of the quantitative findings. The combination of these methods facilitated triangulation, enhancing the reliability and validity of the results.

1. Sampling Strategy

Participants were chosen based on their involvement in youth-led initiatives and their

ability to provide insights into the role of youth in state rebuilding. Criteria may include active participation in community projects, leadership roles in organizations, and experience in advocacy or civic engagement. The study utilized purposive sampling to ensure that participants had relevant experience and knowledge. This method allowed the researchers to target individuals who could offer valuable perspectives on the subject matter, thus enriching the data collected. The study aimed to include a diverse range of participants, considering factors such as age, gender, and geographical location. This diversity is essential to capture a comprehensive view of youth-led initiatives and their varying impacts across different contexts.

2. Ethical Considerations

Prior to participation, all individuals were provided with detailed information about the study's objectives, procedures, and potential risks. Informed consent was obtained from each participant, ensuring that they understood their rights to withdraw at any time without penalty. The researchers implemented measures to

protect the confidentiality of participants. Personal identifiers were removed from data records, and all information was stored securely. Participants were assured that their responses would be used solely for research purposes and reported in aggregate form to maintain anonymity.

In this study, the authors will present data using quantitative data which means to present tables and frequencies using statistical data analysis tool SPSS to make data easily understandable. Data from both the survey and interview was analyzed sequentially, with the quantitative findings informing the qualitative elaboration, therefore providing a holistic view of the research problem.

Results and Analyses

In this section, we discussed and analysed the data that we have collected through an online survey we have conducted with 81 respondents from different angles of youth members in Mogadishu. We used a descriptive statistical tool to analyse the data, and we have focused on our research questions that are based on our data.

1. Involvements of youth-led initiatives

Table 4.1 Involvements of youth-led initiatives

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Participant member	44	54.3
	Leader of organization	20	24.7
	Volunteer member	17	21.0
	Total	81	100.0

This table presents the sample size of the respondents, which is 81, and their role in youth-led initiatives. Participant members are the highest group, making up 54.3% of the

respondents, followed by the leaders of the organizations, who represent 24.7%, and volunteer members in youth-led organizations, for 21.0% of the total responden

2. Descriptive statistics of Contributions of Youth-led Initiatives on state rebuilding.

Table 4.2 Descriptive statistics of Contributions of Youth-led Initiatives on state rebuilding and social development

Indicator	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Youth-led initiatives positively contribute to the state rebuilding.	40 49.4%	37 45.7%	4 4.9%	4 4.9%

Indicator	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Youth-led initiatives have improved governance and public participation	10 12.3%	47 58.0%	13 16.0%	11 13.6%
Youth-led programs effectively promote peace-building efforts in the community.	37 45.7%	38 46.9%	3 3.7%	3 3.7%
Participation in youth-led initiatives has led to the acquisition of modern technology-related skills among young people	58 59.3%	27 33.3	6 7.4%	6 7.4%

The data in the table shows that a majority of participants 45.7% agreeing and 49.4% strongly agreeing believe that Youth-led initiatives make positive contributions to state rebuilding. Additionally, 58.0% of participants believe that Youth-led initiatives have improved governance and public participation, with 12.3% strongly

agreeing. Furthermore, 45.7% strongly agree and 46.9% agree that Youth-led programs effectively promote peace-building efforts in the community. It's also noteworthy that 59.3% strongly believe that youth-led initiatives have led to the acquisition of modern technology-related skills among young people

3. Descriptive Statistics on Challenges Faced by Youth-led Initiatives

Table 4.3 Descriptive statistics on Challenges Faced by Youth-led Initiatives

Indicator	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Limited access to financial resources is a significant challenge for youth-led initiatives	32 39.5%	28 34.6%	6 7.4%	14 17.3%
Political marginalization affects the ability of youth-led initiatives to impact governance.	22 27.2%	41 50.6%	9 11.1%	9 11.1%
Security concerns limit the effectiveness of youth-led initiatives	28 34.6%	36 44.4%	7 8.6%	10 12.3%
There is a risk of having innovative ideas stolen when seeking support from larger companies.	24 29.6%	35 43.2%	17 21.0%	5 6.2%

According to the table, 39.5% of the respondents strongly agree that youth-led initiatives face significant financial challenges, while 34.6% agree with this statement. On the other hand, 7.4% disagree and 17.3% strongly disagree. Furthermore, the majority (50.6%) of respondents agree that political marginalization affects the ability of youth-led initiatives to impact

governance, with 27.2% strongly agreeing with this challenge. Conversely, 27.2% of respondents disagree, and 11.1% strongly disagree. Moreover, 44.4% strongly agreed that security concerns limited the effectiveness of youth-led initiatives. Additionally, 43.2% of the respondents claimed there is a risk of having innovative ideas stolen.

4. Descriptive statistics of Future Implications and Achievements on youth-led initiatives

Table 4.4 Descriptive statistics of Future Implications and Achievements on youth-led initiatives

Indicator	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Youth-led initiatives have made significant achievements in state reconstruction and development.	17 21.0%	39 48.1%	14 17.3%	11 13.6%
The involvement of youth in decision-making processes is crucial for the sustainable development	25 30.9%	35 43.2%	11 13.6%	10 12.3%
There is potential for increased collaboration between youth-led initiatives and government institutions for future developments.	21 25.9%	40 49.4%	13 16.0%	7 8.9%
More youth-led initiatives should be encouraged and supported to lead societal change.	28 34.6%	42 51.9%	5 6.2%	6 7.4%
Youth are vital contributors to the future peace and stability of Somalia.	52 64.2%	24 29.6%	5 6.2%	11 10.7%

In the table, a significant number of respondents agree that youth-led initiatives have made significant achievements in state reconstruction and development, with 48.1% expressing agreement and 21.0% strongly agreeing. Additionally, 43.2% of respondents agreed that the involvement of youth in decision-making processes is crucial for sustainable development, and 30.9% strongly agreed. A vast majority of respondents stated that youth-led initiatives should be encouraged and supported to lead societal change, with 51.9% in agreement and a notable 64.2% strongly agreeing that youth are vital contributors to the future peace and stability of Somalia.

On the other hand, during our research paper we have conducted in-depth interviews and data collection with different youth-led innovations, such as Irise Hub, which is one of the youth-led initiatives that have been established throughout state-rebuilding. Irise Hub has successfully trained over 3,400 young innovators, who have played a significant role in nation-building and community development. In a special interview with the General Manager of Irise Hub, we received comprehensive insights into the reasons

for establishing the center and the activities it has undertaken over the past seven years.

The center, which comprises several divisions that perform various functions, for example, Rise Academy is a dedicated institution that provides training for young entrepreneurs focused on small business innovation. Additionally, it offers courses in digital skills to enhance the innovative ideas of youth. Another significant component is the Minbar Initiative, which is designed to connect young people with government leaders and international organizations through organizing forums for discussing ideas related to nation-building, thereby playing a crucial role in raising awareness among youth about state-rebuilding and promoting good governance.

Despite Irise Hub, we had the opportunity to interview the CEO of the Alamtara Initiative, which is also a recently established center aimed at empowering innovative youth. This initiative has provided training and equipped numerous young individuals with essential skills, equipping them with various skills. Additionally, it has organized networking events that brought together several entrepreneurs and over 600 young participants, where they presented their

diverse perspectives on topics related to digital media, small business ideas, and volunteer activities.

As the managers highlighted, young innovators face several challenges, the most pressing ones include financial constraints, a lack of governmental legal frameworks that support new youth initiatives, insufficient business training opportunities, and a lack of commitment to turn their ideas into action.

We also had an exclusive interview with Mr. Ahmed Jubba, the director of Galka Nabadda, a non-profit organization that advocates for peace and conflict resolution, established 4 years from now, the organization has held several trainings for peace building, meditation and negotiation through in person and different several social media platforms trained for 200 youths equipping these significant skills.

Ahmed emphasized that promoting peace in Somalia is an uphill battle. However, he noted that through dedication and innovative approaches, Galka Nabadda has become a beacon of hope. He explained that the organization's youth-led initiatives focus on empowering young people with skills in mediation, negotiation, and conflict resolution to establish lasting peace.

Ahmed highlighted that a pivotal moment in their peace-building journey was their reconciliation mission in Warsheikh, a region in Middle Shebelle torn apart by clan conflicts among people who were, ironically, brothers and sisters. He described Warsheikh as a once-thriving district that had become a battleground for local clans. Decades of tension, amplified by resource disputes and mistrust, had escalated into violence. The fighting had disrupted lives, leading to school closures, youth joining rival factions, and families being displaced. According to Ahmed, this was not just a community divided by disputes but one destroying itself from within. He shared that Galka Nabadda could not stand by and watch the devastation and understood that reconciliation in Warsheikh would not only bring peace to the region but also inspire hope across Somalia.

Ahmed explained that with this vision in mind, the organization assembled a team of young mediators and peace-builders to address the root causes of the conflict and chart a path to sustainable peace. He recounted how their arrival in Warsheikh was met with hostility and suspicion, as the wounds of conflict ran deep and trust was scarce. However, their team had come prepared with a strategy rooted in dialogue, inclusivity, and cultural sensitivity. The first step was gaining the trust of the community by meeting clan elders, religious leaders, and local influencers, listening to their grievances, concerns, and hopes. These conversations revealed that most of the conflict stemmed from misunderstandings and competition over scarce resources, such as water and grazing land.

Ahmed mentioned that youth were not only primary participants in the fighting but also the ones most affected by it. To address this, Galka Nabadda organized focus group discussions with young people from opposing factions, encouraging them to share their experiences and perspectives. Many expressed frustrations over unemployment, lack of education, and a sense of hopelessness that had driven them to violence. With the support of community leaders, the organization convened a series of peace dialogues, bringing members from rival clans together to discuss their grievances in a safe and neutral environment. Through structured mediation techniques, the parties identified common ground and agreed on resolutions to their disputes. After weeks of effort, an agreement was signed, committing the clans to end hostilities, resolve disputes through dialogue, and collaborate on community development initiatives.

Ahmed stated that achieving a peace agreement was a significant milestone, but sustaining it required addressing the underlying issues fueling the conflict. The organization shifted its focus to education and empowerment, particularly addressing the high rate of illiteracy among youth. Schools were opened to provide literacy and numeracy skills, along with peace education that taught tolerance, cooperation, and conflict resolution more than 50 youths.

Recognizing unemployment as a key driver of youth involvement in violence, Galka Nabadda collaborated with local businesses and international organizations to launch vocational training programs. These programs equipped young people with skills in carpentry, tailoring, and agriculture, empowering them to build sustainable livelihoods.

Ahmed also shared that to further strengthen bonds within the community, the organization organized sports tournaments and cultural events, bringing people from rival clans together. Football matches, poetry sessions, and traditional dances became platforms for healing and unity, breaking down barriers of mistrust. He expressed pride in the transformation of Warsheikh, describing how former adversaries now work together to build their community, schools are filled with eager learners, and young people who once wielded weapons now wield tools of trade.

Ahmed concluded by reflecting on the valuable lessons learned from this experience, emphasizing the power of youth-led initiatives in peace building, the importance of addressing root causes, fostering dialogue, and investing in education and economic empowerment. He stated that while the journey in Warsheikh is far from over, it has set a powerful precedent for peace-building efforts across Somalia. He reaffirmed Galka Nabadda's commitment to empowering youth to become agents of change, transforming conflict into cooperation and despair into hope. According to him, Warsheikh's story demonstrates that with determination, collaboration, and compassion, even the most divided communities can come together to build a brighter future.

Discussions

The findings from results and analyses section, reveals key insights into the youth involvement on state re-building, as the table 4.2 highlights significant insights regarding youth involvement. Notably, 49.4% of respondents strongly agree that youth positively contribute to social development, indicating a strong recognition of their impact in this area. Furthermore, the findings reveal that youth-led initiatives have facilitated the acquisition of modern technology-related skills

among young people, with 59.3% of respondents expressing strong agreement on this matter. These results underscore the critical role of youth in both social development and the enhancement of technological skills, reflecting their potential as agents of change in society.

In addition, table 4.3 explores the challenges faced by youth initiatives. Limited access to financial resources is a significant challenge, with 39.5% of the respondents strongly agreeing. There are also security concerns that hinder the effectiveness of youth-led initiatives, with 34.6% of the respondents strongly agreeing. In table 4.4, it is shown that there is potential for increased collaboration between youth and government institutions for future developments, with 49.4% in agreement. Additionally, 51.9% agree that the hard work and efforts of youths in state rebuilding and societal development should be encouraged and supported to lead to social change.

Despite numerous challenges and limitations facing youths in Mogadishu, there are recent contributions made by youth on state rebuilding, as indicated in the findings of this paper; moreover, during this research we recognized that there is a research gap and limited data available in this research area on youths' recent contributions on state rebuilding and societal development, so there is a need for further researchers to look at this sector.

Comparison with Existing Literature

The outcomes of this study reveal both alignments and contradictions with existing research on youth participation in post-conflict settings. Many studies emphasize that youth often face significant challenges in their efforts to contribute to state rebuilding, including socio-economic barriers, lack of access to resources, and political marginalization. For instance, research in countries like Rwanda and Liberia has documented similar obstacles, such as limited opportunities for meaningful engagement and the struggle against entrenched political structures that often overlook youth voices.

In Mogadishu, the study found that young people encounter unique challenges related to ongoing insecurity and instability, which may differ from

those experienced in other post-conflict regions. While common themes of disillusionment and frustration are evident across contexts, the Somali youth's experiences are particularly shaped by the complex interplay of clan dynamics and persistent violence. This aspect underscores a distinctive socio-political landscape that influences youth agency and participation in rebuilding efforts.

Likewise, the study highlights the innovative strategies employed by young people in Mogadishu, such as grassroots activism and community-based initiatives, which reflect findings from other literature that emphasizes the resourcefulness of youth in adverse conditions. For example, similar studies in post-conflict nations have documented how youth leverage social media and local networks to mobilize support and foster community resilience. However, the degree of success and recognition of these initiatives in Mogadishu appears to be tempered by local governance issues, which is a contrast to more supportive environments documented elsewhere.

Conclusion

The research highlights the significant role of youth initiatives in state reconstruction in Mogadishu. Key findings reveal a high level of contributions by youth to state reconstructions. A substantial majority of participants recognized the positive impact these initiatives have, especially in improving governance, promoting peace and equipping young people with modern skills. Despite facing challenges such as limited financial resources, political marginalization and security concerns, the sentiment remains optimistic regarding the potential for further collaboration between youth-led initiatives and governmental bodies.

Furthermore, the paper highlights a strong support for the continued encouragement of youth involvement in decision-making processes, underscoring the belief that young people are essential for the future stability and prosperity of the community, particularly in Somalia.

Policy Recommendations

The options, priorities and recommendations of respondents in this study provide a comprehensive approach for promoting the contribution of youth in Somalia's state rebuilding, the recommendations suggested by the participants focus on the main areas where policy makers and youth leaders should focus on.

1. Firstly, to empower the youth, the government, along with NGOs and private entities, should focus on creating safe and dynamic spaces where young people can grow, connect, and contribute, establishing youth centers throughout the city would provide crucial hubs for mentorships, networking, and skill development. These centers would serve as places where young people can collaborate, share ideas, and develop projects that have the potential to positively impact their communities. By fostering these spaces, youth would also gain exposure to local and international opportunities that could shape their future.
2. In addition, the government should establish a national fund dedicated to supporting youth-led initiatives. this fund could provide financial backing through grants or low-interest loans to innovative projects that promote entrepreneurship, technological advancement, societal development, and peacebuilding, by making these resources accessible, the government should empower young people to bring their ideas to life and actively contribute to the growth and stability of the nation.
3. Lastly, it is vital to ensure that young people have a real action in shaping the policies that affect them. creating formal mechanisms for youth representation at all levels of government, such as a national youth council, would give them a seat at the table. This council would act as a bridge between young people and policymakers, ensuring their voices are heard and their perspectives considered in the development of programs and policies that directly impact them, by including youth in decision-making processes, the government would recognize the essential role they play in shaping Somalia's future.

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