



YOUTH4 INTEGRITY BUILDING

Youth Dialogue

Enhancing Human Rights Advocacy: Exploring Youth Civic Engagement and Participation.

Civic engagement refers to the active involvement of individuals in their communities and society through various forms of participation, such as voting, volunteering, advocacy, and community organizing. It involves taking action to address social issues, promote positive change, and contribute to the common good. Civic participation, on the other hand, refers to the act of participating in civic engagement activities and playing an active role in shaping the decisions and policies that affect one's community and society as a whole. In Kenya, specifically in Kilifi County, it is essential for youth to participate in civic engagement to ensure accountability and influence policy decisions that affect their lives. But there is an observation; for the past ten years, youth engagement and participation has not been active. Youth has a responsibility to understand this process helps in addressing issues of public concern, actively protecting public values, and making desirable positive change in a community.

The upcoming dialogue on youth civic engagement and participation aims to educate young people on the importance of being civically engaged and active in their communities. By understanding civic participation, youth can promote social justice, strengthen democracy, and contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. On an interesting note, democracy depends upon citizen participation. For instance, when people are politically engaged, they hold their elected officials accountable and can influence policy decisions that shape their lives. Additionally, The importance of advocating for human rights in quality education and civic participation is underlined by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A rights-based approach aligns with SDG4 Quality Education and SDG16 Building strong and just institutions. Addressing quality education within a human rights framework contributes to building inclusive societies and achieving broader development objectives.

This dialogue will play a pivotal role in advocating for human rights and fostering civic empowerment. The conversations will delve deep into the presence and lack of active youth participation in civic processes by assessing the current level of engagement, identifying challenges, and providing recommendations for greater awareness and involvement. The goal is to empower youth to take a more active role in shaping their communities and advocating for their rights. By emphasizing the importance of a youth in engaging and participating in civic rights, we shall be reinforcing our civic mandate according to the constitution of Kenya 2010.

Justification:

According to A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN CIVIC AND ELECTORAL PROCESSES FOR Kenya supported by UN, Fewer youths are aware of the institutions through which they could advance development and rights issues regarding their civic participation across the three countries. in Kenya, and 36% were able to identify institutions for advancing civic participation in their respective countries. 2.4 Youth awareness of institutions and responsibilities in civic processes Across the countries, institutions identified include government ministries and structures as well as civil society organizations, including local community structures. However, the statics presented indicate that the

majority of the youth across the countries remain without knowledge of these institutions thereby compromising their participation in civic processes. Study findings show low levels of youth participation in development processes, The results also reveal that youth participation is lowest in project monitoring and evaluation across the county signifying low interest by the youth to hold community leaders accountable in the implementation of community development projects.

Objectives:

- To assess the level of youth participation and engagement in electoral processes, policy development, and governance in Kilifi-Kenya
- To establish challenges that hinder youth participation across Kilifi County
- To proffer recommendations for greater awareness and participation of youth in civic processes in Kilifi-Kenya.
- To find ways of creating champions for youth civic rights participation who will collaborate with local government departments to promote youth involvement.

Purpose of the dialogue:

The dialogue is looking to get authentic views, thoughts, and opinions from engaged youth on the root causes of why youth are or are not participating in their civic rights, social development starting from the ward level, county level, to national participation. At the end of the dialogue, participants will develop a road map of sustainable recommendation to enhance civic engagement and participation among the youth. There will be formation of champions for youth civic rights participation which will work close with the County Department of Monitoring, Planning and Public participation.

Expected Outcomes:

- Increased Awareness and Knowledge sharing: participants will gain a deeper understanding of the significance on Civic participation and engagement.
- Formation of civic engagement and public participation champions to work close with the youth in the community and enhance youth participation on their civic rights.
- Developing an effective and sustainable roadmap for enhancing youth participation in civic processes.

Target Audience:

- a. Youth leaders
- b. Boda Boda representative
- c. Youth in politics
- d. Youth with disability
- e. Youth representative national government
- f. Youth representative County government
- g. Youth in CSOs
- h. Youth representative in religion

Conclusion

By fostering dialogue and collaboration, we aim to empower youth to actively engage in civic processes, advocate for their rights, and contribute to building inclusive and democratic societies.