

URBAN UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE PHENOMENA OF 'FEMINIZATION OF MANUAL LABOUR' AT THE KENYAN COAST: THE CASE OF KILIFI COUNTY, KENYA

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ABSTRACT

Recently there has been much discussion, in both academic and development policy circles, of urban youth unemployment. However, there is little clarity about its link to feminization of manual labour, or about whether such a trend can be empirically verified. The main objective of the study will be to identify analyse the concept of feminization of manual labour at the Kenyan coast. Specifically the study will establish the causes of increased feminization of manual labour at the Kenyan coast and to understand how women perceive manual labour at the Kenyan coast. Results of the study will widen understanding on urban youth unemployment and the phenomena of feminization of manual labour at the Kenyan coast. The research type will be in qualitative form to enable in investigating the reasons for feminization of manual labour. The unit of analysis will constitute females working in construction sites in Kilifi County. Purposive and convenience sampling procedures were used to gather together 6 to 12 people with a moderator for focus group discussion. Using the focus group discussion research technique, the respondents were informally "interviewed" in a group-discussion setting. Data was analysed

using content analysis. The study found that women do manual work as a result of both social and economic factors.

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