

# EVENT REPORT

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.

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TANZANIA  
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## **Project Report: Seminar on youth Empowerment in Mbeya 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2022**

In this report will be first explained what the Seminar was about, what topics were discussed and why specifically this area has been chosen. After that the outcome of it will be added and my personal experience as well.

The report is written by an Intern of KAS Tanzania who assisted KAS's project manager Damas Nderumaki and got the task to document the seminar as a person observing out a different context. The report captures German and Tanzanian perceptions, as the Intern's studies are in Germany. It helps to understand the context and its importance of such kind of projects and demonstrates that KAS's mission in Tanzania is not only to concentrate on big Cities like Arusha or Dar es Salaam but also to go to rural Regions like Mbeya.

The area where the seminar was held is very rural. The distance between our final destination and the airport was more than a three-hour drive by car. So we took a flight from Dar es Salaam to Mbeya Airport, where we got picked up by one of the priests who participated as a lecturer at the Seminar and drove until to Mwambani, Songwe District, which still contains to Mbeya Region.

The reason for its importance to encourage and educate young people in such kind of rural areas is the deficiency of education, less job and career opportunities and the insufficient infrastructure. The leakage of influences from outside causes a closed community, which develops itself deliberately. Political awareness and general education about anything else what for us are probably normal skills are mostly missing.

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The participants of the Seminar were young leaders of all kinds of groups from different villages around Mbeya Region. Some travelled over a hundred kilometers to attend. Regarding this information we can already understand how rare empowering seminars are. So youths are trying to take any possibility to learn and move forward. The leaders were between 17 and 32 years old and were heads of small business groups for like Bajaji drivers, church chors, farmers and so on. These groups are very important in their villages. Youths can encourage and educate each other, construct startups but also using it as a safe space where to go when problems appear.

We started the seminar on the first morning with an introduction of everyone and KAS. After that we worked on the topic of childhood harassment, child abuse and marriage under age. We found out quickly, that there was a big amount participants sitting in the room whom got married under age and that abuse and harassment appears often. It was a very intimate topic but the participants were motivated to work together on solutions how to reduce it and a lot of good impacts came up. Afterwards we talked about Entrepreneurship. The participants have learned necessary skills for self-employment, what it takes to run an own business and that topics like family, economic or political factors can affect its performance. Because of the deficiency of job and career opportunities around the area every small business can help to develop better opportunities.

After lunch break we talked about the impact of religion in daily life. Every believe should be respected and can be useful to connect but also to keep up different morals and motivations. Nevertheless, religion can also be used to connect people, build up friendships and groups where young people can find safety.

The next day started with self-awareness of youth. It is time to take own responsibility in life and questions like: What do I want to achieve in my life? Do I make the right decision? And What consequences are relying on my actions? Were in the foreground.

Later we discussed about drug abuse and addictedness, whereby especially in the rural areas of Tanzania exist a lot of victims. A kind of safe space got created where everybody could tell their own experiences. We learned about characteristic behaviors throughout consumption and how the young leaders can help if a group member got to a consumption victim.

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After Lunchbreak the Priest took the decision to not hold its lecture to save time for a spontaneous video idea which came up from the participants themselves. The idea was to transfer a motivation message in three languages, whereby we explain the impact of KAS and the new acquired knowledge. Myself opened the video speaking English, Damas translated in Swahili and a participant in their foreign language. The intention was making everybody understanding the message and express language or culture differences are not hindering connections.

The video formed the end of a very efficient project and honestly the Seminar contributed more than knowledge. We started to connect with each other and even me as an intern got the chance to speak to the participants. We started to film a slight comedy as well where we showed that language and culture is not an impediment to connect. We ate and danced together and I even ended up being on a lock screen of a leader's phone.

The interaction of the speakers with the group and how they kept all active during the whole seminar was impressive. Everybody got the possibility to speak and many discussions and small group tasks were integrated. Damas did its best to translate during the lectures and the tasks they talked about surprised me firstly. Lots of of them are self-evident to me and are also integrated into my everyday life. It made me upcoming to the conclusion that these things like reflecting a decision, asking themselves what they want in life, how to find a hobby to decompress feelings and so on are maybe logic to me, but not to them. I realized that I and the participants sitting next to, ate and danced with are living a completely different life with a diverse knowledge and standard. The containing tasks of the seminar are highly important to live a successful and enriching life.

I felt honored to inspire these great young leaders. Many of them told me that they can pass on this knowledge to the community and it leads to questioning many things in their daily lives. Coming back Home to Dar es Salaam made me feeling and thinking differently. Good roads, better infrastructure, supermarkets nearby, electricity and access to running water, which we haven't had for just a weekend. I made me personally appreciating a lot of granted things.