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**THE CONTRIBUTION OF BULAWAYO CITY COUNCIL'S VOCATIONAL
TRAINING CENTRES TOWARDS YOUTH EMPOWERMENT: A CASE OF
TSHAKA, MAKOKOBA WARD 7**

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ABSTRACT

Currently, statistics portray that unemployment amongst the young people, globally, is higher than history has recorded and in some countries particularly in the developing world that number augments very quickly. If these young people are to find concrete jobs and contribute to their country's development, there is a need for skills training to build capacity that better suits the needs on the labour market. Thus education should not be viewed from a one sided element thus giving children the opportunity to attend formal education. However, it is about meeting young people's needs for skills that will enable them to acquire a job and earn a living. The unfavourable economic situation in Zimbabwe has caused a massive retrenchment of workers and the group that has borne the most brunt is the youth. This has seen many young people losing their jobs, and in turn diverted their focus to Vocational Training which assures an income. This study was therefore designed to explore the Contribution of Bulawayo City Council's Vocational Training Centres towards youth empowerment with Tshaka VTC in Makokoba Ward 7 as the case. Myriad sources were employed to complement the study. A stratified random sampling was used so as to get different insights from youths, BCC employees and parents. This was accompanied by Focus Group Discussions, interviews and questionnaires so as to get rich data. The research was both qualitative and quantitative. Pie charts and tables were used for data analysis. Majority of respondents were of the view that VTCs contribute towards youth empowerment hence becoming a necessary strategy to curb youth demeanour within the communities and particular reference to Makokoba. Therefore, there is a need for policy makers to prioritise Vocational Education as its significance is being realised in all sectors from the local to international level.