



REPORT ON THE KENYA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT POLICY AWARENESS WEBINAR HELD ON 15TH AND 16TH OCTOBER, 2020

Preamble

Tafiti Sera in partnership with Siasa Place, Imara Fellowship and Youth in Policy held a successful Policy Awareness webinar on the Kenya Youth Development Policy 2019. This was a product of research and collaborative innovation which presents the Modus Operandi of Tafiti Sera and a nexus of objectives of the organizing partners' driven by a need to create policy awareness amongst the youth. The webinar attracted guest speakers of high esteem in the youth policy space in Kenya and a very competent audience that graced and engaged the process throughout the two day webinar. This was a first in a series of planned webinars designed to collaborate and share knowledge on the policies that exist and create a sense of policy ownership amongst the youth so as to get them heavily invested in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the policies that affect them. Hongera Vijana!!

Background

The Kenya Youth Development Policy 2019 was recently launched in September 2020. It represents an articulation of the aspiration of the future that all Kenyan youth share. It is a revamp of the Youth Policy of 2007 that is largely deemed to be out of touch with the contemporary realities that face the youth today. Seeing that it has been successfully drafted and launched, the next phase is the mainstreaming of the same policy so that to ensure that the youth are fully involved and engaged in the implementation process by creating awareness and a sense of ownership of the said policy. As such Tafiti Sera thought it prudent to organize for a policy awareness webinar focusing on the Kenya Youth Development Policy and as such reached out for collaboration with Siasa Place and Youth in Policy.

Introduction

Tafiti Sera in partnership with Youth In Policy, Imara Fellowship and Siasa Place managed to successfully organize a Policy Awareness Webinar with a focus on the Kenya Youth Development Policy, 2019. The key objective of the virtual event was to create awareness about the KYDP, 2019 and also to build a sense of ownership of the youth policy and the Public policy processes. This is in cognizance of the apathy among youth in engaging and familiarizing themselves with the Youth policies in Kenya. As envisioned in the concept note, the Policy Awareness Webinar expected to achieve the following key outcomes: a more informed youth demographic on the contents of the Youth Policy, understanding and application of the KYDP, 2019.

The organizing partners; Tafiti Sera, Siasa Place, Imara Fellowship and Youth in Policy invited guests speakers over the two day policy webinar that included; Raphael Obonyo a renowned Youth Public Policy Analyst; Nerima Wako an Executive Director from Siasa Place, Angella Andaka a Board Member at Youth In Policy and Zebby Nyakiangana a Public Policy and Governance Specialist and Co-Founder of Tafiti Sera. The Policy webinar which took place in two consecutive days, that is on Thursday 15th October, 2020 and Friday 16th October, 2020 was structured on the following sub themes: in the KYDP, 2019, The history of youth policy making in Kenya, Role of the youth in the Public Policy Process which was covered on day one 15th October, 2020 and on day two the event focused on the following sub themes: Unpacking the Kenya Youth Development Policy, 2019, Stakeholders role in KYDP, 2019 implementation and finally the challenges and opportunities in implementation of the Youth Policy. Each of the Guest speakers was assigned a topic to make a presentation on. The Webinar attracted more than 30 participants who also had a chance to ask question and also comment on the areas of discussion.

The Policy Awareness webinar aimed to achieve the following objectives:

- a. To sensitize the youth and general public about the existence of the Kenya Youth Development, 2019
- b. To foster a sense of ownership of the policy by the youth
- c. To familiarize with the implementation modalities stipulated in the policy
- d. To promote learning on matters of the Public policy process, opportunities that exist in the policy and its implantation process.

DAY ONE: THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2020

Moderator: Miriam Beatrice

The virtual event dubbed Kenya Youth Development Policy Awareness webinar started at exactly 12pm as planned with a National Anthem played. This was followed by a brief introduction of the respective organizing partners. Tafiti Sera, being the host partners of the event had the opening remarks from Thuo Kinyua, the Co-Founder Tafiti Sera, Youth in Policy led by Filbert, the media officer from the organization and finally Ken Ogembo from Siasa Place. The host pointed out on the importance of having the Policy webinar and the partners demonstrated their optimism on the impact of the two day session that was running from 12pm to 1pm.

Guest speaker: Nerima Wako

History of the Youth Policy making in Kenya

The guest speaker gave her introduction and commenced by giving a well detailed and researched narration of the history of youth engagement in Politics right from days of clamor for multiparty to the constitution of Kenya 2010. She went further to narrate the emergence of youth organization such as the YOUTH AGENDA one of the first youth serving organizations to be established in Kenya. The importance of the national youth policy being replicated at the county level was also explained by the guest speaker. She shared her experience working with Makueni County to develop their county youth policy with drug abuse being a concern in the

county. The essence of involving the youth in the policy making process was also emphasized. The guest speaker also pointed out the evolution of youth participation in Politics and in the Public Policy process. She outlined some of the eminent national leaders such as Tom Mboya and even former student leaders such as the late Titus from the University of Nairobi who championed from the rights of the citizens within their jurisdiction at a youthful age that is below 35 years old.

It was noted also by the speaker that for a long time young people have been marginalized and sidelined in decision making and therefore it is incumbent for the youth to fight for their space and actively participate in the political process.

Guest Speaker: Zebby Nyakiangana

Role of the Youth in the Public Policy Process

The guest speaker who was tasked with dissecting the role of youth in the Public Policy process explained briefly the importance of youth engagement in the policy process and why they youth should position themselves strategically to benefit from the policy making processes. The speaker also highlighted the rights and responsibility of the youth in relation to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the KYDP, 2019, outlining some of the policy interventions such as the establishment of the youth development index stipulated in the KYDP, 2019 Policy and other areas youth can actively engage themselves. For youth to effectively engage in the Public Policy process, the speaker stated that they need to own the process and be able to hold the duty bearers accountable in regards to the implementation of the policy.

Participants Comments, Question and Views

One of the participants Alvin Mokaya raised the issue of economic and political power. He explained why the young people are less engaged and urged the youth to seeking both economic power and also political power to be included in the decision making in matters of policy and politics.

DAY TWO: FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2020

Moderator: Thuo Kinyua

The session started off at 12 pm as planned with the host setting up the zoom logins. The National Anthem was played followed by a welcoming of the participants and guest speakers. A recap of the previous session was done by Miriam Beatrice from Youth In Policy organization, then the moderator officially began the session with giving a brief bio of the guest speakers.

Guest Speaker: Raphael Obonyo

Unpacking the KYDP, 2019

The guest speaker having been part of the Youth Policy Review process and the taskforce formed by the then Cabinet Secretary in charge of Youth Affairs Sicily Kariuki went ahead to

give a breakdown on how the KYDP, 2019 is different from the previous Youth Policy and the reasons that necessitated its formation. It was noted that the first youth policy was developed in 2006 and later reviewed in 2011 after there were calls to review the Policy. In the year 2016 due to the level of advocacy to review the policy the agitation to have the policy reviewed began. The speaker went further to point out the purpose of having the KYDP, 2019. One is that the new constitution 2010 had been conceived and promulgated and therefore a need to align it with the youth issues. That there were emerging realities and evolving challenges like increased population and that the needs and concerns of youth needed attention in the policy. He also said that the new policy KYDP, 2019 comes to address the issues of youth development and the concern for youth to explore new opportunities.

He appreciated the fact that beyond apathy among the youth to engage in public Political matters, the youth across the globe are not enthusiastic about issues of Public Policy which can be easily be overlooked and yet it is very important. The speaker went further to highlight the benefits of a Policy. That the policy provides the basis for programming, budgeting, advocacy and holding the government accountable. That the policy also provides the framework for engagement, interaction and advocacy.

In view of the policy the speaker outlined the 10 priority areas such as issues of youth and health, building competence among the youth, youth peace and security, entrepreneurship and representation of the youth among many others. In addition the speakers also talked about the Policy interventions in the policy on issues of unemployment and ensuring that youth are engaged in the political processes. The speaker also stated that the contents of the Youth policy puts us at the center of development and therefore it behooves the youth to involve themselves in the policy processes.

The guest speaker also alluded to the fact that the current KYDP, 2019 is anchored in the constitution of Kenya, 2010 and for that reason it is in tandem with the provisions in the constitution more particularly Article 55 of the constitution. The article stipulates the obligation, and the responsibility of the state to provide the youth with an opportunity to be effectively engaged in matters of social, economic and political affairs of the State.

The speaker stated that the language used in Article 55 is that which seeks to demand, that which is interactive and empowering. The policy provides the framework for implementation of the provisions in the constitution. He said that the youth are not given favor but have a right for their issues to be addressed and interventions delivered.

The speaker also outlined the coordinated mechanism in the policy to enable its operationalization. That includes the implementation, institutional and communication mechanism. The various institutions such as the state department of Youth Affairs, National Youth Council that are mandated to deal with matters of Youth policy. The responsibility of various stakeholders to work together to ensure the policy is implemented is another concern that the speaker talked about. He is stated the aspects that make the KYDP, 2019 different. That the policy has an inbuilt implementation and coordination mechanism therefore makes it outstanding. The speaker also stated that the contents of the Youth policy puts us at the center of development and therefore it enables the youth to engage in different levels of development.

Monitoring and evaluation mechanism is also another aspect in the policy the speaker talked about. That the policy provides a chance for the youth to evaluate the policy at every stage. The speakers also appreciated that the policy recognizes that youth development cannot be achieved by one stakeholder and hence identifies other key stakeholders like youth serving organizations, National Youth Council among other. That since the youth are not a homogenous group, their interest and wants might vary.

Guest Speaker: Mbuki Mburu

Stakeholder roles in KYDP, 2019 implementation

The speaker started her presentation by outlining some of the things she was able to achieve during the review of the youth policy. She was actively engaged through consultation and drafting memorandums that contributed to the formation of the policy. She also hammered the points alluded by Raphael Obonyo by appreciating the provision of Article 55 of the constitution and the importance of having the youth policy. She stated that one of the unique attributes of the policy is recognizing young people aged 15 to 17 years something that is different from the previous policy. That the age bracket is quite important and it was crucial to identify and recognize them. The speaker having had extensive experience with youth and child welfare engagement in United Nations Platforms pointed out the need for that age group to be given the needed attention.

In regard to the stakeholder's role in implementation of the policy. The speaker outline some of the responsibilities for some of the key stakeholders. The stakeholders have a duty to ensure full implementation of the policy by keeping the government accountable and having constant engagement with the youth. That the stakeholders need to design the programs based on the guide given in the policy framework. The speaker further stated that money follows policy and therefore resource mobilization for the concerned stakeholders and policy actors is paramount. The stakeholders need to ensure that there is a budget allocated that is adequate to enable the implementation of the policy. She said that for instance the 2020/2021 Budget should cater for the implementation of the policy. It was also alluded by the speaker that programs developed by stakeholders should be evidence based for them to serve the required needs for the youth in Kenya.

The outcomes in the policy should be measurable for the stakeholders to be able to track the progress made in the implementation of the policy. It was also noted that the monitoring and evaluation framework is crucial for the use by the stakeholders to holders the government accountable That the stakeholders have a responsibility to develop joint report that will help review the steps made in regard to its implementation.

It was also noted by the speaker that the stakeholders that include the youth apply the SWOT Analysis model to identify the Strengths, Weaknesses to be turned in opportunities that they can leverage on.

The youth as key stakeholders have a responsibility to ensure that the programs developed are human right based and there is adherence to the rule of law. That they entrench within

themselves the national values even as the policy is in motion. The other stakeholders highlighted by the speaker include: community-based organizations, Faith based organizations, Private sector, Judiciary, Print and Electronic media who relay information. The state department of youth affairs being the main stakeholder has the overall responsibility to ensure the policy is implemented as envisioned in the policy.

Guest Speaker: Angella Andaka

Challenges and opportunities in KYDP, 2019 implementation

The speaker applauded the government for coming up with the youth policy to address the current perceived youth issues. She introspectively discussed the youth challenges posing some questions to the audience. Who defines the youth, what does the government think about youth. Then were the youth involved in defining the problem, who defined the solutions for the youth. In connection to the question the speaker clearly stated that solutions should be preceded by a defined problem.

She further dissected some of the elements that would make up a good Youth policy. She put out some questions to the audience such as, can the youth relate with the problems enumerated in the policy. The issue of whether the youth policy has the ability to solve the problems affecting the youth was also raised. That is economic benefit or economic liability to the addressing youth issues.

She also interrogated if the policy perhaps could be a political tool. The question in connection to the political angle of the policy was left to the audience to think through about it. It was also noted by the speaker that could it be possible for a different regime to come in and still be able to implement the policy. Therefore, the speakers challenged the audience that a good policy should stand the storm of different regimes regardless of the political changes in government. The speaker also alluded to the fact that unemployment should be defined by the youth themselves. She pointed out that the policy should seek to address real issue with real solution.

The speaker noted that the policy needs to be narrowed down to ensure that they layman youth is able to digest the contents of the policy in a way that benefits them. That the youth can involve themselves to engage in developing a policy implementation framework for the policy to benefit them. That systems approach can be leveraged by the expert youth in developing a mechanism to implement the policy from a youth perspective. She further outlined other opportunities for youth such as generating policy research document for evidenced based policy. Policy cohesion is also another opportunity that the youth experts can take advantage of by ensuring the policies present are mainstreamed and work in harmony. She wrapped up her presentation by challenging the youth to invest and sacrifice their time and effort to ensure the policy is implemented and ensure they speak to their problems.

Questions

- i. How do we ensure that the stakeholders build synergy to ensure effective implementation of the youth policy?**
 - The policy recognizes the various stakeholders that are required to work to ensure the policy is implemented. We have the Youth sector working groups, National Youth Council, State department of Youth affairs

- ii. What can be the opportunities in the monitoring and Evaluation of the policy?**
 - Petitioning the different level of government to know the progress. For instance, doing a follow up petition letter.
 - Youth to engage in policy research through producing evidence-based data.
 - Engaging government in public participation.
 - Lobbying the government to ensure particular interventions are integrated.
 - Create ICT systems to ensure objective discussions online.
 - Youth to seek out government opportunities for funding to offer educate or sensitize youth groups.
 - Seek out for evaluation report of the policy from the duty bearers.

- iii. How safe is the youth policy from political manipulation?**
 - Reporting against the policy
 - Youth owning the youth policy process.
 - Youth organizing themselves and having a clear stand on their issue.

- iv. How can the policy be domesticated at the County level?**
 - Knowing the existence of the County Youth Directors.
 - County legislations to ensure implementation of the policy.
 - Ensuring the county youth programs feed into the Youth policy.
 - Having a proper reporting mechanism.
 - Ensure the county youth sector working groups ensuring the policy is implemented in line with county specific challenges.
 - Keeping the county Executives on check.

Social Media Comments

- Youth serving organizations should be at the center of ensuring KYDP 2019 is implemented.
- The policy enables us to envision, to dream big and to define how the future will look like for the youth.
- There is need for collaboration between youth and other relevant stakeholders to promote accountability.
- The policy has an inbuilt implementation mechanism accorded the importance it deserves
- Youth need to be enthusiastic on policy issues and processes which will contribute to ensure that they are fully implemented.
- Bring the boardroom to the streets. It's is the only way we can ensure that we get more youth involved in their issues.
- Social media has given youth a platform to voice their concerns.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- The Policy webinar was ended with a awesome performance from Hezel coptel a spoken word Artist. The guest speakers challenged the youth to actively get involved in the youth policy process and in the evaluation of the policy.
- That the youth to keep the policy actors accountable by peacefully and constructively seeking out for information in terms of reports.
- That the youth should actively participate in the implementation process such as through youth policy researchers.
- That a report and Policy brief should be prepared to further the conversation with relevant stakeholders.

ANNEX A: PICTORIAL FOR THE POSTER AND PARTICIPANT SNIPPET PHOTO

KENYA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT POLICY 2019 AWARENESS WEBINAR

Date: 15th & 16th October 2020
Time: 12.00pm - 2.00pm EAT
Register at: www.bit.ly/3jIQzCW

MODERATORS

Thuo Kinyua
 Public Policy Researcher & analyst focusing on Governance, Security & Public Policy. Co- Founder of Tafiti Sera.

Miriam Beatrice
 Public Policy Pro. Co- founder, Policy Lead & Assistant Program Officer at E.F.

GUESTS

Raphael Obonyo
 Award winning public policy analyst & youth advocate.

Nerima Wako-Ojiwa
 Executive Director - Siasa Place.

Zebby Nyakiangana
 Public Policy & Governance Specialist.

Mbuki Mburu
 Public Policy & Youth Development Advocate.

Angella Ndaka
 PFI Candidate & Youth in Policy/Putuoado Social Member.



ANNEX B: LIST OF THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE KYDP, 2019 POLICY AWARENESS WEBINAR

1. Ochola Alberto
2. Tony Agutu Awiti
3. Victoria Adika
4. Emmanuel Opiyo
5. Kiplangat Amos.
6. Kevin Mandela
7. Milka Osindo
8. Waga Mary Adhiambo
9. Antony Livoi
10. Hafswa Riaz
11. Charmain Bonareri
12. Cherry Atieno oduor
13. Sharon
14. Kibet Brian
15. Diana Chepkorir
16. Lydia Moruri
17. Chris Mokaya
18. Kevin Ambunya Muranche
19. Judy Chege
20. Abdirashid Mohamed Abdille
21. Revilyn Grace z. Casio
22. Ann Nyakio
23. Bara Hanzalova
24. Anne Wanyoike
25. Emmanuel mbuvi Mutinda
26. stephen Kimathi
27. Grace Musolo
28. Steve wonder
29. Shila Ukumbini Salim
30. Bratipah Kioko
31. Thuo Kinyua
32. Sarah O'brien
33. Filbert Mbugua
34. Josiah Wandera
35. Josephine Mwangecho
36. Samson Onditi
37. Berta Fernandez Nuez
38. Gikore. Newton
39. Linda
40. Muca KaMuca
41. Collins
42. Calvin Jodisi
43. Mworìà Dorothy
44. Philip Maigwa
45. Judith Achieng
46. Muthoni Kiere
47. JOHN WABWIRE
48. Miriam Beatrice
49. Mary Vinya Nzoka
50. Tess Ndichu
51. Aurelia Adhiambo
52. Grace Chege
53. Naima Twahir Zubeir
54. Charity Muthoni Gatitu
55. Mauryne mwakio
56. Kennedy
57. Kiprotich Ngetich
58. John Kamau
59. Mohamed Almas
60. Daniel chemase
61. Oscar Bosco
62. Caroline Ikiriinya
63. Edward Williams
64. Angela Ouma
65. Gabriel Dinda
66. Janet Letting

ANNEX C: SURVEY QUESTION

What are your thoughts concerning youth Policy in Kenya?

1. It's a well framework on Youth engagement
2. The policy improved compared to the way back where the youth were not getting direct employment
3. They are brilliant ideas which are not well structured and supported
4. It is unpopular
5. It's aimed to empower the youth.
6. It's encouraging that it exists.
7. I think it's fair enough and youth-oriented thus puts the youth first.
8. The youths being given opportunities to run the country as the future leaders
9. Youths should participate in making the policy
10. It is very good on paper. But we are yet to see any fruits
11. Having a policy is a good idea, it will ensure that youth issues are handled in a better way. But the development needed some adjustments especially in the managerial and employees. I would recommend that the management committee should not be appointed by the governor but rather elected by youths and also the top employees like Director, five years working experience doesn't favor the youth.
12. It needs thorough awareness
13. It needs mainstreaming and should be involving the youth in its formulation
14. I don't think if they are effective and efficient. They should be thoroughly revised, funded and implemented
15. I'm not aware of it
16. I believe knowledge about the policies affecting the youth and their future is the starting point for their empowerment.
17. It might be of help to our youth here in the Philippines
18. It's a good one it will allows youth to develop themselves
19. It is a complex question to allocate resources so that Kenya can take advantage of its demographic dividend yet remain relatively inclusive to the needs of all, including international investors.
20. There is a huge gap.
21. That this is a policy to drive the quest to develop youth and their jobs
22. Not much public participation was done to come up with the document
23. The youth policy in Kenya has not been fully articulated and much work is needed on creating awareness and best methods on how to articulate each issue.
24. It a good document that will promote inclusivity
25. There is need for county specific policy that will be domesticated to fit into the county specific problem of the youths in that county
26. We should be more active
27. Great policy document

28. Youths need more empowerment and interventions to help curb idleness and to help build the future of the country
29. Good policy, poor implementation.
30. I'm not aware of the policy. I'll be keen to find out what it entails.
31. Its important for youths but surprisingly many youths have no idea about the existence of it
32. The Youths at all levels need to be involved in its formulation
33. Dont know
34. It is doing well so far but there are more agendas to be tackled than just youth groups
35. It is not necessary to have a separate policy targeting youth to do what is required of all citizens.
36. Reviews required
37. Young People Need to Be Engaged while developing the policy.
38. We need more public participation
39. My thoughts are that you advocate for youth involvement in the whole policy processes
40. Full Implementation of the policy document has proved be a challenge
41. It is a good policy but only if it will be fully implemented
42. In focus of developing and implementing initiatives they should do public/youth participation this will impact more positively.
43. As it is, implementation is the biggest impediment
44. There is need for its implementation , for the youth to benifit
45. Fails at implementation
46. I am yet to learn about Youth Policies in Kenya
47. Involve the youth more in the revision and implementation process.
48. It's a progressive policy
49. It's a good initiative
50. It should be disseminated to youths at a local level
51. It's useful and a success to many
52. Its timely,necessary and important.Youth of Kenya need to own it.
53. Still reading through, but I think the policy lays foundation for meaningful Youth engagement.
54. The youth need to be included in leadership for their development sake
55. More needs to be addressed ,more needs to be implemented
56. Yet to learn
57. It's not working.
58. Advocacy for more political will in implementation of policy at county and national government level highly required.
59. Needs more attention
60. In as much as the population of the youth in the country is almost 80% of the total population, the policy has not fully explored the challenges that the youths are faced with which include unemployment, limited participation and lack of opportunities

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ANNEX D: LIST OF THE PARTICIPANTS INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION

1. Kenyatta University
2. Siasa Place
3. Mamba Africa
4. Self employed
5. Wallpaper Kisumu/Imara Fellow
6. Marist International University
7. Dedan Kimathi university
8. Lourie Centre
9. Kadzandani Creative youth organization
10. UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
11. Tectona Consulting Group
12. Islamic teachers college
13. Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology
14. University of Nairobi
15. Imara fellowship
16. Alliance Française
17. Mokaya Leadership Foundation
18. Ensijjten Enterprises
19. Physicians Across Continents (PAC)
20. Tawagan Sur National High School
21. Kenya utalii college
22. Middlebury Institute at Monterey, Effective Altruism
23. Young women leaders connect
24. Marist International University College
25. Emerging Leaders foundation
26. United States International University- Africa
27. Ysd - kisumu
28. Youth for Sustainable development- Kilifi kilifi
29. Dlight
30. Youth In Policy (POLYOUTH)
31. Twaweza East Africa
32. Shakirina youth for development
33. Manyatta B Social Justice Centre
34. University of Copenhagen
35. Daystar-Kenya
36. LIK Advocates
37. Imara Fellowship
38. Young Leaders CSO Network.
39. CMCF
40. Humanities and social sciences
41. Media Max Limited
42. IMARA FELLOW
43. Youth in Policy
44. Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology
45. TPDI Kenya
46. Tafiti Sera
47. Shakirina Youth for Development
48. Nairobi collage
49. Youth Serving Organisations- Consortium Kenya.
50. Whatever it takes Ke
51. Online network of youthful activists- Kenya
52. Creation development limited
53. Drew Marketing Solutions
54. KoTDA
55. University of sierra Leone
56. University of Nairobi
57. Writers Guild Kenya
58. Kenyatta University
59. Mamba Africa

ANNEX E: COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM SURVEY KENYA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT POLICY, 2019 POLICY AWARENESS WEBINAR

1. What projects can we draw to make the policy relevant at the grassroots?
2. Where can I go when am in need of youth funds to support my business?
3. How do the KYDP and NYC correlate?
4. Is this policy constitutionally right or what are the grounds for coming up with such policy?
5. What are the practical leadership roles other than political can the youth living in Nairobi slums engage in?
6. If the young people are well informed about the policy and its benefits it would be beneficial.
7. The youth policy needs to be empowered.
8. Probably it should be there more often.