



**Provision Of Childcare solutions in Vocational Training Centers (VTCs) to provide young mothers an opportunity to be empowered through skills and competency in the institution.**

**Authors:** *Martin Kiyeng*

**Institutional Affiliation:** *Kidogo Early Years*

There are 134 registered Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) across the country that allow youth, especially those from vulnerable backgrounds, access to skilled training programs that empower them socially and economically. The Covid-19 pandemic caused a 40% increase in teen pregnancies across Kenya. Upon reopening many students were accompanied by their children in the classroom. The double effort of having to concentrate in class while taking care of the child limits their ability to focus and is overwhelming - leading many to drop out.

Kidogo provides a unique childcare option for these student mothers, enabling them to further their education, get a start to life, and be economically empowered. [www.kidogo.co](http://www.kidogo.co). In 2021, Kidogo set up 3 VTC childcare centres in Kisumu County in Obange, Ahero and Akado. Kidogo adapted its innovative social franchising model to partner with VTCs by assisting them start and improve the quality of their own, center-based child care centre. VTC childcare centres are feasible and can be employed to improve the provision of quality care for children of young students, resulting in better educational and economic outcomes for student mothers. Strategies for childcare integration into existing VTCs, and scale-up countrywide are recommended.

