

**FACTORS OF VULNERABILITIES AFFECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS TO
ACCESS WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES IN INFORMAL URBAN
SETTLEMENTS IN KENYA: A CASE STUDY OF KAYOLE SOWETO SLUMS IN
NAIROBI COUNTY**

By

**DOMITILA VICKY MAIYO
ADM NO: BDS/111/00927**

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY IN
PARTIAL FULFILMENT FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES**

FEBRUARY, 2014

ABSTRACT

Lack of water and of sanitation lock women in a cycle of poverty. They cannot attend school; they cannot earn an income. Time spent walking and resulting diseases keep them from school, work and taking care of their families. Along their long walk, they're subjected to a greater risk of harassment and sexual assault. The main objective of the study was to investigate factors of vulnerabilities affecting women and girls to access water and sanitation services in informal urban settlements with specific reference to Kayole Soweto Slums in Nairobi County. The study specifically aimed to; find out how water facilities; determine how water quality; establish how cost of water; investigate how culture and establish how sanitation facilities affects women and girls to access water and sanitation services in informal urban settlements. The study adopted a descriptive research design and the study population comprised of 300 households in Kayole Soweto Slums in Nairobi County. The study applied a stratified random sampling technique to select a sample size of 150 respondents. Questionnaires were used as the main data collection instruments and a pilot study was undertaken to pretest the questionnaires for validity and reliability. The study applied quantitative data analysis method to analyze closed end questions and qualitative analysis to analyze open end questions. The study used a Statistical Package for Social Scientist (SPSS) to analyze the data by computing response frequency and percentages. The analyzed data was then presented using tables and charts. The study found out that there was no formal water supply in the settlement though the residents have connected themselves illegally to Nairobi Water Company mains. It was noted that the primary water sources in the settlement included boreholes, on water kiosks, piped water supply. The study drew conclusion that the major factors of vulnerabilities affecting women and girls to access water and sanitation services in informal urban settlements includes, poor or lack of water facilities, poor water quality, high cost of water, cultural issues and lack of sanitation facilities. The study further recommends that implementation of the interventions incorporate a strong approach to community participation from inception through implementation and management of the proposed intervention.