

**A STUDY TO DETERMINE FACTORS AFFECTING THE EFFICIENCY OF SOLID
WASTE MANAGEMENT IN MURANGA TOWN, MURANGA COUNTY.**

BY

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ABSTRACT

The term solid waste means: material such as household garbage, food wastes, yard wastes, and demolition or construction debris. It also includes discarded items like household appliances, furniture, scrap metal, machinery, car parts and abandoned or junk vehicles. (Kaleli, 1990)

Mostly The owners, operators, and/or occupants of any premises are responsible for the satisfactory and legal disposal of all solid waste generated or accumulated on their property. All solid waste must be stored in a safe, sanitary and nuisance free manner. Garbage must be stored in sturdy, waterproof, animal-proof containers with tight fitting lids; it has to be removed at least every other week. Accumulating solid waste and storing it outside in plastic bags, trailers or pickup trucks is not acceptable. (UNDP,2011)

Waste can be classified in several ways but the following list represents a typical classification of solid waste.

- Biodegradable waste: food and kitchen waste, green waste, paper (can also be recycled).
- Recyclable material: paper, glass, bottles, cans, metals, certain plastics, fabrics, clothes, batteries etc.
- Inert waste: construction and demolition waste, dirt, rocks, debris.
- Electrical and electronic waste, electrical appliances, TVs, computers, screens, etc.
- Composite wastes: waste clothing, Tetra Packs, waste plastics such as toys.
- Hazardous waste including most paints, chemicals, light bulbs, fluorescent tubes, spray cans, fertilizer and containers
- Toxic waste including pesticide, herbicides, fungicides
- Medical waste.

The chief primary steps in waste management are generation, collection, sorting and separation, transfer, and disposal. These are Activities in which materials are identified as no longer being of value and are either thrown out or gathered together for disposal. (Public health hand book Third edition)

Murang'a town has a municipal council which manages waste around the town and at its environs. Mostly The municipal solid waste has four components which include recycling, composting, land filling, and waste-to-energy via incineration.

The main objective of this study was to determine factors influencing the efficiency of solid waste management in Murang'a town, Murang'a County.

A descriptive cross sectional study design was used to collect data from a sample of subjects who gave consent .A self administered questionnaire was also used to collect data among the residents of Murang'a town and a number of casual workers working for the municipal council. The data was then analyzed using a statistical package for social scientists (spss) for descriptive bi-variate and multivariate analysis.