

**A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES ON
SOLIDWASTE MANAGEMENT IN KIRINYAGA TOWNSHIP, KIRINYAGA
DISTRICT.**

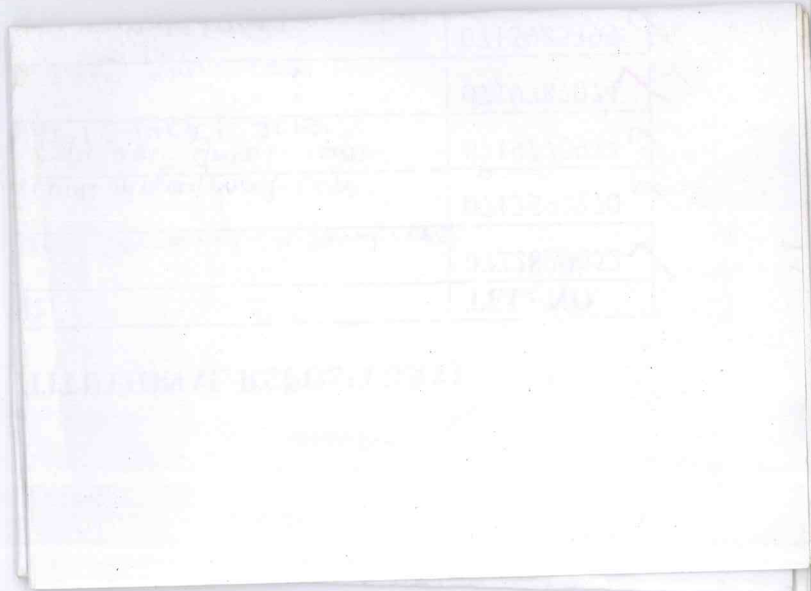
RACHEL SILA

REG.NO: BEVH/000210/113/23106

DEPERTMENT: PUBLIC HEALTH

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
DEGREE IN ENVIROMENTAL HEALTH AT MOUNT KENYAUNIVERSITY.**

FEBRUARY 2014,



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).

A variety of environmental hazards are associated with the mishandling and mis- management of solid waste from storage collection and disposal. Fly breeding will always be encouraged by uncovered piles of rotting refuse and flies will play a big role in mechanical transmission of diseases e.g. diarrhoea, cholera, salmonellosis, amoebiasis and dysentery. Also piles of refuse will attract mosquito breeding sites where pools of rain water forms in cans, old car tyres and plastic containers (WHO 2000).

The management of solid waste is increasingly becoming a big problem in many cities of the world. This study focused on practices, challenges and possible solutions for garbage management systems at urban, peri-urban and the rural areas of Kerugoya township.

The main objective of this study were to explore the level of public knowledge, attitudes and practices about SWM in Kerugoya Township, in light of the challenges for future management. The Specific objectives were to establish the role of the public in solid waste management in Kerugoya Township, the public knowledge on solid waste management; solid waste practices available and public attitudes towards the current solid waste management practices.

This study places emphasised on commercial and domestic waste. This is because in Kerugoya Township these two types of waste are generated and dumped indiscriminately. The town has only one dumping site located on the western side next to a river, here open crude dumping is done on a slope. The leachate generated by the waste drains into the river causing pollution. The plastic bag menace has become a major concern in kerugoya town with poorly designed refuse chambers spilling into the surrounding environment.

The study intended to determine the level of public participation among the residents of Kerugoya Township on a proper solid waste management.