

FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO INADEQUATE WASTE
MANAGEMENT:
A CASE STUDY OF KAWANGWARE NEIGHBOURHOOD-NAIROBI,
KENYA

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ABSTRACT

One of the key problems that Kenya and most other developing countries have in common is the high population growth rate, which has become an impediment to growth and led to poverty-ridden slums cities. This is a threat to development because population growth rate is higher than economic growth rate. According to reproductive health experts, most developments in the area of study, as in the case of similar areas, included illegal extensions and high rise buildings that attracted large population. These increased population outstretched infrastructure, leading to heaps of uncollected garbage, water rationing and overloaded transformers.

This study focused on issues surrounding solid waste management services. The study endeavored to investigate how the concentration of people with their myriad activities impacted on solid waste management in a social environment. It also offered suggestions on ways to resolve related problem issues. The study area was one of Nairobi's densely populated and low-income neighborhoods of Kawangware. The neighborhood is located 12 km to the west of the city's cbd. Kawangware borders the high-income residential area of Lavington to the west, Nairobi River to the north and Riruta satellite to the south.

The study documented real cases within the study area and elsewhere, on how solid waste, particularly from household, is managed. The methodology used in the study largely involved sourcing and analyzing data and information from the study area, libraries and past research on solid waste management and related issues. Primary data was acquired through personal observations, questionnaires, and interviews. Lack of sufficiently documented information in the field was a major drawback as regards to secondary data acquisition.