

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS INFLUENCING RECREATION
DEMAND IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MOMBASA, KENYA**

BY

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

JUDY CHIKU KING'ANDA

**A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN URBAN GEOGRAPHY,
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, KENYA.**

2002

ABSTRACT

Tourism is an important foreign exchange earner to Kenya. As a result there is emphasis on tourism and all efforts are geared towards this sector- growth and expansion of tourist hotels and conservation of wildlife. Little however has been done to establish the patterns of recreation of the residents of the Municipality of Mombasa (MoM). It is important to find out whether these people have leisure time and how they spend it. This is because if leisure time is not properly utilised then people tend to engage in disruptive behaviour and in the case of those going to school, learning may not be such an enjoyable process. This study therefore is concerned with the demand for recreation as it is influenced by certain attributes of the population (age, sex, education, income) and the consumption of this demand among residents of the Municipality of Mombasa (MoM). In addition recreation is important because of the benefits it has both to an individual and the society at large. It has been argued that the more educated one is then the more leisure one seeks, this study seeks to investigate this factor by looking at the recreation patterns of the different education groups in MoM. The above is being investigated because it is assumed that an urban population has leisure time and consequently they engage in recreation. This is important as it helped in establishing that there is an Existing Demand for recreation among residents of MoM. This also helped shed light on activities that are popular and that are likely to grow in importance in the future.

To carry out the study the following objectives were adopted in the research (i) to examine the social factors that influence demand for recreation among residents of MoM (ii) to examine the economic factors that influence demand for recreation. (iii) to put forth recommendations that the Municipality can adopt in future provision of recreation facilities and their maintenance. In line with the objectives the following hypothesis was formulated there is no relationship between different recreational activities and socio-economic characteristics of the MoM residents.

Information was collected by way of questionnaires, which were administered to households; observation played an important role also as well as personal interviews. Both descriptive and analytical techniques of data analysis were adopted. The Mann-Whitney test statistic was used to determine whether socio-economic characteristics do have a bearing on the type of recreation engaged in. The strength of the above relationship was measured using the chi-square. Cross-tabulations were used to investigate whether participants in one sporting activity influences participation in another and the significance was tested by the chi-square test. From the research it was found that both potential and existing demand are experienced and that the more educated one is then the more recreation activities one engages in.

The only difference in recreation participation between the sexes is in activities like drinking and non-physical activities. It was found that men's participation in the activities is higher than among women. When it comes to games

it can be seen that activities like football, hockey and tennis have a strong association between themselves in that if one plays football, then they are also likely to play hockey and tennis. These activities are also likely to grow in importance in the sense of more people taking up the games. This is in line with Bourdieu's theory on taste in leisure. Existence of facilities does not automatically mean making use of them e.g. Fort Jesus is rarely visited by residents of MoM.

From the study the following recommendations have been put forth; the municipality should ensure that gardens and facilities provides within them are maintained and repaired as need be and the fallen leaves are swept regularly. Open spaces also are provided in upcoming residential areas and other recreational facilities are provided also. Major recreation sites and land need preservation; otherwise there will be no facilities for recreation. Mama Ngina drive and the Likoni area need to be protected from land grabbers and private developers.

In areas of further research attention should focus on children since they are the major participants in recreation yet they receive very little attention.