Group participation in solid waste management for income generation in Nakuru: the case study of Nawacom investment cooperative society of Nakuru town

Ngombalu, Janet Kalulu

Abstract:

This study sought to explore and describe the participation of group enterprise in solid waste management for income generation and poverty reduction in low-income neighborhoods of Nakuru town, Kenya. The study adopted an ex post facto research design. The target population was member organizations affiliated to NA WACOM investment society, their leaders and members. The study used both secondary and primary data. The secondary data was collected from Government offices, Municipal Council of Nakuru, non-governmental organizations and NAWACOM offices. Primary data was collected using structured questionnaires with the selected members of member's organizations. The study findings were that most of the households were involved in group enterprise in solid waste management and were able to sustain their families and earn a daily living. This was evident due to the great number of CBO's involved in waste management in Nakuru town. The study also found that the group enterprises had attained various achievements and benefits via waste management. These included income generation, healthy environments and improved health conditions. However they were also faced by various limitations such as low prices offered by buyers, lack of adequate training on waste management, high transport costs and unhygienic working conditions among others. The study recommends that organizations need to be assisted with finances to fund the enterprises and support value addition options through government and donor support. The study also recommends that the group leaders need to have strong leadership and management skills and systematize the collaboration between members. Leadership is about knowing what the organization wants to achieve. Thus by creating management strategies, while working with the people who helps deliver the required results.