

An Appraisal of solid waste management in small towns in Kenya: A case study of Othaya Town, Nyeri District

Author: Thuo, Joseph Kennedy

Abstract:

The purpose of the study was to investigate the management of solid waste in Othaya town, Nyeri District. The study focused on the nature and quantities of wastes, the existing management capability, pollution and community participation in waste management in the town. It was based on the existing solid waste management system and how the system can be improved for effective waste management system and how the system can be improved for effective waste management in the town. A multiplist methodology was used as the research strategy and the one specifically chosen for this study was modified participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA). The technique was chosen as it produces similar or comparable results as other methods. Analysis of data was done using descriptive statistics, which included calculation of means, ranges and percentages. Correlation coefficients were also calculated to show relationship between various waste management variables. The findings show a picture of a town in transition in relation to provision of waste management services. The Council, however, has made a good attempt, but the situation is still wanting with most affected areas being the collection, disposal of wastes and community participation. Conclusions of this study call for re-examination of the current waste management system to make it more effective. It is recommended that the entire waste management system be re-organized particularly with regard to waste storage and collection. The Council should also indicated clearly the role of the community in waste management.