

Fostering an Inclusive Solid Waste Management System:
**A CASE ON INTEGRATION OF THE INFORMAL SECTOR INTO
FORMAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN KAWEMPE,
UGANDA**

By

NALUMU REHEMA

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DECLARATION

I NALUMU REHEMA, confirm to the best of my knowledge that this research report is my original work and that it has never been submitted to any other higher institution of learning for any academic award. I, therefore, take full responsibility for any errors that may arise in this work arising from omission or otherwise.

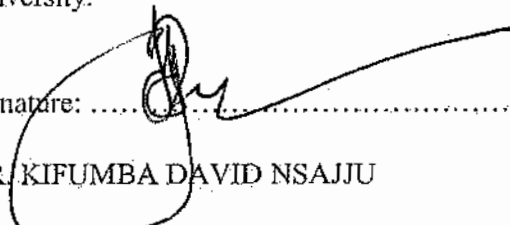
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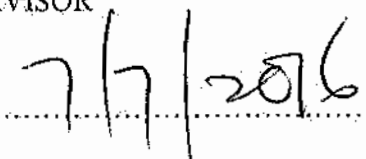
APPROVAL

This is to certify that this research report by NALUMU REHEMA has been submitted with my approval to the Faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences of Busitema University:

Signature: 

MR. KIFUMBA DAVID NSAJJU

SUPERVISOR

Date: 

DEDICATION

I dedicate this report to my lovely parents, guardians, siblings and friends. Thanks for the support and may the Almighty Allah bless you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am grateful to Allah for the good health that was necessary for me to complete this report.

My sincere thanks to my family who showed me love and supported me in all aspects throughout my academic journey, may the almighty Allah bless you all.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

GHG	Green House Gases
GIZ	German International Cooperation
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation
IFC	International Finance Corporation
ILO	International Labour Organization
IS	Informal Sector
IWS	Informal Waste Sector
KCCA	Kampala Capital City Authority
MSWMs	Municipal Solid Waste Management Systems
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
SWM	Solid Waste Management
UN	United Nations
UWEP	Urban Waste Expertise Program
WIEGO	Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing

ABSTRACT

There are millions of people earning their living by collecting, sorting and recycling waste, objects, products or materials thrown away in their community. Despite their role, there is limited data on who they are and their operations hence usually not recognised as contributing to the formal solid waste management system. However, organized informal recycling activities have positive effects on the environment, reduce the costs of waste management systems and provide income opportunities for large numbers of poor people.

This study was conducted in Kawempe division and results will support efforts for recognition and integration of the informal waste sector as key stakeholders in solid waste management. The main objective was to explore the opportunities and challenges inherent in the model of inclusive waste management system and determine the driving factors for successful informal sector integration. Specific objectives included establishing the organizational structure of the informal waste sector and describing its operations and investigating the barriers and factors hindering successful informal sector integration.

The survey employed questionnaires, interviews, observation and secondary data to collect data. Analysis was done through descriptive statistical comparisons and inferential statistics. Resulting responses were compared for dependency using charts and conclusions drawn based on whether the observed patterns in the data followed the already investigated and confirmed findings about the informal sector.

Results revealed that the informal solid waste sector in Kawempe was dominated by youths, single and mostly males characterised by low levels of education and income. Most joined for employment, work on a daily basis collecting and sorting mostly plastics from streets and communal bins and sell them to private companies for recycling. They are open to formalising their activities with no difficulty with privatization and modernisation of the waste sector though not organised. Government recognizes their role and they are mostly affected by society perceptions and challenged by accidents and shortage of waste collection containers. The informal solid waste sector and their activities in Kawempe are still not well researched and documented and any efforts to adopt an inclusive waste management system would be limited by such inadequacies.

CHAPTER ONE:

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

There are millions of people earning their living by collecting, sorting and recycling waste, objects, products or materials thrown away in their community. Tons of material is diverted from landfills and recycling reduces emissions 25 times more than incineration does (Tellus Institute, 2008). Gunsilius (2012) specifies that, in reality, there are very few and very limited statistic data reflecting this phenomenon. Medina (2007) estimates that more than 2% of the population in the under-developed and developing states is involved in informal waste collection activities, with the declared purpose to provide the minimum living level. Zia et al (2009) state that it is difficult to estimate the size of the informal sector where official census and statistics (local and national) do not reflect this phenomenon, which makes the access to certain data impossible as regards the part, size and contribution of informal recyclers at community level.

According to UN Habitat, waste pickers supply most or all of the solid waste collection in many cities in developing countries with low costs to municipal budgets.

But waste pickers' livelihoods are threatened as cities privatize solid waste management or adopt approaches like incineration. Waste pickers often face discrimination and harassment by authorities and the public. They can even be ignored in public policy processes.

Katusimeh et al. (2013) consider that there is a dynamic connection between the actors in the formal sector and those in the informal sector, which is seen at the levels of production, distribution and consumption of goods and services. According to Wang, Han, and Li (2008) even though informal practices have positive contribution to urban waste management, they also bring about social problems. To obviate such problems the informal system should be streamlined.

Waste is everyone's problem and it impacts on the daily experience of all people of the City. And, it is one of the pressing challenges facing Kampala today especially in realisation that the only available landfill is getting filled up at an alarming rate.

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