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Socio-economic dynamics in slums and implications for sanitation sustainability in Kisumu, Kenya

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Abstract

Lack of sanitation facilities is a major challenge in slum areas, and this has implications on the health and well-being of residents. Sanitation in slums is complex due to slum living conditions, and a detailed understanding of dynamics in slums and how they impact sanitation is required. This study sought to understand the relationship between socio-economic dynamics, and sanitation provision and management in the slums of Kisumu, Kenya. The results indicate a mix of social, cultural, economic, tenancy, and relationship dynamics, all of which influence sanitation provision and management. The

article calls for collaboration among various stakeholders and the use of local knowledge dissemination approaches.

Le manque d'installations d'assainissement constitue un défi d'envergure dans les bidonvilles, ce qui a des implications pour la santé et le bien-être des résidents. L'assainissement des bidonvilles est complexe du fait des conditions de vie en ces lieux. Il requiert une compréhension approfondie des dynamiques au sein des bidonvilles et de l'incidence qu'elles ont sur l'assainissement. Cette étude a cherché à comprendre le rapport entre les dynamiques socio-économiques et la fourniture et la gestion de l'assainissement dans les bidonvilles de Kisumu. au Kenya. Les résultats indiquent un mélange de dynamiques sociales, culturelles, économiques, relationnelles et liées au régime locatif, qui influent toutes sur la fourniture et la gestion de l'assainissement. L'article lance un appel à la collaboration entre les diverses parties prenantes et l'utilisation d'approches locales pour la diffusion des connaissances.

La falta de obras de saneamiento es una de las principales carencias existentes en los barrios pobres, en tanto conlleva implicaciones para la salud y el bienestar de los habitantes. En dichos barrios, el desarrollo de obras de saneamiento resulta complejo debido a las condiciones de vida que allí se manifiestan. Ello significa que es necesario comprender de manera detallada las dinámicas presentes en éstos y cómo las mismas afectan el saneamiento. El presente estudio se dirigió a entender la relación entre las dinámicas socioeconómicas y el abastecimiento de saneamiento, así como la forma en que éste es administrado en los barrios bajos de Kisumu, Kenia. Los resultados al respecto dan cuenta de la existencia de una abigarrada dinámica social, cultural, económica, de tenencia y de relaciones, que influye tanto en el suministro de saneamiento como en su administración. La autora hace un llamado a que los actores involucrados en este proceso colaboren entre sí y a que se haga uso de varios enfoques para la difusión de los conocimientos locales.

Keywords:

Social sector – Water and sanitation | Labour and livelihoods – Economics | Sub-Saharan Africa

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Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author.

Notes on contributor

Sheillah Simiyu is a PhD candidate at the School of Public Leadership, Faculty of Economics and Management Science, Stellenbosch University, South Africa. Her research interests are in water and sanitation, and general community development, especially in urban slum/informal settlement areas.

Notes

1. Improved sanitation, as defined by the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), is sanitation that hygienically separates human excreta from human contact.

2. A plot, as used throughout this article, is a group of housing units, under one landlord, and sharing a common yard, sanitation facilities and sometimes, a common water point within the yard.

3. Nakumatt is a shopping mall, with public sanitation facilities which can be used by members of the public, at no cost.

Additional information

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