

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT; CHALLENGES
AND PROSPECTS**

**A CASE STUDY OF KAMULI TOWN COUNCIL, KAMULI DISTRICT IN EASTERN
UGANDA**

BY

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Dissertation
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DECLARATION

I Chakario Jomo hereby declare that this report is my original work. It has never been submitted to any university or any higher institution of learning for any academic award. Therefore, I accept to be responsible for everything contained in it.

SIGNATURE.....

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APPROVAL

This is to acknowledge that the work entitled public participation in solid waste management has been done under my supervision and is now ready for submission to the Faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental sciences.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my family especially my parents Mr. and Mrs. Okwalinga and friends who sacrificed everything to ensure my academic success. Thank you for giving me such a moral foundation on which I have managed to come this far. God bless you abundantly

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

NEMA- National Environmental Management Authority

UNEP- United Nations Environmental Program

CET- Center of Ecological Technology

PSSP- purpose, structure, state and performance

SWM- Solid Waste Management

USEPA- United States Environmental Protection Agency

KSU- Kansas State University

KCC- Kampala City Council

USA- United States of America

KTC- Kamuli Town Council

NGO'S- Non-Governmental Organizations

UNBOS- Uganda National Bureau of statistics

GDP- Growth Domestic Product

ABSTRACT

Solid waste disposal and management is both an urban and rural problem and every person is a potential generator of waste, consequently a contributor to this problem. To generate waste is one thing, the type of waste generated is another and also the way the generated waste is managed or disposed of is quite a different issue. This study was carried out in Kamuli Town Council in Kamuli District in eastern Uganda.

The main objective of this study was to sight see the level of public participation in solid waste management in Kamuli Town Council, in light of the challenges and prospects for future management.

The study used a combination of both quantitative and qualitative methodologies in research. It therefore draws on the cross-sectional study design as explained by Bryman (2004) and also on aspects of a phenomenological research design as discussed by Blanche et al., (2006).

The findings revealed that the majority proportion of the public in Kamuli Town Council exhibited concern and an amount of sensitivity about solid waste though sorting of solid waste is less adopted. The level of item reuse is equally low in Kamuli Town Council and the people still think that they cannot do anything to reduce the volume of solid waste they generate. There are challenges of limited resources to manage the solid waste and illegal dumping in Kamuli Town Council. However, there are plans for formal disposal facilities, use of the legal instrument and awareness-raising as a way to deal with the challenges.

Consequently, because the level of public participation in solid waste management at present in Kamuli Town Council is low, the best way to start dealing with the problem is for the Town Council authorities to show the people that they are worth by involving them in the initial planning process.

CHAPTER ONE GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.0. Introduction

Uganda like many countries in the world suffers from poor waste management. Poor waste management is increasingly becoming a big problem in many cities in sub-Saharan Africa and Kamuli is no exception.

This chapter covers the background of the study, problem statement, the general and specific objectives, research questions, scope of the study, and significance of the study.

1.1. Background

Solid waste disposal and management is both an urban and rural problem. Every person is a Potential generator of waste and therefore, a contributor to this problem. To generate waste is one thing, the type of waste generated is another and the way waste generated is managed or disposed of is quite a different issue. It has been more often not turned out that the rate at which solid waste is generated is far higher than the capacity to responsibly manage it. Waste is generated by and from different sectors; domestic, commercial, industry and others and in many instances; the waste management responsibility has been left to the government or administrative authorities.

There is growing consent that the immediate stakeholders in the issue of solid waste (i.e. the generators of waste) in this case the residents need to join hands with the authorities in dealing with this problem that has far-reaching environmental and human health effects.

Uganda is one of the countries in the world that are ranked low in urbanization but this anyhow, the urban population is growing. Actually, the urban population is growing faster (I.e. at 3.7%) than the national average which is at 3.4%. The implication of this growth is that pollution issues such as solid waste management and the provision of adequate safe water alongside acceptable levels of sanitation coverage will need closer attention, According to National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), 2005). As Uganda's urban areas increase in number and expand in geographical and population size, solid waste is expeditiously emerging as a significant issue in environmental management.

While there are established guidelines for solid waste management, there is need for clear legislation and preferably a national policy specifically on solid waste management (NEMA, 2005).

Principally, waste volumes have increased in urban area due to the growing urban population, concentration of industries, consumption of residents, and inadequate finance and facilities to manage waste collection and disposal as it's in NEMA 2007:276). This state of affairs has led to the volume of solid waste generated to go beyond what the available facilities can accommodate. One of the major factors that have contributed to poor waste collection and management in

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