

The impacts of solid wastes on health of Kibera slum residents.

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This study aimed at investigating the impacts of solid wastes on the health of Kibera residents. The study was guided by Marxist theoretical framework. The research aimed at investigating the various ailments in Kibera informal settlements, it also evaluated the solids wastes negatively affecting the slum residents. The study applied descriptive research design and was carried out in the seven sub locations of Kibera slum. The research used primary and secondary data; it also employed qualitative and quantitative techniques. A total of 393 respondents were sampled. There was further data from interviews with key informants, focus group discussions, observations and photography. The data collected analysed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences. Tables, graphs and pictures have been used to present the findings. The study found out that solid wastes produced in the largest quantities included household wastes, organic wastes and polythene bags. The wastes were clogging drains, attracting vermin like rats and houseflies and polluting the air. Most people reported to have suffered from malaria 69%, typhoid 32.8% and diarrhoea 27.2%. The research also established that there were significant differences in disease incidences in the various sub locations. The study concluded that lack of sustainable solid waste collection was accelerating the spread of communicable disease and more than 70% of the slum population had suffered from ailments due to improperly disposed solid wastes. This study recommends that there should be more governments' and other stakeholders' inputs in promoting sustainable solid waste management in the slums.