

**WASTE DISPOSAL PRACTICES BY MOTOR VEHICLE
ENTERPRISES IN ELDORET MUNICIPALITY.**

BY

BOOKER ONYANGO OSODO

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ABSTRACT

Many human activities result in waste products of one kind or another. Some of these waste materials, if not disposed of appropriately, are potentially hazardous to human health. Others, being non-biodegradable, lead to environmental degradation. It is for these reasons that the problem of waste disposal is one that raises serious concern the world over. This study focused on industrial waste, specifically zeroing into the motor vehicle repair industry. The motor vehicle repair industry produces waste resulting not only from repair activities, but also from the subsistence activities of the people involved. Some of these waste materials if not disposed of properly may cause physical injuries as well as diseases. Others may provide a conducive environment for the breeding of pests, which may not only be destructive, but are also vectors for various diseases. Waste products may also affect the environment negatively.

This study, therefore, aimed at establishing how both informal and formal motor vehicle repair enterprises dispose of their waste. It also aimed at unearthing ways of minimising waste production, so that the little waste, which is unavoidable, can be disposed of inexpensively and appropriately. Further, the study aimed at establishing whether there is any relationship between nature of waste and the method used for its disposal. Finally, the study aimed at identifying waste disposal practices that would minimise waste production, thereby resulting in savings on waste management expenses.

Descriptive analysis involving percentages and frequencies was applied. Quantitatively, the Chi Square was used as a measure of the relationship between certain attributes. Results from the study indicated that wastes, which could fetch reasonable prices, were sold for subsequent reuse or recycling. Those with no market were often discarded anywhere in the workshop yard as long as they were not perceived to be health hazards. If perceived to pose any danger to human health, they were either incinerated or thrown into municipal bins or nearby trenches. Results also indicated that the effect of the waste on the environment was rarely put into consideration when deciding on the disposal method to apply.

As a result of the findings of this study, it is recommended that reuse and recycling of waste be encouraged to minimise waste production. These can be facilitated through an organisation (such as a cooperative) to market or recycle the waste on behalf of the jua kali people. Appropriate legislation as well as provision of disposal containers by the municipal council would also contribute to better waste management. The result of all these endeavours would be extra income for the motor vehicle repairers as well as savings on waste management expenses. A cleaner, safer and healthier environment would be a bonus.