

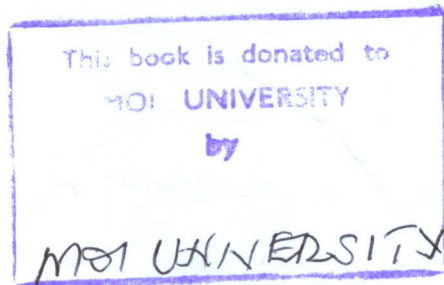
**EFFECTS OF UNCONTROLLED URBAN DEVELOPMENT ON INFRASTRUCTURE
PROVISION IN MEDIUM SIZED TOWNS, KENYA**



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ABSTRACT

Uncontrolled urban development is becoming a threat to growth of cities and development of towns worldwide. This has been attributed to many factors but, the prevailing land tenure systems and high levels of poverty will keep the scenario worsening if appropriate actions will not be taken. This study therefore, examined the effects posed by uncontrolled urban development on infrastructure provision using Eldoret town as a case study. The study objectives were: to identify the major causes of uncontrolled urban development, examine the effects on provision of infrastructure and to explore appropriate strategies for enhancing infrastructure development in informal settlements. The study was based on Mann's Urban Model which emphasizes the need for a systematic growth of urban centers in a more concentric and planned manner. It was a case study, focusing on two informal settlements: Langas and Munyaka. Data was collected using questionnaires, interview schedules, observation, and focused group discussion and photography. The required sample size was generated using stratified, simple random and purposive sampling techniques; collected data was then analyzed using descriptive statistics. The researcher used frequency tables, pie charts and photographs to make a meaningful conclusion on the effects of uncontrolled urban development. Arising from the study, it was noted that, provision of infrastructure in the informal settlements was not only expensive but, also complicated due to demolition of illegal structures and ascertaining of actual way leaves. It also emerged that rapid urban growth brings pressure on the use of existing infrastructure facilities a result the process of re-planning becomes difficult, eventually leading to increase in economic costs. This study recommends that, liaison and co-ordination between different government agencies and stakeholders is necessary for expertise, exchange of ideas and machinery. The municipal should also solicit the participation of residents as this encourages them to be actors of their own development as they are incorporated into urban structure.