

**INDUSTRIAL AND MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN MEDIUM  
SIZED TOWNS: A CASE OF KITALE TOWN**

**BY**

THE MARGARET THATCHER  
MOI UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARY

**DAVID MWANGI KUNGU**

**IHRD/PGDS/O1/2003**

**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF HUMAN RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTERS OF PHILOSOPHY IN DEVELOPMENT  
STUDIES**

**MOI UNIVERSITY**

**INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

**DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

**P.O. BOX 3900**

**ELDORET-KENYA**

**AUGUST 2007**



## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to ascertain how industrial and municipal solid waste is managed in Kitale town and to evaluate the challenges of solid waste management. The study also sought to establish the types of industries in Kitale town and the types of solid waste generated and how it is managed. Impacts of training on workers involved in solid waste management were also assessed. A case study research design was used, focusing on Kitale as a model medium sized town. Nine industries and 5 organizations that deal in solid waste were selected for the study including 161 respondents. The data was collected through administration of questionnaires, interviews, documentary analysis and photography and was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Results showed that most of the industries in the study area are agro-based and the bulk of solid waste generated is re-used within industries, therefore does not pose a pollution problem. The greatest challenge however, arises from packaging materials (indirect industrial solid waste), which constituted the municipal solid waste. The municipality generates 12,292.5 kgs of waste per day out of which 6,908kgs is classified indirect industrial waste. Modes of waste management were collection by municipal council, 6 tons (48.8 %), the street families 0.5 tons (4.1 %), while the rest accumulates in the town. The council experiences poor storage, collection, transportation and disposal coupled with minimal community participation. Suggestions are made to encourage community participation through community-based organizations and the organized street families should be formalized and empowered to deal in solid waste management.