

ABSTRACT

Quarrying is an activity where stones are mined through cutting, digging or blasting for various purposes such as being used in building, and making roads. The use of extracted material enhances trade, and creates jobs for most people who depend on it for their livelihoods besides its backward and forward linkages with other economic activities. Quarrying is a short-term activity with long term positive effects since it comes along with the promises of wealth and jobs but it may also lead to high social and environmental costs to its surrounding neighbourhoods.

This study set out to explore the impacts that quarrying activities have on their surrounding neighbourhoods in River Bank Estate in South B, Nairobi. A subsidiary aim of the study is to propose planning interventions that may be formulated for the sustainable rehabilitation of quarry pits in order to mitigate against their negative impacts. Specifically, the study examined the effects of quarrying activities on human environments. Questionnaires and interviews were used as tools for data collection. The research further examined the effects of quarrying on the physical, environmental, social and economic spheres. Stratified random sampling was undertaken to access the target population of approximately 250. The information collected was analyzed using SPSS 16.1 for cross tabulation and to generate frequencies and statistical graphs for the interpretation of data. The findings of this study show that there is a significant relationship between quarrying activities and safety of both the quarry workers and the residents in and within the surrounding neighborhoods.

The findings shows that regardless of the important role that quarry activities played in the local urban economic growth, it nevertheless resulted to negative effects to the environment such as land degradation among others. This study recommends that future interventions should be taken by the Government to ensure that the laws governing the quarrying and mining industries are observed through enhanced surveillance. Monitoring compliance by visiting the quarry sites should be undertaken routinely so as to minimize the negative effects of quarrying operations on humans and the environment. Lastly, further research on more advanced methods that can reduce the effects of the quarrying activity on the environment should be carried out.