

ABSTRACT

The aim of this research was to establish the level of access to community facilities by neighborhoods adjacent to an institution of higher learning taking a case study of Egerton University neighborhood, in Nakuru County, Kenya. The specific objectives of the study were; to examine the factors that have influenced settlement of people in Egerton town, to identify the categories of the existing community facilities in the study area, to investigate the providers and institutions of community facilities, to assess the residents' perception on the level of access to the available community facilities, to propose possible planning interventions for enhanced access to community facilities in Egerton town.

The study employed a mixed strategy research design involving various methods of data collection. The study used both primary and secondary methods of data collection. Secondary data was sourced from published journal documents, past research documents, e-learning sources, library interaction and other books relevant to this study, while primary data was obtained through, administration of questionnaires, interview schedules, photographing and observation. The questionnaires were administered to the sampled residents in Egerton neighborhood. A sample of 2 key informants was chosen through purposive sampling for the administration of the interview schedules.

The study found out that the community facilities available in the area were inadequate with regards to the provisions of physical planning handbook. It was also noted that some community facilities were not available at all while the available ones were provided by the private sector hence they were quite expensive and unaffordable to an average resident. The area also lacked a master plan to guide development in the area hence the area experienced unplanned growth.

The researcher made the following recommendation; enhancement of private and public partnerships in the provision of community facilities, preparation of an integrated development plan to guide development in the area, equip the available community facilities with the necessary infrastructure and lastly, encouraging multiple use of the existing facilities for the benefit of the neighborhood.