

ABSTRACT

One of the most intractable problems for local authorities in urban centres is the management of solid waste. Efficient solid waste management requires considerable political commitment, sufficient budgetary allocations, and a dedicated work force. Rapid urbanisation, low revenue collection and competing needs have combined over recent decades to put a strain on the capacity of many local authorities to deliver efficient waste management services, gradually reducing their areas of service coverage and diminishing the quality of services offered. Therefore, efforts by local governments to manage solid waste cannot keep up with the demand. The negative social and health impacts of this neglect are most felt by low-income residents. This study identifies the weaknesses, inefficiencies and failures of the solid waste management system employed in Kerugoya town and suggests appropriate, cost-effective methods of solid waste collection, transportation and disposal. This was done through extensive desk research, field survey, online questionnaires and collaboration with a private solid waste collection company, Green Villas Ltd. The inadequacies of the solid waste management system in place were marked by uncontrolled dumping at undesignated locations, overflowing waste in skips, inconsistent waste collection schedules, ineffective, uneconomical and time-consuming waste collection methods, and unplanned and dated waste disposal methods. The study therefore recommends a change in the type of waste collection truck used to increase the efficiency of waste collection. Designation of more collection points and acquisition of more skips to provide better service. The introduction of a waste transfer station to reduce trip times, increase frequency of collection and therefore increase service coverage in Kerugoya Town