

Socio-Economic Impacts of Stone Quarrying Activities in Narok Town Ward

Festus Kiprop Barchok¹, Samson Okongo Mabwoga, (PhD)² & Stella Kirui, (PhD)³.

^{1,2} Department of Environmental Sciences, Geography and Agriculture, Maasai Mara University,

P.O BOX 861-20500, Narok, Kenya

³Department of Biological Sciences, Maasai Mara University,

P.O Box 861-20500

Tel: +254 725494638 / +254 701992131 / +254 722292777

Email; barchokfestus@gmail.com, smabwoga@mmarau.ac.ke & kiruistella@gmail.com

Abstract

Quarrying is an excavation process involving abstracting materials, which are neither fuel nor minerals in nature from rocks. The ever-increasing development and construction in major urban centres worldwide have necessitated the need for quarries to provide materials for construction. This has led to detrimental environmental and social economic impacts which are usually ignored at the expense of economic pursuit by developers. The study focused on assessing the socio-economic impacts of stone quarrying in Narok Town Ward, Narok North Sub-County, Kenya. The target population were quarry workers, the residence and government agency officials dealing with environmental management. The study employed descriptive research design where both quantitative and qualitative techniques were used. Stratified sampling and random sampling techniques were used during the study. Questionnaires, interviews and observations were used to collect data. Findings have been presented descriptively in quantitatively and qualitatively. Quarrying activities in Narok Town ward has played important role in the economic development and infrastructural development, however it has brought about negative social issues such as change in social fabrics, conflicts, displacement and health related issues. Correlation coefficient ($r=0.705$, $P<0.001$) show positive correlation between severity of dust and respiratory illnesses among the respondents. The respondents strongly agreed that quarrying activities has led to creation of employment in the area. The study recommends that Stakeholders should put efforts in mitigation of negative outcomes of quarrying activities that leads to disruption of livelihoods. Community education and sensitization on environmental, socio- economic impacts and safety measures should be done to minimize negative impacts of quarrying activities in Narok Town ward.

Keywords: Quarry, excavation, socio-economic, environmental, impacts