

THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN THE ALLEVIATION OF POVERTY: A CASE STUDY OF
WORLD VISION KENYA'S WORK IN NAIROBI SLUMS.

BY

STEPHEN OTIENO NENGO

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ABSTRACT

Poverty is one of the greatest problems that the world faces today. Every body in the society is disturbed and perplexed by the persistence of poverty. The study is about "The Role of Non Governmental Organisations in the Alleviation of Poverty: A Case study of World Vision Kenya's Work in Nairobi Slums." The objectives of the study are, first to identify the causes of poverty in Nairobi slums. Secondly, to find out the steps being taken by World Vision to alleviate poverty in the slums of Nairobi. Thirdly, the study aims at establishing the challenges or problems encountered by World Vision, Kenya in its effort to alleviate poverty in the slums. Lastly, the study aims at identifying ways and means that can enable World Vision to work successfully in carrying out its activities of poverty alleviation in the slums.

The study is rationalized on the ground that poverty in the slums is a serious social-economic problem and seems to have been less investigated. The role of NGOs in alleviation of poverty in the slums has not been thoroughly studied. It's worthy therefore to create such a new knowledge and information, which has been absent for a long time. The findings of the study can be useful to World Vision and the NGO sector in general in helping the poor through proper planning and adoption of good approaches to poverty alleviation in the slums. In other words it can help improve the methods of operation of NGOs. This work can be particularly useful to World Vision in the implementation and management of poverty alleviation projects by adopting recommendations provided.

This study is also rationalized on the grounds that the results can help the government in policy formulation especially in matters pertaining to poverty alleviation. It is also hoped that this study will create new knowledge. This study is significant in the sense that it will generate further interest into research in general area of poverty.

In conducting the research, the researcher used questionnaires, which were distributed to the informants. This enabled the researcher to get the necessary data from the informants.

The researcher also interviewed the respondents verbally. Discussions were held during the interviews. The researcher also participated in some of the activities of the people studied and hence participant observation was seen as an appropriate method too. These methods were supplemented by information sought from library materials such as books, articles, magazines, and journals. The data obtained was then analyzed, interpreted and synthesised into final report.

In chapter two of the study, we present the background information of Mathare and Korogocho slums. We have also introduced a historical background of World Vision. It has been noted that the World Vision was formally founded in 1950, but was introduced in Kenya in 1974. In this same chapter, we have given a historical perspective of the phenomenon of poverty. Chapter two also highlights the causes of poverty in slums. The causes of poverty include unemployment, low income, literacy, population, social injustice, bad governance, diseases, alcoholism. The effects of poverty, family problems, immorality, poor health and eventually death.

In chapter three, we present the works of World Vision in alleviation of poverty in Nairobi slums. We have observed that WVK has various programmes namely Micro Enterprise Development Programme, education and training, child sponsorship, HIV AIDs project, school feeding programme, health and sanitation and evangelism. In this chapter we give a description of each programme and how they work in the alleviation of poverty. We establish that WVK empowers the poor economically and socially. It also came out clearly that the works of WVK has enabled the poor children to acquire education. Women have also benefited a lot from WVK through the credit they obtain for business improvement. Employment opportunities have also been created to the youth by the organisation through vocational training.

In chapter four, we have appraised the works of WVK in the alleviation of poverty. We have looked at the strengths and the weaknesses of the organisation. In the analysis, we realized that WVK has some successful impact to the slums. It has transformed the poor

through the holistic ministry. On the other hand, we also discovered that the organisation has a weakness in that it has not reached the real needy and poor people in the slums. The respondents said that WVK has also failed because of initiating projects that are not sustainable like child sponsorship. In this same chapter, we also find some of the problems that the organisation encounters in doing its work. These obstacles hinder the creation of an impact in poverty related cases. The study has shown that lack of community participation in the project activities, lack of funds, nepotism, lack of trained staff and poor management and monitoring system are the obstacles within WVK. Such factors have not provided a favourable environment for WVK success in alleviating poverty. The government and the community too are other impediments for poverty alleviation. Various approaches adopted by WVK in its work have been spelt. It is also in this chapter 4 that a short prediction of the future prospects of WVK in the slums has been given.

In chapter five, we have made the conclusion and recommendations of the study. We have concluded that poverty is inevitable in the community and it is not easy to eradicate poverty. It seriously needs God's intervention if we are to eradicate it. It also requires the contribution of every individual (men and women), the government, private organisations, religious groups, NGOs, CBOs, the young and the old if the war against poverty is to be a success.