EFFECTS OF POPULATION DENSITY ON HOUSEHOLD LIVELIHOODS IN KISII COUNTY, KENYA: A CASE STUDY OF AMASEGE SUB LOCATION, NYARIBARI MASABA SUB-COUNTY

BY

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Abstract

The main purpose of the study was to assess the effects of population density on household livelihoods in Kisii County, Kenya: A case study of Amasege sub-location, Nyaribari Masaba sub-County. The study was guided by the following objectives to: identify household livelihood activities practised in Amasege sub-location; examine how population density has influenced socio-economic activities of household livelihood in Amasege sub-location; and to assess household livelihood coping strategies in Amasege sub-location. The study adopted a descriptive design in which data was collected using structured and semi-structured questionnaires as well as observation. Data was obtained from 136 heads of households selected through stratified sampling and purposively sampled key informants based on their knowledge of the area and the information they had about the topic of study. The researcher analyzed data using descriptive statistics using frequencies and percentages and then presented by use of tables and charts. Based on the findings of this study, it can be concluded that most of the households depend on working on land, working on other people's farms, petty trade(small businesses) and support/remittance from relatives/children, while a few are in formal and wage employment. It can also be concluded that decline in yields and soil erosion are the major consequences of the land practices in Amasege sub-location. Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made: the County Directors in the Devolved Government and other stakeholders should put more emphasis on modern methods of farming to boost yields since the land sizes are small; National and County governments should enhance and sensitize the communities on importance of having small and manageable families; Family planning seminars and workshops should be enhanced; The County Director of Agriculture and other stakeholders should frequently make follow-ups to encourage the households on use of land practices which will not have negative effects on them; and the government should also improve the livelihoods by enhancing coping mechanisms of every household.

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