

# **URBANIZATION AND POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES: A CASE STUDY OF KIANDUTU SLUM THIKA, KENYA.**

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Poverty has often been seen as a purely rural problem but for many developing countries, the pervasive nature of urban poverty constitutes an enormous challenge for policy makers and their development efforts. Poverty reduction tools and approaches that have been developed for rural poverty reduction cannot be replicated in urban areas because urban poverty is different in nature from rural poverty hence, understanding the nature of urban poverty as well as having accurate data that presents its dynamics, trends and conditions is vital.

Kiandutu slum is arguably the largest informal settlement located outside Nairobi city. It consists of a poor people majority of whom are jobless resulting from the closure of many industries in Thika town and the collapsing of coffee plantations rendering the residents to live in abject poverty.

The study purposefully sought to: examine the poverty reduction interventions employed in the study area, identified actors involved and their specific roles with regard to the poverty reduction, assessed the challenges facing the poverty reduction interventions and recommended effective and comprehensive strategies towards poverty reduction in Kiandutu slum. The study used questionnaires, interview schedules, observation and photographs to gather data. Data was analyzed quantitatively (SPSS and Excel) and qualitatively (Narrative). The results were presented using tables, graphs, pie charts and photographs. Results from all the survey are expected to inform on effective and comprehensive strategies towards poverty reduction in Kiandutu slum.

**Key words:** Urbanization, Urban Poverty, Poverty Reduction, Poverty Reduction Strategies