



Eco-Friendly Materials and Sustainable Housing in Nairobi Slums: A Mixed-Methods Assessment for Youth Empowerment Solutions

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Abstract

Nairobi's slums face significant challenges in terms of housing quality, employment opportunities for youth, and environmental sustainability. The problem is exacerbated by a lack of appropriate construction materials that align with sustainable development goals. A mixed-methods approach combining qualitative interviews with quantitative data analysis was employed. Data were collected from 120 residents and analysed using thematic content analysis. The findings indicate that the majority of respondents (85%) prefer eco-friendly materials, which correlate with a lower proportion (30%) of youth seeking employment opportunities in traditional sectors. Eco-friendly construction materials can serve as an effective tool for creating sustainable housing solutions in Nairobi slums, particularly addressing the needs and aspirations of young residents. Policy makers should promote policies that incentivize the use of eco-friendly building materials. Initiatives aimed at training youth in these materials' manufacturing and application are recommended to enhance local economic benefits.

Keywords: *African Geography, Mixed Methods, Sustainability, Construction Materials, Empowerment Programmes, Environmental Justice, Participatory Research*

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