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WASTE RECYCLING AND SMALL, MICRO, AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SMMEs) DEVELOPMENT IN GREATER KOKSTAD MUNICIPALITY

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts (Social Development) in the Discipline of Social Work, Faculty of Humanities, School of Human and Community Development, University of the Witwatersrand

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ABSTRACT

Waste management is a global phenomenon and all nations need to ensure that waste is handled in an environmentally friendly and healthy manner. Municipalities in South Africa generate a lot of solid waste which is disposed of in the landfill site. The life span of these landfill sites is shortened by all waste that gets disposed on site. The only mechanism that can be used to minimize the amount of waste disposed of in the landfill site is waste recycling. At Greater Kokstad Municipality (GKM) there are very few companies that are involved in recycling activities. The rate of unemployment in the area is high and recycling activities would provide employment opportunities. This study is based in Kokstad and emanates from the fact that there are large volumes of waste discharged at the Kokstad landfill site. It seeks to explore the experiences and challenges faced by waste pickers and recycling SMMEs in the GKM. Also to identify reasons that causes waste pickers and SMMEs not to use the opportunity created by large volumes of unused waste to establish self-employment or employment of large numbers of unemployed people. This study used a qualitative research method and a phenomenological research design. The researcher used focus groups and semi-structured one-to-one interviews based on question themes or an interview guide. Data gathered was analyzed using Tesch's method of data analysis and thematic content analysis. The main findings of the study revealed vital information that can assist in shaping and planning recycling activities within Greater Kokstad Municipality. Findings also highlight the need to create an environment conducive to the implementation of effective recycling initiatives.

Keywords

Waste recycling, integrated waste management, waste disposal, SMMEs, Landfill site, waste pickers

DECLARATION

The research report titled *Waste recycling and Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMMEs) Development in Greater Kokstad Municipality* represents my own unaided work and the report has not previously been submitted to another university for degree purposes.

Ndabazovuyo Wellington Sobuce

Date:……

Signature:……

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