

Strengthening Community-Based Organizations (CBOs); as a Panacea to Poverty: A Study of Kibera Slum, Nairobi, Kenya

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Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1- “End poverty in all its forms everywhere” with the first Target “By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions” demands that more strategic efforts need to be put in place to build on the success of Millennium Development Goal 1 which brought a decline from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015.

One of such strategic efforts is to leverage on the existence of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) or other self-help groups existing in least developed countries of the world. This study hopes to evaluate the roles that Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), empowered or strengthened, can play in an effort to catalyze or stimulate the process of community liberations from the trappings of poverty. The study focus is Kibera Slum, Nairobi, Kenya.

Nairobi is the 14th largest city in Africa with 6.54 million population and it is home to one of the largest slums in the world, Kibera Slum, which has about 250,000 population with most of them living on less than \$1.25 a day. One of the marks of successes of previous interventions in Kibera Slum is the successful formation of over 20 Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). These Community-Based organizations (CBOs) are recognized, encouraged and licensed by the Government of Kenya to function. These CBOs have their areas of focus or specialization within the community. Though membership is voluntary but a great sense of loyalty and conformity are expected of each member.

Previous studies on CBOs in Kibera Slum have been largely focused on the health sector, especially their relevance in the delivery of Anti-Retroviral Therapy. Despite community and institutional support, though with little material support, the potentials of CBOs becoming a system that generates “heat” within or a catalyst to begin and sustain the process of households in Kibera exiting the trappings of poverty has not been fully studied. Therefore, this study aims to explore these potentials by evaluating the CBOs and assessing their capacity to catalyze the process of poverty reduction in Kibera Slum.

Both primary and secondary data will be required for this study. This will necessitate the need to make use of a blend of qualitative and quantitative research methods in order to explore the available sources of information. Further broken down to use of questionnaires and focus group discussions for primary data, while secondary data source will be the Government of Kenya. The information gathered in the course of this study will be critically analyzed for the purpose of easy evaluation of the research. The responses of respondents will be analyzed using simple frequency counts, percentage, charts, mean, standard deviation and paired t-test. However, the focus groups discussions will be reduced to the most significant points.

The success of this study can be scaled up to other slums in Nairobi and to all other communities In Africa and Asia where deliberate efforts are made to target households trapped in poverty. Therefore, global efforts to reduce poverty will have tremendous impact on the remaining 836 Million people living in extreme poverty. However, with a completely adopted strategy of empowering CBOs working as catalyst to bring about the needed change from within.