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Title of Dissertation: CONTRIBUTION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT TOWARDS IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS IN JABANA SECTOR IN GASABO DISTRICT, RWANDA

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ABSTRACT

The study explored the contribution of waste management towards improved livelihoods in Jabana Sector in Gasabo district, Rwanda. The study was guided by the three objectives namely; to establish the various waste management practices employed in Jabana Sector; to examine the ways in which waste management has improved the livelihoods in Jabana Sector; and to establish the challenges hindering proper management of waste in Jabana Sector. The literature review for the study was extracted from different text books, manuals, reports, journals and websites from different libraries and internet. The study was both qualitative and quantitative in nature. Both simple random sampling (general informants) and purposive Sampling (key informants) were used to select a total of 82 respondents for the study. The researcher used the questionnaire, interview guide and observation guides to collect primary data from the field. Data was finally presented in tables, pie-charts, and graphs. The findings of the study revealed that (93%) the majority of respondents noted that they were informed of the existing waste management practices in the area. Among them included composting especially witnesses in many home steads and alongside roadsides and recycling of used –up materials especially paper, metals and polythene bags. The study also indicated that the majority of respondents (93%) noted that they had found some benefits with better waste management practices. Among the benefits included improvement of agricultural production through the use of wastes as the green manure that enhanced soil facility and crop production and that some wastes were used for decoration purposes especially in people’s homes and village parties. It was also concluded that respondents noted that they were able to improve their savings through waste material sales and also noted that they were able to build houses from the sale of metal scraps and salaries to those engaged in the management and overseeing waste management practices among other environmental sensitive initiatives. It was concluded that the majority of respondents (96%) noted that they had found some challenges hindering waste management. Among the challenges included limited disposal units in relation to big population of people that dispose of wastes in their study area and land shortages where they could dispose the waste generated in their area. The study was concluded by requesting respondents to suggest possible mechanisms to the challenges hindering proper management of waste whereby the need for the provision of adequate waste disposal facilities to handle large volumes of waste from the growing population and marketing of waste resources for sale especially as for bio-degradable wastes for managing purposes could be adopted to sustainable waste management and improved livelihood in Jaban sector, Gasabo District were recorded among others.

The study recommended that waste is certainly more of a problem in our towns and cities than it is in the villages that need to be handled with great care and urgency. More waste is produced than

can decompose. The over loading of nature's waste decomposing machinery is responsible for water, soil, and air pollution. To try to manage waste we must use many approaches. This is what is called "integrated methods" they also known as the basic 3Rs namely; Reduction, Re-using, and Recycling.