

## 67. The influence of stakeholder engagement practices in faecal sludge management system in Embu County

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### Abstract

Global faecal sludge management heavily relies on on-site sanitation, with 1.3 billion out of 2.7 billion people depending on it, especially in urban areas where urban poor and peri-urban residents face increased risks but are often overlooked. In Sub-Saharan cities, pit latrines are more common than sewage systems. Access to sanitation in urban areas on a global scale is estimated between 65 and 100 percent, but improper faecal waste disposal poses significant risks of waterborne diseases. This study aimed to assess the impact of stakeholder engagement on faecal sludge management practices in Embu County. The study sampled 157 respondents, including managers, technicians, contractors, people involved in exhausting, and landlords, using a combination of primary and secondary data sources. Questionnaires and interviews were used to gather qualitative and quantitative data, and the Cronbach alpha method assessed reliability. The findings indicated that stakeholder engagement also had a significant positive effect on implementation, with a one-unit increase resulting in a 0.355 unit increase in system implementation. In conclusion, successful faecal sludge management requires proper resource planning, active stakeholder engagement, and robust Monitoring and Evaluation. Decision-makers should prioritize allocating appropriate resources, engaging stakeholders, and establishing comprehensive monitoring mechanisms. These measures will contribute to improved sanitation practices, reduced environmental impacts, and enhanced public health and sustainable development. Recommendations include developing a comprehensive resource plan, involving stakeholders at all levels, investing in capacity building and training, and raising public awareness on responsible waste disposal. These actions will help ensure the successful implementation of faecal sludge management systems, particularly in Africa and Kenya, where proper sanitation practices are crucial for public health and environmental protection. The overall, study emphasizes the pivotal role of stakeholder engagement in the success of the faecal sludge management and highlights areas for improvement to enhance effectiveness.

**Keywords:** *stakeholder engagement, sanitation practices, faecal sludge management*