Women and liveability – Best practices of empowerment from Kenya

Amriah Buang¹, Ratnawati Yuni Suryandari², Habibah Ahmad¹, Kaseh A. Bakar³, Hamzah Jusoh¹

¹School of Social, Development and Environment Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, ²School of Government, College of Law, Government and International Studies, Universiti Utara Malaysia & Urban and Regional Planning, Esa Unggul University, Jakarta, Indonesia, ³Faculty of Islamic Studies, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

Correspondence: Amriah Buang (email: amriah@ukm.edu.my)

Abstract

How to survive and make ends meet and how to improve the quality of life are daily and persistent livelihood issues and liveability challenges preoccupying disadvantaged communities in underdeveloped and developing countries. In politically volatile and HIV hazardous Kenya life struggles could be complex and challenging for womenfolk who more often than not are left on their own to cope with daily liveability problems. Through examining the findings from secondary information sources this paper illustrates three cases of how women helped make the best of empowerment projects geared to make the livelihood and liveability of themselves, their family and community better and more meaningful. It also highlights the institutional and organizational traits that were also the success factors of the empowerment projects.

Keywords: empowerment projects, Kenya, liveability, livelihood, success factors, womenfolk