

Truckers' Parking Bay Facility as Environmental Hazard in Salgaa "Wild West" Nakuru, Kenya

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Abstract

Traffic congestion in many areas particularly poorly designed truckers parking bays presents unique public health threat due to toxic emission, accidents, oil spills and antisocial behaviours as other studies indicate. Salgaa known as "wild west" situated 20 km from Nakuru city on Nakuru – Eldoret highway in Kenya, is hazardous environment because of its poor design as truckers parking bay. It is a favourable spot for truckers and attracts sex trade. Despise the economic benefits from sex trade; both truckers and the sex trade business have resulted to negative environmental impacts which are critical and needed to be addressed. This research study examined the integrated holistic approach to truckers' parking bay and sex trade on environmental health, safety and socio economic status. Data was collected from 60 respondents drawn from 30 commercial sex workers, 20 truckers and 10 residents of Salgaa using questionnaires, focus group, selected by simple randomization. The data was analysed using descriptive statistics and hypotheses tested using regressions. The study found that the truckers parking bay contributed significantly to the sex trade and resulted to cases of fire accidents from oil spills, high rate of HIV/Aids infection, drugs/ alcohol abuses, road accidents and high rate of school dropouts. The study also found that there was lack of coordinated integrated approach to prevention and control management of environmental and socio economic hazards increasing the magnitude of the hazards. The findings will be used to formulate policy for environmental hazard management and provision of education to the public. .

Key words: Truckers parking bay, environmental health hazards, oil spills, fire accidents, HIV/ Aids spread, illicit drugs/ alcohol abuse, school dropouts.

1.0 Introduction

Truck parking bays presents a unique public health threat due to the toxicity emissions and its extensive integration into the lives of the communities where poor parking bays are found. Parking lots accumulate a lot of pollutants; oils, grease, heavy metals and sediments that cannot be absorbed by the impervious surface (Karongo, 2011). Studies in the United States indicates that, truck parking facilities are an essential element of the region's transportation infrastructure, accommodating fatigued drivers and enhancing safe travel. A 2000 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) report indicated that driver fatigue may be a factor in as many as 30 to 40 percent of all heavy truck accidents in the U.S (Palmer, 2006)

Other highway surveys elsewhere, indicate that an overwhelming number of commercial truck drivers encounter a shortage of truck parking facilities, especially for long-term overnight parking. Some of the truckers end up parking in the wrong places pausing serious potential safety hazards such as accidents due to obstruction and fire (Palmer, 2006). .

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The current population of Salgaa is approximately 7,500 people. It has several businesses flourishing and is well known for its sex trade and truckers parking bay. The parking facility is not concrete constructed. The trucks are parked anywhere on loose soil ground. During wet seasons, the water mixes with pollutants causing health hazard to the community. The tracks move between Mombasa to other East Africa hinterlands such as Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Tanzania and Congo DRC. Salgaa not only offered favorable spot to host truckers but also attracted sex trade (Mkawale & Mabatuk, 2013). Sex work is a highly disputed topic, and many different views exist about whether it should be legal, how governments should address it, and whether it is morally acceptable. Despite the economic benefits from sex trade; the sex trade business has resulted into negative environmental impacts which are critical and needed to be addressed. The drivers park their trucks alongside the highway and take refreshments or spend the night in Salgaa. Over the years, the night stopover has catalysed sex business in the town. The increase of truckers' population with their generous monetary offers exacerbates prostitution which has become the main income earner for the locals. This sex trade became popular and the neighbouring communities were influenced, young girls lured out of school and any other unemployed girls would consider prostitution as a survival means (Mkawale, 2012). Sex trade in Salgaa has contributed significantly to other environmental concerns which are numerous, ranging from, oil spills, poor waste disposal, girls dropping out of school, drug abuse, fire and road accidents. The traffic accident hazards are contributed by obstruction of trucks being parked along the highway haphazardly inconveniencing other road users. Lucrative sex trade has resulted in high rate of HIV infections. The sex trade has attracted young girls who drop out of school to join the business. Exhaust emissions from the trucks has lead to increased cases of respiratory diseases among the community. Water borne diseases in wet seasons, poor waste disposal, lack of sanitation facilities, poor drainage system and drug trafficking are rampant in the area of study. The truckers spend the night with the sex workers and negotiate on the amount per round. Sometimes the sex workers are mishandled by the truckers who claim that they are at their mercy and can have sex without pay (Mkawale, 2012). Salgaa, a muddy little truck stop on the main Kenya-Uganda highway, exists for one reason alone: sex. Its more than 1000 commercial sex workers charge lorry drivers as little as \$1, but the cost in human life is astronomical. (Toolis, 2011) reported the Salgaa sex trade as the ramshackle collection of huts and hotels that is helping to turn Kenya's Aids epidemic into a holocaust. But no one complains because Salgaa only exists because of the trucks and the money the drivers spend. Salgaa is really just a big whorehouse. The entire town is built around the sex trade: there are 21 bars, four Video clinics, and 1000 prostitutes in a total population of 7,500 people. Without women prostitutes, the drivers wouldn't stop here (Toolis, 2011).

When it comes to responding to the AIDS epidemic, however, experience shows us what works by reaching out to sex workers. Empowering them and involving them in the fight against HIV would be one of the mitigative methods of reducing the HIV spread. Addressing the underlying environmental, social and economic problems that make sex workers so vulnerable to HIV by giving them greater legal protection against violence, and by working to reduce the discrimination they face. HIV infection rates amongst sex workers and truckers could be cut dramatically with application of integrated approach. Harassment and abuse of sex workers by the police is a widespread issue that needs particular attention from authorities (UNDP, 2012). Governments and organizations need to foster an environment where sex workers are able to protect themselves against HIV, and have widespread access to HIV prevention, testing and treatment services.

With less than one percent of global funding for HIV prevention being spent on HIV and sex work, UNAIDS (United Nations Programme on HIV and Aids) calls for a substantial increase in efforts and resources from governments and international organizations (UNAIDS, 2012). HIV prevention

amongst sex workers should be seen not only as a strategic move to stem the wider spread of HIV, but also as a means of helping sex workers and saving their lives.

Many Non-governmental organizations, ministries of health, social services and other health providers have been using conventional methods in the prevention and control of HIV / Aids spread among the sex workers and truck drivers. The methods include provision of protective gears, training and counselling which to some extent has yielded little to mitigate the problems. One of the Africa gospel Church (AGC) Ngata, has established an outreach ministry in Salgaa to provide holistic approach, trying to manage environmental hazards facing the community, Kenya and beyond. The holistic strategy involves; sharing the love of God, providing alternative sources of income through self help group formation, micro financing, training of sex workers on various economic, social and spiritual issues in order to transform new sex workers and truckers and to be responsible and to live normal life (Salgaaministry, 2010).

1.1 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to examine the environmental hazards resulting from truckers parking and resting bay and evaluate the integrated approach to mitigating the environmental hazards resulting from truckers parking bay in Salgaa.

1.2 Objectives

- i. To examine environmental hazards resulting from truckers parking and rest bay in Salgaa.
- ii. To evaluate effectiveness of the integrated approach to mitigating the environmental hazards resulting from the truckers parking and rest bay in Salgaa.

1.3 Limitations of the research

Some of the truck drivers were not willing to participate in the research interview for fear of disclosure, but they were assured from the beginning that the research is purely academic. Few of commercial sex workers were afraid to participate in the interview because of fear that they would be exposed because they engage their daughters in the business which was illegal. The research also covered Salgaa community and not the affected surroundings due to funding limitation. The final limitation to the research method was that not all respondents understood English and the national language, Swahili, had to be used sometimes and material translated from English to Swahili and vice versa. Not all Swahili words have an equivalent English translation and some expressions and information may have been lost in translation

2.0 Literature Review

Previous studies show that, transport workers and truck drivers in East Africa and Kenya are at much higher risk for HIV than the general population (Ministry of Transport and the National AIDS Control Council in 2005). "A survey at Athi River a highway town in central Kenya comprising of 970 truck drivers and assistants at a roadside clinic showed a 27 percent HIV prevalence which is higher national s average HIV infection level of six percent (Mainja, 2006). Efforts to get the truck drivers and their partners to take preventive methods when they engage in sex have been done in smaller towns namely Mariakani, Voi, Mlolongo, Naivasha, Malaba and Busia (Mainja, 2006). The USAID-funded Kenya Long Distance Truck Drivers Welfare Association runs a 'Safe-T Stop' in a converted freight container where truck drivers can relax, play pool and watch movies in Malaba (Mainja, 2006). The walls of Malabar's bars and restaurants are plastered with posters warning people to avoid excessive alcohol consumption, which often leads to risky sexual behaviour. The AMREF project runs a centre where it regularly meets with sex workers, encouraging them to use protection and pass on the message to their peers and other members of the community, teaches

alternative ways to earn a living. Condoms are available around the clock from a dispenser. "Several commercial sex workers have quit that line of work, fearing the danger of contracting HIV, and are now involved in small-scale businesses (Ajwang, 2010). Ajwang (2010) reported that Rispa Mora, 29 (not real name), says she got out of the sex business because, once she learned about HIV, it became too risky for her. She now teaches her former colleagues about the dangers of the virus and urges them always to use condoms. Moraa left the work and started a hair salon with her savings, so they can see that it is possible to have a normal life after working in the bars."

2.1 Sex Workers in other Countries

Although sex workers are severely affected by AIDS in many parts of the world, they are also one of the groups most likely to respond well to HIV prevention campaigns. Prevention campaigns aimed at sex workers not only reduce the number of HIV infections that result from paid sex; they can also play a vital role in restricting the overall spread of HIV in a country. Proof of this can be seen in countries such as Bangladesh, Benin, Cambodia, the Dominican Republic, India and Thailand, where general reductions in the national HIV prevalence have been largely attributed to HIV prevention initiatives aimed at sex workers and their clients. The Sonagachi programme in India which started in 1992 with the aim of helping sex workers to overcome HIV and AIDS on their own terms have used 3Rs: 'respect' for sex work and those involved in it; 'reliance' on sex workers to run the programme; and 'recognition' of sex workers' rights. The programme also encourages condom use and the combined strategy has addressed the wider social and economic challenges facing sex workers. In doing so it has achieved impressive results. Condom use amongst sex workers in the area rose dramatically, from 27% in 1992 to 86% by 2001 (Rojanapithayakorn, 2006). HIV prevalence amongst sex workers in the area also fell significantly as a result of the project (UNAIDS, 2005). In Brazil, the government and non-governmental organizations working in the country have put a lot of effort into preventing HIV infections amongst sex workers. These interventions have taken a tolerant, respectful approach, with the government often referring to sex workers as 'partners' in Brazil's fight against AIDS. HIV prevention campaigns have focused on reducing stigma, and encouraging sex workers to look after their sexual health. In one well-known campaign, a cartoon character known as 'Maria without shame' was placed on posters, leaflets and stickers in women's toilet facilities, with the message: "You need have no shame, girl. You have a profession (Ministry of Health of Brazil, 2002). In Thailand, one of the best ways to prevent sex workers becoming infected with HIV is to foster an environment in which they are willing and able to use condoms. The 100% condom programme established in Thailand in the early 1990s is held up as a prime example of how this can be achieved. This government-run campaign aimed to enforce condom use in all of Thailand's brothels and massage parlours, by distributing free condoms and making it a legal requirement for establishments to make clients use them. Under this programme, condom use amongst sex workers rose from 14% in 1989 to over 90% after 1992, and Thailand's HIV prevalence declined substantially (Rojanapithayakorn, 2006)

In Kenya, in the capital of Nairobi, HIV prevention campaigns aimed at sex workers were strengthened during the 1990s, including peer support and condom promotion. This resulted in a reduction in HIV incidence amongst sex workers in the city, from 25-50% to 4% by the end of the decade (WHO, 2004),

2.2 Integrating the Transport Companies

AMREF has been working with trucking companies to ensure that HIV awareness is incorporated into their policies. Solomon Ndongye, human resource manager at Multiple Hauliers, one of the region's largest transporters reported success in HIV programme between 1999 and 2002. The staff turnover experienced was very high because of HIV-related illnesses (Ajwang, 2010). The company

decided to increase awareness among them. New drivers are taught about HIV during their induction and the process continues during their employment. Counselling and treatment to HIV-positive drivers were provided and when they are too ill to work they were still paid. Although much still needs to be done, a lot has been seen regarding behaviour change especially in terms of both truck drivers and sex workers using condoms more and more. The aim of this programme is to ensure that sex workers and truckers continue to protect themselves from the dangers of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (Ajwang, 2010)

2.3 Examining Other Related Environmental Hazards

Kenya faces regular oil tanker fire disasters that claim the lives of many and leave many more badly injured. This happens when oil tankers are involved in road accidents and the oil. This often draws huge crowds that scramble to scoop the leaking oil, often result in big fire explosions that cause many deaths and injuries (Shileche, 2012). Other studies have indicated that, the overall view that emerged revealed that the response from the emergency services has always been poor. They are known to always lack the capacity to adequately deal with the oil tanker accidents, resulting in their escalation into fire disasters. It also emerged that people ignore official advice not to siphon oil and are willing to risk their lives in the process of scooping oil. Act and habit of scooping leaking oil from accident sites is largely blamed on poverty and lack of awareness to the danger of leaking of oil from the trucks. Despite many past oil tanker fire disasters, there seems to be no effective strategy in place in Kenya to prevent the risk of a re-occurrence (Shileche, 2012). It has been stated that, disaster response costs the government and other stakeholders more than would otherwise be the case if sufficient efforts had been put in place for effective disaster management (Shileche, 2012)

In Kenya, it is well known that local populations are normally first to arrive at the scene of oil tanker accidents and fire disasters before the emergency services arrive. In addition, oil tanker fire disasters take place mostly in rural areas far from emergency services that are mostly located in urban areas. This makes it impossible for the emergency services to respond to the disasters in a timely manner. Community based emergency approaches and responses to oil tanker fire disasters are therefore necessary (Ajwang, 2010). Ajwang (2010) argues, disaster mitigation using government and institutional interventions alone is insufficient because they pay little attention to addressing the community dynamics, perceptions or priorities, and the aim of Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM) is to reduce vulnerabilities and strengthen peoples' capacities to cope with hazards. In order to reduce the damage caused by oil tanker fire disasters in Kenya, it is essential to enhance the capacity of local communities to deal with them. It is crucial to motivate individuals to understand their own disaster risk and to take action against such risk as it is the people at the community or village level who suffer its adverse effects (Shaw & Okazaki 2004).

In January 2009, around 150 people died and more than 200 were injured in Sachangwan village, near Salgaa in Molo district when an overturned oil tanker that they were trying to siphon oil from caught fire and exploded (Mkawale, 2012). Sadly, this was not the first time that such a disaster had happened in Kenya, nor was it the last. Five months later in June 2009, 4 people died and 44 were injured when another oil tanker they were siphoning oil from exploded near Kapsoit trading centre in Kericho (Mutai & Njoroge, 2009). This was again repeated in September 2011, when four people died and 37 were injured in Busia, when an overturned petrol tanker exploded into flames while residents were siphoning fuel, a few days after nearly 120 people had died from a fire at a pipeline fuel spill in a slum in the capital, Nairobi (Reuters, 2011). In all of these disasters, there were reports that residents had refused to heed warnings from police officers to keep off the oil tankers after they overturned. Many of those killed in the fire disasters had hoped to sell the fuel in the black market to help them buy basic needs.

2.4 Examination of Socio-economic conditions due to Occurrence of hazards

Disasters should not be seen on their own. Poverty plays a huge part here, as the poorer the people are, the less resilient to hazards they will be. It is necessary to understand the current socio-economic conditions which make people in Kenya more vulnerable to hazards such as oil spills than they otherwise would. Kenya is classified as a low-income country with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita of \$1,808 (ranked 35th out of 182 countries in the world). The country had a GDP growth of 5% in 2011. However this does not mean a reduction in poverty as the growth does not trickle down to the poor. The country also has a huge public debt, 48.9% of GDP in 2011 (World Bank 2012). The Human Development Report for Kenya states that the country has 19.7% of the total population living below \$1.25 PPP per day (UNDP, 2012) and almost 40% living on less than \$2 a day. Population growth was 2.6% in 2009 and the life expectancy is 57 years. Unemployment rates in Kenya were 40% in 2009. Kenya is the regional hub for trade and finance in East Africa but has been hampered by corruption and by reliance upon several primary goods whose prices have remained low. Corruption and lack of fiscal reform led to the IMF suspending Kenya's Enhanced Structural Adjustment Program in 1997. A severe drought compounded Kenya's problems, causing water and energy rationing and reducing agricultural output between 1999 and 2000. However, the government was rocked by high-level corruption scandals in 2005 and 2006 which led to the IMF delaying loans in 2006 pending action by the government on corruption. The international financial institutions and donors have since resumed lending, despite little action on the government's part to deal with corruption. Post-election violence in early 2008, coupled with the effects of the global financial crisis on remittance and exports, reduced GDP growth to 2.2% in 2008, down from 7% the previous year (UNDP, 2012)

2.5 Kenya Disasters in the past few Years

According to Shileche (2012), Kenya is disaster prone, with the most common disasters experienced triggered by hydro-meteorological, seismic and environmental processes leading to hazards such as floods, droughts, landslides, lightning and earthquakes. Poorly managed agricultural and environmental practices including overgrazing, deforestation, irrigation and mining of natural resources have left fragile eco-systems even more vulnerable. Climate change is exacerbating these hazards, increasing their variability and scale of impact. Human induced disasters such as transportation accidents, fires (such as oil tanker fire disasters, wild fires, building fires, supermarket fires, slum fires and dormitory fires), civil unrest and conflicts, terrorism and industrial accidents are also frequent. Kenya is also at risk to outbreaks of diseases. In addition to periodic or seasonal outbreaks of endemic diseases such as cholera, malaria, meningitis and typhoid, (HIV/AIDS) has remained at national crisis levels since shortly after its 1999 emergence. With regional and global transportation hubs in both Mombasa and Nairobi, the vibrant tourism, international business and humanitarian organisations headquartered there, Kenya is particularly vulnerable to growing global threats caused by other pandemics including Avian Flu and H1N1 virus (Shileche, 2012). Poverty, explosive population growth and rural migration to urban areas in Kenya have increased vulnerability and put communities at greater risk from disaster and jeopardised development goals. Poverty reduces the ability of a community to be self-sustaining; disasters erode assets and undermine the resilience of social economic systems. Disaster management is therefore a vital component of the societal efforts towards improvement of its livelihoods. The increasing frequencies, complexity, scope and severity of destruction left in the wake of disasters (especially oil tanker fire disasters) have resulted in more serious consequences. Concerted efforts towards the prevention of these disasters and implementation of measures to address their impact on communities are crucial for stability and development (Shileche, 2012).

In spite of all the efforts towards disaster management from the Government of Kenya, approaches are still top-down, with authorities like the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) and the Police Force enforcing rules and meting out penalties against those seen to have violated rules in relation to hazards. The focus is also still on post disaster response. The declaration of a disaster in Kenya still comes from central government, yet communities are the ones that are at the front line, suffering the immediate impacts of disasters. Ideally the disaster declaration process should be bottom-up whereby an empowered community leadership informs district authorities who in turn pass information through the provincial to national authorities (Shileche, 2012).

2.6 Role of AGC Ngata and its Integrated Approach start

Meshack Habib, then a pastor of Africa Gospel Church Ngata marshalled his evangelistic team to find how environmental hazard in Salgaa could be addressed through holistic approach more specifically to transform commercial sex workers and truck drivers (Salgaaministry, 2010). The pastor began relating with women who had been involved in commercial sex in this small town. As the women struggled to grow in their faith in Jesus and consider alternative professions, Habib helped them to register BOLESA.

3.0 Methodology

Both primary and secondary data collection methods were used in the research. Triangulation, where the researcher used several sources of information, was used in the research to back up statements, confirm them and achieve a high level of accuracy. Secondary data collection involved a review of literature; records from the Ministries of Social services and Health. Other sources of secondary information were books, journals, newspapers, internet sites and reports relevant to the research subject area. A review of how community based approaches and holistic approaches to environmental hazards management have been applied in other locations was also assessed with a view to applying it in this case. Qualitative methods including focus group discussions and key informant interviews using questionnaire schedule. The research questionnaires, interview schedule and focus group discussions were both held in the night and during the day to cover the target group. Both open and closed format questions were used. Data was collected from 60 respondents drawn from 30 commercial sex workers, 20 truckers and 10 informants from residents of Salgaa. The respondents were purposefully selected to represent the true population of the affected community. The data was analysed by means of SPSS version 18 tool using descriptive statistics and hypotheses tested using regressions, ANOVA at 0.05 alpha for testing level of significance. Reliability and validity of the instrument was tested through Cronbach test.

4.0 Findings and Discussions

The study found that, Salgaa is a holocaust with numerous disasters. The truck parking bay at Salgaa presents serious environmental hazards. Seemingly the situation is left to take its own chance. The community within Salgaa area were found to be exposed to all kinds of environmental problems ranging from STDs, waterborne diseases, respiratory diseases, moral decay, school drop outs, fire and accident disasters.

4.1 Evaluating Sex Trade Menace in Salgaa

The study found that more than 500 trucks are parked at Salgaa everyday with 1000 drivers and turn boys. The sex trade currently attract between 1000 and 1200 commercial sex workers, of whom are women ranging from age 15 to 60 years. Of this, 80% were 15 – 24 yrs; 15% from 25 – 40 yrs; 5% were over 40 years. Out of the 1000 commercial sex workers, 40% are infected with HIV/Aids and 60% not infected. This number is significantly high. Sex trade takes place anywhere especially at night peak hours; 30% in rented room in the presence of the children, 45% in the lodgings, 10%

under the trucks and 5% inside the trucks. Three to five commercial sex workers share rooms to reduce the cost and this means there is group sex. Out of the 1000 sex workers; 45% use condoms and 55% do not use condoms. Most truckers interviewed, said that they enjoy sex without condoms and hence pay more (between Ksh. 600/= to 1000).

Truckers said that, the sex workers who insist on using condoms end up being paid less, between Ksh. 200 to 500. Most sex workers reported that if the truckers insist on not using the condoms, they accept because of the need to have more money. In this case, money is the driving factor and not HIV infection and this is the reason why there is significantly high rate of HIV and STD infections in the area. Sometimes the sex workers face harassment by the truckers. They said that the truckers who don't have money to pay them force them to have sex and in the process they get hurt. When they report such cases of rape or sexual harassment to police, the police turn against them and demand free sex. Sometimes they are taken to police station and locked in cell for refusing to cooperate with them and the truckers. One sex worker interviewed said that the sex business is a horror but money becomes priority because where else can you get money to survive.

4.2 Evaluating Health Organizations and Social workers Support

It was found that the main health support team in Salgaa were Aphia + II, North Eastern Alliance and few social work volunteers. Their main aim is to provide counselling, testing and condom supply as mitigation methods which instead of reducing the menace have escalated the problem. 48% of the sex workers interviewed said that, these organizations are only interested in protective methods but do not reach to the very bottom of sex workers needs and to help them get other alternative ways of income. They do not provide physical, emotional and love support. The majority reported that if there was alternative to income sources, they would not want to do this kind of sex trade but only forced to do it because there is no alternative to sex trade. They indicated that they need to feed their families, educate their children and pay rents and bills. 75 % felt that they want to stop the business but 25 % are addicted to it and are not interested in stopping. Majority did not mind about the HIV infections.

4.3 Evaluating Sex Trade Effects on Education

The sex trade here is a big concern to the community because the young mothers introduce their girls to the business so that they make more money to meet their needs. Having sex with partners in the room in the presence of children not only a dangerous habit but encourages the girls to the business. 5 % of young girls –possible to give the number leave school and join the business every year. Many of the girls become hardcore sex workers and may not return to school. There is a general decrease in girl child education in the area-what is this in real terms number or percent. This presents a serious social problem not only to the families affected but the productivity of the country. This study confirms results elsewhere where commercial sex trade has hindered girl child education in India (Shileche, 2012).

4.4 Evaluating Oil spills and Fire disasters Impact

Oil spills occur when truck drivers park their trucks and there is a tendency of truckers selling the fuel and oil leaks which becomes a disaster when people come to draw fuel and light cigarettes. The study found that there is high frequency of trucks overturning along Salgaa stretch due to over speeding. The accidents attract the nearby population who end up drawing fuel hence causing fire. Several cases of serious fire have been reported in this town where recently over 150 people lost their lives from fire and many left injured, families left devastated. It was found out that the trucks parked carelessly near the pubs and hotels cause fire when truckers siphon fuel and sell to the locals. The oil spills from the parked trucks cause environmental pollution. The oil mix with mud and water during the wet season cause air and soil pollution, a serious killer of plants and small animals, leading to

extinction of species- interesting to find the extent and species affected. Studies conducted elsewhere in other countries confirm these findings (Shileche, 2012).

4.5 Waste and Garbage collection

The study found that there are no designated places for refuse and wastes produced from the town. Wastes and garbage generated are scattered everywhere and it is often difficult to find places to walk and the scene is an eye sore. When it rains, the environment becomes filthy and unbearable. The place is also littered with used condoms dropped anywhere after sex. The sewage system here is rare to find but the few found are blocked with condoms and plastic materials. Sanitation facilities are poorly done in rest rooms and pubs which pose health threat to the community especially to sex workers and truckers. 25% of the target population suffer from respiratory infections, dysentery and diarrhoea. This information was got from Rongai health centre records.

Salgaa: Accidents due to Haphazard Truckers Parking

The study found that, 3 to 5 accidents occur in a week and in most cases there is loss of life. Some respondents believed that Salgaa harbours accident demonic spirits along the highway because every day there is accident. Poor, hazardous parking and high speed due to straight highway are the cause of accidents in Salgaa, the study found.

4.6 A chilling Experience by Sex workers

Several sex workers admitted that they are often harassed by police. Some have been arrested for being in position of carrying condoms. They said this law enforcers do not want us to be protected. Some reported that the stigma of being HIV positive make it hard for them to access health facilities at the nearby clinics. Health personnel are not polite and quickly ask if we are sex workers. One time a doctor asked one of them if she was HIV positive. Such mishandling makes them not visit the clinics. It was reported by the respondents that unknown number of sex workers inject themselves with drugs to make them gain the courage to indulge in unprotected sex. Some become involved in sex work as a means of financing their drug use, while others are involved in sex work first, and then turn to drug use perhaps to escape from the intense emotional and physical burden of their work, or because other sex workers have introduced them to it. Since needle sharing is one of the most efficient ways of passing HIV between people, sex workers who inject themselves with drugs and share needles face a particularly high risk of becoming infected with HIV. One of the police inspectors at Salgaa revealed that one of the drug dealers has been supplying the drugs to youths in the area. There are cases of drug barons who have been intercepted with bhang, arrest is made but later the baron is released or disappears. The Salgaa area is prone to drugs and illicit brew which encourage even the local community to engage in irresponsible sex contributing to increased rate of HIV spread. Apart from the sex workers and truckers other vulnerable population is affected by the disease. Large farm of drug (bhang) was found cultivated around Salgaa. The police was informed by the members of the public and were able to uproot the substance and the owner arrested. One of the respondents reported during the interview.

4.7 Migration, mobility and people trafficking

The study revealed that because of the lucrative cheap sex trade in Salgaa, many young women and girls from other neighboring communities and far as other East Africa countries are flooding the area. These migrants turn to sex work because they cannot find any other way to make money. As well as selling sex themselves, migrants may also become clients of sex workers, sometimes as a means of escaping the loneliness that often accompanies migration. Sex tourism is fuelling the demand for sex workers.

4.8 Evaluating, the Role of Conventional methods in Hazard Management in Salgaa.

Government agents and NGOs have been making efforts to manage disasters caused by multiple effects resulting from truckers parking bay and sex trade in Salgaa. Despite the presence of these services, the hazard management has not been effectively done. The respondents gave several reasons for this; 96% of people interviewed said, the health service providers have negative attitudes towards sex workers and often mishandle them. 12 out of 30 sex workers interviewed said that they have stopped going for protective gears at the clinics because there is lack of diplomacy and negative attitude. They become judgmental if they know one is a sex worker," one of them said accusing the health providers of asking "irrelevant" questions like whether one is married. The supply of family planning facilities is another issue mentioned in government health facilities in the county said one of the health provider officers with an NGO. The sex worker reported that, minimal information on family planning and protection of HIV also hinders their uptake and challenged the government to create more awareness on the subject and involve local communities and most at risk groups like them (sex workers). The respondents suggested that the government and the NGOs should work together with faith based institutions in managing environmental hazards faced by them in Salgaa.

4.9 Evaluating the Role of Faith based Institutions in Salgaa town

Many participated in the interview were happy with role played by the church in reaching out to address social, environmental and spiritual concerns of Salgaa community. 75% were happy, 20% not happy, and 5% did not give any answer. 85% of sex workers were willing to leave the trade and look for other alternative source of living, 15% wanted to continue with the trade. 90% of the Salgaa community supported the faith based approach because they were more practical oriented and emotionally supportive than the conventional one hence encouraged the church to do more. Many felt that the government and other NGOs working in the area should work together with faith based institutions towards addressing the serious environmental hazards in Salgaa town. The truckers complained that the government know their plight and have done nothing to mitigate the negative impacts affecting them and the environment. 76% interviewed suggested the construction of modern parking facility at Salgaa including rest areas because the current rest areas are not good and lodgings are not well maintained (environmentally disastrous). There are no places for waste and garbage disposal. Used condoms, plastics and garbage are littered everywhere. This makes the environment unhealthy for living and a lot of people have been in the past infected with diseases which could have been avoided when the residents take the responsibility together with service providers.

80% of the people interviewed, said the conventional approach is encouraging the trade by supplying protective devices which in some cases are not used during sex business, hence more HIV spread. Most of the target population especially sex workers, complained that the health providers are not humane and do not care how they live and their conditions when they are sick. No one visit us in our place of residence, no food, no love shown to us, we are not recognized by them, we are no people-that was the expression of some of the commercial sex workers views. 85% of the community responded that the Ngata AGC has done commendable work in reaching out to every person infected and affected by the disasters. They said that the church make visits every Wednesday of the week, organize fellowships and bible study meetings, teaching the word of God, training women into small income generating business, supporting the families affected both spiritually, physically, emotionally and financially.

It was found that, when the Ngata AGC compassion ministry came to Salgaa to reach out to the infected and affected community in the year 2010, through a local pastor, Meshack Habib, at first the truckers and the sex workers were not happy because they thought that the church was coming to interfere with their business which was flourishing despite the disasters. But after sometime they began to appreciate the strategy the church used to help and support in finding better solution to the

negative impacts. The church is now seen as offering practical solution to the problems facing the town. The church used integrated approach where they preached, counseled, gave financial support and even organize meetings and fellowships by visiting the sex workers in their residents, support those who are sick by taking them for treatment, do the washing and cleaning of their houses, provide financial support towards education of children from families that could not afford. To make it sustainable the compassion ministry organized the sex workers population into self help group called BOLESA (Boror, Lelechwet and Salgaa communities), where they are given money to start other income generating activities so that they leave the sex trade. The members of the group who have been transformed are trained and come together to supporting one another. Sex workers saw this as a powerful tool towards reducing the HIV infections and supporting the HIV positive sex workers by offering them alternative source of living “Alternative Love”.

The initiative “Alternative Love strategy” was to involve women in healthy and productive activities through which they could earn a decent livelihood for themselves and their families. The group was taken through training on mindset change, income generating activities, psycho-social therapy and social support. One lady, a mother of three, narrated, “We collaborated with unscrupulous Kenya Pipeline staff members in vandalising the pipes and drawing thousands of litres of diesel and petrol from the damaged pipes. We did it, but now we are changed. Many people do not believe that someone they knew as a robber and a twilight woman, have found Jesus and changed.” Another lady, Margaret who also has three children, acknowledges the fact that God changes people.

BOLESA a community-based organization is growing and has over thirty transformed sex workers. BOLESA offers emotional and material support. The Salgaa compassion ministry sponsors the project as part of its behavior change campaign and the group has a full-time counselor. The members practice the virtue of being a good neighbor, reaching out to other women in the villages with advice on health issues. Those who are too ill to support themselves have their neighbors’ help out with both moral and physical support like- washing clothes, cooking, and other domestic-chores.

Today group members have different income-generating activities, from making ornaments and decorated gourds to sanitary pads and clothes. “The only challenge we face is where to sell our products,” said Moraa. She is the oldest member of the group at sixty-five years of age. She joined the group when she couldn’t control her urge for alcohol. “BOLESA has helped me a lot. I am rehabilitated now- I neither drink nor sell alcohol,” she said. The group members are exploring options of developing a market for their goods, as this is connected to journey goal of financial freedom. With the money raised, they will educate their children, the study found.

The records from the social work office and the compassion ministry, indicate that 30% of the sex workers have quit the sex trade and are now engaged in other income generating activities organized by the church, 20% of them have been transformed and gone back to join with their families. 5% of the girls who dropped out of school to do the sex trade have successfully gone back to school and are being financially supported by the church. The church with the support from the missionaries visiting Salgaa has regular cleaning exercise and creates awareness to a clean environment. Over 30 sex workers who have left the work have formed a support group who participate in reaching out to other sex workers and truckers to fight against the sex business by involving them in other alternative living. The group now trains other sex workers how to make wares for sale. The only challenge is where to get market for their products. But 10 ladies have been financed to start their own businesses such as hair salon, computer training among others. The limitation here is funding. If the church would be supported toward this approach, many lives will be saved and transformed for better. A

bout 9% of the sex workers who have been transformed, have gone back to their families and are leading decent life.

5.0 Conclusion

Truckers parking bay at Salgaa, started as a small rest area has resulted to a lucrative Sex trade attracting sex workers from a round and as far as East Africa countries. The presence of the truck parking bay has produced multiple effects on Salgaa environments which are both positive and negative. Positive in the sense that many businesses have sprung up and the place which started with small kiosks has grown in to a small medium size town with high population diverse communities drawn from East African countries. The business community gets lots of profits from the sale of their products and lucrative income from rental facilities and several pubs and motels. The sex trade is the main income generating activity in this small town.

The negative potential impacts are numerous generated by the presence of the truck parking and rest bay. From the findings, the truckers parking and rest area has given birth to sex trade. The sex trade has resulted into more serious environmental hazards; high rate of HIV spread having serious implications on the lives of the people of Salgaa and beyond, the high consumption of illicit brew and drug use factor. Most sex workers are under the influence of drugs and alcohols to enable them indulge in sex trade without fear. The high level of prostitution has contributed to anti social behavior such as family break ups, girls dropping out of schools, deaths, drug trafficking, high drug consumption among the youth. Sexual harassment and sex violence are the order of the day.

The lack of space for truck parking coupled with muddy parking area during the wet season and emission from the exhausts are casing health hazard such as respiratory infections and water borne diseases. The haphazard parking along the high way is causing untold accidents to the residents and other road users. The oil spills and fuel from the parked trucks and the overturned ones due to accidents from over speeding has caused lives and injuries to the local population. Siphoning of fuel is very dangerous and is the cause of fire accidents on this Salgaa highway. Oil spills and emission from exhausts contribute significantly to environmental pollution. The study also found that, conventional methods of dealing with these hazards have not been very effective in managing the hazards. There has been lack of well coordinated plan and practice to reach out to the root of the problems and the effective strategy to curb the menace.

From the sample target population interviewed the majority reported that with the coming in of Ngata AGC ministry in the area since the year 2010 and with the integrated approach employed, there has been a very significant positive change of behavior and in managing the disasters. Many sex workers have been transformed and now involved in other income generating activities. Many have gone back to their families and reunited. The church has provided love and financial support to the sex workers who have undergone transformation. The truckers are also helped to lead responsible life and avoid spreading HIV/ Aids. The truckers' plea is to have a decent parking facility in Salgaa with environmentally friendly rest motels.

The findings indicate that integrated approach (convention and faith based methods) can produce significant positive change in managing environmental hazards facing Salgaa community.

Recommendations

1. There is need for the government and other environmental disaster managing bodies to work together with faith based institutions to achieve their goals.

2. The health service support teams in Salgaa should handle sex workers with respect and dignity in order to achieve their goals of preventing and controlling HIV spread and other STDs.
3. The security forces should help the sex workers instead of condemning and harassing them.
4. Law regarding illicit brew and drug abuse should be reinforced to reduce and stop youth and adults from destruction.
5. Girls dropping out of school for financial reasons should be supported to reduce rate of illiteracy in the area.
6. The government needs to act quickly to construct modern state of the art truck parking bay and rest areas to reduce accidents, pollution, diseases caused by lack of this facility.
7. The county government should improve sanitation facilities and drainage system.
8. Regular cleaning and creation of awareness be organized to reach out to the community sensitizing them on proper disposal of garbage and waste management system. They should also be educated on their responsibility to care for their lives and to avoid unnecessary behavior leading to health hazards such as HIV infections and spread.

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