

Abstracts

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Solid Waste Dumping and Collection Facilities in Douala , Cameroon : Indications for a Sustainable Management Policy

Fombe Lawrence Fon, University of Buea, Faculty of Social and Management Sciences, Department of Geography, P.O.Box 63, Buea, Cameroon (Email: fombef@yahoo.co.uk) presenting the facilities placed at the disposal of solid waste generators and city cleaners in the Douala metropolis in Cameroon, feels that the proliferation of garbage at un-regulated dump sites and the nonchalant attitude adopted by most city dwellers in the clearance exercise stem from the inadequate, run-down nature and poor location of trashcans in the face of a rapidly expanding population. The facilities for dumping and collecting waste and their location within the various functional zones should not undermine the process of urbanisation, population growth/density, cultural and environmental perceptions of the local inhabitants. The existing road infrastructure constitutes a vital element to be considered in devising an appropriate collection strategy that can safeguard the lives of the population. He calls upon the local authorities to integrate modern techniques with local dumping and collecting methods that could be installed to attain a target for 'a safe and sustainable city' and should become part of an overall planning and management policy for an efficient and sustainable handling of municipal solid waste.

Household Structures in Contemporary South Africa

Esther W. Dungumaro, (Email: dungumaro@ukzn.ac.za), Akim J. Mturi, (Email: mturia@ukzn.ac.za), Nompumelelo Nzimande, (Email: nzimanden@ukzn.ac.za), and Dorothy Sekokotla (Email: sekokotlad@ukzn.ac.za) at the School of Development Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Howard College Campus, Durban 4041, South Africa , provide an account on the types of household structures prevailed in South Africa during the 1990s. Making use of a combination of sources including the Census, Household Surveys, Living Standards and Development Survey and the Demographic and Health Survey, the authors examine the relationship of each member of the household to their household head, with a breakdown of population group, rural-urban residence, and province. The authors note that extended households are predominant while nuclear households are the second most prevalent form of household in South Africa . Meanwhile, single parent households are substantial and have been increasing during the 1990s. Most of these households are headed by single mothers.

Adolescents and the Mass Media: Contemporary Issues in the Literature

Deepak Kem, Department of Sociology, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi-110 025, India , (Email: drdeepak.kem@gmail.com), considering adolescents as a category critically interrogates the way the adolescent is construed in communication studies. The attempt in this paper is to understand the adolescent as a distinct category in comparison with other age groups, and to treat adolescence as an adult-centric construction. Also, the author questions the dominant discourse and assumptions in relation to adolescents in the mainstream communication research and places adolescents into a larger perspective and a global context. Thus, the paper analyses the existing scholarly literature pertaining to the topic in order to map the continuity and change in the traditions of communication research that informs our understanding on the current discourse on adolescents and the mass media. We should take seriously the adolescent's relationship to popular culture and create contexts where we can better understand them.