

1.0 CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION.

1.1 Preamble.

Kisii is the fastest growing town in Western Kenya. It is highly endowed in the production and marketing in the Agricultural sector and it is the second most populous town after Kisumu.

The major planning and urban development challenges facing Kisii town include the following: high population growth straining the available infrastructural facilities leading to economic situations (unemployment), urban sprawl, lack of adequate basic physical infrastructure like, sewer, water supply, solid waste disposal and surface water drainage, environmental degradation, riparian reserve and informal settlements and encroachments on fragile ecosystem like wetlands and hilltops.

This high rate of urbanization also comes with increased rate of trading from small scale to large scale among producers to consumers. Traders encroach open spaces within the town and street walking reserves to sell their produce to the pedestrians and vehicular users.

1. 1.2 Problem Statement

There has been a drastic transformation in the concept of consumer shopping and small scale trading in Kenyan town; that's from shopping in the malls and shops to one stop points along the town arcades (Street vending) and open air market stalls. Many traders tend to utilize the open available spaces within the town, due to increased population on the limited space within the town Centre for expansion and economic constraints (unemployment).

Street vending is thriving and growing, suggesting that it will not disappear in Kenya. . Street vendors use pavements and sidewalks to vendor and “pedestrians have been pushed off pavement into the streets at risk to life and limb, while vehicular movement has been reduced to a crawl” (Blankson, 2006, p. 43).

Kisii town streets is not an exception in this, it experiences human and vehicular traffic congestion that results from street vendors occupying sidewalks that are meant to be shared by all pedestrians, pedestrian end up sharing space with vehicles. “The Town congestion even becomes worse during the evening times of the day when civil people are from work, there is peak sales , the entire town is literally besieged by stalled human traffic and things get out of control as vendors occupy all spaces in pavements and in the roads” (Development, 2008, p. 16). Even though there are environmental problems that are encountered by the town, but they are not only limited to congestion.

Beside congestion in the town, “the ubiquitous unauthorized structures that have sprung up on the city’s landscape ruin its aesthetic appeal” (Development, 2008, p. 20). Failure to accommodate street vending has led to many negative impacts in Kisii town.

For instance Daraja mbili open air market experiences rampant incidences of cases of accidents killing numerous pedestrians and traders, poor waste disposal, surface drainage and sewerage management.

Based on this scenario, this has put pressure on the urban authorities to regulate street vending. It is important to find ways of integrating space for street vending in the planning of town centres, especially movement routes, in order to avoid conflict.

[Towards Spatial Integration of Street Vendors in Central Business District.](#)



image 1.2: Traffic congestion in Kisii Town.

source: Google



image 1.3: Traffic congestion in Kisii Town. source: Google

1.3 Aims And Objectives

To find out and establish planning and design strategies towards integrating traders and informal businesses within the Kisii town streets.

To architecturally identify and come up with ways of modernizing the market areas and open spaces to attract more traders and improve the integration between the traders and pedestrian and vehicular users.

Identify and prioritize potential urban development areas for design to decentralize and ease the congestion and within the town centre.

1.4 ScopeAndLimitations

The major focus is informal trading in the Kisii Town central Business District limited to Analysis on Street vending and open air market trading. The scope of the study will a look into the relationships between street vendors and transportation links in the Kisii town and means of integrating the duo.

1.5 Limitations

Restricted areas in photo taking. Traders were alert on photographing and taking measurements as they are cautious of being recorded and arrested by the government or local authorities.

1.6. Research Questions

How can street vending be integrated in urban centres, thereby reducing pedestrian and vehicular conflict in the Kisii town CBD?
Are there any regulations that control and support street vending?

Where are the preferred spots or sites for street vending?
Which Spatial quality encourages street vending?
What planning principles can be used to reduce congestion created by street vending?

1.7. Significance Of The Study

Integrating street vending in urban centres, to reduce pedestrian and vehicular conflict in Kisii town Cbd.

1.8 Hypotheses Of The Study

Street Vending is mainly considered as an informal activity within the town yet it plays a major role in the economic growth: this research seeks to find ways of formalizing it and integrating it within the streets.

1.9.0 Research Methodolody 1.9.1 Field study

Cases of Street Vending in Kisii Town shall be investigated and documented , Three major areas along B3 Kisii- Kisumu road.

- i) **The Uhuru Plaza Market - Has Temporary structures of street vendors**
- ii) **The New Kisii Bus Station- Overcrowded with stret vendors.**
- iii) **The Daraja Mbili Market - Open air market concetrated with traders spiling to the transport system.**

The cases will be used as the units of analysis; Field study, interview and archival data for the for the areas will be analyzed to identify and find out issues of locaion, legibility, dynamism, perceived image and sustainability of street vending in kisii town.

1.9.2 mapping.

The cases of vending spaces described above shall be observed and documented in the following manner

Mapping of the location of the street vending spaces around the urban spaces of Kisii town. Find out occupancy patterns, times of vending commodities offered and spaces use. Mapping of location of the street vending spaces around Kisii town. Maps got from archives of Kisii town, online and sketches from the field collections. Since the Vendors are extremely wary of surveyors and anybody looking them like local auhorities, approximation of distances may be used in some cases to present data.

1.9.3 Photography and Recording.

Photographs will be taken to establish relationship between the formal and informal spaces. Densities (Vendor per Unit space), pedestrian movement routes. By use of sketches i will clearly analyse the photos find out the aim of the study and the findings. Recording activity and identifying patterns at various times of the day and interaction of the people with the vending spaces will he;lp establishing the imortance and use of the urban spaces to the lives of the town dwellers.

1.9.4 Interviews

i) Interviews will be conducted with the officials of town council of Kisii Town to get views on vendors and give them more inforation on the street vendors market built by the town council. The officials will also be expected to give more information and statistic on vendors', licensing and future plans and vision to accomodate street vendors in urban setting of Kisii Town.

ii) Interviews will be organized with the vendors and the associations formed by them to get their opinions and views towards town council officials.

iii) I will arrange interviews with a number of customers and space users, thats pedestrians to get user's perspective about street vending.

1.9.5 Archival Research

i) Current Planning efforts for street vending markets by the county council- current planning data can be sourced from the county website and offices plans and gazettes.

ii) Current conditions of the street vendors- Data from the current cnditions of the Street market collected by the county town planner and physical planning officials.

iii) Official documents indicating future developments of street vendors markets in Kisii town will be colleted from town offices /authorities.

iv) Historical development of the street vendors in Kisii town to help in understanding how street vending spaces grow.

1.9.6 Definition Of Terms and Acronyms The street

A public space lined by buildings on both sides and usually used as a space for movement of vehicles or pedestrians. In the context of this research on vending street or market street constitutes that spaces lined

Street Market.

As used in this study, street market mean any space with or without structures designed or not for use by the street vendor to display or sell their wares.

A vendor.

Any person whether principle or agent, who moves from town to town or from place to place in the same town selling merchandise either on foot or any carriage to willing buyers.

Informal Sector

Economic activities that operates outside of the government's observation and regulation are referred to as the informal economy. In this study street vending is the activity that is focused on and which is part of the informal economy.

The Informal Economy

The informal sector is a concept that encompasses small businesses such as self employment, street hawking, personal service employment and waged workers (Suparwoko, 2008).

Contested space

There is no definite definition for this term, but it refers to public spaces that are contested within the cities by urban users. Brown (2006) argues that often, the contests for space manifest through the users' defiance of spatial regulations. Every pedestrian wants to utilize public spaces in a way that will benefit them.

Public spaces.

Urban public spaces are defined as social spaces that are open and accessible to all (Brown, 2006). Roads (including the pavement), public squares, parks and beaches are typically considered urban public space. This Study mainly focuses on spaces within the CBD used street vendors to sell which are pavements and sidewalks.

Congestion.

Congestion is a condition that occurs within the streets or road networks as users' increase, which is characterized by slower speeds. This study focuses on vehicular traffic and pedestrians whom have been pushed in the streets because the pavements are occupied by street vendors.

Street vendor.

Street vendor is a person who offers goods or services for sale to the public without having a permanently built structure but with a temporary static structure or mobile stall. According to (Bhowmik, 2012) Street vendors may be stationary by occupying space on the pavements or other public/private areas, or may be mobile in the sense that they move from place to place carrying their wares on push carts or in cycles or baskets on their heads, or may sell their wares in moving bus. This study focuses on vendors who sell at the pavements or sidewalks and those walking within the streets with mobile stalls.

Street vending.

Street vending is an income generating activity where individuals sell their wares along streets and pavements to passing pedestrians. According to (Kamunyor, 2007) Street vending is one activity within the informal economy, the segment of a country's economy that operates outside the regulation and protection of the state.