DETERMINANTS OF POVERTY AMONG THE FISHERS OF LAKE VICTORIA IN KENYA

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Abstract
This study identifies the determinants of poverty among the fishers of Lake Victoria in Kenya and makes policy recommendations on anti-poverty initiatives that are pro-poor. The study uses Secondary data from 70 households, (7 clusters with 10 households each), enumerated during the 1997 Welfare Monitoring Survey.

The Multiple Linear Regression Model is used to derive the determinants of poverty using Gretl computer software. Our results show that transport (time taken to reach the nearest transport facility as proxy for road infrastructure), level of education, household size are major determinants of poverty in rural areas.

The study proposes several policy recommendations that promote rural development and reduce the incidence of poverty amongst the rural poor. Specifically enhancement of agricultural productivity, investment in health, education, sanitation and improvement of road infrastructure should be encouraged.

In addition, the government, in partnership with all stakeholders should provide a conducive environment that enhances income and asset redistribution while targeting the poor and vulnerable in the society.

We recommend that these policies be implemented in close collaboration with the rural communities to enhance their effectiveness in reducing poverty.