

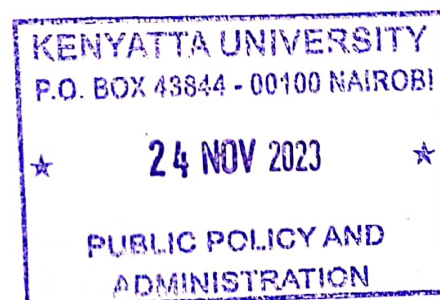
DETERMINANTS OF MATERNAL HEALTHCARE COVER UPTAKE: A CASE  
OF LINDA MAMA MATERNITY COVER IN MUKURU SLUMS IN NAIROBI  
CITY COUNTY, KENYA

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FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE MASTER OF ARTS IN PUBLIC POLICY AND  
ADMINISTRATION OF KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

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**DECLARATION**

I wish to declare that the work therein is my very original work and consequently not been presented for a degree in any other university.

Ruth Wambua

Sign: ..... *PWF* .....

Date:

..... *24/11/2023* .....

**Approval**

This research project has been submitted for examination with my approval as the university supervisor.

Dr. Benjamin Kimolo

Lecturer Kenyatta University

Sign: ..... *[Signature]* .....

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## ABSTRACT

The low uptake of maternal health care cover in sub-Saharan Africa is an intriguing phenomenon requiring evidence based investigations. This is due to the well-being of the mother and children before, during and after birth, and the curbing of maternal morbidity and mortality hinging on the uptake of maternal healthcare insurance. Evidence indicates low uptake of insurance despite the recognition of insurance playing a critical role as a strategy of risk management therefore calling for a speedy intervention by policy makers. Achieving this objective in low income jurisdictions, was crucial to provide prudent interventions to barriers affecting access to maternal healthcare services. It is from this backdrop that the current study sought to investigate the determinants of Linda Mama maternal healthcare cover uptake in Mukuru slums in Nairobi City County. The study was guided by the following specific objectives: to examine the influence of information access on Linda Mama maternal healthcare cover uptake in Mukuru slums in Nairobi City County; to find out the influence of availability of health facilities on Linda Mama maternal healthcare cover uptake in Mukuru slums in Nairobi City County; to investigate the influence of household income on Linda Mama maternal healthcare cover uptake in Mukuru slums in Nairobi City County; and to assess the influence of education level on Linda Mama maternal healthcare cover uptake in Mukuru slums in Nairobi City County. Cumulative Prospect Theory was the anchoring the study. The study employed descriptive research design, stratified and random sampling to acquire data from a sample size of 230 out of the possible target population of 524 comprising of county executive committee for health, county director for health, community health workers and expectant women aged between 18 – 49 years residing in Mukuru Slums. Data was analysed into descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics were presented using frequency, percentages, means and standard deviations. Inferential statistics were analysed through correlation and regression analysis which were presented using charts and graphs. The study underscored the aspects of confidentiality by keeping the responses anonymous and also at no point participants were required to inscribe their names. From the study results, household income and education level of the expectant women were significantly influencing Linda Mama maternal healthcare cover uptake in Mukuru slums in Nairobi City County. However, information access and availability of health facilities were not significant determinants to Linda Mama maternal healthcare cover uptake in Mukuru slums in Nairobi City County. As such, the study recommends that policymakers should consider measures to alleviate financial constraints for low-income households. Develop educational programs that target communities with lower educational attainment, and enhancing information dissemination about the Linda Mama program. Further, priority should be tailored towards improving the accessibility and quality of healthcare facilities in Mukuru slums. Future studies can conduct comparative studies in other urban and rural areas to assess the generalizability of these findings and identify contextual variations in the determinants of maternal healthcare cover uptake. In addition, a longitudinal studies can provide insights into the evolving dynamics of maternal healthcare cover uptake in slum communities, allowing for the assessment of the long-term impact of policy interventions