

**ABSTRACT****Integrating Poverty Alleviation Measures into Sustainable Development Strategies: Illustrated by a Case Study of a Poor Rural Community in Jamaica****Marjorie Elaine Woolery**

This study focuses on integrating social policies into sustainable development objectives for the Caribbean region. The widespread nature of poverty in CARICOM countries makes poverty alleviation measures a priority aspect of development policy, and where sustainable development is concerned people's interaction with their physical surroundings highlights the necessity of linking environmental management issues with social issues.

As such, this thesis sets out to investigate the different ways in which poverty manifests itself and how these ways interplay with the natural resource base. The physical environment in turn impacts on the lives of the poor giving rise to a two-way causality effect, a relationship which is also analyzed. The magnitude of poverty and the particular characteristics of the poor in CARICOM countries is outlined with the empirical analysis of poverty presented in the study. An illustration of the interrelationships between poverty and the environment is undertaken in the form of a concrete case study. The case study which was carried out in a poor rural

community in Jamaica highlights the various aspects of poverty and establishes the linkages between poverty and the environmental resource base. The conclusions drawn from the case study are used as a basis for designing policies aimed at achieving a sustainable future for Jamaica and the wider CARICOM region.

The thesis concludes that the focus on integrating poverty alleviation measures into sustainable development strategies prioritizes the human element in the debate on achieving sustainable development not only because of the positive implications for environmental resource management, but more essentially because of the positive implications for the welfare of the majority of the region's poor citizens.