DISsertation Report

An investigation into the effects of water shortages on the lives of urban people. A case study of Unit N, Chitungwiza District.

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ABSTRACT

The town of Chitungwiza has been experiencing severe water shortages since the beginning of this millennium. Water supply problems have been reported even when there are water sources that lay idle without being used. The aim of this study is to establish the causes of the problem, its extent, its impact, and what could be done to mitigate the problem. The study used interviews, questionnaires and content analysis to establish that ageing equipment, a lack of foreign currency, and local funding, as well as a lack of expertise and of political will have contributed to the poor water supply in the town of Chitungwiza. This has resulted in the transmission of communicable diseases, such as cholera and diarrhea, which has wrecked havoc on the town. It has also disrupted the social lives of women and scholars. The town needs to commit itself to turning the situation around by involving the community, building more storage facilities, and by placing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in place.