

Review of: "Examining Water Use and Sanitation Practices in Rural Schools of Chegutu District, Mashonaland West Province, Zimbabwe"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper provides a comprehensive overview of the status of WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) in the study area. However, it reads more like a survey report than an academic paper, as the academic contribution and analytical framework are not well explained. There are several areas where the study could be improved:

1. Introduction:

The introduction heavily relies on outdated references, some of which are 10 years old. To establish the current situation of WASH, it is important to review and cite more recent articles that demonstrate the necessity of WASH and the relevance of conducting this study.

Furthermore, the objective of the study is limited to providing a description of the current conditions of WASH in schools, without clearly stating the implications or relevance of these findings. It would be beneficial to elaborate on the implications that can be drawn from the current conditions of WASH in schools.

Literature Background:

The literature background section also relies on outdated references that do not provide strong support for the study. Additionally, this section could be integrated into the introduction to provide a more cohesive structure.

Study Area:

The rationale for choosing Ward 11 and 29 as the study areas is not explained. It is important for the authors to clarify the reasons behind selecting these specific areas to enhance the study's validity and relevance.

Methodology:

The Methodology section lacks a clear explanation of the methods and analytical framework employed in the study. For instance, the approach used to assess water use and sanitation practices is not described. Additionally, the rationale for utilizing a Likert scale should be provided.

Results and Discussion:

The reliance on descriptive statistics alone to confirm differences in results, such as water use between male and female or comparisons between schools, is insufficient. It is recommended to apply statistical tests, such as t-tests, to confirm any significant differences.

Moreover, many of the findings presented in the results section are not adequately explained. For example, the paper briefly mentions the water uses of students in schools but does not provide a clear analysis of potential differences based on the gender of the students.

Furthermore, certain measurements in the study were not appropriately conducted. For instance, the assessment of whether schools provide information and hygiene education should be measured using a yes/no format based on factual evidence, rather than relying on student responses of agree/disagree.

In conclusion, while the paper provides valuable information on the status of WASH in the study area, improvements are needed to enhance its academic rigor and clarity. Addressing the issues mentioned above, such as updating references, providing a clear analytical framework, and ensuring appropriate measurements, will strengthen the paper and improve its overall quality.