

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 research provides a comprehensive analysis of water, sanitation, and hygiene practices in schools, addressing demographic aspects, enrolment trends, and water-related challenges. It highlights the need for strategic improvements in WASH programs and emphasizes critical issues such as water quality and hygiene facility deficiencies. Some recommendations are proposed for further enhancement.

- 1. It would be helpful to specify the time frame of data collection to provide a context for the study. Additionally, mentioning the year of the study and any temporal considerations would enhance the clarity of the abstract.
- 2. Ensure consistency in the use of tense throughout the manuscript.
- 3. The conclusion provides a good summary, but consider adding a sentence that emphasizes the implications of the findings and potential recommendations for improvement in WASH practices in schools.
- 4. When mentioning the World Health Organization's target and the Sustainable Development Goals, provide the years of reference to give readers a sense of the timeline.
- 5. Provide a brief overview of the WASH in schools program before delving into its components.
- 6. Provide citations for statistics and facts presented, especially when referring to reports or surveys. This adds credibility to the information presented.
- 7. Present a clear structure for discussing enrolment statistics. Clearly state the reasons for the changes in enrolment, particularly the drop in school B, which needs more explanation.

Ensure consistency in discussing trends across schools.

8. Ensure a logical flow between sections, making it easy for readers to follow the research narrative. Clearly link findings to the research questions and objectives.

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