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

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Greetings!

Reviewer: Dear authors,

Thank you for the opportunity to review your manuscript.

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Approved with Reservations

My Overall Evaluation

The theme ***Examining Water Use and Sanitation Practices in Rural Schools of Chegutu District, Mashonaland West Province, Zimbabwe*** is indeed important and especially for contexts in the WASH & public health field, this theme should indeed receive greater attention and to that end I would like to thank you for bringing together this write-up on this issue. However, the paper is challenged on many fronts with regard to the implementation of this larger objective:

- The article title is appropriate.
- The abstract accurately reflects the content. However, Abstract should lay out five key points:

Rationale (1-2 sentences) - why was the research needed?

Objective (1 sentence)- what were you trying to provide to meet that need?

Method(s) (up to 3 sentences) - briefly summarize what and which parameters were measured.

Results (up to 4-5 sentences)- what did you find? Please add some data to demonstrate the findings.

Conclusions/Recommendations (1 sentence) - so what should be done with or in response to your findings?

- Keywords is appropriate.
- Introduction is appropriate - Structure of an introduction is maintained:

Appearing first: Broad background and context

Appearing second: Review of relevant literature

Appearing third: Introduction to the gaps in knowledge that you have addressed

Appearing fourth: Explanation of why these gaps are important

- The purpose or purported significance of the article is explicitly stated.
- Figures and table substantiate your claim and both follow sequentially.
- Novelty of the work be established.
- The justification of the study is not clearly stated. The reason for using specific analysis is not clearly mentioned. Justification for using a specific methodology or instrument will make it more understandable. Adding more details in this section can give more clarity to the readers.
- Also, some assumptions are stated in various sections. Justifications should be provided on these assumptions. Evaluation on how they will affect the results should be made.
- Academic English: Authors should use transitional words mindfully to highlight clear and thoughtful connections among ideas. Please ensure that you avoid colloquial use of English i.e. we, our etc.
- There were few numbers of grammatical issues throughout the paper, which made the ideas unclear at times. I recommend that the authors proofread the paper carefully, and/or enlist some colleagues/friendly reviewers to help them identify and correct grammatical problems.
- Author should make known his Inclusion and Exclusion criteria.
- **Data Analysis Methods:** It is mentioned that data were collected, compiled as well as analyzed using descriptive statistics, but there is no detailed description of the specific analysis methods and statistical tests used. In the Methods section, it is necessary to clearly list the data processing and analysis methods used, including descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing, etc. This will help readers understand the credibility and accuracy of the study.
- **Sample Selection and Sample Size:** What are the basis for sample size calculation to ensure that the sample can represent the target population and have statistical reliability.
- Discussion - This will need rewriting in light of all the above comments. This need to be improved upon. Describe the major findings of your study in the opening sentence. Correlation of your results with previous literature is essential. So, discuss your own results before relating them to the results of other published work. Then correlate your work with at least 7-8 recent publications either in support or in contradiction for justification of your study. The discussion section needs to be described scientifically. Kindly frame it along the following lines:

  i. Main findings of the present study

  ii. Comparison with other studies

  iii. Implication and explanation of findings

  iv. Strengths and limitations

  v. Conclusion, recommendation, and future direction.
- The submission provides enough new material for journal publication.
- Add the specific value, problems and challenges of the findings in the conclusion.

- Add 2-3 lines about future recommendation or implications of research in last portion.
- Each citation and reference need careful checking for accuracy of comment in the text. This is a very important and basic point in writing scientific papers; if the paper does not say what the authors are saying then it MUST NOT be cited in the text.

This suggestion would strengthen the study further and when addressed will improve the manuscript.

Best regards,

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