

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.

1- In line 4 of the summary, in what way is the number of respondent's representative? Insert the figures as a percentage and respect the structure of a summary.

2- On line 5 of the summary, present the statistical methods used to analyses and interpret the survey data. Descriptive statistics is not a statistical method, but a section of descriptive methods.

3- Introduction, line 3 to 4, using an old reference and an obsolete development objective are not relevant. It would be more appropriate to use goal 6 of the SDGs, which runs until 2030.

4- The second paragraph of the introduction presents the situation at global level, then at South African level in the third paragraph, ending with the situation in Zimbabwe. The data presented in the fourth paragraph relates to which area? Paragraph five starts again with South Africa and moves on to sub-Saharan Africa, before dropping back to Zimbabwe in the final paragraph of the introduction. Please reorganize the introduction by starting with a context and then the problem in a clear, concise, precise and above all hierarchical way (situation at world level, then in Africa, South Africa and finally Zimbabwe, see specifically the case of the districts surveyed).

5- The section devoted solely to the literature review (which deals with water and sanitation), if accepted by the editor, must present the typology of water supply and sanitation systems that exist in the area studied. If not, mention this in the introduction.

6- Instead of talking about the water supply and sanitation programme in developed countries, it would be better to talk about Northern or Western countries, given the current economic situation of the countries covered by the author's development.

7- Methodology, study area paragraph, geo-locate the study area by longitude and latitude. Add the position of the study area in Zimbabwe to the location map, followed by the geographical coordinates.

8- Paragraph 3.6 Data analysis: what specific statistical methods were used? Specify them and describe the procedures.

9- Results, paragraph 4.2, what is the link between gender and methods of water supply and sanitation?

10- Paragraph 4.3, what is the population growth rate in Zimbabwe? how is the demography progressing between 2017 and 2022? the growth in numbers over time in this paragraph may be linked to general demographic growth and may not be directly linked to water and sanitation practices.

11- In the calculation of percentages at the end of paragraph 4.3, the method of calculation is not presented in the methodology. How do you manage to obtain 116% and 157% if the entire population surveyed is taken on the basis of 100%? Wouldn't it be more representative to give the rate of increase between 2017 and 2022?

12- Paragraph 4.4, is the first sentence a result? What water analysis attests to the water quality claimed by respondents?

13- Paragraph 4.5, what are the different uses of water? What is the impact of the frequency of water use according to gender? is the impact significant or not? what statistical test demonstrates this?

14- Paragraph 4.6, what are the different sanitation systems used? what is the impact according to gender? is the impact significant or not? what statistical test shows this?

15- Paragraph 4.7, highlight the effect of pupils' access to hygiene information and training, then compare with pupils who do not have these opportunities.

16- Are paragraphs 4.8 and 4.9 the results of your work? Review how to discuss the results of a research project and, to this end, I invite you to consult at least three scientific articles on the subject you are developing. Several articles are available online with free access.

17- The conclusion does not reflect the content of the work developed beforehand.

18- The recommendations must be accompanied by the work carried out and be addressed in a hierarchical manner to different levels of society; for example: at national level, the ministry responsible for education; at local level, school heads and other decision-makers, parents and pupils.

19- In the work as a whole, most of the references are old. The references are inconsistent and incomplete in the list of references.

In conclusion, I congratulate the author on his courage. All the observations mentioned above are intended to transform the author's present report into a scientific work that can attract the attention of decision-makers at local level. The author should also seek the support of a researcher before seeking his own independence. The author's present work is therefore a report of a series of observations in the field and cannot be published in this form. However, a correction following the guidelines mentioned above (1 to 19), as well as those of other researchers, could improve the author's work and facilitate publication.