

How increase in population affects the provision of sewerage systems in Nairobi County, Kenya.

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Introduction

Over the last two decades, the population in Nairobi county has tremendously increased. This might be as a result of rural urban migration in search of better opportunities, improved health facilities across the county (UN, 2003). Increase in population on the other hand has put a significant amount of pressure on environment (Dennis *et al.* 2013). For instance, waste water (sewage) generated from homes in Nairobi County (NC), if left untreated and channeled to the right storages poses serious risks to the environment and public health (UN, 2003).

There is a need therefore, for the Nairobi County Government to develop and implement seamless policies and regulations to provide adequate sewage infrastructure network to meet the demand of its increased population.

Objective

- 1) To establish how increase in population affects the provision of sewerage systems in Nairobi county.

Methodology

This research used questionnaires as a way of collecting data from National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Nairobi Water and Sewerage Company. These are organizations with the mandate to conserve the environment in Kenya and design, construct and maintain the sewerage systems across Nairobi county respectively.

The data was then analyzed to establish the effects of population increase on the provision of sewerage systems across Nairobi county.

Results

It was established that Increase in population has leads to increase in production of waste across Nairobi County. For example, 40 % of Nairobi county is not covered by sewer system thus making the disposal of effluent difficult. This may subject its residents to illness.

Secondly, increase in population leads to increase in demand for land to build homes. As a result, land that was set aside for construction of sewage networks have been encroached and grabbed causing the delays in construction of sewage networks.

It was also found that the current sewerage facilities are over starched to maximum capacity making the waste water to flow by the road sides on some estates of Nairobi county. This is because of lack of enough funds to construct enough drainage network across the county.

Conclusions

This study highlights the major challenges Nairobi county faces as a result of population increase. One of such challenge is limited network of sewerage systems that enables the drainage of waste water across the county. As a result of limited networks, more often the waste water are left to flow to Nairobi River untreated which is likely to cause diseases. Therefore its upon the County government to allocate more resources for the construction of sewerage networks across the county.

References

1. Dennis A. Ahlburg, Allen C. Kelley, and Karen Oppenheim Mason (2013) The impact of population growth on well being in developing countries. pp.140.
2. United Nation (2003) A public health and economic tragedy [Online]. Retrieved from <https://www.un.org/press/en/2003/hab184.doc.htm> [Accessed on 20/06/2018].