

**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM AT CHAVANI
VILLAGE, SOUTH AFRICA**

By

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ABSTRACT

Most countries of the world are experiencing water crises because water as a natural resource is no longer as freely available as it used to be. The main contributing factor is technological advancement and associated economic expansion that have put a lot of pressure on water resources. The demand for water has greatly increased and this has created serious challenges to the sources of water. The study was carried out in Chavani village under the Nkhensani Tribal Authority. The aim of the study was to find out about the state of water supply system at Chavani Village South Africa. The study followed an exploratory research approach. The data collected include both qualitative and quantitative data. The total population of the study was 103. The sampling procedure included probability and non - probability sampling. Structured questionnaires were distributed to 60 households which were Selected using cluster sampling, 24 learners from Shinguwa high school was selected for focus group discussions using stratified sampling. There were 12 females and 12 male's .Lastly 16 community members were selected for focus group discussion in a meeting called by the chief on a voluntary basis. A one-on-one semi structured interview were conducted with the ward councilor, the traditional leader and the village water community leader Key informants observations, focus groups, interviews, and questionnaires were used to source out information about the water situation in Chavani village.

Among the key findings is that: a third of the respondents buy their water from those neighbours who have boreholes. Fetch water from springs and rivers. Communal taps are opened 1-2 days per week. Women and children of school going age were the main collectors of water. A majority of the respondents have been involved in a meeting, usually called for by the community leaders, to discuss the state of water in their community. Villagers complained that buying water was costly. They also lamented the inadequacy of communal taps, the long distance travelled to collect water, and having to collect water from an unclean source such as a well. These factors restricted them from fully engaging in agriculture.

The youth were concerned by the fact that they still had to collect water after school thereby adding an extra burden on them instead of them focusing on their books. The villagers complained that there were many broken pipes resulting in water leakages and bewailed for the lack of technical knowhow to maintain their water infrastructure. Many believe that 'very little' progress has been made to solve the water problem in the community. The study recommends that the current old water infrastructure must be repaired and more boreholes sunk so that every street must have a communal tap. Civic campaigns to educate communities on water harvesting and its conservation should be made. There will be need to train people on the technical aspects of maintenance of water infrastructure involving community members, Government, NGOs, entrepreneurs and other relevant stakeholders. Concerted effort must be made by all relevant stakeholders to ensure that community members have access to water in an equitable manner to enhance community cohesion.

Key words: Domestic water, rural area, water scarcity, Water supply projects, water resource, women.