IMPACT OF HOUSEHOLDS’ WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT

This study analysed the impact of households’ wastewater management on the environment as there is no consistent mechanism to deal with it, due to a dominant informal settlements in Kigali city and particularly in Kicukiro District, Nyarugunga sector. The study aimed at assessing the status of household wastewater collection in the study area, identifying the benefits of treatment and recycling of wastewater to the environment and investigated the effects caused by continuous digging of soak pits in each plot supporting heavy buildings. The population under study was 8853 residents of Nyarugunga sector; where the sample size was 95. The researcher has used questionnaires, observation and interview guide to collect data. SPSS has been used to analyze data. The study revealed that there is a serious environmental degradation especially in slum settlement due to inexistent management of household wastewater where water pollution and air pollution are the two significant negative impacts on the environment; according to the respondents from slum settlement at 58.8% and 23.5%; and planned housing at 42.1% and 31.5% respectively while for estate, the air and water pollution are at 50.0%. There are also other negative impact like ground water contamination and road destruction.

Key words: Household wastewater management, environmental impact