

Assessment on the access to clean, safe (drinking) water (Sustainable Development Goal 6) for residents in the township Khayelitsha

A qualitative study in Cape Town, South Africa

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Abstract

Safe and clean drinking water is indispensable to sustain life and health, and is fundamental to the dignity of all.

This research investigates the lived experiences of the access to water for the residents in the township Khayelitsha, in Cape Town, South Africa. The reference points are the SDG Goal 6 and the General Comment 15 of the CESCR. By using three different methods of quality research, literature review, interviews, and observations, the outcome should be a first-hand account of the accessibility of water to better understand the needs of the residents. The result is that the residents in the RDP homes experience the access to water as stressful, challenging and struggling. They feel powerless and are pressured by their inability to pay for water. The shortage has negative effects on food security, health, livelihood choices and educational opportunities. Water even becomes essential to survive, as handwashing is a key measure to limit the spread of COVID19. However, for the resident's access to sufficient water remains a daily challenge, which puts them at high risk due to the ongoing water apartheid. Thus, the government must provide continuous access to sufficient water to the residents living in the most vulnerable conditions.