DSPACE

https://dspace.org/

Perception and issues of solid waste management in South Africa, Johannesburg: case study

Kubanza, Serge Nzalalemba

2012-01-04
http://hdl.handle.net/10539/10913

Downloaded from a DSpace repository. https://dspace.org/

ABSTRACT

Everything we do affects our environment in one way or another. All human activities generate waste, especially our businesses. Inadequate collection and inappropriate disposal of solid waste causes water, land and air pollution, and pose risks to human health and the environment. The aim of this research was to investigate the impact of mismanagement of solid waste on the environment as well as on human health and find out the remedies to the problem. The research was based on the two hypothesises, that poor management of solid waste affects the environment (pollute air, land, water) and pose risks to human health in Johannesburg. To confirm or infirm these hypothesises, interviews were conducted with the local community of Windsor, officials from the Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality as well as officials from other organisations involved in solid waste management in the city of Johannesburg. Data for the research was collected using a semi-structured questionnaire. It was demonstrated that issues arising out of solid waste management in Johannesburg are many and can be set out as follows: littering, limited refuse removal services in poor areas, unmaintained parks and open spaces that encourage illegal dumping. The outcomes of the research have demonstrated that the impacts of mismanagement of solid waste negatively affects the environment and human health in Johannesburg and improper dumping of waste leads to illnesses such as dysentery, cholera and typhoid fever. As a result, the health of children and adults becomes negatively affected. Furthermore, the consequences of the lack of stringent policies of waste disposal negatively affect working environment and schools as both worker and student cannot perform their tasks optimally due to poor health that is caused by pollution. On the economic side this means lowered productivity and lowered profits for companies because of constant absenteeism amongst workers due to medical reasons.