



Analysis of Citizen Participation in the Municipal Governance of Liquid Sanitation: The Case of Toffo Municipality in Benin

Secondary towns like the Beninese commune of Toffo face difficulties in accessing basic services such as liquid sanitation despite the transfer of skills to municipality carried out since the advent of decentralization in 1999. This situation can be explained by the low participation of the population in decision-making processes in a context of demographic growth, anarchic expansion of peripheral neighborhoods and weak territorial governance capacities. The consequences linked to this situation are the inability of communes to achieve goal 6 of the SDGs on water and sanitation with its corollaries of increased health risks and low social development. The aim of this study is to make an inventory and a critical analysis of citizen participation in liquid sanitation at the municipal level. To do that, we started by making an inventory of liquid sanitation services system. Then, we carried out an inventory of organizations and actors and examined their level of accessibility and involvement in liquid sanitation in the municipality of Toffo. Finally, we carried out a critical analysis of the level of citizen participation, particularly that of women in the planning and monitoring of liquid sanitation policies. These different stages required the use of documentary review and the collection of data in the field using questionnaires and interview guides. At the end of this study, it appears that the vast majority of the population (95.75%) claims to be moderately involved because they are simply consulted. For the 3.20% of the population who participate in the effective management of sanitation, the main motivation is the personal decision of the citizen. The remaining 1.05% believe that they do not participate at all in activities related to liquid sanitation. In terms of women's participation, there is an almost total absence of them. Regarding aspects related to accessibility, 41% of the population believe that physical, financial and informational accessibility to liquid sanitation infrastructure and services is fair and 56% believe that it is poor, and the remaining 3% without any access. These findings undermine the promotion of the rights to water and sanitation and the achievement of SDG 6 by 2030.



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