

DECLARATION  
This is my original work and has not been presented  
to any other University.  
AN ASSESSMENT OF DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLIES IN RURAL  
COMMUNITIES IN ASALS: A CASE STUDY OF RUIRI LOCATION, MERU  
DISTRICT. //

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## ABSTRACT

The availability of sufficient quantities of clean, potable water is one of the ways of improving man's health, hygiene and productivity. Although much efforts have been made to provide water to rural communities in Kenya, accessibility to potable water supplies is one of the problems experienced in Ruiru location of Meru District. The residents travel long distances to fetch water for domestic use and for livestock. Travelling long distances affects peoples health. Also alot of man-hours are wasted.

The current sources of water such as boreholes, springs and wells are exposed to contamination and thus likely to be infested with water-related diseases. Also these sources are unreliable often resulting in water shortages during dry periods. Although piped water is available to Ruiru residents, the people experience water shortages due to the fact that people from Kibirichia at the upstream consumes more than them. Also due to improper maintenance and management of the water projects.

The above situation of water calls for investigations, in an attempt to find ways and means of solving these problems. Such investigations were done through questionnaire administration and interviewing. The analysis of the field data showed that the majority spent two hours per day



fetching water, that people are infected by water-related diseases. Because they obtain water from sources that are exposed. Much energy is wasted in fetching water to homesteads.

It is also argued that accessibility to good quality water, within easy reach can contribute to economic, social, health and political benefits to local communities in Ruiru location. It is argued that access to safe water would release a lot of man-hours spent in fetching water so that other economic activities can be attended to. Time released from fetching water from far sources could be used for leisure and recreational activities. Also availability of clean water supplies would reduce water-related diseases.

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