

Access to water and sanitation by urban and rural groups living in vulnerable situations

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Background

In July 2010, access to water and sanitation was recognized as fundamental human right, once these services are essential for an adequate standard of life, including dimensions of health, dignity and prosperity. Therefore, all human being have the right to safe water and sanitation in a non-discriminatory manner. Nevertheless, vulnerable population often have these rights violated, reflecting on their health and quality of life, and exacerbating social exclusion. On the same line, the SDG 6 aims the achievement of universal access to water and sanitation, with a particular focus on vulnerable population.

Objective

This work aims to analyze the water and sanitation's access of homeless, at Belo Horizonte, and of rural workers, from the Landless Movement at Vale do Rio Doce-MG.

Methods

A qualitative method was used. Individual and group interviews, using a semi-structured guide, was used to collect data. Saturation was used to determine the number of participants. The interviews were recorded and transcribed and content analysis was used in the analytical phase.

Results

Normative content of the rights, as well as human rights principles, were often compromised. Also, it showed that the lack of water and sanitation brought consequences to other dimensions of life.



Conclusion

The study draws attention to social and economic contexts, in order to formulate public policies able to deal with the particularities of each group in terms of the realization of the human rights to water and sanitation. For this reason, stimulation of social participation of those groups enhance decision making processes related to water and sanitation. The achievement of the SDG 6, especially targets 6.1 and 6.2, will only be possible if those population are included and human rights are realized.

