

Entrepreneurship Summit 2020: Framework to enhance the current degree of efficiency in the management of ground water and springs in Mpumalanga province: Short Communication- Constance, SANBI, South Africa

Constance

SANBI, South Africa

Short Communication

The aim of study was to identify and quantify predictors of the effective utilization of spring and ground water by residents of Bushbuckridge and Mbombela in the Province of Mpumalanga. The study was a KABP study (Knowledge, Attitude, Behavior and Perception), and was based on a stratified random sample of size 420 drawn from Bushbuckridge and Mbombela. Data was collected from respondents by using a pretested, validated and standardized questionnaire of study on socioeconomic factors that are known to affect the effective utilization and conservation of ground and spring water at Bushbuckridge and Mbombela. Efficiency in the utilization and conservation of ground and spring water was assessed by using a composite index developed by Hatfield and Dold (2019: 1-14) for conducting a similar study. A combination of quantitative and qualitative methods of data analyses was used in the study. Data analyses were performed by using frequency tables, two-by-two crosstab analyses, hierarchical log-linear modelling and factor analysis.

The results showed that about 65% of respondents were efficient enough in the effective utilization of spring and ground water by the standards of Hatfield and Dold (2019), whereas the remaining 35% were not. Results obtained from the study showed that the effective utilization of spring and ground water at Bushbuckridge and Mbombela was significantly undermined by large family size (family sizes of 6 or more), low level of education of head of household (Grade 12 level formal education or less) and low household income (an average annual income of R100, 000 or less), in a decreasing order of strength. Similar findings were obtained from individual interviews conducted with respondents of the study. Based on findings obtained from the study, a framework has been developed for improving the effective utilization of spring and ground water at Bushbuckridge and Mbombela.