Uncertainties in Water Supply and the Impact on Human Development in Nigeria

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The development of a society is incomplete without adequate water supply. Uncertainties and risks of pollution (industrial, human and bacterial contamination), land use change, unhygienic human practices, climatic and seasonal variations are often prevalent in most communities and consequently have adverse short and long term effects on the quality of water, living and health conditions of the inhabitants. This paper adopts intensive field work survey and personal observation to examine some risks and their effect in the development of water supply in three Local Government Areas of Anambra State – Nnewi South, Idemili North and Idemili South. The results indicate impact of water shortages (66.2%) from inadequate sources (39.7%), inadequate storages (27.7%) and rainfall seasonal variation (22.0%) to affordability (53%). The limitations of water suitability (34.9%), poor hygiene and disease prevalence as well as denial of children education right (33.1%) due to time spent in search of water are also discussed. The paper thus proffers solutions to minimizing these risks as well as adequate measures to boosting water development in the State.