

Perceptions and Attitudes on Urban Health Hazards: A Case Study of Kitwe, Zambia

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Urbanisation in Zambia is quite a new phenomenon as most people were encouraged to go back to their home areas after retirement or retrenchment from formal employment. Those who were not in regular employment were also encouraged to go back to their villages. Industries were set up in these rural areas where they could be employed so as to reduce the rural-urban drift. This arrangement however, did not last for long. In the 1990s when there was a change in the political leadership, there was an upswing in the rural-urban migration. Most of the migrants settled either in the industrial, commercial, administrative or tourist towns. Some of these towns have since been upgraded to cities. One such town is Kitwe on the Copperbelt of Zambia.

Urbanization which is seen as a road to modernity and civilization has brought about various health hazards such as increased rates of accidents, pollution, communicable diseases (due to overcrowding) just to mention a few. Kitwe is basically a mining town and said to be the hub of the copperbelt due to its centrality. There are also a number of other supporting industries. It is from this premise that the research will be carried out in order to establish whether the residents of Kitwe are aware of any of the health hazards and what they think about them.

Three residential areas will be randomly selected by using the lottery technique, so will the respondents. These sample areas will be chosen under the classification of high, medium and low cost residential areas. It is assumed that the perception and attitudes in these residential areas will vary as the education levels are likely to vary too. The research hopes to bring out the institution frame work(s) in place that helps to enhance peoples' health in Kitwe.

Analysis of the data collected will be qualitatively and quantitatively done by use of tables, percentages, charts to mention just a few.