ADAPTIVE STRATEGY TO WATER SCARCITY IN AN INFORMAL SETTLEMENT: A CASE OF SILANGA VILLAGE, KIBERA –NAIROBI CITY.

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World over there is an increasing threat of water scarcity that affects socio-economic development of about 1.1 billion people globally, especially developing countries. In Africa’s cities, water scarcity is a serious phenomenon amongst the urban poor and is aggravated during the drought periods, which prompted this research study. The study examined a sustainable adaptive strategy to water scarcity through exploratory research, with data collected from water users, water providers and water sector institutions by means of field surveys and focus groups that registered a hundred percent response rate. This was later analyzed through SPSS statistical software. The results indicates that water scarcity worsened from the year 2008 when supply days were limited to two days a week and one day a week during peak times of the dry seasons. Prices during this scarcity increased to about Ksh.10 per 20 litre jerry can and distance of access to between 600-1000 metres away. In adapting to these circumstances the private, public adaptation and non-governmental strategies addressing water scarcity are in play in at different scales. Private adaptation is mostly noted at the small scale water providers’ level while public adaptation is noted at the government agencies level. Finally, there is the non-governmental organization level that is seen to support both the private and the public adaptation strategies in infrastructure and operational strategies. Nonetheless, the study recommends that better coordination and pooling of finances for synergy in this partnership is critical in addressing water scarcity in an urban informal settlement.