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FREE LEARNING NOTES FOR ZAMBIA

FORM 1 · TERM 3

Geography

Challenges in Settlements

Lesson notes for learners · Competence-Based Curriculum

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Settlements, whether urban or rural, face many challenges that affect the quality of life of the people who live in them. These challenges can be grouped into environmental, social, economic and health challenges. They can lead to a lower quality of life, more poverty and crime, and fewer economic opportunities. Understanding these challenges is important for finding solutions that make settlements more sustainable, fair and healthy. In this note you will identify the challenges faced in rural and urban settlements and suggest ways of resolving them.

AFTER THESE NOTES YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO

- Identify the environmental, social, economic and health challenges faced in rural and urban settlements
- Explain how settlement challenges affect the people who live there
- Suggest ways of resolving challenges experienced in settlements

KEY WORDS

Environmental degradation	The damage and wearing away of the natural environment.
Overcrowding	Too many people living in a place that is too small for them.
Infrastructure	Basic facilities such as roads, water supply and public services.
Sanitation	Keeping places clean and safe through proper waste and sewage disposal.
Rainwater harvesting	Collecting and storing rainwater for later use.

1 Challenges faced in rural and urban settlements

Rural challenges include limited access to basic services, poor infrastructure and environmental degradation. Urban challenges include overcrowding, inadequate infrastructure, limited access to green spaces, unemployment and environmental degradation.

The challenges can be placed in four groups. Environmental challenges are poor waste management, environmental degradation and pollution of air, water and land, which can have a severe impact on residents. Climate change is also a challenge, because settlements are vulnerable to climate related disasters such as floods, droughts and global warming.

Social challenges are inadequate housing and infrastructure, poverty and inequality, and social exclusion. Economic challenges are unemployment and underemployment, and the cost of maintaining and upgrading infrastructure such as roads.

Health challenges are limited access to healthcare and quality care services, and disease outbreaks caused by inadequate sanitation and overcrowding.

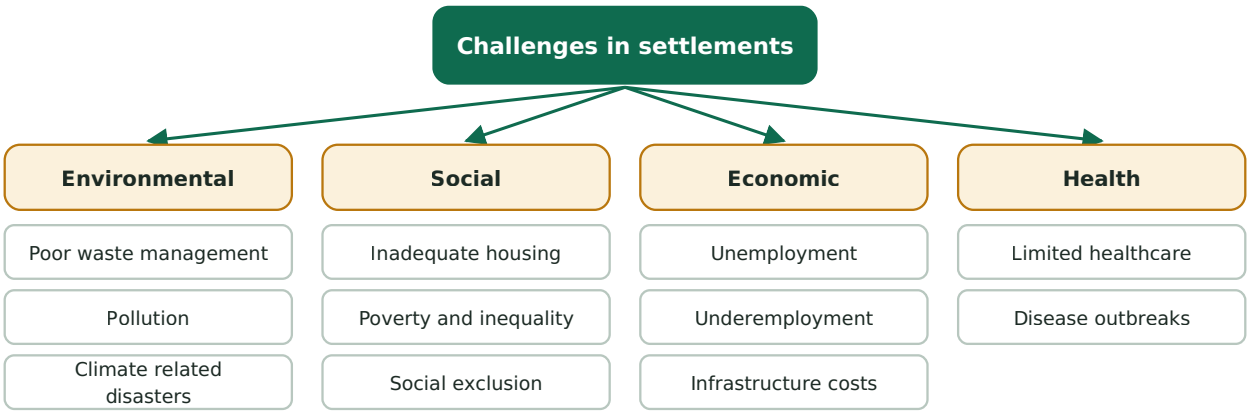

Figure 1. Groups of challenges faced by settlements

2 Effects of the challenges on residents

Challenges in settlements have far reaching consequences. They can decrease the quality of life of residents, increase poverty and crime, and reduce economic opportunities.

Because the challenges are connected, one problem often leads to another. For example, inadequate sanitation and overcrowding can lead to disease outbreaks, which are a health challenge with effects on the whole community.

3 Resolving challenges in settlements

Challenges in settlements can be addressed in many ways. In rural areas, solutions include sustainable agriculture, environmental conservation, clean water and sanitation campaigns and health care campaigns. In urban areas, solutions include managing waste, urban greening, energy conservation, water conservation, sustainable urban mobility and disaster preparedness campaigns.

Other ways of resolving challenges are: promoting sensitisation programmes on a sense of belonging, dignity, ownership and respect for the environment; planting and maintaining trees in urban areas to provide shade, improve air quality and support biodiversity; and using renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind and biomass, together with energy efficient behaviour such as switching off lights and electronics when not in use.

Residents can also be given opportunities to take part in decision making and contribute to their community, and be equipped with skills and knowledge to promote self reliance. Awareness programmes can teach people about sustainable agriculture in rural areas.

Water and transport solutions include clean water initiatives such as community water kiosks, rainwater harvesting systems that collect and store water, and the construction and rehabilitation of roads for efficient transportation and community safety. Sustainable and

environmentally friendly transport options such as pedestrian streets, sidewalks and cycling lanes can reduce congestion. Emergency funds and equipment can be set aside to support disaster response and recovery.

In summary, the challenges can be resolved through a multifaceted approach. Investing in sustainable infrastructure, reducing poverty and inequality, promoting social inclusion and improving access to healthcare, education and economic opportunities are critical to creating thriving and resilient settlements.

Challenge	Way of resolving it
Poor waste management	Managing waste, sensitisation programmes
Lack of clean water	Community water kiosks, rainwater harvesting
Poor roads	Construct and rehabilitate roads
Energy use	Solar, wind and biomass energy, switching off lights
Few trees in towns	Plant and maintain trees
Floods and droughts	Disaster preparedness and emergency funds

Figure 2. Challenges and some ways of resolving them

TRY THIS

With a classmate, walk around the school or your neighbourhood and note three challenges you can see, for example waste, a poor road or lack of clean water. Group each challenge as environmental, social, economic or health. For each one, write one way it could be resolved using this note. Then make a small model of one solution, such as a waste bin or a rainwater collector, from materials you already have.

REMEMBER

- Challenges in settlements are environmental, social, economic and health challenges
- Rural challenges include limited basic services and poor infrastructure; urban challenges include overcrowding, unemployment and limited green spaces
- Challenges can lower quality of life and increase poverty and crime
- Solutions include waste management, tree planting, renewable energy, clean water kiosks, rainwater harvesting and road construction
- A multifaceted approach with sustainable infrastructure and social inclusion creates resilient settlements

? Check yourself

1. Name the four groups into which challenges in settlements are placed.
2. Give two challenges faced in urban settlements.
3. Give two challenges faced in rural settlements.
4. State two consequences of challenges in settlements.
5. What is the purpose of a community water kiosk?
6. A growing town has heaps of rubbish near the market, and people often fall sick after the rains. (a) Name the environmental challenge. (b) Name the health challenge that can follow. (c) Suggest two ways the community could resolve the problem.
7. A village far from the main road has no clean water source and the road to the clinic is in poor condition. (a) Name two challenges the village faces. (b) Say which group each challenge belongs to. (c) Suggest one solution for each.

ANSWERS

1. Environmental, social, economic and health challenges.
2. Any two of: overcrowding, inadequate infrastructure, limited access to green spaces, unemployment, environmental degradation.
3. Any two of: limited access to basic services, poor infrastructure, environmental degradation.
4. Any two of: decreased quality of life, increased poverty and crime, reduced economic opportunities.
5. It provides residents with access to safe and clean water.
6. (a) Poor waste management. (b) Disease outbreaks caused by inadequate sanitation. (c) Managing waste and running sensitisation programmes, or planting trees and cleaning campaigns.
7. (a) Lack of clean water and a poor road. (b) Health or social, and economic or infrastructure related. (c) A community water kiosk or rainwater harvesting for water, and constructing and rehabilitating the road.

Written by 25Schools to follow the Form 1 Geography syllabus of the Zambian competence-based curriculum. Free for learners to read, download and share. More notes and quizzes at 25schools.com.