Impact of wastewater on social life of the local rural people in Al-Hair

1. High social impact:

The study found that sewage had significant adverse social impacts on the local rural population in Al-Hair, Saudi Arabia. The authors state that "the vast majority of respondents indicated the high impact of sewage on social and economic aspects with the percentages of 85.6% and 84.4% respectively." This overwhelmingly high percentage highlights the substantial negative consequences that inadequate sanitation infrastructure can have on the social well-being of a community.

2. Migration and criminal activity:

Two specific social problems mentioned in the study were that "sewage contributes to immigration from Al-Hair" and "trees around sewage became a place for criminals." The former suggests that the poor sanitation conditions were making the area an undesirable place to live, leading to locals migrating away, while the latter indicates that the sewage was creating an environment conducive to illegal activities.

3. Demographic factors influencing perceptions:

Interestingly, the study found that perceptions of these impacts varied based on demographic factors. The authors state that "the interrelation between the perception of the diverse effects of sewage and people's personal characteristics indicate that age, gender, household size and education level, are key determinants of rural people' perception on health, social and economic-related risks due to sewage." Older respondents (over 50 years), females, those with university degrees, and those with larger families (>8 members) tended to have a higher awareness of the adverse social effects of sewage. This suggests that these groups may be more attuned to the social consequences of poor sanitation, possibly due to factors such as greater concern for family well-being, higher education levels, and more life experience.

4. Need for targeted policies and education:

Given these varying perceptions among different demographic groups, the authors recommend that "relevant policies are required to minimize the different hazards of sewage, keeping in view the socio-economic characteristics of the populations living near the sewage facilities." They also emphasize the need for educational initiatives, stating that "the study also establishes the need for the launching of the Extension and Education programs to create awareness on the adverse effects of sewage and strategies to reduce their harmful effects." Such targeted policies and awareness-raising programs could help to mobilize community support for addressing the issue.

5. Importance of stakeholder involvement:

Finally, the authors recommend a participatory approach to managing sewage, noting that "additional research is required to suggest intervention framework for dealing with sewage by involving all stakeholders in the management of sewage to ensure sustainable development." This stakeholder involvement could help to ensure that the needs and concerns of the local community are considered, and that any solutions are socially and economically sustainable in the long term.

In summary, the study provides clear evidence of the significant negative social impacts of sewage on the rural community in Al-Hair, with perceptions of these impacts varying based on demographic factors. The authors' recommendations for targeted policies, educational programs, and a multi-stakeholder management approach offer potential strategies for addressing this complex issue and promoting sustainable development and social well-being.

Reference:

<https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/235273806.pdf>

Aldosari, F., Kassem, H.S., Baig, M.B., Muddassir, M. and Mubushar, M., 2017. Impact of sewage on health, economic and social life of rural people in Al-Hair - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Agriculture and Forestry Journal, 1(1), pp.10-17.