

ABSTRACT

Excreta Disposal and Water Distribution in Rural Grenada

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Adequate excreta disposal is of concern to the developing world today as it was 50 years ago. Although most of these countries are showing changes in their disease pattern, illnesses relating to water and sanitation are still a scourge in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In an effort to determine the type of excreta disposal methods in Grenada, distribution among households and the preference for disposal systems a total of 129 households were surveyed. The study was undertaken during December, 1990 and January, 1991.

The methods used in the study included a questionnaire, observation and records analysis. The sample was drawn from two communities situated at opposite ends of the island.

Findings showed that there were two methods of excreta disposal, the pit latrine and the septic tank system. However, 10.1% of the households did not have their individual disposal system. It was expressed that

61.2% of the households preferred the septic tank form of disposal which is considered the most acceptable disposal method in the absence of a sewerage system.

For water supply, the survey showed that potable water was available to the householders. However, only 65% had piped water on their premises. As much as 20.2% had to travel to the stand pipe; the remainder (14.7%) was facilitated by their neighbours.

Included in the recommendations are suggestions that research be done using alternative low cost technology, appropriate forms of disposal and a programme for excreta disposal management which should include a health education component.