Health: The Design, Planning and Politics of How and Where We Live

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Water Sensitive Urban Design: Improving the Quality of Life in Arid and Semi-Arid Communities

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• Abstract (300 words):
The increasing population and rapid urbanization rates lead to an increasing demand on water resources. In arid and semi-arid regions, cities are facing problems of water scarcity and wastewater. The research studies the concept of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD), which is a strategy that concerns with the integration of the urban water cycle in urban design and planning. Using sustainable water management methods can have social, economic and environmental benefits, besides adding to the aesthetic value of the community. The study focuses on the application of WSUD in an arid or semi-arid climate, examining the effect of implementation on both the quality of life of the
community and the urban water cycle. The research aims to provide recommendations on improving the quality of life of residents in arid and semi-arid communities, by applying WSUD in the community design. Case studies of communities in arid and semi-arid regions that have implemented the principles of WSUD, are studied to see how far they affect the quality of life and their convenience in each setting. The study then provides recommendations for application of WSUD in Egypt, being an arid country itself.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

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Zeina ElZein: A teaching assistant in the Faculty of Fine Arts, Helwan University in Egypt. Her Master thesis was discussing the use of constructed wetlands in urban communities and their environmental, health, social and economic impacts on the community. She is continuing her PhD studies in the field. Zeina has published a paper entitled "Constructed Wetlands as a Sustainable Wastewater Treatment Method in Communities".