

# **TITLE : FOR A NEW APPROACH TO WATER DRINKING PROMOTION IN A POLLUTED ENVIRONMENT**

*DOHOU Kouassi Sébastien, Assistant-Researcher, LECREDE/DGAT/UNB.  
03BP 1912 Jéricho Cotonou, Bénin. FAX : (229) 30-38-15.*

## **ABSTRACT**

The republic of Bénin is a small developing country of West Africa. The people access to drinking water in order to improve their state of health is the main problem it is confronted with. Therefore, the Government set up equipments through the Beninese Society of Electric Power and Water to supply people with drinkable water. That it is the case of Pobè-sakété-Ifangni cities in South-East of Benin. But, a few years later the sanitary statistics show that people of this region are confronted with water diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera, hepatitis virus, malaria...

That situation does not come from the water quality but it depends on :

- (i)- the household use of water without any sanitation
- (ii)- the polluted environment in which people live and which is favorable to various infections and diseases.

As a solution to this situation, a project has been initiated by the Beninese Society of Electric Power and Water supply to promoting water business and to bring people to use water in a better way and protecting their environment.

It aims at : sensibilizing people on water-hygiene-environment-health interactions and constructing public sanitary services (latrines, channels...)

Three years after the project has implemented its actions, we notice that the region is still unhealthy. People continue to live in unhealthy conditions. The rate of diseases has increased seriously and the number of new subscribers to drinkable water does not increase. So the expected objectives of the project are not reached.

The main reason of it failure is related to the methodology:

- (i) - people who benefit of the project were not associated as much as they should be,
- (ii) - sociocultural, historic and economic realities of the region were not seriously taken into account.

As a matter of fact, the project is considered as a foreign initiative and its activities were neglected by the beneficiaies.

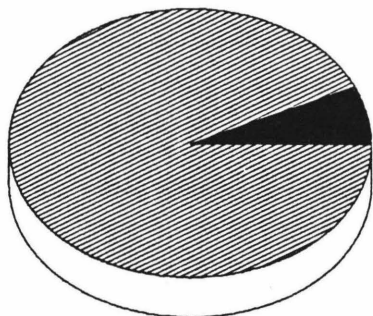
To succeed in this kind of project, it is necessary to take into account three points :

- (i) - an education program must be developed simultaneously with all before project of water equipment installation,
- (ii) - people should be associated in the identification, the conception and the implementation of any project for water resource promotion,
- (iii) - sociocultural, historic and economic realities of the region must be taken account as basic data.

**Key words** : Benin, Water, health, Environment, Sociocultural realities, People participation.

# RATE OF SUBSCRIPTION TO WATER SUPPLY SERVICE

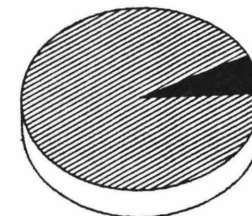
people who buy water from  
subscribers : 93 %



Pobê

subscribers : 7 %

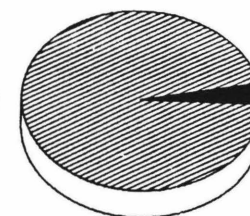
people who buy water  
from subscribers : 93 %



Sakêté

subscribers : 6,7 %

people who buy water from  
subscribers : 96 %



Ifangni

subscribers : 4 %