

**ANALYSIS THE LEVEL OF  
COMMUNITY AWARENESS ON  
DESLUDGING INDIVIDUAL SEPTIC  
TANK: A QUALITATIVE CASE STUDY  
IN TAIPING, PERAK**

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## ABSTRACT

Acceptance desludging of individual septic tank system in Malaysia today is taken for granted by some of the general public. Let there be an Act that has stated the need for the emptying of these individual septic tanks to be carried out periodically, but the acceptance percentage of users of this type of tank is still at a very low level. This study aims to identify the attitude, level of knowledge and response of individual septic tank users towards environmental issues at various levels. The method used is an opinion poll with a random selection of respondents from the local community. The instrument used is a questionnaire distributed to residents around Taiping. Typically, this study found that generally respondents are aware of environmental problems and the main causes of their occurrence. For them, the worst environmental problem in Malaysia is water pollution. The cause of pollution is caused by the involvement of each individual and community in dealing with the problem of environmental pollution and followed by education and exposure to the needs of the sewage system for all levels of society. However, the community is very pessimistic about the success of efforts to save the well-being of the environment. However, they still expect the important role of the government in a more effective management system to ensure that the environment does not continue to be threatened. Respondents also want information to be increased by using various types of medium so that all information can be conveyed to them without any leakage. An interesting discovery is the implementation of notifications to septic tank users, especially regarding information related to the system.

Keywords: Individual septic tanks, environmental pollution, community awareness

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# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Research Background

The history of sewage systems dates back to 800 BC, where the Roman Empire had sewer systems and septic tanks that functioned almost like modern designs. At that point, an open drain was built to connect the toilet section with the large pool. When it rains, the water will drain all the waste found in the drain into a large pool. Meanwhile, the solid sludge will be at the bottom and the fat residue will be at the top. This contaminated water will slowly seep into the ground and flow directly and mix with the underground water content. The soil acts as a natural filter to neutralize sewage so that the water no longer contains harmful bacteria. The solid sludge residue left after all the liquid seeping into the soil is taken to be used as tree fertilizer.

Going back to European times, the sewage system at that time did not go straight to the tank or river but stuck in the drain. There is a special duty responsible for collecting waste. As a result of the unsystematic sewage system in the European era, large floods once hit Europe causing the Thames River to be severely polluted due to the sewage entering the river causing various types of dangerous diseases to be faced by the surrounding population after the flood occurred. In 1860, John Mouros, a French citizen built a septic tank system made of concrete and stone. This system does not require tank treatment or septic tank maintenance to function perfectly. The pipe that connects the house to the tank side is made of clay and mud.

After achieving independence and the formation of Malaysia in 1963, there were more practical sewerage systems such as individual and communal septic tanks, Imhoff tanks, Oxidation Ponds and Mechanical Connection Systems. All of these systems were created by the Government in the hope of achieving the goal of improving the health of Malaysians. However, the management system at that time was implemented by the authorities and not comprehensively. As a result, there is an increase in the number of people who contribute to the level of river pollution and at the same time the drainage system shows a negative impact on the quality of the environment.