



PUBLIC AWARENESS AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR RADON EXPOSURE IN TASHKENT

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Introduction

Radon, a colorless and odorless radioactive gas, poses a significant health risk due to its strong correlation with lung cancer, especially among non-smokers. As a naturally occurring gas formed from the decay of uranium in soil and rock, radon can seep into buildings through cracks and gaps in foundations. Despite its hazardous nature, public awareness of radon exposure remains remarkably low in Uzbekistan, particularly in Tashkent. Many residents are either unaware of the potential dangers posed by radon or lack adequate knowledge on how to detect and mitigate its presence in their homes. Consequently, the absence of awareness contributes to heightened health risks, as preventive measures are seldom implemented. This thesis aims to bridge the knowledge gap by systematically assessing public awareness of radon exposure in Tashkent. Additionally, it seeks to develop practical strategies to enhance public understanding and encourage mitigation efforts. By examining existing awareness levels and identifying key challenges, the study will contribute to the development of comprehensive public health initiatives to reduce radon-related risks.

Main Part

The research will employ a mixed-method approach, combining quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques. Surveys and structured interviews will be conducted in various residential areas of Tashkent to evaluate the level of public awareness regarding radon exposure. The survey will cover critical aspects, including the residents' knowledge of radon risks, the frequency of home testing, and the adoption of ventilation or mitigation techniques. Additionally, participants will be asked about their familiarity with existing public health campaigns and information sources related to radon exposure.

The study will also involve a thorough analysis of current public health policies and campaigns to assess their effectiveness and identify any gaps that hinder effective communication. Comparative data from successful international public awareness initiatives will be incorporated to benchmark Uzbekistan's efforts against global best practices. This comparison will provide valuable insights into developing tailored communication strategies that resonate with local communities. One of the key components of the study will be proposing targeted educational programs designed to inform the public about radon risks and promote preventive actions. These programs will aim to empower residents to test their homes regularly and implement basic mitigation measures, such as improving ventilation or sealing foundation cracks. In addition, collaboration with healthcare providers and local

authorities will be explored to ensure widespread dissemination of reliable information and encourage community engagement.

Conclusion

Increasing public awareness and implementing effective mitigation strategies are essential to reducing health risks associated with radon exposure. This thesis will not only assess the current state of public knowledge in Tashkent but also propose practical interventions to enhance awareness and encourage safety practices. By fostering greater understanding and proactive measures, the study aims to protect public health and reduce the long-term burden of radon-induced illnesses.

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