

The village is cut off from the mainland by hundreds of kilometres and is encumbered by dozens of acute social problems. Take, for instance, supplying the buildings with drinking water. Quite frankly, it was frightening to listen to the chief physician:

"Talks about this have been going on for a good ten years, if not longer. As a public health physician I can state with full authority that the water coming from our taps cannot be drunk. It is dangerous to health. Dikson, although it stands on the shore of the sea, is virtually in a "desert". Geologists' surveys have shown that artesian wells cannot be drilled here. Tundra rivers and lakes are far away. And so the northerners decided at some point long ago to build a dam on a small stream that flows near the village, thereby creating an artificial lake. But the stream cannot supply enough fresh water to satisfy Dikson's needs. Nature lent a hand. In the winter, enormous quantities of snow accumulate in the tundra. During the two to three months of summer the snow melts and fills the reservoir. But together with the spring freshets, an enormous quantity of microorganisms harmful to man enter the lake. A considerable quantity of these microorganisms are brought to the lake by the ever present seagulls which, after feeding on the village dumps, fly to the lake to "take the waters".

Studies conducted by the Dikson Public Health and Epidemiology Station have shown that this drinking water, if it can be called that, is more than ten times more polluted than permitted by State Standards. And the most frightening thing of all is that this water enters apartments, kindergartens, the school, the hospital... In this water people wash their clothes and dishes and bathe their children, they drink it, prepare soup with it...