

Awareness of Fire Hazards Preparedness and Response for Students and Staff: The Case of Selected Secondary Schools in Dar es Salaam and Coast Regions.

This study assessed the awareness of fire hazard preparedness and response for secondary schools students and staff. Four secondary schools from dare s Salaam and Coast regions namely Makongo and Jangwani, and Bagamoyo and Minaki Secondary Schools, respectively were involved in the study. Data were collected through structured interview, questionnaires, review of literature, field observation and photography. Data were analyzed for frequencies, percentages, charts and tables using Microsoft excel and SPSS computer softwares. The study revealed that the major sources of fire incidents in secondary schools are electrical faults 42%, followed by arson 41%, flammable and combustible materials 11%, human error 3% and negligence 3%. Varying responses were obtained on hazard management that include teaching of disaster preparedness 18%, hazard protection equipment 48%, hazard emergency plans 13% and unawareness of management measures 21%. Thirty seven (37%) percent of the respondents agreed that fire hazards and disasters are taught in classes but have not been mainstreamed in curricula, the other 63% were unaware of the inclusion of disaster in curricula. Generally, secondary schools are being plague by frequent fire disasters due to lack of awareness, poor management measures and lack of adequate fire protection equipment that could minimize fire occurrence and its impacts to schools. The study envisaged that teaching of fire hazards and hazards/disasters within the curricula is important in order to alleviate these problems. Further studies should be done on other hazards/disasters that occurring in secondary schools apart from fire hazards.

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