

Assessment of Geography textbooks' contribution to students' academic performance in Dodoma City public secondary schools, Tanzania

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This study aimed to assess the contribution of geography textbooks on students' academic performance from public secondary schools in Dodoma City. A multiple case study design was employed involving 84 participants as a study sample. The study used stratified random sampling and purposive sampling to obtain study respondents in three public secondary schools. The data were collected through interviews, documentary reviews and survey questionnaires. Qualitative data were analyzed using deductive thematic analysis, while quantitative data were analyzed using simple and inferential statistics to determine the contribution of geography textbooks to students' academic performance.

The results revealed that about 60% of respondents agreed that there was enough availability of geography textbooks in the surveyed schools. However, 52% of the respondents agreed that most students do not have their own geography textbooks to use at home. It was also found that academic performance among students was highly influenced by significant utilization of geography textbooks. However, language problem among students, lack of control to ensure all books in the market match with national curriculum, poor illustration and content, and inadequate financial resources were noted as obstacles towards ensuring the availability and appropriate utilization of geography textbooks in schools.

The study concluded that the availability of relevant geography textbooks and their proper utilization among teachers and students can impact positively on academic performance of students. The study recommends that the Tanzania government should strive to ensure that school libraries are equipped with adequate, current, relevant and quality geography textbooks, as a means of enhancing students' academic development in all public secondary schools. Furthermore, the study recommends that another study on similar subject could be conducted, with a larger sample size and appropriate design, so as to corroborate these findings for wider generalization.