

# THE CONTRIBUTION OF EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY STRATEGIES IN RAISING AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN LUSHOTO DISTRICT, TANZANIA

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## ABSTRACT

Environmental issues such as deforestation, soil erosion, water pollution, and biodiversity loss are significant challenges facing communities worldwide, including in Lushoto district, Tanzania. Secondary school students represent a crucial demographic for environmental awareness efforts due to their potential to influence societal attitudes and behaviours toward environmental conservation. This essay investigated the contribution of education and advocacy in raising awareness of environmental issues among secondary school students in Lushoto district, Tanzania. The participants involved secondary school students from five secondary schools. Methods of data collection were interviews and focus group discussions. The results show that the integration of environmental issues into the education curriculum, experiential learning, guest lectures and workshops, student-led initiatives, community engagement, and media and communication were the education and advocacy strategies in raising awareness of environmental issues among secondary school students in Lushoto district, Tanzania strategies. Therefore, this study recommends that collective measures among environmental stakeholders should work hand in hand to provide environmental education to students so that they become informed on how to preserve them.

**Keywords:** Education, advocacy, awareness, environmental issues, secondary school students.