

ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION TEACHING APPROACHES IN PRIMARY SCHOOL AND ITS APPLICABILITY IN CONSERVING THE ENVIRONMENT: A CASE OF LUSHOTO DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Tanzania integrated environmental themes into the educational curriculum to foster a culture of sustainability and responsible environmental stewardship among the younger generation, which is vital for the country's long-term growth. This study investigates environmental education teaching approaches in primary school and their applicability in conserving the environment. The study involved (40) primary school teachers and 60 primary school students. Data were collected through focus group discussions and interviews. The results show that the teaching of environmental education in primary schools faces a number of challenges, which include a lack of specific recommended teaching materials, a shortage of books for subjects in which environmental content is integrated, limited extracurricular activities, a lack of a budget for field trips, and a poor culture of using professional guest speakers. Therefore, this study recommends that, in order to achieve the objective of equipping the younger generation with knowledge and skills for environmental conservation, teachers should teach the subjects that integrate environmental content in an attractive way, using attractive teaching and learning materials; students should participate in a variety of extracurricular activities; professional guest speakers should be used in teaching to share their experiences with students; schools should set aside space for environmental conservation activities; and there should be a specific budget for field trips

Keywords: Environmental education, Primary school and Applicability.