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Effective Management of School Sanitation and Hygiene in Zambia

By

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: To establish effective methods which schools can utilize in the management of sanitation and hygiene

Methodology: The study utilized a critical review of government reports, legislature, journal articles, books and any published material on school sanitation and hygiene in Zambia. Content analysis was used to analyze the secondary data and isolate themes of interest in management of school sanitation and hygiene.

Findings: Zambia's school sanitation management is governed by the policy on school, personal and environmental health which recognises that good student health is an essential pre-requisite for effective learning. The Ministry of General Education endorses the critical role of the school in promoting quality school environments. The aspect of school sanitation and hygiene is two-fold; the sanitary conditions and facilities available in and around the school compound, while on the other hand, is the activities aiming to promote conditions at school and practices of school staff and learners that help to prevent water and sanitation-related diseases. The study identified various strategies which can help improve the sanitary conditions in school environment as well as foster hygiene practices. In line with Zambia's Vision2030 and the 6th Sustainable Development Goal, School management can lead in coordinating and involving existing local health facilities and the Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection in the promotion of school hygiene and sanitation. School heads can also help spearhead the setting up of school Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) clubs and committees which can assist with routine surveillance of the state of sanitation facilities and advising the school community in adopting adequate sanitation and hygiene practices. Whereas appropriate, hygiene education during school gatherings and frequent use of hygiene teaching aids can bring about the intention to change. However, adequate safe water and sanitation facilities are needed to allow people to transform intention into action.

Conclusion: Effective management of school sanitation and hygiene is the art of maintaining high levels of cleanliness and hygiene practices even in the face of shocks and stressors such as the 2019 Coronavirus world pandemic. A method which encompass all groups with stakes in school management is ideal to achieving this. Thus, the study proposed the hybridization of the School-Led Total Sanitation (SLTS) and Community-Led Total Participation approaches to management of hygiene and sanitation in schools.

Keywords: *School sanitation, Hygiene, School Management, Zambia, Teachers, Learners*