

Abstract

Having knowledge of disaster risk management is of paramount importance as it helps people in coping with hazards and even more so for learners to have a deeper understanding of the various fundamentals of disaster risk management. Thus, the main objective of the study was to assess the effectiveness of the inclusion of disaster management principles and practices in high school curricula. More emphasis was put on assessing the learners' behavioural and attitudinal changes after they had learnt about disaster management, and to what extent they applied the knowledge in their schools and communities.

The study centred on four high schools in Amajuba District, Masakhane ward with learners in the FET phase being the key respondents. The study was carried out using both qualitative and quantitative methodologies with the use of questionnaires, focus group discussions and individual interviews. The key findings of the study were that the schools were not doing enough to ensure that the principles and practices of disaster management were disseminated to the learners. This study found that although the government notice stipulates that schools should do emergency and fire drills, these activities were not being carried out in three of the four schools. Thus, the learners' behaviour and attitude strongly indicated that there were gaps within the system that required urgent attention to improve the learners' level of preparedness.