

# STUDENTS' PREPARATION TO POSTSECONDARY PATHWAYS: INFORMATION GAP FOR SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS

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# OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Rationale
- Current practices for preparing students for PSE
- Challenges facing the agenda
- Recommendations
- Limitations



# INTRODUCTION

## ○ Conceptualization of terms

### ➤ Post-Secondary Education


### ➤ Information Gap

- ✓ Admission processes
- ✓ Scholarship opportunities
- ✓ Academic program choices
- ✓ Specific competencies
- ✓ Student's college life



# INTRODUCTION CONT.

## ○ Knowledge gap about PSE

- Recent prioritization in secondary and higher education
  - Increased number of postsecondary entrants and leavers  
VS initiatives to prepare students for post-secondary education opportunities and career choices (Mugonzibwa, 2000).
  - Less is known about student experiences and challenges in their transition to post-secondary education and career decisions.
  - Strategies to inform students about their post-secondary pathways are not harmonized and not clear across stakeholders.
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# INTRODUCTION CONT.

## ○ Objectives of the paper

- Bridging the knowledge gap about students' preparation for post-secondary education
- Propose best practice to enhance successfully PSE across the following stakeholders ;
  - Tanzania Commission for Universities
  - Ministry of Education and Vocational Training
  - Education institutions at all levels,
  - Prospective post-secondary students and their parents,
  - Non-Governmental Organizations
  - Media



# RATIONALE

- Secondary education expansion and the need for higher education do not match with the initiatives to prepare students for it. Thus more research is needed.
- Students in some regions are not well informed about postsecondary opportunities for example Central Admission System (CAS) and other institution's based admission information. Thus more information about the knowlegde gap is crucial.



# CURRENT PRACTICES IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR PSE

- Various initiatives have been noticed across different stakeholders
- **TCU**
  - Developed Students' Guide Book with full admissions information about all accredited institutions
  - Provides admission information through websites, Radio, TV and newspapers.
  - Higher Education Exhibitions
- **.Universities**
  - Websites, radio, TV and newspaper
  - Pre university workshops
  - Orientation programmes for new students



# CURRENT PRACTICES IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR PSE.....cont..

- **Ministry of Education and Vocational Training**  
Expansion of secondary education through SEDP I&II
- **Secondary schools** : Provide narrow and rare education and career guidance and counseling
- **Non governmental organizations/agencies**
  - Provides admission information through Radio TV, Brochures and Newspapers
  - Sponsor pre university forums
  - Market various programmes offered by various colleges



# CHALLENGES

- Various challenges hinder effective provision of post-secondary education and career information;
  - Inadequate and narrow career guidance and counseling services in schools
  - Boundaries exist between different stakeholders which hinder harmonized efforts
  - Low level of ICT knowledge and application which hinder access to internet based information
  - Dependency culture among students
  - Inadequate resources needed to effectively disseminate information.
  - Insufficient research about students experiences and challenges in their post-secondary transition



# IMPLICATIONS

- Knowledge gap about student's experiences and challenges encountered by different stakeholders in enhancing smooth transition to post-secondary education is revealed to all stakeholders.
- All key players and relevant stakeholders are made aware and/or reminded of the responsibility to enhance student's transition in terms of information and guidance.
- This paper may lay the foundation of harmonized initiatives among government stakeholders and other strategies from non-governmental organizations.



# RECOMMENDATIONS

- The following tips should be considered by different stakeholders
- **Schools**
  - Promote broad based career guidance and counseling relevant for student further education and working life
- **TCU**
  - Utilize widely spread Radio stations to provide information.
  - Enhance regular school visits to make students aware of post-secondary education
  - Establishing zonal or regional centres as information hubs for students



# RECOMMENDATIONS CONT.

## ○ Higher Education Institutions

- Provide information through community engagement activities which can be done by internship/ field practice students
- Arrange outreach activities to secondary schools as guest speakers and career days.
- Prepare various brochures with relevant information about the institution
- Arrange and accomodate students visits to universities and conferences for information provision in collaboration with schools and spon



# RECOMMENDATIONS CONT.

## ○ Tips for Students

- Do not wait for the information, search for it.
- Search for timely and right information from reliable source don't rely on hears say or grapevines.
- Master your own destiny: have plans, seek guidance and advice from experienced individuals such as parents, teachers, fellow schoolmates who are already in higher education.
- Make an informed decision, avoid acting blindly.
- Act timely, do not wait for deadlines.



# RECOMMENDATIONS CONT

## ○ Parents

- Strive to make sure that your children are getting reliable and timely information about post-secondary opportunities
- Guide and support

## ○ NGOs/agencies

- Support student's visits, conferences, adverts and career affairs.

## ○ MoEVT

- As a responsible government organ, MoEVT should play its role in terms of broad policy implementation as well as harmonization of other stakeholders to enhance smooth transition to post-secondary education.

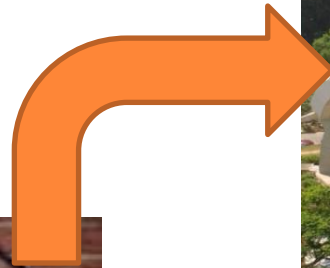


# LIMITATIONS

- This paper is only based on relevant documents and library research therefore it lacks evidence from field research.
- Literature on practice and transition activities to postsecondary education in Tanzania is very limited. Little has been specifically documented.
- Bias and conflict of interest by the authors as Higher education professionals VS researchers



# TRANSITION PUZZLE





- **COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY AND  
ACCOUNRABILITY!!!**



THANK YOU FOR YOU ATTENTION!!!!

