

## **Health and safety awareness training for teachers: A strategy for creating a healthy and safe learning environment - Shamusideen Kadiri**

### Objectives

The objective of this study was to provide requisite knowledge on health and safety (HS) to teachers and administrators in 720 secondary schools in Lagos state, Southwest, Nigeria. Specific objectives are:

1. to provide skills in health and safety so that they can make a positive contribution to the planning of their school's approach to health and safety management;
2. To provide an understanding of the context of health and safety from a work and student perspective.
3. to empower them on how to positively influence their students' ideas about health and safety, nurturing them as future responsible adults;
4. To identify, provide and promote educational programs related to workplace safety & health
5. To provide opportunities for all employees within the schools to raise concerns related to workplace safety & health

### Methods

This study used the participatory action research (PAR) method because the core concept of this study focused on the participation of the teachers sharing ideas and synthesizing information about health and safety in learning environment. During the participatory learning activities that were presented in this study, the participants engaged in the group discussions and identified the HS problems in their schools. The training was undertaken in classroom with field visits to selected schools. Seven modules were used for this training. The modules are:

1. Safety roles and responsibilities;
2. Fire safety/ Emergency planning;
3. Safety management systems;
4. Hazard identification; and risk assessment.
5. Hazards warning and safety signs
6. First aid
7. safety legislation

Participants were mainly teachers and school administrator's i.e principals and vice principals in the first and second year of the project, it was later extended to other personnel within the schools. A total of 700 teachers participated in this training. Three days was scheduled for each session with 50 participants per session. The training period is 2010 - 2013.

## Results

Participants' evaluation forms indicate that the teachers liked these courses. The HS knowledge, attitude and behavior scores of the participants were increased. The capacity building process enabled the workers to recognize risks associated with their occupation and therefore implement safety measures by using PPE and by learning about safety improvement concepts.

## Conclusion

The course is highly interactive, using the knowledge and experience of the participants to develop their awareness of safety issues and methods of teaching. It was suggested that this training become a regular event, thereby introducing more teachers to HS and risk education over time. It also show the value of training which supports a 'whole-school' approach combining the provision of risk education with the management of HS to provide a safe and health work and learning environment.