

**An examination of patterns of Access and use of the Internet by Youth:
a case study of Dar es Salaam Region.**

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This study investigated the pattern of access and use of the Internet by youth in Dar es Salaam Region. A total of 15 Internet cafes and 77 respondents were involved in the study. The study used both primary and secondary sources of data. Findings of this have established that young educated Tanzanians dominate the use of the Internet cafes, where males outnumbered females. The Internet is mainly used as a communication and entertainment tool; the use of the Internet for business and e-commerce is insignificant. It was commended that the Internet provides easy, cheap and quick means of communication, easy access to academic material and it promotes business through the web. On the contrary, negative impacts of the Internet were identified as direct exposure to some reprehensible facets of the West such as pornography, criminal networks, prostitution rings and sex tourism, high Internet charges and waste of youth's valuable time. The study made the following recommendations. First, since there is relatively low Internet education and low exploitation of the Internet resources, greater attention should be devoted to the development of human resources. Second, Tanzania has to develop its ICT infrastructure in different socio-economic sectors and execute comprehensive development programmes. Third, Kiswahili should be used in designing and setting up the Tanzanian homepages in order to break the language barrier. Fourth, a sustained strategy for promotion and creating awareness must be developed to accelerate development of e-commerce. There must be a clear national policy to guide the development of Internet technology.