

**Implications of gender roles in determining adaptation strategies of water insecure coastal communities of Tanzania**

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The aim of this study was to assess the implications of gender roles in determining household adaptation strategies to water insecurity in coastal communities of Tanzania. Household survey, key informant interview, observation and focus group discussions were used to collect data. Simple random technique was used to obtain 97 households, while purposive sampling technique was used to select key informants and discussants for focus group discussions. Qualitative data were analyzed using content analysis, whereas quantitative data were analyzed using inferential and descriptive statistics. Results indicated that water security in the study area is decreasing compared to the past 30 years. Women responded to water insecurity by prioritizing water uses, checking water regularly as well as mixing ice with saltwater. Men responded by digging local reservoirs, drilling wells as well as order water from local vendors. Regression results indicated that household responsibilities, controlling over household assets and traditional beliefs had positive relationship between men and women's adaptation strategies within the household. This signifies that for every unit increase in household responsibilities, controlling over household assets and traditional beliefs increased variations between men and women's adaptation strategies. Response strategies practiced in the study area were weak, incremental and undesirable for effective adaptation to climate change. Therefore, the study recommends that, government and other stakeholders should work with local communities to transform their response strategies for effective adaptation to the observed and projected impacts of climate change.