

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Conclusion

Based on the results and discussions regarding the influence of disaster education and building safety policy toward fire disaster preparedness in Lagos State, Nigeria, the following conclusions are drawn.

- a. The research results show that disaster education significantly influences fire disaster Preparedness in Lagos State, Nigeria. The linear regression model expressed as;  $y = 5.366 + 0.760x_1$  and the determination coefficient ( $R^2$ ) of 0.549 indicates that disaster education has a large effect on fire disaster preparedness in the state. However, there is generally a low level of fire disaster education in the state prompting the need for more interventions towards educating the state's residents regarding fire disasters. The residents' increased understanding of fire safety will have a positive influence on fire disaster preparedness. Learning and practicing fire safety measures in households will assist in reducing fire risks in residential buildings. Educating communities as a capacity-building measure will also help to build a culture of safety and resilience at grass root levels.
  
- b. Research findings show that building safety policy has a significant influence on fire disaster preparedness in Lagos State, Nigeria. The linear regression model expressed as;  $y = 11.196 + 0.614x_2$  and the determination coefficient of 0.339 indicates that building safety policy has a relatively large effect on fire disaster preparedness in the state. However, data from this study provides empirical evidence that there remains a low implementation of building safety policies regarding fire safety in Lagos State's

residential buildings. Effective enforcement of the state's regulations regarding building fire safety can have a significant effect on fire disaster preparedness. Strategically communicating the policy and collaborating with street-level bureaucrats can further support policy implementation which will enhance fire disaster preparedness in residential buildings.

- c. Disaster education and building safety policy have a significant combined influence on fire disaster Preparedness in Lagos State, Nigeria. The linear regression model expressed as;  $y = 4.602 + 0.730x_1 + 0.040x_2$  and the determination coefficient of 0.550 shows that disaster education and building safety policy have a large effect on fire disaster preparedness in the state. However, the contribution of disaster education seems to be more dominant in the regression model. Generally, a combined educational and policy implementation approach promises better effectiveness in reducing fire risks in the state's residential buildings. Though disaster education is generally considered very necessary in preparedness efforts, it needs to be coupled with other efforts such as policy implementation and enforcement to achieve maximum results.

## 5.2 Recommendations

To ensure community safety and human security, the entire layer of society must be prepared to participate in fire disaster preparedness efforts. Disaster is everyone's business. Hence, the following recommendations are related to specific stakeholders who should support fire disaster risk reduction in Lagos State, Nigeria.

- a. LASEMA as the leading disaster management agency in the state needs to support the management of fire risks in the state before

these risks become uncontrollable hazards. A proactive step that could be taken by LASEMA is to conduct a state-wide fire disaster risk assessment. The hazard, vulnerability and capacity of communities should be mapped to provide information about the readiness of communities in dealing with fire outbreaks. LASEMA could also use its online platforms to educate the public about fire safety.

- b. LFRS as the state's fire expert could collaborate with LASEMA in conducting fire disaster education and training to equip residents with practical knowledge and skills on how to respond to small fire outbreaks. The LFRS should also develop a central fire reporting system that will record occurrences of fire outbreaks in the state. The data collected through this recording system will be useful for fire assessments and research purposes.
- c. Communities and households need to create time for open dialogues about fire disasters. Having these dialogues will make residents more aware of the fire risks in their environment.
- d. NGOs and volunteer groups can create watch groups in communities highly vulnerable to fire disasters. They can educate locals about fire hazards and help support response activities in the event of a fire outbreak.
- e. The media can support DRR communication efforts. They can help disseminate easy-to-understand information and create consistent awareness programs about fire disasters.
- f. For private businesses, there is an opportunity to make a significant impact in low-and middle-income communities. There is a low possession of active firefighting apparatus in houses

located in these communities. Private businesses can produce and supply cost-effective firefighting equipment such as smoke alarms and sprinklers to these communities. Also, fire outbreaks due to electrical causes are common in the state. Hence, private businesses need to ensure that only good quality electrical appliances are sold to the public.