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Extreme heat is taking its toll on students and institutions

Eve Ruessink 02 March 2022

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Extreme climate events such as heatwaves and flash floods have resulted in major disruptions and challenges for universities across Africa. Extreme heat events, due to global warming, have been associated with low student turnout, low academic performance and health risks for academic staff and students.

However, there is a lack of data and scientific studies to track the impact and effect of heat waves in the region.

The Global Disaster Preparedness Center of the American Red Cross has noted that, despite the growing adverse impacts of extreme heat, there are gaps in global awareness, risk analysis and action to counter heat risks.

A group of researchers from South African universities indicated in a report *Situations in the future warmer climate of South Africa* that a lack of research on extreme weather events such as heatwaves resulted in limited climate change adaptation strategies at policy-making level.

More research needed

In an interview with University World News, Dr Patricia Chababula, a climate researcher and lecturer in the community studies department at Midlands State University in Zimbabwe, spoke about the importance of research into extreme heat events and their impact on educational institutions.

Academic Institutions Research

South Africa

The academic Institutions can assist in leading research for local government to make evidence-based choices on heat thresholds, interventions and guidelines.

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Increase awareness a

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