ABSTRACT

Research organizations utilize information technology to generate process and transmit both sensitive and vital data that is critical in development of drugs, vaccines and health policy. Despite the role ICT plays in these research organization little has been done to assess the level of preparedness and capacity to mount effective recovery mechanism in case of an ICT disaster within these organizations. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to assess how prepared the health research organizations are in case of ICT related disaster. The study objective was to identify existence of ICT infrastructure, to assess the influence of ICT disaster recovery plan on disaster response preparedness and to examine the influence of ICT disaster recovery policies on disaster response in health research organizations in Kisumu County. This study intended to identify existence of IT infrastructure in relation to recovery among ICT staff and users in health research organizations in Kisumu County. Survey design was adopted and a saturated sampling method was deployed in selecting a sample population of 25 respondents. Data was collected through structured questionnaires. The validity and reliability of the research instrument was also be tested. The data was analyzed through descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation); also, inferential statistics (regression) was used to analyze data. The findings were presented in tables. The study found out the following:

Most organizations have not adopted modem disaster recovery measures such as cloud computing and use of Virtual Private Network. These findings suggest that most organizations can suffer irreparable damage should a disaster that affects ICT system occur. Not adopting cloud computing technology in enhancing disaster recovery service had the lowest mean rank of which indicates that most organizations have not adopted cloud computing technology as part of disaster recovery services. This capacity building is lacking in most of the organizations we surveyed. More trainings and workshops which are vital to equip the recovery team with skills and expose them. The study has observed that most of the organization's recovery plans are not well implemented. The study also revealed that ICT disaster policies are not clearly spelt and not up to date. The policies should be stored safely and within quick reach. From the study we realized that the existing frameworks are very few and weak and needs to be improved.