

SURGE PHENOMENON IN PHYSIOTHERAPY- TANZANIA 2024/2025

AMOS PASCHAL (PT)
AMOLECK GROUP AND PHYSIOPLANET

The Surge Phenomenon in Physiotherapy in Tanzania (2024/2025)

Introduction

The years 2024 and 2025 marked a historic transformation of the physiotherapy landscape in Tanzania. During this period, the country witnessed a surge phenomenon—a sudden, rapid, and significant increase in the number of physiotherapy training institutions, the number of students enrolling in physiotherapy, and the overall demand for rehabilitation services.

What Is a Surge Phenomenon?

A surge phenomenon refers to a sudden and remarkable rise in the availability, intensity, quantity, or occurrence of something within a short period of time. In the context of physiotherapy in Tanzania, it is defined as: A sharp and unprecedented increase in physiotherapy colleges, student enrollment, and national demand for rehabilitation services within a short time frame (2024–2025).

Physiotherapy Training Landscape Before 2024

Before 2024, the institutions offering physiotherapy training included:

1. Kilimanjaro College of Health and Allied Sciences (KICoHAS)
2. Mwanza College of Health and Allied Sciences
3. Mbeya College of Health and Allied Sciences
4. State University of Zanzibar (SUZA)
5. Taifa Institute of Health and Allied Sciences
6. Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS)
7. Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College (KCMUCo)

The Surge of 2024/2025: Expansion of Institutions

During the 2024/2025 academic year, new institutions offering physiotherapy emerged, including:

1. Kigamboni City College of Health and Allied Sciences (KICCoHAS)
2. Mwanza City College of Health and Allied Sciences
3. City College of Health and Allied Sciences (multiple campuses)
4. City Institute of Health and Allied Sciences
5. Sir Edward College of Health and Allied Sciences
6. Mlimba Institute of Health and Allied Sciences
7. Excellent College of Health and Allied Sciences
8. Kolandoto College of Health and Allied Sciences
9. Kilimanjaro Institute of Health and Allied Sciences
10. Mgao Health Training Institute

Key Drivers Behind the Surge

- i. Increased burden of NCDs
- ii. High number of road traffic accidents
- iii. Increased public awareness of physiotherapy
- iv. Private sector investment
- v. Youth interest in employable health careers
- vi. Expansion of sports and fitness industries

City Colleges as Major Contributors

City Colleges have the largest number of physiotherapy students due to multiple campuses, flexible admission, strong marketing, and modern facilities. They play a major role in the surge phenomenon.

Positive Impacts of the Surge

- i. Increased workforce supply
- ii. Improved access to rehabilitation services
- iii. Growth of private clinics
- iv. Advancement in specializations

- v. Improved visibility of physiotherapy as a profession

Challenges of the Surge

- i. Variations in training quality
- ii. Limited clinical placement sites
- iii. Regulatory pressure
- iv. Possible workforce saturation

Future Expectations

The surge is expected to strengthen the rehabilitation workforce, expand research and innovation, and integrate physiotherapy more deeply into national health programs.

Conclusion

The Physiotherapy Surge Phenomenon of 2024/2025 represents a major milestone in Tanzania's health sector. It reflects rising awareness, increased demand, and the importance of rehabilitation in modern healthcare.