

# Discussion



Impact of emergency on decision making  
Narrowing of attention  
This is a situation where the attention is focused on one object. It involves living as if other ideas concerning the same issue do not exist, (Bouyssou & Dubois, 2010). It is considered to be a psychological happening. It depicts the lessening of options when time for decision making comes. It has been argued that the personality of the decision maker is more beneficial than the advice given to him. This is because it affects the quality of the decisions he makes. The narrowing of attention occurs due to past happenings that inspire fear, (Bouyssou & Dubois, 2010). Narrowing of attention is a self defense mechanism because it is inspired by fear. For example, when someone has been involved in a fire outbreak disaster, they live with a notion that fire is likely to happen any time. If they were rescued by jumping through the window, the person may always want to stay near open windows, (Bouyssou & Dubois, 2010). The house may be having fire extinguishers, fire exits and emergency doors. However, the person is likely to ignore all those options and think that the only way to escape a fire is through jumping through a window. A narrow attention is extremely limiting, and it eliminates the ability to think outside the box. The people involved tend to cling to the one method that might have worked for them.

Information overload.

This refers to inability to make a quality decision due to availability of too much information. It is also referred to as infobesity. It occurs due to fast accumulation of information and ease of replication and transmission of information, (Bouyssou & Dubois, 2010). According to Bouyssou & Dubois (2010), another principal cause is the presence of large amounts of historical information. This makes hard to pick on the most appropriate decision. In

case of a fire outbreak, and an experienced fire fighter is involved. He has more than five options to choose. They know how to use fire extinguishers, how to use the fire exits. As a fire fighter, he is trained to rescue people/novices. When he is caught up in a fire outbreak, all these ideas cross his mind. This slows the making of the final decisions and could affect the swiftness of his final response. Arguably Bouyssou & Dubois (2010), states that the ability to pick on the best option is put to the test. However, that is not enough. It is not enough make smart decisions; good decisions must be made in the right time. This is where information overload becomes detrimental, (Bouyssou & Dubois, 2010). By the time the fire fighter makes the final decision, the fire may have burnt to uncontrollable levels. Besides, the fire fighter may not be of much help to the people trapped in the fire.

#### Limited information

This is a situation of having inadequate information needed to address a problem. This is the most common challenge. The chief cause is ignorance, (Bouyssou & Dubois, 2010). Most people have an idea which is not strong enough to perform to rescue mission. When there is a fire outbreak, most people do not have information on what to do. Most people know that a fire extinguisher is useful in case of a fire outbreak. However, they do not have an idea how to operate a fire extinguisher. This is because of limited information. It makes the decision making process become blurred. Limited information leads to panic which can lead to anxiety.

#### References

Bouyssou, D., & Dubois, D. (2010). *Decision Making Process: Concepts and Methods* (1st ed.). Retrieved from [http://books.google.co.ke/books?id=XkF7JwOWIqYC&dq=decision+making+process&source=gbs\\_navlinks\\_s](http://books.google.co.ke/books?id=XkF7JwOWIqYC&dq=decision+making+process&source=gbs_navlinks_s).  
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