

A STUDY ON THE AWARENESS OF PEOPLE ON DISASTER RISKS IN MANMUNAI NORTH DIVISIONAL SECRETARIAT DIVISION

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Abstract

The world is being destroyed through environmental corruption, man-made activities and natural hazards day by day. The awareness of people on disaster risk can be reduced the affect of the disaster through change in behaviour of people. Unfortunately, awareness of people on disaster risk in developing countries is very poor comparing with developed countries. Poor understanding of the hazard leading to poor management and it could turn a hazard into a major disaster. Disasters hold back development and affect in various ways of a country. Batticaloa is the disaster prone area and it is a coastal area too, generally coastal areas are more vulnerable for many disasters. However, the awareness level of people on disaster had not been identified and suitable strategies to raise awareness had not been developed yet. This study tries to do that part.

This study is focussed all the aspects of the awareness of people on disaster risk in the Manmunai North DS division. The study population was divided into five categories for the purpose of Primary data collection and analysis such as General Public, Frontline Officers, Decision Makers, Educators, and Community Leaders. Collective-questionnaire method was used to collect data from General Public. Cluster sampling method was used to select 200 samples from General Public. Semi-structured interview method was used to collect data further 100 samples were taken from other four categories. The awareness levels of people on eight possible disasters were measured based on characteristic, counter-measures, preparedness, mitigation and reconstruction measures. With the help of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), the overall awareness levels were ascertained based on five Likert scale such as very low, low, moderate, high and very high for each dimension.

The finding on overall awareness of people on disaster risk in Manmunai North DS division was low level according to the data collected. It indicates that the needs of awareness campaigning programs such as raise awareness, disaster education and training, and development of a disaster information system for all five categories of people. Improving community participation and people's awareness on disaster risk reduction is also recommended to reduce the adverse affect of the disasters.

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