

A Study on Disaster Awareness Programmes and its Impact among School Children

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Abstract

This paper presents the disaster awareness programmes and its impact among school children. Cuddalore district in Tamilnadu is always prone to natural disasters of one kind or the other. Within Cuddalore District, Killai region in coastal area have a unique landscape created by rivers and backwaters from the East Coast of Bay of Bengal. Hence, the school children are given with some awareness programme. Majority of the school going children are having knowledge and be prepared to protect themselves from the natural calamities.

KEYWORDS: disaster, awareness, children, impact

Introduction

A disaster is an occurrence disrupting the normal conditions of existence and causing a level of suffering that exceeds the capacity of adjustment of the affected community – WHO Vision of National Disaster Management plan May - 2016

Make India disaster resilient, achieve substantial disaster risk reduction, and significantly decrease the losses of life, livelihoods, and assets – economic, physical, social, cultural, and environmental – by maximizing the ability to cope with disasters at all levels of administration as well as among communities

India is one of the most vulnerable to disaster prone countries in the world due to its unique Geo dynamics. 25 States are disaster prone. 59 % of total land area is vulnerable to seismic activity. 28 % of lands are vulnerable to Drought. 12 % of lands are vulnerable to Flood and 8 % of lands are vulnerable to Cyclones. These kinds of natural disasters are unavoidable. It is not always possible to avoid disaster but the sufferings can be minimized by proper disaster management.

Cuddalore district in Tamilnadu is always prone to natural disasters of one kind or the other. Within Cuddalore District, Killai region in coastal area have a unique landscape created by rivers and backwaters from the East Coast of Bay of Bengal. Hence, the school children are given with some awareness programme. Majority of the school going children are having knowledge and be prepared to protect themselves from the natural calamities.

Floods, earthquake, super cyclone are very common in our country. It will be of great help if the people can be given proper training by awareness programmes. In order to measure the impact of the awareness programme, the study is going to find among the school children in Killai village.

Review of Literature

1) Effectiveness of Disaster-Based school program on Student's Earthquake preparedness – Paper by Wignyo Adiyoso & Hidehiko Kanegae-Ritsumeikan University-Japan (JDR Vol 8 No.5 - Doi:10.20965/jdr.2013.p1009)

2) Assessing disaster preparedness of learners and educators in Soshanguve North schools -Thesis by Hellen Mamosegare Mamogale at University of the free state –Africa
Research methodology

Objectives:

- 1) To know the awareness of disaster among students at village school
- 2) To know the effect of awareness programmes at schools

Method of study:

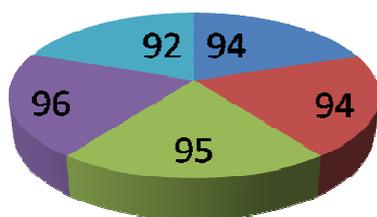
Study Area - 2 Schools of Killai village at Cuddalore District

This study is undertaken by Questionnaire method.

Here the Universe of the sample is 980. From the universe I have taken 98 samples (10 percentage) by simple random sampling method.

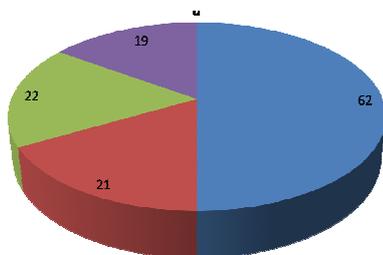
Result and Discussion

Naming the Disasters:



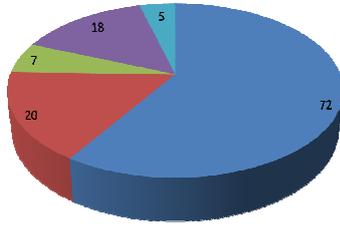
94 respondents named Tsunami & Cyclone, 95 named Earthquake, 96 named Flood and 92 named Volcano.

Source of Knowledge:



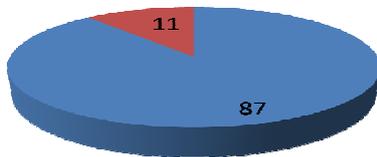
62 respondents got knowledge from Teachers, 21 got from parents, 22 gained from NGOs and 19 from Friends

Announcement Believes :



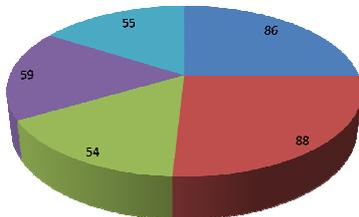
72 students believing the TV/Radio announcements, 20 said Police announcements,7 believing their friends,18 believing social media, 5 their neighbours.

Sharing the knowledge :



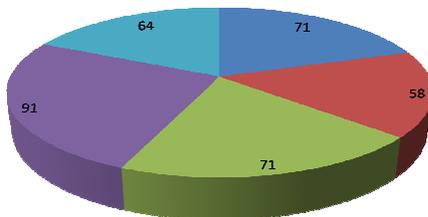
87 respondents were sharing their gained knowledge and 11 doesn't shared their knowledge.

Do's :



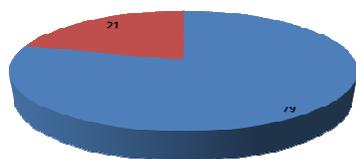
86 students told to switch off Main ,88 told to turn off the gas ,54 said to put valuables at safe, 59 aware of taking drinking water /emergency medicine and only 55aware of locking the house.

Don't s :



71 said to be in home 58 students said to carrying luggage 71 aware of not to play in mud, 91 were said to avoid wire contacts and 64 students told to search the missed ones.

Life saving learnings :



79 students knows swimming and 21 knows rope climbing

Conclusion:

Students are having adequate knowledge of disasters and its effects, but very few don't aware of it.

Teachers are first in source of their knowledge which seems to be happy but Media don't have their influence among students in exploring the disaster awareness which shows media doesn't influenced them on awareness aspects or students having less interest to connect with media for informations

Tv/Radio topping the announcements but there is a marked number of children believing the social media which should not be encouraged because of it's doubtful reliability.

Happy to know that 87 students sharing their knowledge, only 11 doesn't shared. So we have to train them to communicate effectively with all people and share their knowledge not only related to Disaster also all aspects.

Proud to know 79 children knows swimming but a lack in rope climbing only 22 in which we have to concentrate more for mock drills for life saving activities.

Do's and Don'ts were at good level in which we have to concentrate more on don't do's list like avoid carrying luggage at time of Disaster.

Floods, earthquake, super cyclone are very common in our country. It will be of great help if the people can be given proper training by awareness programmes with repeated drills.

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