A Study To Assess The Knowledge About Disaster Preparedness Among People In A Selected Urban Area, Bangalore, With A View To Develop An Information Booklet

Aadil Kadiwala, *Assistant professor, Department of Community Health Nursing, Sumandeep Nursing College, Sumandeep Vidyapeeth deemed to be University, Piparia, Waghodia, Vadodara, Gujarat*

E mail: aadilkadiwala9992@gmail.com, Contact: 9537329992

ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Disasters in modern times have transcended borders of nations and class and have a devastating impact in terms of human and material losses. As the recent tsunami demonstrated, disasters can take diverse regions unawares and wreck has on a hapless populace. Global initiatives for disaster preparedness and reduction should therefore be given the highest priority by the international community. [1]

OBJECTIVES: To assess the knowledge on disaster preparedness among community inhabitants. To determine the association between knowledge on disaster preparedness and selected demographic variables. To develop an information booklet on disaster preparedness.

MATERIAL & METHODS: A survey approach was adopted for the present study and research design adopted was descriptive design. The study was conducted on 100 subjects in Mahalakshmipuram, Bangalore, Data was collected through self administered questionnaire. Collected data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

RESULTS: Among the 100 respondents, 32 percent of them had inadequate knowledge, 53 percent of them had moderately adequate knowledge and only 15 percent of them had adequate knowledge on disaster preparedness The range of knowledge score was between 0 – 40. The mean was 23.26 with a standard deviation of 8.9.

CONCLUSION: The first assumption was that community inhabitants have inadequate knowledge on disaster preparedness. This assumption was supported as majority of the

respondents (85 percent) lacked adequate knowledge on disaster preparedness. The second assumption was that knowledge on disaster preparedness is influenced by selected demographic variables. Statistically a significant association was found between knowledge on disaster preparedness and variables like religion, education and type of family. Religion wise, Muslims demonstrated a higher level of knowledge as compared to Hindus and Christians. Education wise, graduates and post graduates demonstrated higher level of knowledge as compared to others. Type of family wise, respondents living in nuclear families demonstrated better knowledge than respondents living in joint families. However, there was no association found between knowledge on disaster preparedness and variables like age, sex, marital status, occupation, family income/ month and previous experience of disaster.

KEYWORDS: Knowledge, Disaster preparedness,

INTRODUCTION

Disaster has been defined as an occurrence disrupting the normal conditions of existence and causing a level of suffering that exceeds the capacity of adjustment of the affected community. Disasters are unforeseen events that cause great damage, destruction and human suffering. Though often caused by nature, disasters can have human origins. It requires immediate, coordinated and effective response by multiple government, voluntary and private sector organizations, to meet human needs and speed recovery.[1]

Disasters have, in recent years become an undeniably grim feature in our lives. Barely had the world begun the process of recovery after the devastation of the tsunami, which in its wake overran all geographical, social and economic demarcations, then the hurricane Katrina brought the world's most powerful nation to its feet. In the interim there was the Mumbai deluge, the terrorist strikes at London and innumerable local disasters, which had an equally devastating impact.[1]

In the past decades the number of disasters and their impact on human and economic

development worldwide has shown a steady increase. About seventy five percent of the world's populations live in areas affected at least once, between 1980 and 2000, by earthquake, tropical cyclones, floods or drought. More than 184 deaths per day due to disasters are recorded in different parts of the world. [1] Disasters also lead to other losses in terms of their detrimental effect on the quality of life, livelihoods and economic development. The total number of people affected each year by natural disasters almost doubled between 1990 and 1999. In this period an average of one eighty eight million people per year were affected by disasters. It is projected that by the year 2065, economic losses due to disasters are likely to account for a significant proportion of global gross domestic product (GDP).[1] The rapid growth of the world's population and its increased concentration, often in hazardous environment has escalated both the frequency and severity of natural disasters. With the tropical climate and unstable landforms, coupled with deforestation, unplanned growth proliferation, non engineered constructions, tardy communications, poor or no budgetary allocation for disaster prevention, developing countries suffer more or less chronically by natural disasters.[2]

MATERIALS & METHODS

In this study**,** Non-experimental descriptive survey research design is used for this study. Sample is the representative part of the population, in this study samples 100 people who were selected as a sample by using non-probability convenient sampling technique. The tool for data collection was consists of two parts. The first part was demographic variables such as age, sex, religion, education, occupation, income, marital status, type of family, previous disaster experience and source of information on disaster. The second part was self administered Questionnaire to assess the knowledge of people on various aspects of disaster preparedness. Data is analyzed by using descriptive and interferential statistics such as median, frequencies and chi-square test.

RESULTS:

Assess knowledge score, Mean knowledge score and standard deviation score on different assessment domains of disaster preparedness. **(n=100)**

Sl. No	Assessment Domains	Max. Score	Range Score	Knowledge	
				Mean	SD
1	Concepts of Disaster	6	0-6	3.54	1.4
2	Earth quake	7	0-7	4.77	1.5
3	Floods	7	0-7	5.13	1.8
4	Fire	3	0-3	1.94	0.8
5	Bomb blast	6	0-6	2.69	1.5
6	Disaster preparedness kit	11	0-11	5.19	1.9
7	Total	40	0-40	23.26	8.9

DISCUSSION

The present study was undertaken with an objective to assess the knowledge of people on disaster preparedness in a selected urban area, Bangalore and to associate the knowledge with selected demographic variables. The study was conducted in Mahalakshmipuram. 100 subjects who were willing to participate in the study were chosen by convenience sampling technique using a survey approach. Research design adopted is descriptive design. Self-administered questionnaire was used to assess the knowledge of people on disaster preparedness. 32 percent of the respondents had inadequate knowledge, 53 percent of them had moderately adequate knowledge and only 15 percent of them had adequate knowledge on disaster preparedness. The range of knowledge score was between 0 – 40. The mean score was 23.26, mean knowledge score percent was 58.20 and the standard deviation score percent was 15.60.

This finding was supported a study conducted by Rincon E, Linares MY and Greenberg B. They sought to examine the hypothesis that having experienced a major hurricane will

promote better preparedness for future ones. However results showed that only 37 percent of the families who experienced the hurricane Andrew would go to shelter versus 49 percent of the families that did not. Finding thus suggested that the hypothesis, having experienced a major hurricane will promote better preparedness for future ones can be safely rejected.

CONCLUSION:

The study undertaken to assess the knowledge of people on disaster preparedness in a selected urban area, Bangalore and to associate the knowledge with selected demographic variables. The study was conducted in Mahalakshmipuram. 100 subjects who were willing to participate in the study were chosen by convenience sampling technique using a survey approach. 32 percent of the respondents had inadequate knowledge, 53 percent of them had moderately adequate knowledge and only 15 percent of them had adequate knowledge on disaster preparedness. The range of knowledge score was between 0 – 40. The mean score was 23.26, mean knowledge score percent was 58.20 and the standard deviation score percent was 15.60.

Conflict of interest: The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest statement.

Source of funding: Fund for this research was disbursed by the researcher.

Ethical clearance: Ethical clearance was obtained from ethical committee of SVICE of Sumandeep Vidyapeeth Deemed to be university.

REFERENCES:

1. Government of India. Draft study on corporate involvement in disaster management [Online]. 2005 [Cited 2006 Nov 10]; Available from: URL:

http://www.wc.dr.gfdr.org/imgs/pdfs/drafstudyofcorporate

2. Rao DP. Disaster Management [Online] [Cited on 2006 Nov 10]; Available form: URL: http://www.director@nrsa.gov.in

3. Disaster preparedness. Times Foundation India Times [Online] [Cited on 2006 Nov 10]. Availablefrom:URL: http://www.timesfoundationindiatimes.com

4. Park K. Park's text book of Preventive and Social Medicine.18 ed. Jabalpur: M/s.Banarsidas Bhanot; 2006. P. 600-5

5. Sanders S, Bowie SL., Bowie YD. Lessons learned on forced relocation of older adults: the impact of Hurricane Andrew on health, mental health, and social support of public housing residents. Journal of Gerontological Social Work [Serial online] 2003 [Cited on 2006 Nov 10]; 40(4): [23-5]. Available from: URL: http://search.epnet.com

6. Menon VC, Kava S. Infochanges disasters. Infochange India News and Features development News on Disasters in India [serial online] 2006 [Cited 2006 Nov 10]; [1-8]. Available from :URL: http://www.infochangeindia.ord/ disastersibp.jsp