

A Study to assess the attitude towards disaster preparedness among inhabitants of Bolor, Mangalore

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Introduction

Due to its unique geo-climatic conditions, India has always been susceptible to natural disasters. Bolor is a semi-urban area located about 5kms away from Mangalore prone to flooding. Concerted action must be taken to reduce the loss of life, damage to property, economic and social disruptions in the event of a disaster. The purpose of the study is to ascertain the attitudes and practices towards disaster preparedness among the inhabitants of Bolor, Mangalore. The study is to assess the current status of awareness of management regarding disaster preparedness, to determine attitudes towards disaster management plans and drills and to determine current practices employed by them to safeguard against such disasters.

Methods

A semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect relevant data pertaining to the study variables. Systematic random sampling was done to select the households. The collected data was entered into SPSSvers.11.5 and analysed. The results obtained were expressed in proportions.

Results

Out of the 110 households surveyed, majority of the population (82.3%) thought it was necessary to have a disaster plan and 72.4% wanted disaster stimulation and drills to occur frequently in their community. Most of them (58.9%) felt that it was unnecessary to prepare for natural disasters as assistance will be provided by authorities. Majority of the individuals (94.4%) obtained their source of information about disasters from television. 46% rarely listen to weather forecast. Most of households (76.6%) did not have insurance coverage and 71% do not have alternate shelters in case of natural disaster.

Conclusion

Though they had good knowledge and their attitude was acceptable, their practices in terms of the frequency of on-going and the frequency of regularly updating the plans were probably inadequate. They believed that disasters are likely to happen at their community and that they need to be prepared should they happen. They also agreed that disaster plans need to be regularly updated. Their attitudes to the plans and drills were largely positive. However, the practices were deficient and work still needs to be done in regard to on-going training, performance of drills and the frequency of regular updating of the plans. KMC, Mangalore.