

ABSTRACT

Even though Disaster Management is a public affair, military involves widely being a key stakeholder in responding, due to catastrophic effects of disasters and military's ability of swift engagement with its well trained, prepared human resource and vast range of material and machinery assets in possession. In Sri Lankan context too Armed Forces are called responding at the time of emergencies in support of public authorities where Sri Lanka Navy mainly responsible for responding water related natural disasters in the island.

Over the years Navy takes much effort assisting public during the time of need and in year 2012 Navy established a dedicated unit; 4RU – Rapid Response Rescue and Relief Unit to respond and engage relief activities during the disasters at operational level. In the peacetime, disaster response has become one of major tasks which involve thousands of its man power incurring huge expenditure annually. The purpose of the research is to study the effectiveness of Navy's flood responding mechanism and, review its relief methodology if the gaps are existed. The study has set five main objectives; analyse difficulties and problems faced by both flood victims and relief teams, analyse systematic mechanism adopted by relief institutions across, find out SLN capabilities and competencies relevant to disaster management and propose a suitable systematic approach for SLN. The study conducted in 2016 based on major flood in May, by gathering data from flood victims, relief teams, public and naval officials from stakeholder institutions and importantly related documents. Sedawaththa area, a sub-urb of Colombo located in Keleni river bank and relief teams deployed in area selected as the sample. Responses obtained by questionnaires in 1-5 Likert scale from 132 persons and got 84% of valid responses. The research follows a mix method giving more weight to qualitative approach while utilizing statistic findings at times during the discussion and analysis. The researcher analyses existing emergency respond mechanism's deficiencies and gaps between renowned mechanisms' across. The findings of the study explain abandoned vital and critical functions of the disaster relief mechanism while pointing out gaps between own mechanism and systematic approaches including lapses in logistics network. The study extends to propose suggestions to design suitable scope where tactical execution should base on.

Key-words: Disaster Response, standard DM practices, deficiencies, systematic approach