

ABSTRACT

Disaster can be deliberated as a catastrophe, or a calamity in an affected area, originating from natural or manmade causes, or by accident which results in a substantial loss of life or human suffering or damage to, and destruction of, property exceeding the ability of the affected communities to cope using own resources. In Sri Lanka, flood is among the most devastating natural disaster effecting human life than any other disaster due to geographical and metrological nature. In recent history, Sri Lanka Army have played a major role in handling natural and manmade disasters by providing humanitarian logistics, recovery, relief assistance and engaging rehabilitation and reconstruction process through facilitating civil authorities at the disaster situations to minimize collateral effects. Humanitarian logistics can be considered as a critical measurement of the ability of communities to effectively protect their people and infrastructure and rapidly recover from the disaster. The main objective of the study is to analyze the association among the factors affecting the efficiency of humanitarian logistics operations in Sri Lanka Army. The study area was focused on identifying of challenges faced by Sri Lanka Army in humanitarian logistics operations, with special reference to the floods in Kilinochchi District. The sample of 300 respondents has been selected from 1500 soldiers of Sri Lanka Army deployed in Kilinochchi district under Security Forces Headquarters Kilinochchi. Further, sample crew has been deployed under three infantry divisions, namely 57, 65 and 66 divisions deployed at Kilinochchi, Mallavi and Pooneryn respectively. Quantitative data were tested to determine the correlations using Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS) software. Reliability test was done using Cronbach's Alpha. Identifying challenges face by the Sri Lanka Army with reference to the provision of humanitarian logistics operations are immensely benefit to address disaster situations efficiently and effectively in future circumstances. Recommendations were given to military and other entities those who are actively participating in humanitarian logistics operations. Implementation of Inventory based planning and control system, Regional coordination, collaboration and synergies among all stakeholders, implementation of donation management system, Utilization of local capabilities, Constant communication are the major finding of this research.

Keywords: *Flood Relief, Disaster Relief Operations, Disaster Management, Humanitarian Logistics, Supply Chain Management*