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"STATUS OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PRACTICES ON COASTAL HAZARD IN VADAMARACHCHI NORTH EAST OF JAFFNA DISTRICT"

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Abstract

Vadamarachchi North East area is one of the multi hazards prone and vulnerable divisions and also this is a high vulnerable population in Jaffna District. The multi kinds of vulnerable groups are living with lack of critical infrastructure facilities. The perspective of disaster those across the world, the vulnerable communities are highly risk due to lack of information flow, absence of consideration in planning process and level of awareness. Recent studies have been considered that exclusion of vulnerable communities into disaster management and its process in the past. The exclusiveness leads to create social disparities and adverse effects to sustainable development in future. The scope of study investigates the effectiveness of disaster preparedness and emergency response practices among vulnerable community in Vadamarachchi north east area in Jaffna District. Primary and secondary data extract from maps, field data, statistical data, and questionnaires such as focus group and key informants, used to analyse. The result found as followings; lack of awareness & trainings, inclusive or consideration on planning process and critical infrastructure facilities had been identified from the analysis. The studies recommended that ensure the active involvement of the stakeholders and existing committees, and also strengthening the regulatory & coordination mechanism among the bottom to top level at all disaster management phases. Further enhancement of the vulnerability based knowledge and skills for disaster preparedness planning with the proportionate participation of the most volunarable families.

Keywords: Disaster Management, Vulnerability, Preparedness Planning, inclusive, Sustainable Development, Critical Infrastructure Facilities, Geographical Information System (GIS), Regulatory and Coordination Mechanism, District Spatial Decision Support System.