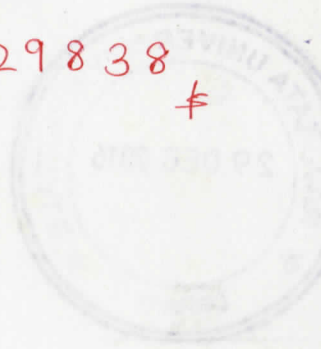




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**Preparedness and Mitigation in the Management of
Natural Disasters in
Trincomalee District of Sri Lanka**



By

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Abstract

Today disaster preparedness and mitigation is an essential activity of the manager in all aspects of business and public services. Increased risk of disaster in business is a result of use of risky material or actions in the business operations. Living in marginal areas where disasters are common increases the effect of natural disasters and social problems lead to prevalence of societal disaster.

Natural disasters are becoming an important controlling variable in the world and Sri Lanka associated with global change in climate, geological activity and poor settlement planning, which leads to location of housing and other constructions without considering the actual risk.

The study area is frequently affected by natural disasters like floods, flash floods, cyclones, droughts, landslides and coastal erosion. Earthquakes and tsunami are rare, but quoted as probable disasters in the related literature. Sri Lanka has the capability of managing the small-scale natural disasters as it operates a welfare state. However, the rapid rise in damages due to natural disasters in the recent years has led to delay in response and rehabilitation.

Providing answers to this type of failures require a detailed study on the disasters and reasons for increased damage levels. Data available in the published material indicate that the eastern province of Sri Lanka is affected by natural disasters like drought, flood, cyclonic windstorms, flash floods and many other minor natural disasters at regular intervals. This thesis attempts to investigate the existing level of preparedness and mitigation strategies in management of natural disasters in, Trincomalee district, Sri Lanka and propose possible remedies.

The basic concept is that there is a possibility of managing disasters and reduce damage to property and loss of life in the area as it has sufficient amount of literate administrators and people. In here FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Authority, USA), Israel and

PODS (People Oriented Disaster Management System, Seneviratne (2008) will be utilized for guidance in the construction of conceptual framework. Hypothesis of the study is that there is insufficient level of preparedness in the management of natural disasters in the study area. The amount of information received by the populace and total damage are utilized to test the hypothesis on the assumption that the relationship between the two will indicate the rate of success of disaster management in the area.

The study revealed that the link between proper information on disaster and preparedness and mitigation is not of good quality and existing system of administration and governance is not capable of disaster preparedness and mitigation in the study area. Therefore, a concerted effort is required for the reduction of disaster damage in the future time period where climatic change and societal unrests are expected to increase.

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