

RESTRICTED

ABSTRACT

The social and environmental interface is rapidly changing through devastating impact of disaster. Sri Lanka as a disaster prone country there is a necessity to build a resilient community to resist and absorb the calamitous implications of natural forcing. Therefore, community participation is the most effective foundation to achieving sustainability in dealing with natural disasters. However, it seems that the community participatory approach to natural calamities seems less effective in Sri Lanka. Therefore, the overall objective of the study was to analyse the effectiveness of community based disaster risk reduction (CBDRM) approach to flood disaster management in Sri Lanka. Qualitative and quantitative data were collected for analysis. The main instrument for data collection was questionnaire administered on a sample size of 100 household drawn from two study sites (Kerawalapitiya and Bollagala) from Wattala and Biyagama Divisional Secretariats. Further, key informants were also interviewed and secondary data were collected through previous researches, books and journal articles. Study concerned over vulnerability of the community, current awareness and role of community, perception of the community and government approach to CBDRM. Data analysis indicates that social status has significance implication toward the success of this approach. Households were not organized as such to enhance their preparedness. In addition, availability of flood preparedness facilities was a problem while unmonitored nature, bureaucratic attitudes of government officials creates gaps in transferring necessary knowledge. The concept of awareness and developing of preparedness against flood hazard are vital to develop a resilience nation. Further, the study developed recommendations to policy makers, non-structural measures for local leaders and structural measures concerning development of prepared community and community infrastructures. Therefore, it is necessary to have a holistic approach where community and relevant authorities would work in partnership.

Keywords. Community, Community Based Disaster Risk Management, Resilience.