

ABSTRACT

Sri Lanka has experienced considerable number of natural and manmade disasters in the recent past. Therefore; a comprehensive disaster management process is a timely need. The process should be based on a cohesive and elaborate plan to overcome all the challenges. The Government, Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other stake holders should come together to formulate such a plan. Since NGOs have been involved in social service activities in Sri Lanka, they do have a role to play in disaster management too.

The objective of this study is to explore the role of NGOs in disaster management and how best their contribution could impact the process. Descriptive approach method was used to gather required data. In that visits to locations relevant to NGO activities, speaking to the communities to ascertaining how it affected their life and affirming status was done extensively. The primary phase was basically the data collection. Primary data were collected using Simple Random Sampling (SRS) and Purposive Sampling which transformed in to structured questionnaires and interviews. Secondary data were collected by conducting empirical review of the literature relevant to the study identifying the main concept of theoretical frame work.

This study focuses on the object of ascertaining the capacity of the NGOs and how best they have contributed to mitigate disaster situations. It also gave an opportunity to review their weaknesses as well as challenges. In order to achieve this objective, the study uses five research questions which were elaborated based on variables which are involved in the hypothesis developed in the study.

In consequential the researcher of the view that NGOs have played a noteworthy role in disaster management in Sri Lanka. In the variant, population are confident that NGOs can be effective in addressing issues relevant to pre – disaster, during disaster and post disaster activities. Hence; they should be engaged proactively in disaster management. Considering the drawbacks government has in disaster management process, it is appropriate to have a co-existential mechanism to include all stake holders for a vibrant disaster management process. The research elaborates mainly on two important areas; firstly, the role of NGOs in disaster management and their contribution towards the mitigation process. Secondly the negative perceptions NGOs carry while doing their assigned tasks. In this context, researcher explain about the achievements, draw backs, misunderstanding and how best to move forward understanding the necessity. The study also has done a SWOT analysis and given its recommendation to broaden the sphere of NGOs in disaster management.