

ABSTRACT



Costs of extreme flooding events continue to rise dramatically around the world. In the context of Sri Lanka, flooding is the most common natural disaster which had severely affected in the past and continues to affect the population in almost all districts across the country. Sri Lanka Army has played a pivotal role with limited resources in managing the flood disasters in the country. The objective of the study is to identify the current level of the readiness of the Sri Lanka Army in respond to the flood disasters in Sri Lanka to propose effective recommendations to improve and maintain the readiness.

Training, planning, deployment, strength, communication and administration and logistic support for flood disaster operations have been taken as independent variables of the study, with disaster management center and the Sri Lanka Army center for disaster response training being the intermediate variables, whereas professional readiness of the SLA to overcome the flood disasters in Sri Lanka being taken as the dependent variable.

This research is an inductive study and has taken a more qualitative approach in its conduct with its application of the research survey strategy. Data was collected by means of primary and secondary data in which primary data was collected by a questionnaire with the collected primary data being analyzed statistically and the results of the interviews were used to conform the result of the primary survey. Selected stratified sample was used from the Sri Lanka Army to conduct the primary survey.

The study findings concluded that the Sri Lankan Army is well-trained, disciplined and motivated, however, they are only organized, educated and prepared to carry out combat tasks and lack experience for disaster relief operations, and therefore inhibit the best use in the event of a disaster.