



Exploring the Need for More Women in Leadership Roles in Public Health and Emergency Response Logistics

Darrell Norman Burrell, The Florida Institute of Technology, USA

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4675-9544>


Orna T. Bradley-Swanson, Walden University, USA

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2715-6369>

Jorja B. Wright, University of Charleston, USA


Tiffany Shockley, Queens University of Charlotte, USA

Kim L. Brown-Jackson, Claremont Lincoln University, USA

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9231-2076>

Eugene J. M. Lewis, Florida Institute of Technology, USA

Terrence Duncan, Liberty University, USA

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5456-6013>

Judith Mairs-Levy, Rutgers University, USA

ABSTRACT

Situations like Coronavirus (COVID-19), severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) coronaviruses, and the damaged caused by Hurricane Maria in September 2017 in Puerto Rico create complex health public health management logistics problems. Disasters and pandemics often demand logistics planning to involve large-scale transportation of medical aid in the form of personnel and supplies, specialized equipment, and personnel for search and rescue, food, shelter, and other commodities used in massive relief operations. The research suggests improvements in organizational culture, modernization of recruitment strategies, and enhancement of leadership and professional development as approaches to improve gender diversity in leadership roles in emergency public health supply chain and logistics management. This paper provides emergency and disaster public health supply chain and logistics management practitioners and scholars insight into the dynamics of gender disparity in leadership roles in public health supply chain management.

KEYWORDS

Coronavirus, COVID-19, Emergency Response Logistics, Emergency Response Planning, Logistics Leadership, Public Health Logistics, Women in Logistics

DOI: 10.4018/IJARPHM.2021070103

Copyright © 2021, IGI Global. Copying or distributing in print or electronic forms without written permission of IGI Global is prohibited.

INTRODUCTION

Catastrophes often mandate logistics planning and workforce expertise that can effectively execute the large-scale transportation of medical aid in the form of personnel and supplies, specialized equipment and personnel for search and rescue, food, shelter, and other commodities used in massive relief operations (Strakos, 2013; Kirac, 2016).

As a result, unpredictable, complex emergencies and disasters create problem scenarios that create overbearing supply and resource demands (Aly, 2016; De La Torre, 2015). In situations that create public health risks, the inability to respond appropriately can lead to injury and a loss of life (Peluse, 2015). Public health logistics and supply chain experts are required to assume a high level of preparedness for and detection, response, and recovery from disaster events (Bader et al., 2008). Threats of pandemics such as the SARS emergency and threats of avian influenza reminded health care providers of the need to be watchful for alterations in community health patterns (Agca, 2013). As the public health severity and impact Coronavirus (COVID-19) intensifies, preemptive forecasting, in which leaders foresee threats and structure the use and delivery of those resources in effort to minimize all potential health hazards and risks (Hick et al., 2020).

One of the vulnerabilities in the public health emergency and disaster response includes depleted volunteer numbers and a lack of adequate career staffing levels (Peluse, 2015). The current staffing shortages in emergency response public health, humanitarian disaster relief, and logistics management have taxed our response system, increased response times, and left patients without adequate levels of care (Peluse, 2015). As a result of the complexity and often unpredictable nature of the required response, there is a need to develop more professionals in all areas of logistics and supply chain management, especially women and women in managerial roles. According to Larson (2017), there are benefits to having diversity, which includes women, in teams, in leadership, and decision making. Larson (2017) stresses how diverse teams make better decisions 87% of the time, and decisions made by diverse teams deliver on average 60% better results.

Grant and Rock (2016) outline that greater diversity in organizations and teams positively influences the way the entire team digest critical information required to make difficult decisions. Diverse teams are more likely to continually reassess details in decision-making scenarios because the team is made of participants that look at variables from a variety of perspectives, and they tend to be more innovative (Grant & Rock, 2016). When it comes to public health disaster management

Figure 1.

Every month, frontline health responders around the world need these and other supplies to protect themselves and others from #COVID19

- 2.3 million N95 respirators
- 89 million masks
- 30 million gowns
- 1.59 million goggles
- 76 million gloves
- 2.9 million liters hand sanitizer



#COVID19
#coronavirus



(World Health Organization, 2020)

18 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage: www.igi-global.com/article/exploring-the-need-for-more-women-in-leadership-roles-in-public-health-and-emergency-response-logistics/278789

Related Content

Early Warning System and Adaptation Advice to Reduce Human Health Consequences of Extreme Weather Conditions and Air Pollution

Dragan Bogdanovi and Konstansa Lazarevi (2017). *Public Health and Welfare: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications* (pp. 527-564).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/early-warning-system-and-adaptation-advice-to-reduce-human-health-consequences-of-extreme-weather-conditions-and-air-pollution/165828

Impact of Social Media on Pandemic COVID-19 Outbreak

Ranjit Barua, Sudipto Datta and Nibedita Bardhan (2021). *Handbook of Research on Representing Health and Medicine in Modern Media* (pp. 422-435).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/impact-of-social-media-on-pandemic-covid-19-outbreak/274005

Exploring the Spread of Zika: Using Interactive Visualizations to Control Vector-Borne Diseases

Oluwakemi Ola, Olha Buchel and Kamran Sedig (2016). *International Journal of Disease Control and Containment for Sustainability* (pp. 47-68).

www.irma-international.org/article/exploring-the-spread-of-zika/170385

Depression Rate, GDP Growth Rate, Health Expenditure, and Voice and Accountability: Are There Co-Movements?

Ramesh Chandra Das and Amit Chatterjee (2020). *Multidimensional Perspectives and Global Analysis of Universal Health Coverage* (pp. 182-202).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/depression-rate-gdp-growth-rate-health-expenditure-and-voice-and-accountability/247164

Nanotechnology From Engineers to Toxicologists: Risks and Remedial Measures

Waqas Anwar and Anwar Khitab (2019). *International Journal of Applied Nanotechnology Research* (pp. 1-25).

www.irma-international.org/article/nanotechnology-from-engineers-to-toxicologists/258908