

Chapter 1

Comparative Study of Disaster Management and Skills Development Between Selected Developing and Developed Countries

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ABSTRACT

The occurrence of natural disasters has become increasingly prevalent worldwide, prompting a heightened focus on readiness and response strategies for future events. This study aimed to explore the importance of skills development and training in disaster management from both theoretical and empirical perspectives. The research included a thorough literature review of disaster management models, as well as an analysis of empirical studies conducted in Mozambique and Japan. Additionally, the literature underscores the repercussions of natural disasters on the susceptibilities of both developed and developing nations. The findings of this study indicate that skills development plays a crucial role in current disaster management frameworks, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) and the Capability Approach model. Additionally, the study highlights various skills development and training initiatives present in Japan's disaster management practices and policies, as well as in Mozambique's disaster management projects.

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INTRODUCTION

The paramount significance of Disaster Management (DM) in protecting communities and individuals during natural disasters cannot be overemphasized. According to the World Risk Report 2023 (WRR, 2023), certain countries such as Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia, India, Mexico, Columbia, Myanmar, Mozambique, Russia, Bangladesh, and China are identified as having the highest disaster risk values. These risk factors may be attributed to shifts in population and national wealth density, global warming, rapid industrialization, environmental degradation, climate change, and geographical positioning (Wood, 2018). Furthermore, the same report underlines the exacerbation of existing disparities during crises. In line with the perspectives of management as proposed by Drucker (1974), disasters and risks management involve the facilitation of individuals in engaging in collective performance through the establishment of shared objectives, principles, appropriate organizational structures, and ongoing training and development opportunities that are vital for an effective adaptation and response to environmental dynamics. Therefore, the domain of disasters and risks management encompasses a range of strategies, skillsets, and proactive and reactive approaches undertaken collectively to mitigate risks within communities, as well as to prevent and alleviate the detrimental impact of natural disasters. This chapter, therefore, focuses on comparative studies of disaster management and skills development between selected developing and developed countries. This chapter provides an analysis of empirical studies conducted in Mozambique and Japan.

Economic Disparities and Vulnerability to Natural Disasters

Vulnerability to disasters is a critical determinant of the risks facing communities. Noy and Yonson (2018) define vulnerability as a pre-disaster concern that encompasses the conditions leading to a hazard impacting a system, thereby resulting in a disaster. Vulnerability indicates the susceptibility or fragility of communities, systems or elements at risk, as well as their ability to cope with hazardous conditions (Birkmann et al., 2013). The concept of vulnerability elucidates why similar hazards such as earthquakes, storms or floods can yield varied negative impacts on communities, societies and infrastructures exposed and affected by them (Birkmann, Sorg & Welle, 2017).

The vulnerability of a community to disasters is influenced by historical, cultural, socio-economic and political factors. Scholars such as Tseliosa & Tompkins (2018) and Ramani et al. (2022) argue that a higher level of economic development correlates with reduced vulnerability to disasters.

Socio-economic disparities in disaster and risk management pertain to the unequal distribution of resources, opportunities, and capabilities amongst distinct

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