

PRESENT SITUATION OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT KNOWLEDGE IN TSUNAMI AFFECTED LIBRARIES IN SRI LANKA: SOUTH COASTAL AREA, 2013

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Background

In 2004 Tsunami affected Sri Lanka and it was the worst tragedy of the decade. In respect of public library system of Sri Lanka, Tsunami devastated 65 public libraries in the Coastal area. Out of the 65 public libraries 28 Libraries being completely destroyed. It was the first experience of Tsunami and Libraries affected in the absence disaster management system.

Statement of the problem

Statement of the problem is, there is not a sufficient disaster management and disaster communication system among the public libraries. Disaster communication system is an important thing to connect with others. On the other hand, they do not have a sufficient knowledge about disaster management. Some Tsunami affected public libraries are still located in Tsunami warning area. They do not have any building standards in accordance with disaster management system. In this regard, libraries at a risk.

Objectives

The principle objective of this paper is to create an awareness to know present situation of library disaster planning. The other objectives are, to identify the knowledge of disaster management of public librarians, to identify the improvement of 09 years and to know, if Tsunamis come again, how libraries will survive from disaster, are the main objectives of the research. In this research, it is intended to introduce a new disaster plan for libraries. Because disaster management knowledge is very useful for today and need standards, plans to face these disasters.

Methodology

The population of the study was the Librarians of Tsunami affected public libraries and the sample consist of all tsunami affected public libraries in south coastal area. There were 02 Libraries in Hambanthota district, 02 libraries in Matara district and 12 libraries in Galle district. As a percentage, it was 24.61% of population. The researcher visited above all libraries and realized the

situation using research techniques such as interviews, structured questionnaires.

| Population | Sample of the research | Percentage |
|--|--|------------|
| 65 All tsunami affected libraries in Sri Lanka. | 16 Tsunami affected public libraries in south coastal area. | 24.61% |

Figure 1.: Sample of the Research

Key findings

In this research, was able to identify 18.75% libraries had minor damages, 43.75% had half damages and 37.5% had full damages. 38% Libraries have made new buildings and 38% of above population 50% percentage have built their libraries in Tsunami warning area. After 09 years 100% libraries don't have any survival plan and they do not have a sufficient knowledge about it. Disaster management knowledge and plans are essential for this statement. At the present, SLDMC for LISA (Sri Lanka Disaster Management Committee on Library and Information

Services and Archives) has eased to function. SLDMC for Lisa was the only one library disaster management committee in Sri Lanka. It is very important to the library field. As a result of this failure, there is no responsible focal point for disaster management with regard to libraries. Still 81.25% librarians have not a perfect knowledge about disaster management. All the affected libraries in the sample, 62.5% percentage of libraries are still in Tsunami warning area. If another tsunami comes, they will be damaged again.

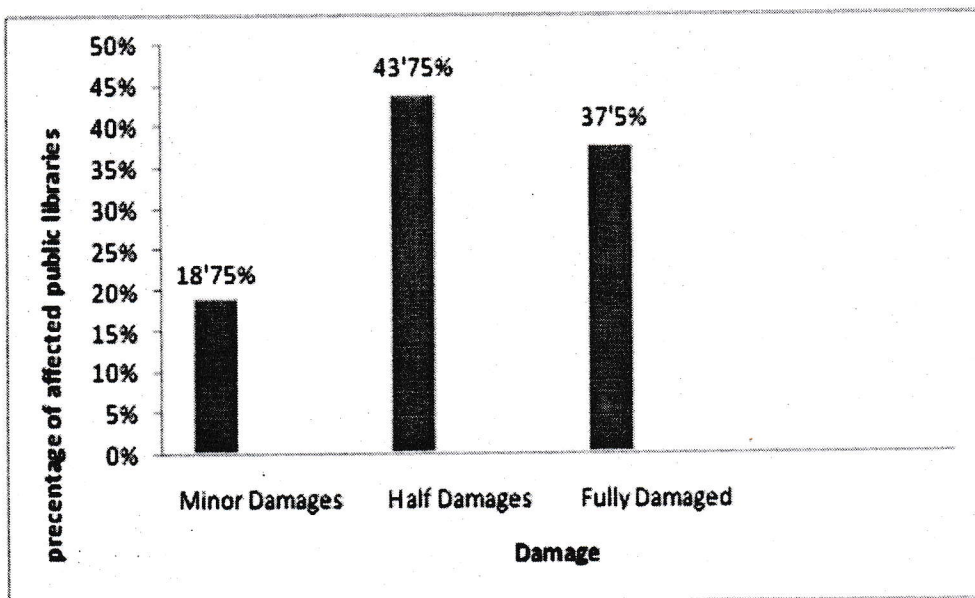


Figure 2: Size of Damage

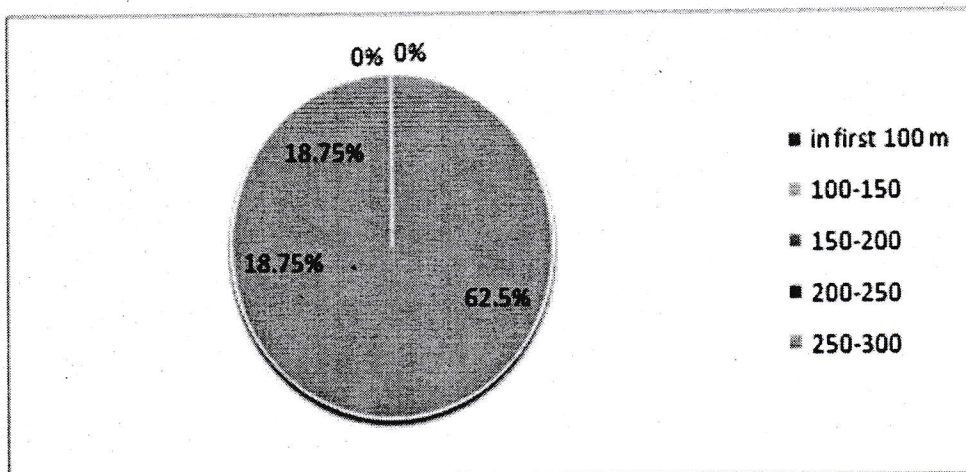


Figure 3: Libraries still in Tsunami warning area

Recommendations

In this research, was able to indicate a number of problems that they facing currently. In this research, suggest a new disaster planning module for the benefit of public libraries in coastal

area. It contains all survival plans and procedures. On the other hand, could

introduce disaster communication system in relation with all government and non government organizations. Not only above suggestions, could suggest

building planning standards and disaster management training systems. Disaster management training systems are very essential to survive. Not only human lives, But also library materials too. Such as books, audio visual materials, Library furniture, buildings and etc.

Conclusion

Disaster management is linked with sustainable development. Because, Sri Lanka is a developing country. It is developing with many of fields. In this regard, Libraries are very useful to lead way of knowledge.

Disaster management knowledge is very important for this time. It is mainly because Sri Lanka is now on tsunami warning area and Libraries must have a plan for survive. It is very useful to Save Libraries and their knowledge from another tragedy. In this context, awareness programmes need to be conducted.

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