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Caring for Vulnerable Population

Although there are different measures taken by the government to secure the populations from different types of natural disasters. Even then some populations are more vulnerable to different types of natural calamities including flood and earthquake. There are some areas where floods and earthquakes occur more frequently than other parts of the world. Like Japan, Malaysia and United States are some of the recent examples where such calamities occurred, lives were lost and properties were destroyed at a larger scale. There are many factors that contribute towards the vulnerability of such populations. Delayed rescue operation and lose of contact are some of the main factors that lead to the vulnerability. (O’Toole, Johnson, Aiello, Kane, & Pape, 2016).

Although research has been done on the health effects of flood and also the characteristics of flood associated with health, little is known about the factors that play major role in the vulnerability of flood victims. Some of the factors that play a major role in such situation are gender, age and also social status. The health impairments as a result of flood and earth quake is tolerated by women and children as compare to the male population. This may be due to the fact that both women and children are physically weak, therefore they become the victims of such disasters than males. It has been noted that any natural disaster has a deep psychological effect on females and children than the male community. Other factors that play a major role in vulnerability are disability and age (Du, Ding, Li, & Cao, 2015). The effects of age and disability on disaster vulnerability were seen quite clearly in the aged population who were trapped in nursing facilities during many events like flood and earthquake.

The outcome of natural disasters varies from population to population. In some population the outcome is relatively severe than others, it also depends on the severity of the event and the country that is hit by the event. If the country is well-developed, like in case of USA when Hurricane Harvey hit then they were able to recover soon as compared to other Asian countries which takes quite longer to get out of the trauma both in terms of economy and healthcare. Less developed countries due to limited resources take longer to cope up with such situations. So in such countries the outcomes are severe, both the physical and mental health is suffered and infrastructure is damaged which causes more causalities so the impact also varies from population to population.

Population hazard vulnerability assessment has been studied comprehensively, and it proved to be quite effective. After the events of 11 September 2011, healthcare experts in the USA suggested that hospitals should be at the lead to organize and react to any such catastrophic event. Nurses were provided with basic training and other facilities and then they were sent to effected areas which were damaged both by man-made and natural disasters. It was suggested that hospitals should be community organization rather than a standalone institution. Whenever there is any natural disaster, then both the governments and the victims rely on the hospitals. So in that case hazard vulnerability assessment is the vital step in the emergency response to any calamity when it strikes.

Hazard vulnerability assessment is an effective step in evaluating the degree of the impact, and also it provides brief background information to create a targeted disaster mitigation plan (Rufat, Tate, Burton, & Maroof, 2015). While it is effective in case of natural disasters but at the same time, it can also be used for human made disasters like terrorist attacks. In addition to these, a community HVA and a hospital HVA should be designed in such a way to complement each other in emergency response and rescue. When such disaster strikes then special care is given to such populations. Whenever any natural disaster happens, then healthcare departments and hospital form a team of experts belonging to every field like healthcare, medical and emergency to cope up with the situation. It is usually developed by a multidisciplinary group depending upon the top hazards which are faced by the community and also on the availability of the resources in that area (Alderman, Turner, & Tong, 2012).

Such strategies are quite aligned with the “Healthy people 2020” because in both cases the wellbeing and security of the population are kept in mind. One of the main objectives of Healthy People 2020 is the promotion of health through a healthy environment. So by taking care of the population as a result of climate change which includes flooding and other natural disasters, is common between this study and Healthy People 2020.

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