Natural Disasters

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Author Note

The myths surrounding natural disasters

Natural Disasters and Their Myths

Hurricane Katrina was one of the deadliest hurricanes for more than a hundred years. It hit Galveston, a city in Texas on August 23rd, 2005. It was the deadliest hurricane at the time, causing a serious amount of damage. About 1,300 people died in the hurricane and about 700,000 were affected which caused around 50 billion US dollars to the government. The storm had a lot of aftereffects like the destruction of the irrigation system around New Orleans, which flooded almost 80% of the city (Richard D. Knabb, 2005). It was later followed by Hurricane Rita. Like many natural disasters, a lot of myths sprouted around Hurricane Katrina. Firstly, it was propagated that medical volunteers of almost all backgrounds are needed, which is not true. In these kinds of calamities, only those medical professionals are needed who are not available in the area. Secondly, it is supposed that international aid is compulsorily required, which is also not true. People generally help themselves first in these situations. The barrage of aid workers often adds more problems to the already chaotic situation. Most people find a purpose in these situations and rise to the occasion to help the people suffering in their surroundings. Another myth that surrounds these disasters is that the outbreak of plagues and infectious diseases is inevitable. They only break out when hygienic steps are not taken for the prevention of diseases at any time. They are not specific to the hurricanes and floods. Also, diseases do not affect the poor or vulnerable groups of society more than the rich. Food sources these days are well guarded. Therefore, people do not face acute shortages of food in these disasters as they used to experience in ancient times. Also, the poor do not require settlements to overcome their living problems. They usually purchase new construction materials or salvage what they could find. But that does not mean that its business as usual after a few days. Disasters have longtime effects that tend to become stronger with time. The call of the day is to trust in yourself in times of need. After all, the best pair of hands available are your own.

# References

Richard D. Knabb, J. R. (2005). *Tropical Cyclone Report: Hurricane Katrina.* National Hurricane Center.