



ABSTRACT

Factors associated with knowledge and attitude of disaster awareness among grade -10 school students in Maruthankerny Divisional Secretary area.

A disaster can take place anywhere in the country and some areas are more vulnerable to disaster due to geographical and climatic condition. The impact of disasters considerably affected our economy, society and environment. Therefore it is important to update the knowledge and attitude of Disaster awareness and preparedness among members of the community. Maruthankerny area is situated in the North Eastern Coastal Belt of Sri Lanka and it is often affected by natural disasters.

The descriptive cross sectional study was carried out to assess the selected factors associated with knowledge and attitude of disaster awareness and among grade 10 school students in Maruthankerny DS area in Jaffna District. Data was collected from all 201Grade 10students who were present at school during the study period from June 2015 to November 2015.

In this study, the students with average knowledge of natural disasters were most common (59.1%) and 29.1% study population had good knowledge. Regarding attitude of natural disaster situation 99.4% were agreed disaster awareness is important of community. The knowledge of the students on natural disaster was significantly associated with technological factors and there were lack of understanding on environmental and social related factors.

The knowledge of natural disaster was considerably high and attitude towards the natural disaster was good among the students. knowledge of the students on natural disaster awareness was significantly associated with technological factors such as habit of watching news on TV, listening the news on radio , read newspaper and disaster education in schools.

Recommendations are Students need to discuss with family members regarding disaster and to learn lessons from their previous experience. Everyone in the family should know their role and responsibility is if disaster strikes. Students must know the importance of environmental factors such as natural barriers and reforestation help to minimize the effects of disaster. Awareness activities for Student should be more practically oriented with disaster drill, so that their disaster preparedness is increased