

mental health needs and service utilization of ethnic minorities in China.

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(A296) Psychosocial Disaster Preparedness Program Form School Children

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The impact of natural disasters on individuals is substantial. Among the affected population in any disaster, children are identified as the most vulnerable group along with women, aged and disabled people. An estimated 77 million children under 15, on average, had their lives severely disrupted by a natural disaster or an armed conflict, each year, between 1991 and 2000 (Plan UK, 2003). Children are most affected since they lose the familiar environment, loss of parents, witness death of their loved ones, fear of recurrence of the disaster event. The impact of disaster on children of different age group is multiple times greater than that of the adults. This leads to various psychological problems in children (Dave et al., 2003). Disaster preparedness, through care givers, is one among the ways to reduce the distress of individuals followed by any disaster because it reduces the vulnerability factor that minimizes the impact of any disaster on the individual. A disaster preparedness program with special reference to psychosocial aspects was developed and implemented among the school children through teachers in Kanniyakumari District, Tamil Nadu, India, one of the severely affected areas in Tsunami. The current attempt was to standardize a disaster preparedness module focusing on preparing children to deal with their psychosocial issues before and after disaster in an effective manner. The outcome of disaster preparedness input through teachers and its reach out to the students was determined through an experimental research. The results reveal that the teachers and students from the experimental group gained significantly more knowledge on psychosocial disaster preparedness after implementation of the program in comparison to control group where the program was not implemented. The implications of the study points out the need to integrate psychosocial component of disaster preparedness in to the broader Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) programs.

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(A297) Psychosocial Care for Children Survivors of Tsunami Disaster - Pondicherry Response, India

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Tsunami left 7997 people dead in Tamil Nadu. Nagapattinam, Cuddalore and Kanyakumari districts were worst affected in terms of human and property loss. Highest number of children death (1776) were reported in Nagai District. In Project Area, Totally 522 children died due to tsunami in Pondicherry (152),

Cuddalore (222), Chennai (48) respectively. Considering massive death of Children in Tsunami Disaster, Rural Development Integrated organization (RIDO) along with partnership of Plan International and Technical Support from National Institute of Mental Health and Neuroscience (NIMHANS) provided psychosocial care for tsunami affected children in the regions of Union territory of Pondicherry, Cuddalore and Chennai. Totally 150 community level workers; 50 from each region were selected and trained for a period of 1 week on psychosocial care for children affected in Disaster through using different mediums by master trainers who underwent intensive Training of Trainers program on psychosocial care for tsunami affected children at National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore which is a nodal agency in India on psychosocial care in Disaster management. Psychosocial care program for tsunami affected children was carried out over a period of 2 years in afore said regions and handholding support was given to the community level workers periodically in the field. The psychosocial care program was provided for children in their own community by their own community volunteers through group based activities using different mediums. Mediums used to provide psychosocial care were unique in their own way which brought out the underlying emotions of children related to tsunami. Emotional perceptions differed among children across the age groups. Involving the community level workers in providing the psychosocial care for children survivors of tsunami disaster showed encouraging results. Challenges, limitations and lessons learnt in providing psychosocial care for tsunami affected children through community level workers will be discussed.

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(A298) Assessment of Psychosocial Impact of Flood on Children - Indian Experience

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A Disaster is the tragedy of a natural or human made hazard that negatively affects society or environment. Disaster impacts physical, psychological, social and economic areas of the individual and family and community. Most of the time these are interlinked to each other and its total impact on the survivors is substantial. Children are more susceptible to disaster suffering, and it is noticeable in many complex psychological and behavioral symptoms. On the other hand, the post-disaster psychological effects on children are not recognized and underestimated by the mental health professionals. India is highly prone to natural disasters such as floods, droughts, cyclones, earthquakes and landslides have been recurrent phenomenon in India. Out of 602 districts in the country, 125 districts have been identified as most hazard prone areas. The recent heavy rainfall and flood between 28th September to 2nd October 2009 in the Northern region of Karnataka State caused several deaths and massive destructions. This was the first time that North Karnataka received highest rainfall. The incessant rainfall that poured for four days caused the flood and devastated and destroyed the entire social fabric of the community. Floods carry greater risks to psychological as well as physical health of children. The psychological impact of the floods on children has been carried out both qualitatively and