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**A study to assess the effectiveness of an awareness programme  
on knowledge and practices of disaster preparedness among  
residents of selected low- lying flood prone areas of Udupi Taluk**

RYNEL DESMA QUADRAS Dr

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## "ABSTRACT

A study to assess the effectiveness of an awareness programme on knowledge and practices of disaster preparedness among residents of selected low-lying flood prone areas of Udupi Taluk was conducted by Ms. Rynel Desma Quadras in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Master of Science in Nursing at Manipal College of Nursing Manipal, Manipal University.

The objective of the study was to determine the effectiveness of an awareness programme on knowledge and practices of disaster preparedness among residents of selected low-lying flood prone areas of Udupi Taluk.

The conceptual framework used in the study was based on Defining Disaster Resilience: A DFID Approach Paper.

A pre experimental one group pre-test post- test design was used for the research study. The sample comprised of residents of selected low-lying flood prone areas of Udupi Taluk. The subjects were selected through purposive sampling.

The data collection instruments used for the study were demographic proforma and a knowledge questionnaire on disaster preparedness and practices of disaster preparedness.

Administrative permission was obtained from the Dean, MCON Manipal and the Tahsildar of Udupi Taluk. Ethical clearance was obtained from the Institutional Ethics Committee of Kasturba Hospital, Manipal (685/2015) Informed consent was obtained from the participants. The data were collected in January, 2016.

The data were analysed using SPSS 16.0 version. Descriptive as well as inferential statistics were used to analyse the data.

Most (41.4%) of the participants were in the age group of 33- 46 years. Majority (65.5%) of the participants were females and most (43.1%) of them were Billawas by caste. Most (49.1%) were educated till High School. Most (50%) of them were unemployed. Many (65.5%) lived in joint families. Most (62%) of them had income between 5001- 15,000 rupees per month. Most (56.9%) of the participants did not have an insurance of any kind. The type of insurance which covered the other participants were life insurance and health insurance. Majority (98.3%) of the participants had previous experience of floods. Most (69%) of the participants did not receive any information on disaster preparedness from any source.

The overall mean score obtained in the pre-test was 16.61 with a SD of 5.177. The mean of the post-test scores of knowledge on disaster preparedness was 25.65 with a standard deviation of 2.182. In the pre-test most (75.93%) of the participants had average knowledge scores on disaster preparedness. Some (22.22%) had good scores and a few (1.85%) had poor scores in knowledge on disaster preparedness. In the post-test, majority (98.15%) of the participants had good scores and a few (1.85%) had average scores in knowledge on disaster preparedness.

Most (57.41%) of the participants had good knowledge scores on practices of disaster preparedness in the pre-test. Many (40.74%) had average scores and a few (1.85%) had poor scores on knowledge on practices of disaster preparedness. In the post-test all the participants (100%) had good knowledge scores on the practices of disaster preparedness. There was a significant difference in the mean pre-test and post-test scores on knowledge on disaster preparedness ( $t = -18.877$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ).

The post-test scores of knowledge on practices of disaster preparedness (17) was higher than the pre-test scores of knowledge on practices of disaster preparedness (14). The obtained Z value was 6.372, which indicates that there is a significant difference in the pre-test and post-test scores on practices of disaster preparedness.

There was no association between knowledge on disaster preparedness and gender ( $\chi^2 = 0.674$ ,  $p = 0.839$ ), educational status ( $\chi^2 = 6.104$ ,  $p = 0.478$ ), personal experience of flood ( $\chi^2 = 2.744$ ,  $p = 1.000$ ), information on disaster preparedness ( $\chi^2 = 3.564$ ,  $p = 0.154$ ) and occupation ( $\chi^2 = 6.736$ ,  $p = 0.403$ ) at 0.05 level of significance.

Thus the study concluded that the awareness programme improved the knowledge and knowledge on practices of disaster preparedness.