Investment on Education of Future Parents: the Best Measure for Enhancement of a Community Disaster Resiliency

Behnaz Rastegar Far1,2; Mohammad Javad Moradian2,3,7; Ali Ardalan2,3,4; Javad Babaie2,3

1Disaster and Emergency Management Center, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, IR Iran
2Department of Disaster Public Health, School of Public Health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, IR Iran
3Department of Disaster and Emergency Health, National Institute of Health Research, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, IR Iran
4Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, USA

*Corresponding Author: Mohammad Javad Moradian, Poorsina Ave, Department of Disaster Public Health, School of Public Health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, IR Iran. Tel: +98-9177001094, E-mail: m.moradian@razi.tums.ac.ir

Received: January 19, 2013; Revised: August 15, 2013; Accepted: November 12, 2013

Keywords: Residence Characteristics; Disasters; Resilience, Psychological

A disastrous situation means a condition which becomes difficult to cope with for human being and there is less accommodation especially during the early phases of response. During last decades, the paradigm of disaster management has been shifted from response to prevention and preparedness for disasters. In addition, the governments have realized that they hardly are capable to stand alone against the disasters and they need communities alongside for better disaster risk reduction and response. This was evident in recent disasters even in developed countries, like the super storm Sandy (2012) and the Japan tsunami and earthquake (2010). We witnessed the same situation in Iran’s disasters, e.g., Bam (2003), Zared (2005), Lorestan (2006), East Azerbaijan (2012) earthquakes (1) and Golestan flash floods (2001 and 2005). These events revealed the crucial role of communities for better response and faster recovery. We also have learned that we need to invest on the community resiliency before a disaster happens, i.e. enhance the capability of the community to bounce back as soon as possible based on its own recourses (2).

What are the best measures for enhancing the community resiliency? To answer this critical question, we should keep this fact in mind that building a resilient community requires a long term investment on the education and safety culture. Primary and secondary schools are the best places to be targeted for this purpose. While the parents are busy with daily life, the school children are able to convey the educational messages and methods of participatory vulnerability and capacity assessments from schools to their own family (3). They are also the next generation of parents and responsible for education of their own children.

In line with the Hyogo Framework for Action and the UN Decade for Education and Sustainable Development (2005-2014), as well as continuing work by governments and other actors toward achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, we wish to reemphasize on the strategy of children education for disaster preparedness and resiliency. Our future resiliency for disasters depends on investment on education of today’s children. This can be done using a properly designed simple intervention program for schools.

Acknowledgements
There is no acknowledgment.

Authors’ Contribution
All authors have participated in the study.

Financial Disclosure
The author has no relevant financial interest related to the material and content of this article.

Funding/Support
There was no support.

References

Implication for health policy/practice/research/medical education:
This article is an editorial and about community disaster resiliency. It also focus on the new generation who are seems to be trained less resilient and more dependent on technology and this would be a threat during a crisis situation in which the condition is difficult for life.

Copyright © 2014, Iranian Red Crescent Medical Journal. Published by Kowsar Corp. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.