Devastations of Tsunami on the Fishing Industry & Families of Coastal Area of Mullaitivu District

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Abstract

In Srilanka, the tsunami that struck on the morning of December 26, 2004 left behind widespread destruction & killed over 31,000 people, destroyed over 99,000 homes, and damaged natural ecosystems, loss of life, infrastructure, economic assets, and coastal infrastructure. Vulnerable groups, such as poor fishermen living close to the seashore in simple houses and shelters, have borne the burnt of the negative impacts. Apart from the coastal communities already being comparatively poor in the Srilankan context, the tsunami has compounded previously existing vulnerabilities. North East is the region worst affected by the tsunami.

The 2004 tsunami is widely acknowledged as the largest, most devastating natural catastrophe in the history of the country. Two hours after first earthquake occurred, the tsunami waves struck an extremely long (more than 1,000 km, or 2/3 of the coastal line) coastal area of Srilanka across thirteen districts, including Mullaitivu in the North, the eastern and southern coast, and parts of the west coast as far north as Chilaw. The waves penetrated inland areas up to 500 meters in many places, leaving behind few intact structures and killing or injuring tens of thousands of people. Coastal infrastructure system, including roads and railways, power, communication, water supply and sanitation facilities, and fishing ports have all been severely damaged.

In the sense I've planned to do a research study on Mullaitivu District about the devastations caused to fishing industry and the families of coastal area. For that purpose I've selected 10 severely affected villages. G.S.Divisions among the 25 affected villages / G.S.Divisions of Mullaitivu District. In the 25 affected G.S.Divisions 6 villages can't' be visited due to the restrictions placed by both the parties of MOU agreement, i.e. Srilankan Government and the LTTE. Out of 2230 family members of selected 10 villages, I've selected 200 members from the population, known as sample, by using stratified sampling to represent the population. The data collected through questionnaires, direct interview, observation are analyzed using special packages (SPSS & MICROSOFT EXCEL) and the results are calculated considering five factors such as Economic, Social, Environmental, Psychological and Attitudes of fishermen. The acceptance or impact level is classified into three stages such as (1) High Impact Level, where $3.5 < Xi <= 5$, (2) Moderate Impact Level, where $2.5 < Xi <= 3.5$, (3) Less Impact Level, where $0 < Xi <= 2.5$.

The chapters are placed in the following order.

Chapter 01	Introduction
Chapter 02	Literature Review
Chapter 03	Data Presentation
Chapter 04	Data Analysis & Discussion
Chapter 05	Conclusion & Recommendations

The main objective of this study is to measure the impact level of tsunami on the fishing industry of Mullaitivu District and suggest ways to rehabilitate the area, and to evaluate the attitudes of fishermen & families towards the new laws, rules and regulations (Buffer Zone Policy) of Srilanka.

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