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The roll of Children in Disaster Risk Reduction

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Background:

Disasters have various physical, psychological, social and economical effects on all age group, particularly children who are more vulnerable than adults. In the aftermath of disasters, children like pregnant women, elderly and handicaps are special group with special needs. This is because they are at greater risk based on their specific physiological and psychological characteristics(1). Moreover, according to the Sendai document, children need more attention in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) programs design, policies implementation with a proactive approach in Disaster Risk Reduction(2).

Hyogo framework for action was also already have been focused on child priority on the legislation program(3). Accordingly, it is necessary to involve children in disaster risk reduction programs actively in order to overcome their needs and their problems(4). As children are more affected groups in various aspects of disasters in most countries, their potential utilization, the conditions and space should be provided based on laws, national policies, training and capacity. Although after disaster children required particular needs and attention(5, 6), they should be considered as an active group who could participate in DRR program and help their family and also the community(4, 7). The main objective of this study is being attention to children in disaster situations by positivism approach that would be child capacity in disaster risk reduction.

Finding and conclusions: According to the Hyogo and the Sendai documents, it seems that using capacity of community, particularly with focus on children in risk assessment, disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness in communities are therefore much more important ever. In new approach it is believed that children have potential capacity instead of vulnerability. Accordingly, children ability should be recognized to improve risk reduction programs in the community and in this way decrease the consequence of disasters on children health and their happiness. Up to now, because of less attentions to child capacity in disaster risk reduction schedule's; it is necessary that policy makers concentrate on further concentrations regarding to how they use the children potential capacity for both natural and manmade events. To our best knowledge, it is necessary that researchers concentrate on further studies regarding how to use the children potential to reduce both natural and manmade disasters risk in forthcoming years.

Method: This is a qualitative study design focusing on the positive role of children in disasters and disaster risk reduction. Several peer review group discussions had been done by national and international experts. Major related databases were evaluated to make evidence base documents and assess if the hypothesis-children has capacity that should be consider in disaster risk reduction- is worth to be consider or not. Principle investigator had participated at international conferences and meeting to find the key person for the question. I had contacted with experts in the field of child, disaster and disaster risk reduction by face-to-face interview at international conferences and also Skype interview had been held and followed by emails to extract data according the study aim. Furthermore, contextual analysis was used for data synthesis.

References:

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Note: This research is continuing as a PhD thesis by Leila Mohammadinia