



DIGITAL ACCESS TO SCHOLARSHIP AT HARVARD

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

The Harvard community has made this article openly available.
[Please share](#) how this access benefits you. Your story matters.

Citation	Rastegar Far, Behnaz, Mohammad Javad Moradian, Ali Ardalan, and Javad Babaie. 2014. "Investment on Education of Future Parents: the Best Measure for Enhancement of a Community Disaster Resiliency." Iranian Red Crescent Medical Journal 16 (5): e10349. doi:10.5812/ircmj.10349. http://dx.doi.org/10.5812/ircmj.10349 .
Published Version	doi:10.5812/ircmj.10349
Accessed	February 16, 2015 3:32:00 PM EST
Citable Link	http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.InstRepos:12717414
Terms of Use	This article was downloaded from Harvard University's DASH repository, and is made available under the terms and conditions applicable to Other Posted Material, as set forth at http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.InstRepos:dash.current.terms-of-use#LAA

(Article begins on next page)

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

Behnaz Rastegar Far^{1,2}; Mohammad Javad Moradian^{2,3,*}; Ali Ardalan^{2,3,4}; Javad Babaie^{2,3}

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), Zarand (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

1. Ardalan A, Babaie J, Javad Moradian M, Shariati M, Yousefi H. Incorporating the lessons learned from the 2012 East Azerbaijan Earthquakes in Iran's National Health Emergency Plan. *Prehosp Disaster Med.* 2013;28(4):417.
2. Castleden M, McKee M, Murray V, Leonardi G. Resilience thinking in health protection. *J Public Health (Oxf).* 2011;33(3):369-77.
3. Wisner B. *Let our children teach us: A review of the role of education and knowledge in disaster risk reduction.* Bangalore, India: Books for Change; 2006.

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.