Post Tsunami Activities: Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and their Impact on Sri Lankan society

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Sri Lanka entered into a phase of reconstruction and rehabilitation only a couple of months after the Tsunami struck. As most of the coastal areas were destroyed by the tsunami waves reconstruction and recovery efforts became urgent and started to depend on donations and relief. Rebuilding and rehabilitation efforts are given prominent place by the Sri Lankan government, UN agencies, NGOs, donors and a host of other actors. Urgent post tsunami recovery programmes were initiated to satisfy the needs of victims. The most important rehabilitation efforts are bringing the lives of survivors to a psychosocial normalcy and rebuild their lives. Transitional shelters, hygiene awareness including clean water and prevention of diseases, reconstruction of infrastructure, ensuring economics stability and upliftment of education share the funds of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction as well. Minimising economic effects both at local and national levels is identified as a main subject to debate. After several years of the disaster, the risk of having positive and negative short and long term effects on social, cultural and economic spheres through reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts are directly discussed in the paper. Therefore the objective is to identify the direct and indirect impact of post-tsunami rebuilding programmes on the lives of Sri Lankan People.

Keywords: reconstruction, rehabilitation, Tsunami, Rebuilding programmes, victims