

AB142

A case study of the Kithulgala adventure base camp whitewater rafting: standards and risk management.

Anoja Dissanayake, Oshani Arachchige¹, A.R.N.D Ramanaka, Nuwan B Dissanayake,²H.V.

Madhuwanthi Kumari³, P.K.G.C. Pitigala⁴

Risk is an inherent part of adventure recreation and is often a main reason for participation in activities such as whitewater rafting. The particular study titled "The kithulgala adventure base camp whitewater rafting: standards and risk management" was carried out with special reference to the Kithulgala Adventure Base Camp. This study was thoroughly undertaken by the researchers by focusing on the problem that was identified from the preliminary observation and through experience. The main purpose of the study was to explore current standards of whitewater rafting and to explore the risk management practices of whitewater rafting. The researchers carried out an extensive literature review to provide the conceptual background for the study. Data were obtained from the 20 respondents which included the Organizational manager and interviews were carried out with a range of people relevant to the field of study. The simple random sampling method was used to collect data. Data collection occurred using a single case design, which included interviews, observation and visual analysis. Three methods, which are the qualitative analysis technique and AQUAD software were used for the data analysis proceed. The researchers used sequence analysis and Coding analysis to identify risk management practices. The result provides that, the organization which is currently involved in Adventure base programs is practicing their own formulated standards. When it comes to the conclusion with the consideration of findings it can be said that, in Sri Lanka whitewater rafting standards is at a very low level. There is no answerable person responsible for this. The persons who are working in this field also don't have much knowledge about this. Looking at the standards in the world, it is clear that we must bring Sri Lanka at least to a closer level. According to the researchers' point of view to expand rafting more in Sri Lanka, we must develop the whitewater Rafting Standards.

Key Words: *whitewater Rafting, Adventure, Standards, Risk Management.*

¹ Sport Science and Physical Education, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, mandaram31@gmail.com
uksloshi@gmail.com, nilantha@kln.ac.lk

² Research Center for Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, nuwanbdissanayake@gmail.com

³ Department of sports science and physical Education, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, niroshamadhuwanthi92@gmail.com

⁴ Information and technology center, University of Kelaniya, pitigala@kln.ac.lk