

The contribution of NGOs in social welfare of people affected by the Tsunami

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The term 'Tsunami', except for the specialists, was not known to the ordinary public in the past. According to statistic, the deadly waves killed approximately 35,000 people and displaced many others. The people who lived in the coastal areas had to face many socio- economic problems and many difficulties because the government was unable to meet their needs and rebuild their communities. Therefore, Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) became the main actor in providing relief for the people. The objective of this study is to review the contribution of NGOs to the socio welfare of the people affected by the Tsunami.

The government required large amount of time to formulate policies, (including legal policies) take decisions and implement these policies. However, NGOs had a better financial situation, better planning of new programs, and better organizational structures. These advantages contributed to the great expansion of NGOs capacity at the time.

NGOs gave first priority to building livelihood, education, food, health & sanitary, water and temporary housing needs of those who affected. Among 14 affected districts in Sri Lanka, the Galle district, in the Southern Province was one of the most hardhit. 78-80 NGOs took part in the planning of program policies. Among these, 55 NGOs worked in recovery activities in the Hikkauwa Divisional Secretariat area.

My research field was Grama Niladhari Division 69, Kahawa of the Hikkaduwa Divisional Secretariat. There were 347 families and a total population of 1420 in the area. 50 people died as a result of the Tsunami and 11 were missing. There were 67 fully affected houses and 106 affected houses.

The functional method was used as the research method of this study. Interviews and observation were the data collection techniques. 10 families of those affected were taken as the sample. 05 NGO's were also included in the sample.

Key words: Tsunami, NGOs, Social welfare, Coastal area, Sri Lanka

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