

Increasing Peoples' Awareness Towards Natural Disaster Prevention Through Narrative Approach; Experiences from Practical Workshops in Cusco, Peru

*Ami Pareek¹, Satoko Oki²

1. Keio University, 2. Keio University Faculty of Environment and Information studies

Introduction

The Department of Cusco is located in Peruvian Andes, with the capital city located at the altitude of 3,339m. The city has a multi-hazard risk of natural disasters throughout the year, such as heavy rain, flood, flash flood, and landslides, etc. Besides these disasters, Cusco also has four active geological faults near its capital city¹, which has a high risk of earthquakes as well.

However, in the interview author conducted in 2017 with the director of COER(Regional emergency operation center of Cusco), the following issue was concerned to conduct the disaster education in the region; the difficulty of doing the disaster education in the community where the education level is low, and illiteracy rate high.

This presentation will report on more efficient and effective ways of conducting natural disaster prevention education using the original educational material, and its achievements.

Research Methodology

This study was carried out to alleviate the problems of conducting disaster education in Cusco. We focused on disaster education workshops carried out in Cusco, especially for which was aimed to resolve problems mentioned before by introducing a narrative approach. Participants are introduced to a hypothetical case in which a large earthquake or other natural disasters occur in their community on specific future dates - the expression and behavior of a child, anxiety, and frustration of adults are described in detail from a specific community member's perspective. Participants are then asked to discuss their own possible risks upon listening to these stories, participate in group work with others, and to share thoughts in front of other members in the community. As a result, it contributed to raising awareness of tackling disaster safety within the entire community, and to visualize risks and reevaluate their preparation. This program is 40 minutes in total.

Activities in Cusco, Peru and Progress

We have conducted workshops using these materials mentioned above in two different sites in Cusco. After the meeting, there were positive reactions from several participants, as they were interests in doing activities for disaster prevention. In the presentation, we will report on the effectiveness of the material, as well as areas that could be improved which were not carried out well during practice.

References

¹ BENAVENTE C. & TAIPE E. (2010) : Monitoreo de fallas activas en la región del Cusco. Informe interno del INGEMMET, 50 p

Keywords: Disaster prevention, Education, Capacitation, Narrative Approach, Peru, Cusco