

## A Study to assess the Existing Knowledge Regarding Disaster Preparedness among Adults Residing at Haripur, Sangli District

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### Abstract

*Disaster is a sudden calamitous event bringing great damage, loss and destruction and devastation to life and property. The damage caused by disaster varies with Geographical location, climate and a type of earth surface/degree of vulnerability. Disaster since beginning of time causing premature death impaired quality of life and altered health status. On excellent one disaster per week that requires international assistance. The recent dramatic increase in the natural disasters their intensity, the number of people affected by them and the human and economic losses associated with these events has placed an imperative on disaster planning for emergency preparedness. WHO defines disaster as, "any occurrence that causes damage, ecological disruptions, loss of human life, deterioration of health and health services on a scale sufficient to warrant an extra ordinary response from outside the affected community or area.*

**Keywords:** Disaster preparedness, altered health status, human and economic losses, emergency preparedness, clinical nursing

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### INTRODUCTION

Disasters are unforeseen events that cause great damage, destruction and human sufferings. Though, often caused by nature, disaster can have human origins. Disasters have become prominent features in our lives<sup>[1]</sup>. In the past decades, the number of disasters and their impact on human and economic development worldwide has shown a steady increase<sup>[2]</sup>.

About 75% of the World's population lives in areas affected at least once between 1980 and 2000 by Earthquake, tropical cyclone, floods and draughts. More than 184 deaths per day due to disaster are recorded in different parts of the world. The total number of people affected each year by the natural disaster almost doubled between 1990 and 1999<sup>[3-5]</sup>.

In this period on an excellent 188 million per year were affected by disasters. Asia tops the list of casualties due to natural disasters. It is most impossible to prevent the occurrence of natural disasters and their damage. However, it is possible to reduce the impact of disasters by adopting suitable disaster mitigation strategies and disaster preparedness<sup>[6]</sup>.

Disaster happens anywhere anytime and when disaster strikes one may not have much time to respond. After a disaster help may be delayed from our spill several days. Family will cope best by preparing for disaster before it strikes<sup>[7-9]</sup>.

Generally the disaster has the following effects in the concerned areas:

- It completely disrupts the normal day-to-day life.

- It negatively influences the emergency system.
- Normal needs and process like food, shelter and health are affected.

The aim of the study was to assess the existing knowledge of adults residing at Haripur regarding disaster preparedness in Sangli District<sup>[10-11]</sup>.

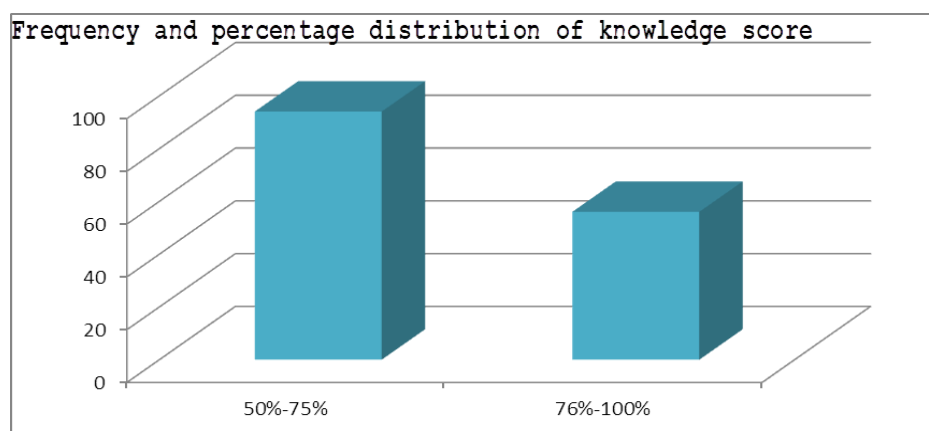
## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The researcher selected the exploratory descriptive study design. In the present

study the adults were selected by non-probability convenient sampling technique. In the present study the participants are adults residing at Haripur in Sangli district. The Sample Size consisted of 150 adults.

## RESULTS

Significant increases in the knowledge of adults regarding disaster preparedness were observed as shown in Figure 1 and in Table 1 and 2.



**Fig.1:** Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Knowledge Score.

**Table 1:** Association of knowledge score with demographic variables.

S.No.	Demographic variables	Pearson's Calculated value	P value	Association
1	Age	1.160	0.594	Non-significant
2	Sex	0.947	0.331	Non-significant
3	Family Monthly Income	5.409	0.067	Non-significant
4	Type of Family	1.417	0.234	Non-significant
5	Information related to disaster preparedness	0.348	0.555	Non-significant

**Table 2:** Association of knowledge score with demographic variables.

S.No.	Demographic variables	Fisher's exact test	Association
1.	Religion	0.390	Non-significant
2.	Education	0.195	Non-significant
3.	Occupation	0.181	Non-significant
4.	Stay at Haripur	0.073	Non-significant

## CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR CLINICAL NURSING

Today society demands a greater accountability and increase efficiency and effectiveness from the health care centre. Nursing is comprehensive and holistic care. A nurse is a member of health team

and has a unique function to perform for the client in an independent manner. The modern philosophy of community health nursing care stresses the importance of meeting the total needs of the individual, family and community. Nurse can educate the individual, family and the community

about measures for reducing the risk at the time of disaster. Analysis shows that the overall existing knowledge score among adults is good.

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