

KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE ON NATURAL DISASTER AMONG MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS IN MAGWAY CITY

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ABSTRACT

The impacts of natural disasters are increasingly important around the world and Myanmar is one of the threatening countries from natural disasters. Therefore, it is of great interest whether the adequate knowledge and attitude on natural disasters have been formed in the community. This study aimed to identify the level of the knowledge and the attitude on natural disasters among middle school students in Magway city where the earthquake happened recently. A sample of total 192 students from three selected Government High schools in Magway city was surveyed through self-administered questionnaires. The data were analyzed with SPSS version 16. In this study, most of the students were 13 years old and female proportion was larger than male. It was found that 90.1% of students had high level of knowledge and 71.4% had good attitude on natural disasters. Significant association was found between knowledge of students on natural disaster and fathers' education status, lessons learned about natural disaster at school respectively. The findings also showed that still there are confusions and problems regarding their effective knowledge and attitude on natural disasters and there was no association found between socio-demographic characteristics of students and attitude level. Due to limitation of timeframe, this study was based only on the Magway region, so the findings can be generalized only to the population of students in this area. The findings could be used for the improvement of existing knowledge and preparedness for responding to natural disasters. Regarding the evident lack of proper disaster education at schools, the study results could serve as a tool in developing education curriculum, implementing strategies and ways to improve safety of youth culture from natural disasters.