

## **Public Perception on the Aranayake land Slide: Post-Disaster and Pre-Disaster**

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Natural Disaster can occur at any time in any community. The people who experienced these kinds of disasters build up common perceptions. Among these perceptions, the concepts, which were created, based on myths and misconceptions are found, in addition to certain truth and falsehoods. Recently, on 18.05.2016 a devastated landslide occurred in "Samasara" village, situated in Kegalle district in Sabaragamuwa Province, Sri Lanka. Which made more than 3000 people vulnerable by this disaster. This study expects to identify the public perceptions of some common features in the centered areas of the disaster. Which is more important to assist in the post-disaster management program, after the collapse of the "Samasara" mountain area. From among more than 3000 refugees, it is expected to get the perception of 30% of the total population who were affected from this disaster. In selecting the sample both male, female and for age categories had equal number of the representation. 70% of them did not have any understanding about landslide, 81% of them mentioned that a severe damage was due to not receiving early warning before the disaster, which made them unresponsive during the disaster. 94% of the respondents call for proper training on disaster and immediate responses. In addition, 59% to 70% of the population is suspected of landslide due to the activities of the people in this area. 54% people assumed that they are responsible for this accident, which was designed by God to show his power in this area. 80% of the people believed that after this incident, the interactions between the villagers have been increased and the needs and wants of the people were fulfilled. Therefore, during resettlement programs and post disaster programs it is important to study the sociological behavior and conceptions of people's perceptions.

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