

The management actions for the effects of natural disasters: a study based on Maruthamunai area

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ABSTRACT

Natural disasters are extreme events that result in death or injury to humans, and damage or loss of valuable infrastructure and environment. Such horrible catastrophes affect the village of Maruthamunai in Ampara District. It is situated in the tropical zone. Maruthamunai routinely experiences floods, drought, tsunami and contagious diseases. The study was undertaken to identify the effects, causes and the disaster management activities. We also prepared a disaster risk map for the Maruthamunai area to identify the affected zone. Several methods are used to analyze this study. These include qualitative and quantitative data that were analyzed using SPSS and Arc GIS application to produce the maps. The study clarified the effects of natural disasters and prepared disaster risk maps to identify safe places. Our work will help to minimize the effects of disaster and will also support better environmental practices to mitigate the problems.

Keywords: Disaster risk, Damage, Flood, Drought

1. INTRODUCTION

Disasters are as old as human history but the dramatic increase and the damage caused by them in the recent past have become a cause of national and international concern. Today, most of the countries are facing the various types of natural disaster in an everyday life in the world. We can't mention any country without occurrence of a natural disaster. Every country has different familiarity of various natural disasters. It is the major problem in the current world. A natural disaster occurs when the impact of hazard is born by "elements at risk" that may be vulnerable to the hazard. The elements are people, infrastructure, and economic

activities. A disaster can be defined as “A serious disruption in the functioning of the community or a society causing wide spread material, economic, social or environmental losses which exceed the ability of the affected society to cope using its own resources” (Singh R. B, 2006, “Natural Hazards and Disaster Management”, Prem Rawat for Raat Publications, Satyam Apts. Sector 3, Jawahar Nagar, Jaipur, India).

A natural disaster is a major adverse event resulting from natural process of earth that causes great damage or loss of life. It could be related to weather, geology, biology or even factors outside the earth (Singh, 2006). Natural disasters are extreme events within the earth's system that result in death or injury to humans, and damage or loss of valuable goods, such as buildings, communication systems, agricultural land, forest, natural environment etc.

In the world, Asia is worlds’ most disaster affected region. In Asia every year 46,000 people killed 180 million people affected 35\$ billion of damage caused by disasters (based on world disasters report 1997). Total amount of disaster damage in Asia from 1991 to 2001 were 400641.8 million dollars and 51% of the total global loss associated with natural disasters. In 2014 more than 2000 people were death in African countries by EBOLA virus and in 2015 massive earth quakes happened due to the conversion of the plate tectonics in Nepal therefore about 7000 people were death (Ramana Murthy K. 2004, “Disaster Management”, Dominant Publishers and Distributors, New Delhi 110053).

In addition to this, Sri Lanka is being included which is effecting by various type of natural disasters because of Sri Lanka is an island that is located in the disaster prone belt of the Asian region. Sri Lanka’s past disaster history, shows the long history of natural disaster which most frequent occur in Sri Lanka are landslide, flood, drought, cyclone, sea erosion, tsunami, lightning and epidemics like malaria and dengue (Ilangoan, P. S. 2009, Perception of Flood Risk: A Case Study from the Flood Affected Areas of Madhurai. Natual Hazrds and Disater essay on Impact and Managment, International Conference Volume. Anantapura: Department of Geography, Sri Hrisna Devaraya University, India).

When we observe the past experience in the research area’s history of previous disasters of Maruthamunai area, this is differing from Ampara district. Ampara district is mostly affecting by flood is 87.5%, landslide 4.91%, elephant damage is 0.91%, cyclone is 2.72%, sea erosion is 1.09%, drinking water 0.8%, accidents 0.82%, and casual 1%. The study area mostly occurrence of the natural disaster were experienced by the climate change either through more access of water or lack of water are flooding, drought, tsunami and diseases. We have long history but still we haven’t enough documents to give full information about natural disaster therefore this research will solve the drawback. So, it is important and I hope it will be as a precedent. Then it will be assists to future research.

2. STUDY AREA

Ampara District situated in the part of the Eastern province in Sri Lanka. Maruthamunai is located in out of 2.3km far from North of Kalmunai DS Division in Ampara District. Its boundaries are North by Periyaneelavanai, the south Pandiruppu, the West by paddy fields, and the East Indian Ocean.

Maruthamunai is in the coastal zone area. Its elevation is 3 Meter above the sea level. Maruthamunai area extent is 4 sq. kilometers. It has 9 Grama Niladhari Divisions and its including Periyaneelavanai, Pandiruppu Muslim Division, Maruthamunai, and Akbar village.

The majority of population is Muslims communities living in this area. Total population is approximately 17954. The mean annual temperature of the study area is about 28 °C. The rainfall varies and it is distributed throughout the year and has a having heavy intensity in the months of October to March, with less rains in April to September by south west monsoon.

The North East Monsoon is the main rainy season. Maruthamunai is located as a coastal area and large proportion of land is allocated for paddy. Peoples' main livelihood is the agriculture, fishery and weaving and now as an education, economic and weaving are main occupation.

3. OBJECTIVES

- To identify the effects of natural disasters in Maruthamunai Area.
- To prepare the hazard risk maps for the Maruthamunai Area.
- To find out the disaster management activities for the Maruthamunai Area.

4. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study, both quantitative and qualitative methods were being used in order to get all the necessary data from various sources. Various tools have been used in this study to collect and interpret data. The data is collected both Primary Data Collection and Secondary Data Collection.

4. 1. Primary Data Collection

Primary Data collections have been collected through Interviews with MOH Officer, Disaster Management officer Kalmunai, Metrological officer Pottuvil and Fisheries Officer Kalmunai, Questionnaire survey with 100 households' as follows; Disaster Management officer 2, Fisheries Officer 3, Grama Niladhari 5 Fishermen 20, Farmers 20, Businessmen 10 and Public 40. Direct observation was done in the study area.

4. 2. Secondary Data Collection

This secondary data has been collected from the published and unpublished sources such as magazine, articles, files, Remote sensing analysis map, Printed maps, chart, books, government and nongovernmental reports and documents, Department reports, Library research and webs.

The basic map of research area gathered from Divisional Secretariat, Kalmunai. The village vital information statistics on human and physical features such as population, educational, occupational structure and disaster statistics were gathered from Divisional Secretariat, Kalmunai and MOH office. Meteorological data collected from Meteorological Department, Pottuvil and Fiheries data collected from fisheries office, Kalmunai.

4. 3. Basic Layer Preparation

It used printed paper map and Google image to produced basic layer map preparation. These printed paper map and Google image were scanned and input into Arc GIS 10.4 to produce the following disaster affected area map to show the affected area.

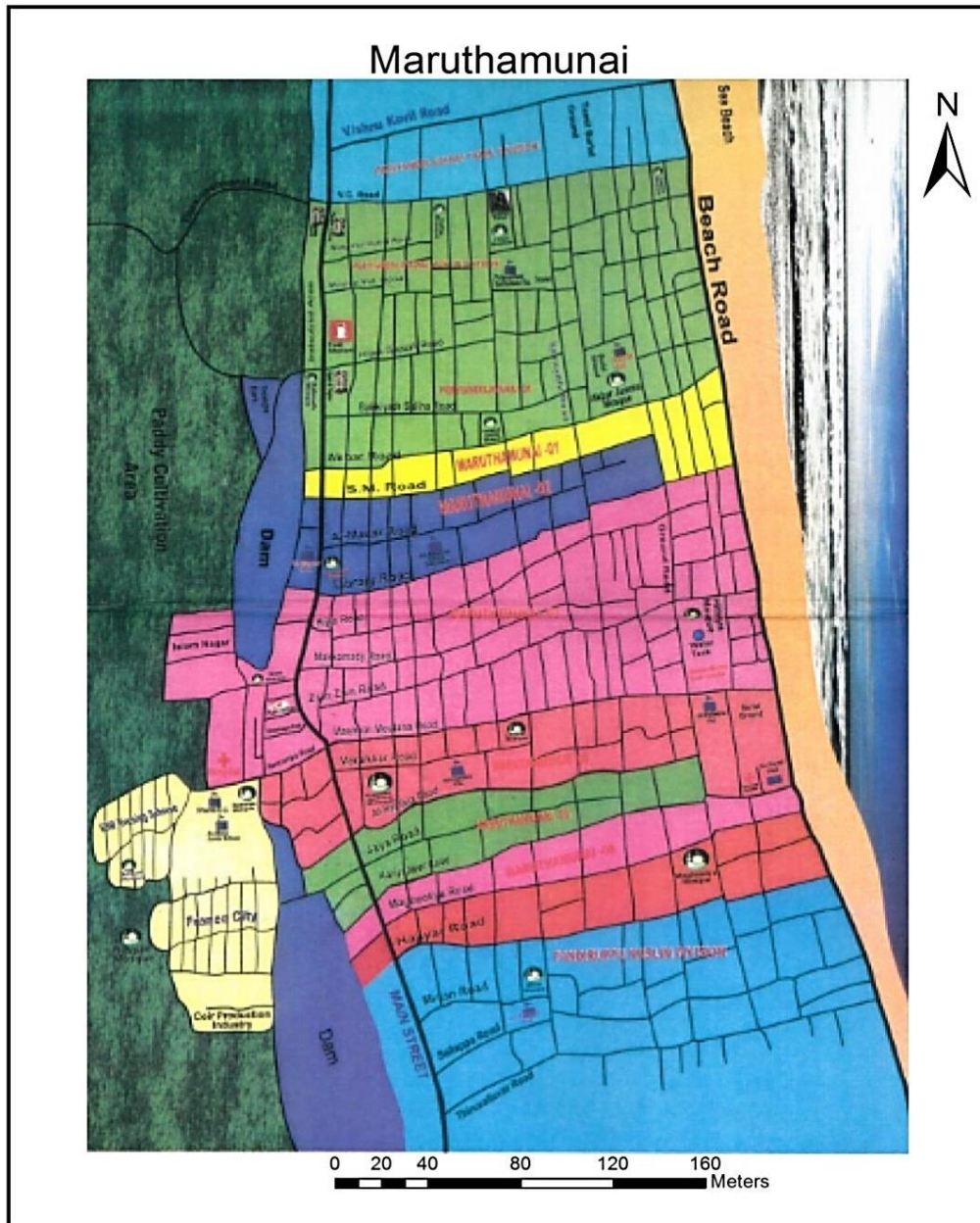


Figure 1. Basic layers- Maruthamunai
(Source: - Maanpuru Maruthamunai, 2016)

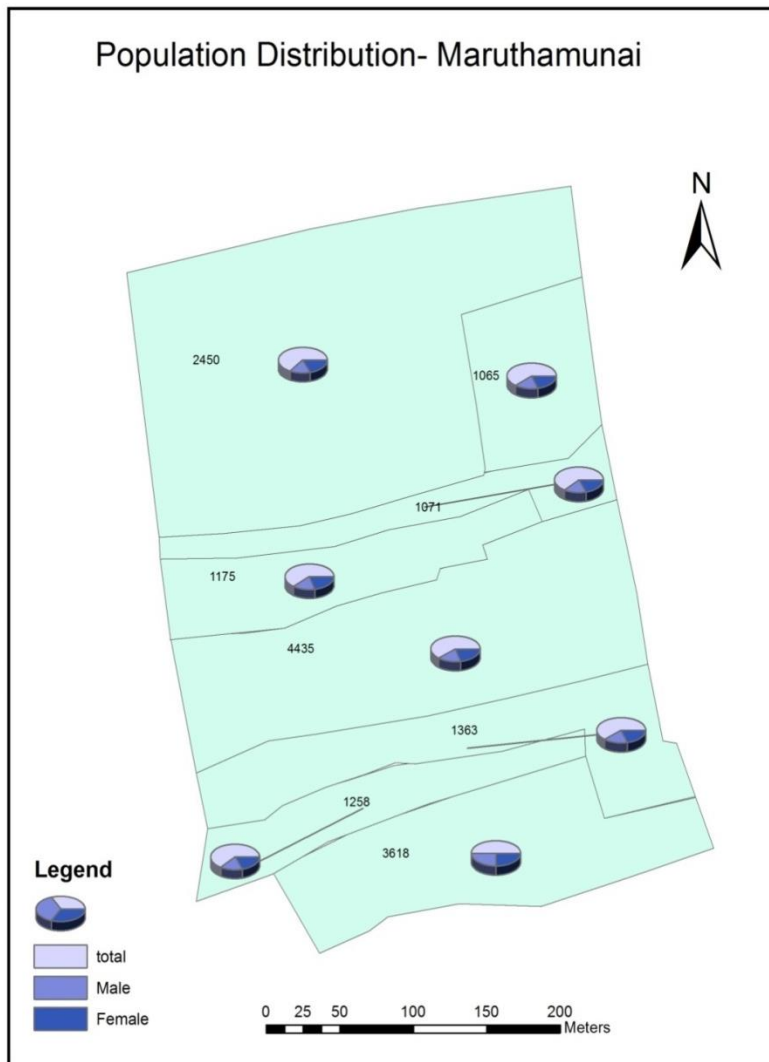


Figure 2. Population Distribution
(Source: - Retrieved in Arc GIS 10.4, 2017)

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

5. 1. Preparation of Hazard Maps

A combination analysis of basic layer were undertaken in order to create hazard maps such as flood affected area, and tsunami effected area. These maps were added analyzed with population data in order to obtain the affected people falling under each affected area.

Following table helps to create the household falling within tsunami area map in Arc GIS to identify the affected population and damaged houses under in each Grama Niladhari Divisions in Tsunami affected area.



Figure 3. Tsunami Affected Area and Houses
(Source: - Retrieved in Arc GIS 10.4, 2017)



Figure 4. Photos Clarify of Tsunami Affects in Maruthamunai, 2005

5. 2. Flood Hazard Map

Research area mostly effects by floods. Every year it has been facing flood but severe floods occurred in two years during 2011 and 2014 and its effects were devastated. According to that following table used to produce the flood hazard maps and flood affected families falling under each GN Division for 2011 and 2014.

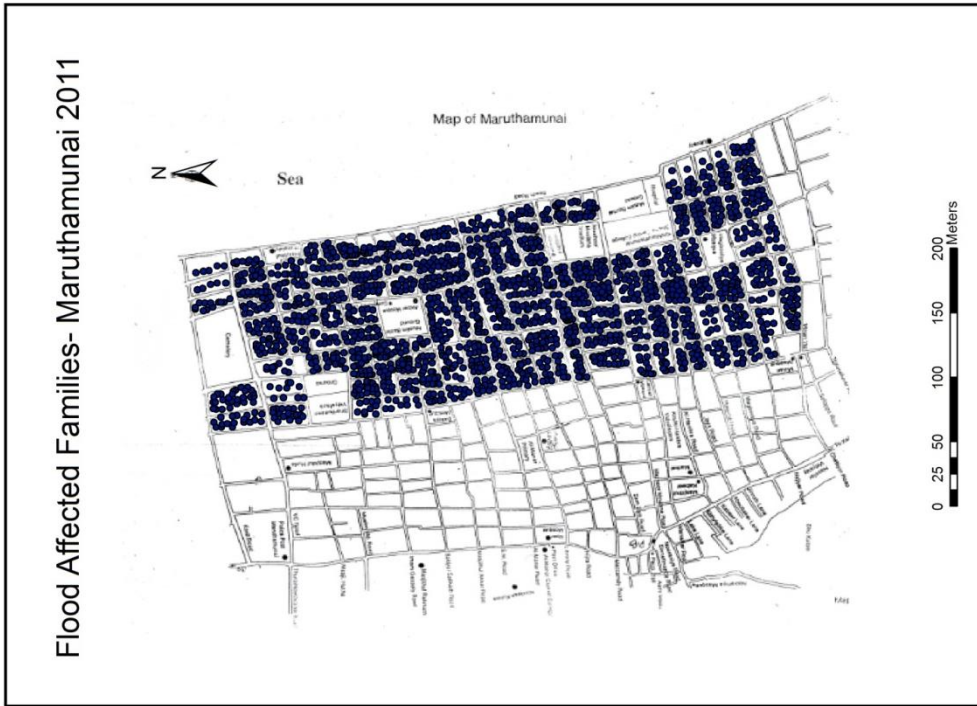


Figure 5. Flood Affected Area and Families
(Source: - Retrieved in Arc GIS 10.4, 2017)

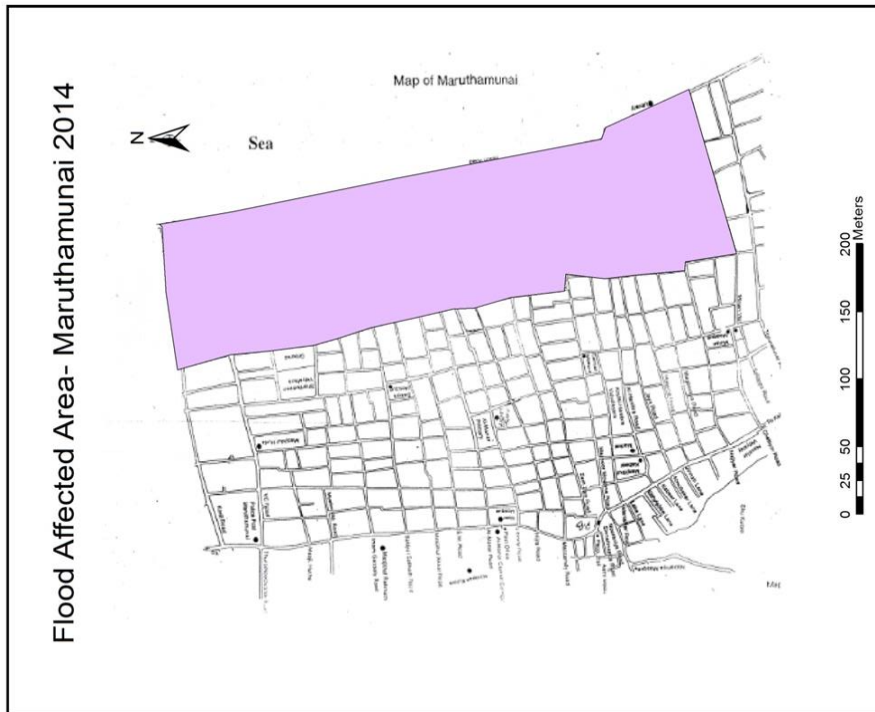
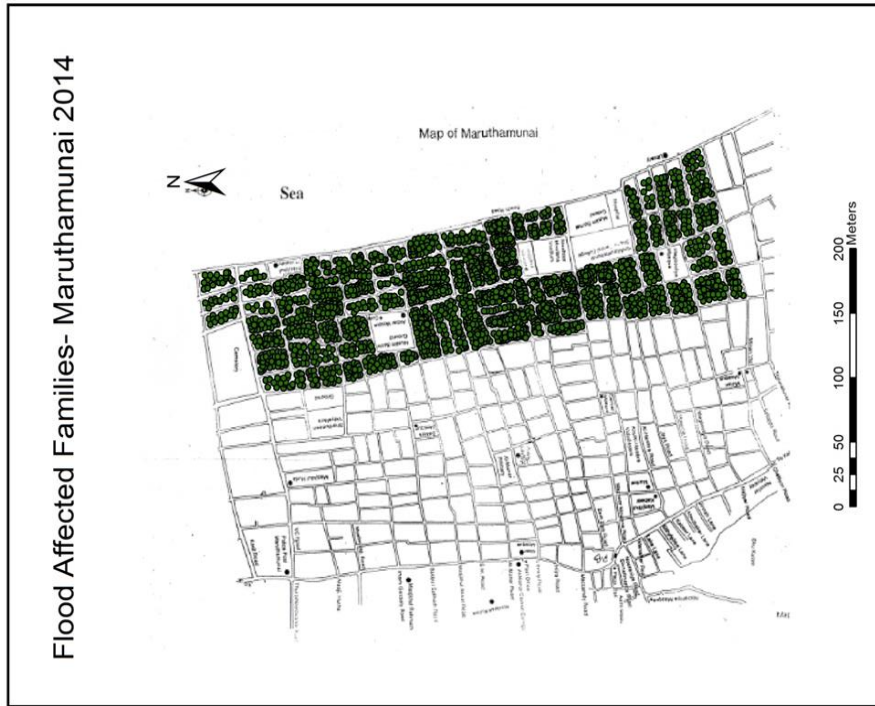


Figure 6. Flood Affected Area and Families
(Source: - Retrieved in Arc GIS 10.4, 2017)



Figure 7. Photos of Flood Effects, 2014

5. 3. Safer Places

Safer

- ◆ Al- Manar Central College
- Al- Manar Girls Section
- Al- Minar Vidyalayam
- Al-Hambra Vidyalayam
- Al-Hikma Junior School
- ◆ Bakkiya Jumma Mosque
- Central Mosque
- Falah Mosque
- Hutha Mosque
- ◆ Islam Mosque
- Kabeer Jummah Mosque
- ◆ Minan Mosque
- Noor Jummah Mosque
- ◆ Nooraniya Mosque
- Rahmath Mosque
- Rayyan Mosque
- Salihath Mosque
- ◆ Shams Central COLlege

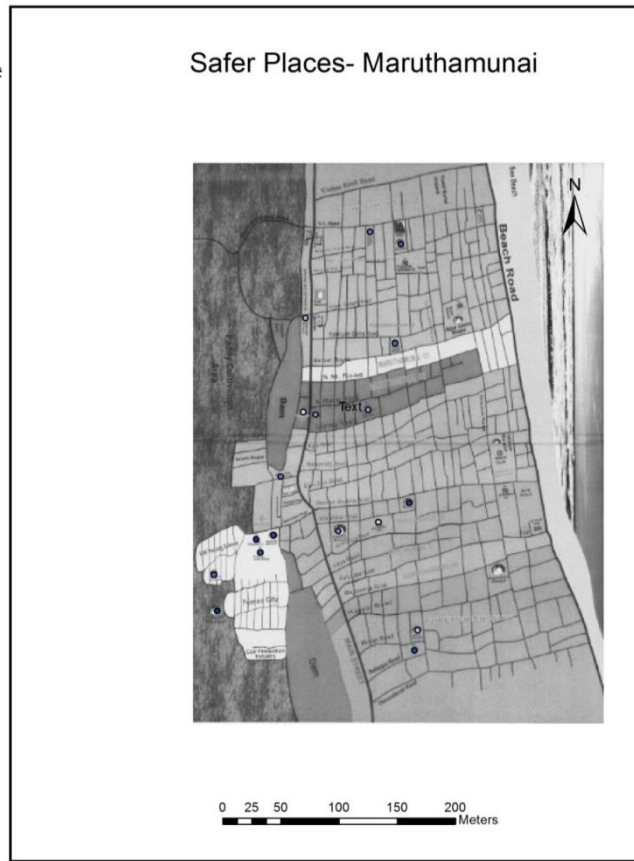


Figure 8. Safer places (Source: - Retrieved in Arc GIS 10.4, 2017)

In Maruthamunai 18 locations have been identified as a safer place for hospitality to affected people during all disasters. Those places are shown in following figure 8. For this figure Maruthamunai area has enough accommodation facilities for victims and totally 17900 people could be accommodate in all safer places.

6. CONCLUSIONS

In the world all effects are formed due to the natural disasters and manmade disasters. Natural catastrophe has been molded continuously enormous than manmade disaster. The study area also is not exception from it, because it's distinct various natural disasters continuously.

The effects of tsunami dated 2004.12.26 doesn't wipe out from heart of the effected people and non-effected people in this study area yet. The effects of tsunami were massive in Sri Lanka. Especially, Maruthamunai area of Ampara District effected severely compare with other places within Ampara District. This was recorded as highly effected area and its entirely lost socio economic, education and environmental infrastructure during this period.

In 2004 the total population was 17,939 in the study area. In this total amount of population 9631 people were affected by the tsunami. This is more than 53.8% of the total population. Then 1643 people were died during this disaster and this is almost 9.5% in the total. During this time totally and partially damaged houses were around 3164 and it is 57.52%. In this record, many houses were destroyed in maruthamunai-3 shown i. Mostly 0-200m houses were fully and partially damaged in this area in all GN division.

Flood disaster is the familiar one and one of the most common natural disaster in research area. Flood is mostly occurring in seasonally in the research area. Every year the area facing floods but 2011 and 2014 were seriously affected by the severe flood due to the high rainfall. Here, the loss of damages were high in during the year 2011. During this time the total affected people were estimated around 3002 and it is more than 66% of the total population.

Geographic Information System (GIS) is a computer based system that helps the user to assess, document, and improve data quality, and also to analyze and interpret multi variety spatial scientific databases. Based on the result analyzes with base printed maps were companied with geographic information system to be created the hazards maps for flood and tsunami. GIS has given a wonderful environment to undertake the big task within short period accurately to achieve my objectives. It is very useful to reduce the disaster affected area maps and prepare the suitable safer palaces for victims.

According to the research questionnaire, the people who did not have any knowledge about the disaster before tsunami disaster but after the tsunami 75% of people mostly know about disaster. Only 25% of people partially know about the disaster. We can observe, most of the people have knowledge about disaster after the tsunami. According to flood management activities does not implemented in the study area by the 65% of public comments yet.

According to questionnaire when, the disaster occur in an area mostly non-government organization (60%) and religious institute (40%) are help to the public. Furthermore, government and public must take more responsibilities and public participation in the disaster management activities is very less (10%). Natural disasters not only collapse the society and

its economy but also its effect the development of the country and research area. We can build up the stable developments in our country when we shrinkage the disasters by proper management activities. Because we can't suddenly stopover the disaster but we can diminish the effects of the disasters. If we implement the proper management activities we can reduce the disaster effects and we can build up the stable development in research area.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

According to the research there was no any proper management activities implemented in research area. Therefore, when we implement the following disaster management activities in the study area we can minimize the disaster effects and can to enhance the area into the sustainable development and this can support to the country' development based on this management activities are given below;

Selected Management Activities to Minimize the Tsunami Effects

➤ **Establish Coastal Barriers**

It is the best mitigation activities in coastal areas. This barrier can be as a seawall or elevated Dikes. This reduces the Volume and velocity of water is achieved by increasing the top of the coastal barrier to 30 ft., plus building a 28-ft seawall along the waterfront. Additionally, reinforced buildings are constructed behind the seawall, thereby decreasing the through-flow of water. Therefore the barriers are reducing the flooding and effects by inundation area and water depth are only marginally less. Total velocities are decreased with highest velocities adjacent to breakwaters and the inland side of the seawall. This plan would decrease water depth in most of the inundation area.

➤ **Improve Tsunami Education.**

Develop comprehensive educational programs for the diverse users of the coastal environment. Individual and community education programs are thus the most important aspect of a tsunami mitigation program. Improving early detection of tsunami and facilitating mitigation of effects of tsunami, educating communities to ensure an appropriate response when a tsunami strikes is of high importance. Tsunami information should frequently and regularly be provided at different levels from primary school to general public in awareness campaigns and also belonging to educational programs involving different modules and grades. It encourages collaborative efforts of existing education programs and strategies to meet local needs Therefore public can serve their lives and property.

➤ **Mock Drill**

Mock drill is an integral part of the mitigation plan. It is a preparedness drill to keep the community alert. Organized a mock drill in the village people can understand to how to act during the disaster and practice the exercise improve the cohiveness of the community during an emergency.

➤ **Prepare the Evacuation Maps**

It is very use to mitigate the tsunami effects in research area. Tsunami evacuation map is a drawing or representation that outlines danger zones and designates limits beyond which people must be evacuated to avoid harm from tsunami waves. Tsunami evacuation maps depict three different types of features: Evacuation Zones, Evacuation Routes and Safe areas. Evacuation zones should be defined through tsunami worst case scenario for each area. Tsunami evacuation map products may be based on printed maps, digital map files, or interactive web-based maps. When we draw these maps, guides to people can move to safer places very quickly and easily.

Individuals/families/work groups should have a detailed knowledge of the evacuation plan that should be followed during a tsunami warning and Practicing evacuation plans makes the appropriate response more of a reaction, requiring less thinking during an actual emergency situation.

➤ **Proper Planning**

In order to develop a strategy of coastal planning it is important to primarily evaluate the geographic and geomorphological characteristics of a coastal area. Tsunami wave penetration (run-in) is strongly conditioned not only by the height of the wave but also by the geomorphological features against which it collides. The detailed knowledge of the geomorphological characteristics of a given coastline allows a better planning in terms of creation of infrastructures, evacuation routes and mitigation strategies. This simple characterization immediately allows the establishment of zones with higher risk of tsunami inundation (i.e. beaches, estuaries and coastal lagoons) because of their flat and low-lying configuration thus offering less resistance to wave invasion (in contrast with cliff areas). Physical environment is important to legislate in order to avoid or constrain possible damages in case of a tsunami event.

➤ **Public Awareness**

Public awareness is very important to avoid the tsunami effects. It can be raised through the use of media, advertising campaigns and simulation exercises by disaster management team. This should be directed not only to specific groups (i.e. schools) but also to the general public. As a recommendation, it can be dissemination of on tsunami and tsunami preparedness should be promoted by the government bodies, local authorities or by emergency services the following actions:

- Disaster education at the school level.
- Implement community-level public awareness programs.
- Enhance information management systems.
- Improve coordination mechanisms within the disaster management system.

Common awareness campaign the use of art and media can also be used to highlight the tsunami risk. For example, screening of short-films, theatrical plays, music and innovative approach using internet (even social networks) are more readily accepted by younger

generations that more easily will assimilate the information delivered.

Creation of permanent (or mobile) centers for tsunami awareness and preparedness that are dedicated to disseminate information to the general public and can be used in articulation with science and civil protection authorities.



Figure 9. Tsunami hazard zone signage (Source: - itic-unesco.org)

➤ **Plant Mangroves And Other Coastal Forests**

Mangrove forests and other coastal forest tree species are play major role to protect the housing again tsunami. The reduction of waves and current velocity is on passing through mangroves, and other vegetation. Although they provide important information relevant to the mitigating effect of coastal forests on tsunamis, their results cannot be directly applied, as tsunamis are transient waves with much longer wavelengths, and as such that the impact is much greater when they strike coastal areas. Therefore should take action to plant mangroves and other coastal forest in research area Because of coastal forest are prevent the effects from tsunami following figure is Plate 1.5 IKONOS imagery before and after the West Java tsunami shows how vegetation reduced tsunami effects in Pangandaran beach.

➤ **Build Elevated Shelter**

Near the coastal area should build the shelters as an elevated shelters or architectural and engineering inputs put together to improve building design to avoid the risk of tsunami. Following figure illustrate;

➤ **Proper Maintains of Tsunami Warning Tower**

Research area had a tsunami warning systems. It is the first tsunami warning system in Sri Lanka. It's provided timely and effective tsunami information and warnings to the population to minimize the hazards of tsunamis - especially to human life and wellbeing in research area. To achieve this objective, the TWS continuously monitors the seismic activity

and arrange the mock drills. Then Provide the Coordination Group for the Tsunami Warning System to spread over area and are issued to the dissemination agencies. The dissemination agencies then implement predetermined plans to evacuate people from endangered areas. Therefore can protect the people from tsunami by proper maintains.



Figure 10. Tsunami Warning Tower of Maruthamunai, 2017

Selected Management Activities to Minimize the Flood Effects

- Establish the proper drainage systems in the low land area to prevent the flooding.
- Prevent the garbage disposal into drainage.
- Fill the low lands.
- Reconstruct the roads or the roads to recovery.
- Drainages are periodically clean by proper authority or cleaned before flood period.
- Flood forecasting.
- Prepare the seasonality calendar of flood disaster.
- Arrange the awareness programs and early warnings to public by propaganda of flood warning signs, news, and broadcast.
- Take the legal action against to those who are destroying the drainages.
- Elevates the low land buildings and houses to against the flood impacts.
- Take the proper action to the low land drained water into drainages to reduce the flooding.
- Implement the flood management systems.
- Create the new dams or ponds to store flood water in apart from the village.
- Protection of individual properties:-

Property owners may fit our home to stop water entering the house. Personal flood plans may involve blocking doors and air vents, waterproofing important areas and sandbagging the edges of the building.

➤ **Protection of communities**

When more homes, shops and infrastructure are threatened by the effects of flooding, then the benefit of greater protection is worth the additional cost. Temporary flood defenses can be constructed relatively quickly in certain locations and provide protection from rising flood waters. Flood are often controlled and channeled. Water rising above a drainages full capacity may cause flooding to spread to other waterways and areas of the community, which causes damage. Defenses (both long-term and short-term) can be constructed to minimize damage, which involves raising the edge of the water with levees, embankments or walls.

➤ **Flood risk management**

The most effective way of reducing the risk to people and property is through the production of flood risk maps. Produced maps which show areas prone to flooding based on flood data which show areas at risk. Low lying areas in need of flood defense. The most sustainable way of reducing risk is to prevent further development in flood prone areas and old waterways. It is important for at-risk communities to develop a comprehensive floodplain management plan. Communities participate must agree to regulate development in flood prone areas.

➤ **Diversion canals**

Floods can be controlled by redirecting excess water to purpose-built canals or floodways, which in turn divert the water to temporary holding ponds or other bodies of water where there is a lower risk or impact to flooding.

➤ **Self-closing flood barrier**

The self-closing flood barrier (SCFB) is a flood defense system designed to protect people and property from inland waterway floods caused by heavy rainfall. The SCFB can be built to protect residential properties and whole communities, as well as industrial or other strategic areas. The barrier system is constantly ready to deploy in a flood situation, it can be installed in any length and uses the rising flood water to deploy. It can be designed to west part of the Maruthamunai area.

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(Received 02 October 2017; accepted 16 October 2017)