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Geocoding for Post-disaster Compensation Projects in Sri Lanka (Special Reference to selected Disaster prone areas)

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Abstract

Natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, droughts, landslides and other geologic processes damage the lives and the properties of the people. To overcome these environmental imbalances, countries spend huge amount of money continuously. However due to the drawbacks of damage assessment procedures the real victims face troubles in receiving compensations for the damages they faced. The purpose of this study is to understand the real drawbacks of the current post- disaster compensation mechanism and introduce an evidence- based systematic method to overcome those drawbacks. The geocoding technology is best practiced in many countries for various human related purposes thus for this research the same geocoding technology was applied to achieve the set objectives. The study has two objectives: understanding the drawbacks of current disaster compensation processes and indicating the use of the systematic method like geocoding for disaster compensation projects. To achieve these objectives a case study was selected form Halmillewa area which was affected severely from drought during 2016 to 2018 periods. Through intensive questionnaire surveys and focused group discussions, the injustice of disaster compensation mechanisms were identified. After that a geocoded database was created showing the use of new technology in overcoming human faults during judgments. Finally the research showed the advantage of real time updating of the created database for quick response and quick compensations of the real disaster victims. The practicability of the application depends on the real time updating of the location and relevant information data base. Specially, responsible officials in rural area, should be given a thorough training and they should be provided with sufficient facilities to keep the continuity of their duties regarding post- disaster compensation projects with systematic methods.

***Keywords:** Disaster management, Recovery, Geocoding*

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