

SOCIAL ASPECTS IN LANDSLIDE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION OF SRI LANKA

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Sri Lanka has been vulnerable to hydro-meteorologically induced mass movement and slope failure for a long time. In the context of identification of potential mass movement, characterization of land instabilities and implementation of landslide mitigation programs, it is well known that Sri Lankan Geologists have been playing a valuable role. This resulted in declaring landslide prone districts, issuing landslide early warnings, evacuation programs, land inspecting, monitoring and awareness in the Island. However, they still lack the necessary capabilities or methodologies to issue early warnings, disseminate awareness/preparedness information and mitigation for the benefit of vulnerable communities at grass root level through a sophisticated community based disaster management system. This limitation must be overcome by implementing an easy to understand method that will minimize damage. Addressing such issues is quite complicated and it is well noted that the need has presently become crucial. Hence, our main objective is to draw the attention of Sri Lankan geologists in developing systematic social network with regard to the concept called "Social Geology". The concept of social geology where interaction between earth processes/resources and human/society is discussed must be applied looking forward to establish a socio-geological network for disaster management and risk reduction. In this network, experts and communities must actively be involved and interacted in securing the human life. Prevailing traditional knowledge on geology among locals can easily be streamlined through their active participation. Establishment of local groups in risk areas who are well aware, planned and equipped be capable of acting promptly in case of any mass movement disasters. Real time updates and forecasting must be essential, hence a strong communication system and social media service should be a major requisite of the socio-geological network. A central governing body which is capable of networking and monitoring all the local groups, social media, emergency services and conducting awareness is to be the main pillar of the socio-geological network in mass movement risk reduction.
