

Disaster Experience

Student's Name

Institution

Disaster Experience

Self-Experience

At the tender age of eleven, I experienced the worst disaster in my life: the earthquake in Chile. I had a firsthand traumatic encounter of living through one of earth's disreputable calamities. The incident was a reminder that life is capricious and should be esteemed passionately. Previously, I had experienced numerous tremors in my neighborhood, but due to my ignorance, I considered them mild disruptions and not preludes to catastrophes. While watching my favorite movie in a cinema hall in Chile, a tremor struck, turning into a catastrophic earthquake. I felt like the ground was undergoing serious convulsions as I shivered with enthusiastic strength. At first, I could not move owing to the resultant shock. Meanwhile, the earth beneath appeared undone as I tried to locate the hall's exit. I struggled with other people who attempted to escape in extreme panic. Despite the tussle to go through the small space, no one seemed to succeed. I remember thinking that this was going to be the end of my life. Suddenly, through the movement created by the crowd, I was ejected out of the hall. Outside, people were lying on the ground as a result of being subdued by the ensuing stampede. Ironically, the first person I saw at the entrance was my former elementary school teacher. As I reminisced the calm before the occurrence, I regretted why I attended the function in the first place. Soon, I realized that what I had encountered was the aftermath of a deadly earthquake that had struck major cities in one of Chile's greatest catastrophes.

The Death System (Discussion)

With the death toll standing at 800 people coupled with thousands of injuries, the magnitude of devastation was undisputable. In response, various aid agencies commenced relief plans since survivors required urgent help. Working with the Red Cross, they launched recovery

programs to restore and enhance the lives of the victims who had encountered inconceivable physical and psychological losses. As it emerged, this initiative was not only availed in the immediate environs of the cataclysm but to evacuees who sought refuge in distant cities. From collaborations with individuals, groups, and faith-based organizations, these entities focused on helping survivors to make recovery plans encompassing health, mental, and behavioral fronts. The existing operational and planning framework initiated medical and paramedic shifts to distribute food, blankets, and hygiene equipment from emergency stores to survivors (Taylor, 2003). Despite its overwhelming effects, the Chilean earthquake was a reminder for countries to set up robust disaster management plans. Even though this was one of the world's most powerful earthquakes, the humanitarian intervention was intriguing despite being hampered by disparities among several players.

Among the course concepts, network theory is the most applicable in this scenario. Evidently, large diverse networks of organizations such as the ones discussed in this discourse may encounter difficulties in unraveling basic coordination efforts than small homogeneous entities. As participants contribute profession or training to the network, there is often a clash with the perceptions of other elements; hence, creating unfounded obscurities on how teams will interact with one another. Still, increased frequency as well as magnitude of new tasks to be executed introduce organizational overlap and jeopardize the harmony among emergent units. My experience in Chile confirms the intricacy in synchronizing a larger number of responders in the face of an emergency.

References

Taylor, R.M. (2003). Dealing with death: Western philosophical perspectives. In *Handbook of Death & Dying*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.