



ABSTRACT

Floods are the widespread phenomenon due to the climate change. Pakistan is one of the hazard prone countries in the world. The worst flood ever recorded in the history of Pakistan hit southern parts of the province Punjab during 2010. It was a great challenge for vulnerable population of the area to cope with the flood. This study was conducted to assess the households coping responses of vulnerable population of flood affected areas of Kot Addu, District Muzaffargarh (Punjab, Pakistan). A sample of 300 households (150 from occasional flooding area and 150 from seasonal flooding area) were selected randomly and surveyed. A semi-structured questionnaire was designed to collect information from the respondents about their socio-economic, socio-demographic information, health risks and preparedness and adaptability to flood. The information obtained from these was then used to identify the coping response of people living in these areas.

The results of the study showed that no significant difference was found in socio-demographic status of both areas like educational status, occupation, dependency ratio, family size, housing condition and basic facilities at household level. A strong significant difference was however found in the household income in seasonal flooding area and this was one of the major contributing factors in coping flood as 83% households belonging to occasional flooding area had income less than Rs. 10,000 per month while 59% households belonging to seasonal flooding area had income level below Rs. 10,000. Malaria was common in both the areas while 7% households belonging to occasional flooding area were suffering from Hepatitis A & E and 49% had skin rashes in comparison to seasonal flooding area where 22% and 62% households had Hepatitis A & E and skin rashes respectively. The personal resources at household level were found the main coping response in seasonal flooding area. This has made these people adapted to the regular flood phenomenon. People living in the seasonal flooding area enhance their household income by indulging their all family members in daily wages. They migrate to safe places during flooding and after flood used their income in rehabilitation activities.



ABSTRACT

A strong difference was found in the coping responses of both the areas. Efforts should be made to educate and facilitate them to prevent from life and property losses and improve the coping mechanism.