

The Role of Media in Disaster Management: A Case Study With Nigerian Television Authority (NTA)

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All disaster preparedness programs require a way of making information and guidance available to the public so they will know what to do in times of crisis. The Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) is the most widely viewed electronic medium in Nigeria, with >30 million viewers. It, therefore, is important that it provide authoritative information about the threats of disasters or their consequences. This paper highlights the role played by the NTA as an electronic medium before, during, and following disasters in Nigeria. Disaster events in Nigeria have included the Lagos bomb explosion, the Jesse oil pipeline explosion, kerosene explosions, daily road traffic crashes, ethnic militant violence, and frequent flooding.

To prepare for disasters, the NTA staff are required to attend several training workshops. They also moderate programs to sensitize the populace during disasters. The NTA was able to conduct risk communication, which is a dialogue between the leaders and the public in times of crisis, when there is a dire need to make important decisions under stress. This method helped to rekindle faith in leadership, raise awareness, synthesize information, and encourage the tracking of victims who were missing, injured, or dead. Most important, it helped to mobilize various segments of society to volunteer in blood donations, and evacuation and consoling of victims.

This research documented lapses in disaster response such as lack of follow-up, poor distribution of food and water, and con artists posing as volunteers. The media revealed that a major problem in disaster management in Nigeria is delayed activation of first responders to the scene.

The media can play a leading role in disasters, both by information management and by mobilizing viewers as volunteers.

Keywords: media; Nigeria; Nigerian Television Authority (NTA); preparedness; volunteers

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Intestinal Evisceration From Transanal Suction

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Swimming pools can be the site of many types of accidents, often involving children. In recent years, we have seen an injury, which most often affects children. This is a report of a case of an 8-year-old girl who suffered a wading-pool suction-drain injury.

Transanal suction from a swimming pool drain can result in intestinal evisceration. This report includes management guidelines for this type of injury. This bizarre injury, which has devastating consequences for the children involved, is preventable.

Keywords: children; drain; evisceration; intestinal; Spain; swimming pool; transanal

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Proposal of the Concept of Prevented Death

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In order to evaluate the effectiveness of emergency medicine during a disaster, the concept of "preventable death" has been introduced. The concept is valuable and should be accepted. Disaster medicine aims to minimize the number of deaths resulting from a catastrophic event. This number is often referred to as the ratio of dead casualties to the number of total casualties. The available level of medical practice in each country or region influences this ratio. However, the number of dead or the ratio of the numbers of dead to the total number of casualties will vary for each event. Therefore, a comparison of the effectiveness of medical care between several different types of events or even in the same type of event often is impossible.

In order to compare the characteristics of each disaster and level of medical care available, this proposal presents an appraisal of the concept of the prevented death (alive) and the ratio between the numbers of prevented deaths versus preventable deaths. The calculated number of casualties whose deaths were prevented by appropriate emergency medical care is compared with those casualties whose deaths could not be prevented despite proper care. The above-mentioned ratio reflects the effectiveness (and futility) of the preparedness and development of medical staff more accurately: i.e., in special kinds of events, such as airplane crashes, there may be no prevented deaths, which does not necessarily reflect the existence of effective medical care if the number of preventable deaths also is few or zero. On the contrary, it may mean that the emergency medical care provided was effective during the disaster. For example, following an earthquake, the number of preventable deaths is estimated to be >10, and the actual number of prevented death is 1,000 despite a limited number of medical staff. In the Tokaimura incident, although two died, their deaths were not deemed preventable (expected death). Therefore, the ratio is thought to be 1(alive):0, which could be calculated relatively easily during the early phases of the disaster.

The concept of prevented death (and its ratio) may be useful for comparing the effectiveness and futility of medical care during mass casualties situations and the concept of preventable death, which has been advocated by the authors since 2001 (two times at previous Congresses of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM)), also is useful.

Keywords: concept; death; effectiveness; emergency; mass casualties; medical care; minimizing; preventable; prevented

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Cost Analysis of Disaster Management in Nigeria

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Various types of disasters occur in Nigeria and vary from location to location. Investigation reveals that road traffic crashes, fire disasters, and flood-related disasters occur most frequently. The Nigerian government, as well as sev-