

Sustainability | Individual communication

IC - (20944) - BASIC SURVEY OF DISASTER RISK AND COPING SKILLS OF RESIDENTS

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Background and objectives

In Japan, disasters caused by typhoons and heavy rains occur almost annually. Municipalities provide support by transmitting weather information to residents, instructing evacuations, and opening evacuation shelters. To plan for evacuation actions, the residents are expected to understand the relevant information, make flexible and timely decisions accordingly, and convert them into appropriate actions for evacuation, which involves a high degree of thought, analysis, and judgment. In this study, these abilities are referred to as disaster coping skills. Moreover, in recent years, the COVID-19 epidemic may have affected residents' evacuation behavior. This study aims to clarify the relationship between disaster coping skills and evacuation behavior, and between COVID-19 and evacuation behavior.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

In July 2018, a heavy rain disaster occurred in Japan. Subsequently, we conducted a questionnaire survey about "disaster risk" and "disaster coping skills" among the residents of the disaster affected area in 2020. The relationships between disaster coping skills and evacuation behavior and between COVID-19 and evacuation behavior were analyzed in the data obtained from a questionnaire survey.

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

We focused on four abilities to support disaster response: "disaster information comprehension," "disaster judgment," "disaster action," and "disaster physical strength." We found each related factor. Furthermore, we focused on the differences in evacuation behavior when COVID-19 was widespread and when it was no, and found differences depending on gender.

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

"Disaster risk" and "disaster coping skills" present individual differences such as age, physical characteristics, number of years of residence, and family structure, and it is considered useful for local residents to understand each other in times of disaster and recovery. Therefore, we plan to develop a "flood risk communication site for residents" to enable local residents to understand the risks for themselves and the difference in risk from others.

Palavras-chave : Digital hazard map, Disaster prevention, Evacuation plan, Disaster Coping Skills