Community in climate

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Structure of Presentation

- Introduction
- Aim & objectives
- Methodology
- Findings
- Conclusion

Introduction

- Social work is committed to community development following the principles of:
  - social justice,
  - human rights, and
  - respect for diversity amongst people and cultures.
- It advocates for sustainable development and protection from environmental hazards / risks.
- It is dedicated to the reduction of vulnerabilities (in whatever form) that could jeopardize environmental sustainability.

Aims & Objectives

- The paper presents findings of an empirical study which aimed at:
  - interrogating community perceptions of hazards, vulnerability, and disaster risks;
  - assess community preparedness systems, measures, and disaster risk reduction strategies; and
  - identify the role of social workers in enhancing community resilience to disasters in the South East District of Botswana

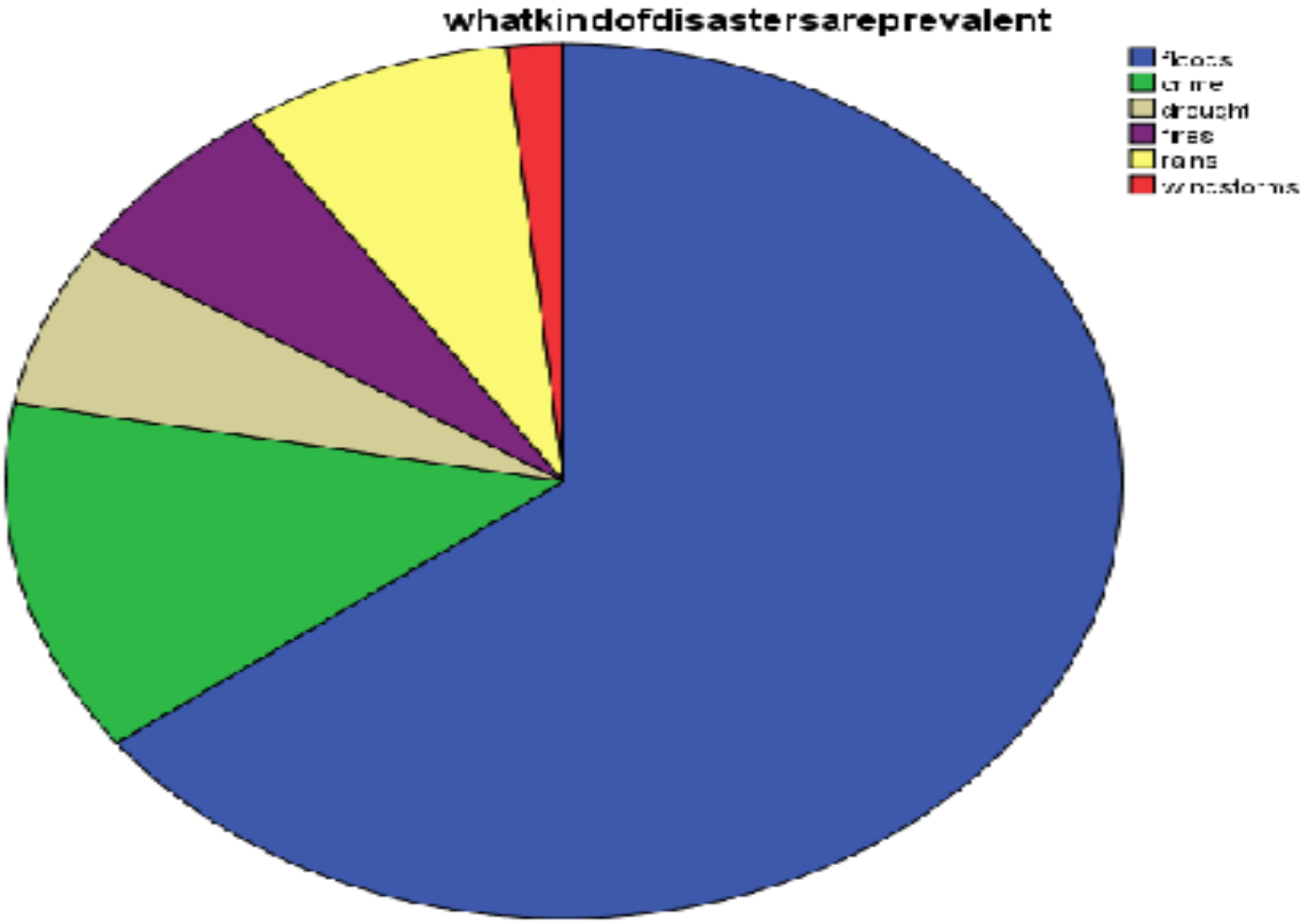
Methodology

- The mixed methods research design which combines both qualitative and quantitative research paradigms for complimentary purposes was adopted.
- Data were collected through face-to-face interviews, questionnaires, and focus group discussions complemented by the review of disaster policy documents and statutory instruments.
- The sample was drawn from a total population of 37 696 for the three (3) localities (Ramotswa, Otse and Mogobane).
- A sample population of 3567 respondents was selected for the quantitative phase and 90 participants for the qualitative phase.

Findings

- Local communities are vulnerable to diverse climate change related hazards (floods, windstorms, drought, torrential rains, and pollution) which impact negatively on their livelihoods and sustenance.
- Community vulnerability to disasters is increasingly complicated by climate change and variability.
- The findings reveal that vulnerability resonates with the lack of disaster knowledge, inadequate information on environmental hazards and risks peculiar to the community, and
- unwillingness to assess the hazards and/or risks and adoption of appropriate community interventions.

Common hazards/ disasters



Vulnerability

It was established that 52% of the respondents as compared to 48% were unable to differentiate a hazard from a disaster, and that they were not prepared to respond to climate change related hazards/ risks as shown below (Maripe, 2015).

- No Floods response 63% (2241)
- No Windstorms response 59% (2107)
- No Torrential rains response 56% (2007)
- No Overflowing dams response 63% (2240)
- No Wild veld fires response 58% (2071)
- No Drought response 63% (2241)
- No Heatwave response 72% (2576)
- NO Earthquake response 84% (3012)

Vulnerability consequences

- The environmental hazards with associated risks places an inconsiderate demand on households and/ or communities with limited social, economic, and psychological resources.
- When demand resulting from hazard /risks exceeds ability and capacity of households and / or communities to meet strong needs, stress results and
- increases the vulnerability and delay or hinder recovery from disaster losses (Israel & Schurman, 1990: 191).

Stress theory

- stressor (hazards/ risks)

- stress appraisal (weak community capacity to contain risk assessed)

- stress response (high vulnerability, increased stress/ anxiety)

Inadequate preparedness

No District /Community disaster zones

doyouhavedistrictcommunitydisasterzones

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	574	16.1	16.3	16.3
	no	2949	82.7	83.7	100.0
	Total	3523	98.8	100.0	
Missing	System	44	1.2		
Total		3567	100.0		

No District/Community Early Warnings

doyouhavedistrictdisasterearlywarnings

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	887	24.9	25.2	25.2
	no	2632	73.8	74.8	100.0
	Total	3519	98.7	100.0	
Missing	System	48	1.3		
Total		3567	100.0		

Inadequate preparedness

No District /Community disaster Evacuation plan

doyouhavedistrictcommunitydisasterevacuationplan

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	894	25.1	25.4	25.4
	no	2632	73.8	74.6	100.0
	Total	3526	98.9	100.0	
Missing	System	41	1.1		
Total		3567	100.0		

No District / community disaster profile

doyouhaveadisasterprofileforthedistrictandcommunity

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	579	16.2	16.5	16.5
	no	2938	82.4	83.5	100.0
	Total	3517	98.6	100.0	
Missing	System	50	1.4		
Total		3567	100.0		

Conclusions

- Communities are the key actors in both environmental hazards/ risk creation, risk management, and sustaining environments
- They are central players in their vulnerability, environmental, and climate change related safety and development
- They are victims and / survivors of climate change related disasters
- They must lead the risk management efforts to ensure resilience and sustainable environments

Community interventions

Resilience theory demands an assessment of possible dangers, the pressures on the object, ability to endure, and time for recovery:

- Community hazards & risk and capacity mapping (zoning)
- Develop community risk management and response plan
- Establishing trained disaster action teams (multi skilled teams)
- Undertake community education and awareness and capacity building
- Isolate Evacuation areas and related protocols
- Conduct community hazard related drills
- Establish community monitoring and evaluation systems (continuous hazard and risk analysis)