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**Problem Statement**

The problem is a risk of religious discrimination when faith-based organizations (FBOs) provide aid following natural disasters, especially in religiously diverse communities FBOs (Chowdhury et al, 2018). Faith-based organizations (FBOs) play a significant role during natural disasters, offering various assistance and support to affected communities. However, their involvement also raises important questions and challenges. The research will explore potential issues and problems associated with FBOs during natural disasters. There is a risk of religious discrimination when FBOs provide aid, especially in religiously diverse communities. Care must be taken to ensure that assistance is offered impartially. Doctrinal differences: Faith-based organizations may have different beliefs, norms and values, creating challenges when providing services to a diverse population. Ensuring inclusivity and respect for all individuals is essential (Davis, et al., 2018; Khan,et al., 2023).

Faith-based organizations have a crucial role in disaster response and recovery efforts. Their local knowledge, resources, and community well-being commitment can significantly make a difference. However, it’s essential to address potential challenges and ensure that aid is provided impartially and transparently, respecting the diversity of the affected populations. Collaboration between FBOs, governments, and secular organizations can enhance the overall effectiveness of disaster relief efforts.

**Purpose Statement**

The purpose of this qualitative study is to explore the extent to which faith-based organization (FBOs) operate impartially toward communities for disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts. This study seeks to uncover how faith-groups provide assistance and spiritual guidance by using constructivists’ approaches such as narrative and semi-structured interviews. The study draws on relevant literature and existing research (Jared et al, 2017; McCabe,et al., 2021; Phillips, 2020) to inform the investigation and contribute to a deeper understanding of the intersection between faith-based initiatives and disaster relief services.

**Background of the Problem**

In the last two decades disasters (hazards) have affected approximately 4.4 billion people, caused $2 trillion of damage and killed 1.3 million people (CRED, 2020; Kelly, et al, 2023). Disasters both environmental (natural), humanity (social), and the combination of both (environmental-societal) pose a significant threat to communities and individuals. The goals of this study is to explore how faith-based organization (FBOs) play a role in the psychological, socio-economic, cultural emotional factors affect community member.

However, existing research tends to focus on FBO disaster response's material and logistical aspects. This study explores the role of faith-based organizations (FBOs) in responding to natural disasters from a narrative perspective. This study utilizes a qualitative approach to delve into the stories and experiences of community members, examining how t faith-based groups may influence their understanding of disasters and their response strategies. By analyzing the narratives of disaster survivors FBOs, this research aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of the unique perspectives and contributions of faith-based organizations in disaster management (Lateef, et al, 2022).

**Significance**

This study’s significance lies in exploring the substantial role that faith-based organizations (FBOs) play in natural disaster response and recovery efforts. Understanding their impact is crucial for several reasons: Firstly, faith-based organizations (FBOs) often serve as essential humanitarian aid providers during and after natural disasters. They offer food, shelter, medical care, and other critical services to affected individuals and communities. Investigating their role can shed light on how they contribute to meeting immediate need (Bathina,et al, 2022; Clarke, et al, 2019; Najafi, et al., Torani, et al, 2019). Secondly, faith-based organizations (FBOs) frequently have deep roots within communities. They can mobilize volunteers and resources quickly, enhancing the resilience of disaster-affected areas. Studying their involvement can reveal how they facilitate community recovery and resilience-building. Thirdly, Spiritual and Emotional Support: FBOs provide physical but also emotional and spiritual support to survivors. Their presence can offer comfort and solace to those affected by trauma. The study can elucidate the impact of this type of support on survivors’ well-being (Aten, 2019; Davis, et al, 2018). Lastly, understanding the role of FBOs in disaster response can shed light on their collaboration with government agencies, non-governmental organization (NGOs) faith-based nongovernmental organizations (FNGOs), and other organizations. Effective coordination is essential during crises, and this research can highlight best practices in inter-agency collaboration (Rohlman, et al., 2022; Sapat, 2019). In summary, this study’s significance lies in illuminating the multifaceted contributions of faith-based organizations to natural disaster response and recovery. By understanding their impact, we can enhance disaster management practices, promote community resilience, and ultimately improve the outcomes for disaster-affected populations.

**Research Questions**

RQ1: How do faith-based organizations (FBOs) serve communities during disaster preparedness, response, and recovery and mitigation efforts?

RQ2: What strategies do faith-based organizations (FBOs) use to serve religiously diverse communities impartially during disaster preparedness, response, and recovery and mitigation efforts?

RQ3: How does the involvement of faith-based organizations (FBOs) influence the resilience of affected communities in the face of natural disasters?

RQ4: How does the involvement of faith-based organizations (FBOs) influence the well-being of affected communities in the face of natural disasters?

**Research Methodology**

 Methodology for Interdisciplinary Research (MIR) framework was constructed to facilitate across disciplinary borders between the natural and social sciences. This design also allows for various methods combinations (case study, narrative inquiry, unstructured interviews) to be used in the investigation of humankind and their environment (Agaza et al, 2019; Jordan, 2018).

**Instrumentation**

This research study aims to investigate the factors that influence individuals’ decisions to stay in place during disasters. The researcher will explore narrative (stories) followed by the implementation of a field-tested developed questionnaire to collect data on community memebers’ motivations for sheltering in place, their knowledge about disasters, and their attitudes towards faith groups’ assistance. By examining these aspects, the study seeks to provide insights into the drivers behind stay-decisions during disasters and shed light on the potential areas for improving disaster preparedness and response strategies (Scheffelaar et al; 2021; Yee, 2023).

**Theoretical Framework**

This study’s theoretical and conceptual framework is based on disaster management cycle (DMC) four classic cycles disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. Research on disaster management is derived from many disciplines, perspectives, and meaning and understood as an ongoing cycle or phase comprised of activities occurring before, during and a disaster or emergency (Mishra, 2019).This framework may provide a structured approach to disaster management and helps understand and address the complex dynamics of disasters and inform stakeholder’s participants such as policymakers, emergency managers, and researchers make informed decisions (Khan et al, 2023; Tay, et al, 2022). The aim of disaster management is to reduce, or avoid, the potential losses from hazards, assure prompt and appropriate assistance to disaster is to reduce, or avoid, the potential losses from hazards, assure prompt and appropriate assistance to disaster victims, and achieve rapid and effective recovery (Misha, et al, 2019; Sanders-Thompson, et al, 2020).

Preparedness is a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, and training, equipping, evaluating, and taking corrective action. It is taking action or before disaster (hazard) to improve community operational responses and recovery (Beyeamijam et al, 2020). The main focus of this phase is collaboration among emergency planers, and other official for assessing material and resources for a disaster-specific location (emergency kits, food shelter, salvage and recovery. The response phrase is the reaction to a disaster, hazard, or emergency. It begins with identifying, monitoring, assessing, and modifying the immediate needs of survivors (This phase requires communication, coordination, cooperation, and collaboration among stakeholders assisting with the protection of life and property, medical attention, food, and shelter, search and rescue; emergency relief The recovery phrase occurs right after the response phase or when the threat to human life has diminished. The transition between these phases happens at different types, depending on the type and the location of a disaster or hazard. Recovery efforts include reestablishing critical functions and services, e.g., utilities, waters. It also includes the restoration and rebuilding of infrastructure. Local government plays a vital role in creating recovery scenarios that promote effective mitigation ((Ottinger, 2020). Mitigation has been receiving special attention since and involves taking sustain action to reduce harmful effects or manage detrimental incidents that have already occurred. It is an effort to reduce long-term risk or loss to life and property by diminishing the impact of a disaster or emergency (Burger et al, 2019; Najafi,et al, 2017). Research on disaster management is derived from many disciplines, perspectives, and meaning and understood as an ongoing cycle or phase comprised of activities occurring before, during and a disaster or emergency.

**Research Design**

Qualitative methodologies is a type of research that produces findings not arrive by mathematical or numerical operation or other means of quantification. The research will design a study that involves qualitative research with emerging questions and procedures about the personal experiences of the researcher, as well as collecting data and personal stories about the respondent’s lives in their settings (Aspers, et al, 2019, Boros, 2018; Creswell et al, 2018; Kelly et al, 2023). Narrative research design falls within the realm of social constructivism or the philosophy that people lived stories capture the complexities and nuanced understanding of their significant experiences

**Population and Sampling**

The target population for study will be approximately eight different faith groups and denominations (churches, mosques, temples, synagogues). Therefore, the researcher chose a purposive sampling technique. This technique refers to a group of non-probability sampling techniques in which units are selected because they have characteristics you need in your sample. In other words, units are selected “on purpose. This technique seems because disaster and hazards impact different organizations and locations. Purposive sampling s the selection of a unique population of leaders, volunteers, members, and beneficiaries of faith-based organizations involved in disaster relief. These stakeholder participants are likely to provide valuable insight and contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the specific challenges between the interconnectedness between those who are providing assistance and the community receiving help. The sample size will be between 15-25 participants.

Cluster sampling?3 participants from each of the 8 organizations’

Semi-Structured Focus-Group Protocol (one focus group for each of the 8 organizations)

**Data Analysis Plan**

This study will utilize manual coding and Creswell and Poth’s Data Analysis Spiral for data analysis. Step one: Managing and organizing the data (data preparation). To begin, Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing among Five Approaches (2018), was written for everyone who is interested in research and who is interested in researching a specific phenomenon. Creswell and Poth (2018) described the word phenomena as an abstract or concrete construct that interests qualitative researchers (Tarnoki et al., 2019). Step Two: Reading and memoing emergent ideas. Step Three: Describing and classifying codes into themes, Step Four: Developing and assessing interpretations, Steps Five; representing and visualizing the data.

In this step, I plan on preparing the data for analysis. Based on your description, you’re referring to Creswell and Poth’s approach, which can be summarized as follows: The researcher will deeply understand this phenomenon and its relevance to your study. It’s crucial to maintain consistency and rigor in your data collection process. Information will transcript data from stories and semi-structured interviews. The researcher will also develop codes as I analyze the data follow by securing data to ensure integrity and confidentiality.

These steps begin by immersing yourself in the data. Read through the transcripts or documents related to faith-based organizations and natural disasters. I will jot down your thoughts, initial impressions, and emerging ideas. Memos are short notes that help you capture these insights. Following by identifying Patterns- looking for patterns, themes, or recurring ideas within the data. This process may involve highlighting or annotating sections of the text that seem relevant to your research questions. The researcher will maintain a systematic approach and stay open to the emergence of new insights as you progress through the analysis process Dehkordi, et al, 2021).

**Summary**

In conclusion, faith-based organizations have a crucial role in disaster response and recovery efforts. Their local knowledge, resources, and community well-being commitment can significantly make a difference. However, it’ is essential to address potential challenges and ensure that aid is provided impartially and transparently, respecting the diversity of the affected populations. Collaboration between FBOs, governments, and secular organizations can enhance the overall effectiveness of disaster relief efforts.

**Definitions**

A church, also referred to as a local church, is a religious organization or congregation that gathers in a specific physical location. These congregations are often formally organized, with established constitutions and by-laws that outline their structure and principles (Weems, 2021).

A community is a shared organization, social unit, or group living in a given locality based on shared government, cultural heritage, norms, and mutual support (Nouwen, 2023;

Constructivism refers to the concept or theory that people co-create through mentally constructed meanings shaped by lived experiences. The process involves the integration of new information with prior knowledge (Laidlaw et al, 2023; Pina Gavidia et al, 2022).

Disasters are unexpected calamitous events or situations: Disasters are events or situations that occur suddenly and unexpectedly, often causing widespread distress, destruction of infrastructure, and disruption of essential services (Fadhliah, et al 2022; Kelman, 2020).

Faith-based organizations (FBOs) are professional or paraprofessional groups that work with a primary social service whose mission is grounded in social values and beliefs of a specific faith. These organizations may draw their volunteers and staff from particular faith groups (Ngin, et al, 2020; Noor et al, 2023).

Mitigation is a dynamic and evolving process that requires ongoing efforts and collaboration at various levels, including local communities, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the international community. It is a comprehensive approach to lessen the adverse effects of disaster (Boetto, et al, 2021; Goniewicz et al, Tay, et al, 2021).

Narrative inquiry is a qualitative research method that focuses on the complexity of lived experiences shared through one narrative (stories) offer a nuanced and contextually rich understanding (Boehm Cross, et al, 2022, McCabe, et al, 2021).

-Preparedness is the phase of anticipatory action before a disaster occurs. This phase consist of organizing, planning, training, and corrective actions to improve community operational responses and recovery efforts Boetto, et al, 2021; Goniewicz et al, Vinnell, et al, 2021).

The recovery phase is a complex and multidimensional process of rapid coordinated effort among emergency responders and local officials to restore and rebuild communities, infrastructure, and systems (Khan, et al, 2023; SAMSHA, 2022).

Response is the protocol and strategies needed for quick, decisive actions to address the immediate aftermath of a disaster or loss of life. This phase require rapid deployment of resources, and the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders involved (Khan, et al, 2023; Ottinger, 2022).

Volunteering is a form of prosocial behaviors that refers to the intentional and selfless act of an individual dedicating their time, skills, and efforts to help others or causes with a constructivist approach to the community (Bailey et al, 2022; Phillips, 2020; Wilson, 2023).

**Abbreviations**

AMS -American Meteorological Society

CRED - Center for Research Epidemiology of Disasters

DHS-Department of Homeland Security

DRC-Disaster Research Center

EM-DAT -Emergency Event Database

FEMA- Federal Emergency Management Agency

IPCC-Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

IFRC -International Red Cross

NCAR- National center for Atmospheric Research

NIH- National Institute of Health

NOAA- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

UN -United Nation

USGS- United States Geological Survey

WHO World Health Organization

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