

PROPOSAL FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ON DISASTERS FOR
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: SUGGESTION FOR COSTA RICA

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ABSTRACT

This present work aims at developing specific lines to suggest an integrated educational program about natural reduction for the Latin American socio-economic and cultural reality. Despite scattered educational efforts in the region, no experience on comprehensive attempts, has been recorded. It brings some of the latest theoretical findings in the area of sociology of disasters plus a geographical view of the relationship between society and environment in developing countries, to instruct citizens properly, through the structures involved in planning, assessing, responding and disseminating knowledge on disasters. Tied to the occupation of the space and the socio-economic effects of disasters, this educational effort should start by instructing the very elements responsible of civil protection, creation and transmission of accurate information.

Responsible and affected people have to be reached equally using the new dimensions of this new approach, collective participation and solutions rooted in joint decision making processes, must be of central concern.

It is from a sociological perspective, linked to the physical aspects of these phenomena that, theoretically and practically this project can be called comprehensive.

Appropriate risk awareness not only will reduce hazards but will contribute with vulnerability identification creating conditions for a sustained development without noxious assumptions or myths about disasters, unfortunately widespread in the area, including Costa Rica.

Education, formal and informal, seen as a tool can generate information exchange between all parts involved in disasters focusing on protective action and good levels of preparedness.

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