

Review of: "An approach to the background, methods and challenges of research in disasters"

Ananda Y. Karunarathne¹

1 University of Colombo

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The scope of this work is quite significant, but the manuscript did not sufficiently explain the research methods, and implications of the research findings. Having looked the paper over carefully, specifically, I have a few major concerns and suggestions to the authors, which are listed below:

In general, this manuscript is written in such a manner as both the details underlying the research motivation and the research methodology are not clearly articulated. In this article that workflow of Systematic Literature Review is not well-described. I would suggest, author/s need to improve this part by adding a flow chart to the methodology section, explaining the Overview of the Systematic Literature Review process, step by step. For example, how the study filtered scholarly works from the existing body of literature?

Authors can use the PRISMA approach for their literature review. Then answer to the following questions;

What are Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria of the PRISMA approach? This should be clearly stated.

Authors can consider to search for literature from institutional documents, grey literature, and peer-reviewed journal articles etc. I also suggest author/s to mention, How many considered from each category?

I don't see the Research Questions. What are the Research Questions of this study/Systematic literature review? The research question/s should be clearly stated.

I cannot see how this manuscript contributes much to the existing body of literature on the topic, even in an applied context. Author/s need to explain clearly, what is the intellectual merit or innovative application of this review.

I kindly suggest authors to cite the following related research papers which are exemplifying some insights about the applications of disasters from the extant body of literature as well;

Karunarathne, A.Y. & Lee, G., (2020a). Developing a multi-facet social vulnerability measure for flood disasters at the micro-level assessment, *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 49, 101679.

Karunarathne, A.Y. & Lee, G., (2020b). The geographies of the dynamic evolution of social networks for the flood disaster response and recovery, *Applied Geography*, 125, 102274.

Adger, W.N. (1999), Social Vulnerability to Climate Change and Extremes in Coastal Vietnam, World Development, 27(2),



pp. 249-269.

Adger, W.N. (2006), Vulnerability, *Global Environmental Change*, 16, pp. 268–281.

A discussion of the weaknesses and limitations of the method used/study is missing which could guide fellow researchers.

Good Luck!!!