

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

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper presents an easily identifiable possible advance in knowledge, which can be applicable and useful for other researchers, and the subject matter is within the scope of the journal; however, before being published, it requires a few improvements, including methodology, content with more recent sources and elaboration on their methodologies, and the writing style.

In terms of methodology, it is important to elaborate further on the strategy implemented. It is very important for that study to have a bibliometric analysis. Please see the following papers:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212420922002813>;

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0148296321003155>;

<https://ascelibrary.org/doi/10.1061/JUPDDM.UPENG-4311>.

It is also important to clarify what criteria were used to select the studies presented in the paper.

Regarding the writing, some of the ideas don't have a logical sequence. For instance, the abstract should have the following sequence: Introduction to the topic – the identified issue – the purpose/goal of the paper – the applied methodology to achieve the goal – the main findings. Moreover, many of the words in the abstract are identical to the text, which does not read well.

A proposed structure for the abstract is below.

*Paragraph 1 (Introduction) – Disasters are phenomena ...(rephrase). Current disaster research is developed ...*

*Paragraph 2 (issue) – Even so, the predominant research ... [As a consequence] Important challenges ...*

*Paragraph 3 (purpose/goal) – The purpose of the paper is to review ...*

*Paragraph 4 (methodology) – This study is [uses] a review of bibliographic elements ...*

*Paragraph 5 (findings) – Solving these challenges will depend ... (rewrite and elaborate further – This study has demonstrated that ...).*

In terms of the content, despite the substantial increase in papers on disasters in the past ten years, most of the bibliography listed was published before 2013. It is recommended that the authors include more recent bibliographies to make sure that the topic explored in their paper has not been published elsewhere. The bibliometric analysis abovementioned will help.

Some of the references to studies only show facts, such as source 10 (Prince 1919) and source 12 (Mosley 1970). It should elaborate on the research methodology applied to the publication, as this is the paper's main theme. There is no reference to some of the sources included in the third paragraph of the *Results* section.

Since the authors think that research in disaster needs a '*common conceptual framework that allows multidisciplinary research*', the paper should either provide that framework or at least provide guidelines on how to develop that framework, otherwise, it will be limited to identifying an issue which, although important, it makes the study incomplete. *The authors also need to explain further what the benefits of multidisciplinary and collaborative research will be.*

In the first paragraph of the *Discussion*, there is a '*growing trend*' in what regarding disaster research? For the second sentence, the authors should give examples of publications that dedicate a limited part to slow-onset disasters.

One of the heads of Table 1 is written in Spanish. The grammar of the text needs to be reviewed as there are a few mistakes, such as punctuation, initiating sentences with numbers, 'And', and 'But'.

In general, the study shows promise in terms of its quality, but in its current form, it is not suitable for publication.