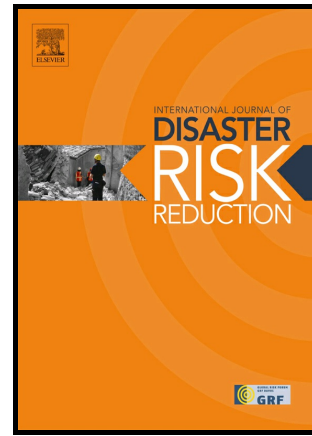


Author's Accepted Manuscript

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NEW APPROACH FOR DISASTER
EDUCATION IN THE IMMEDIATE
AFTERMATH OF A DISASTER

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www.elsevier.com/locate/ijdr

PII: S2212-4209(16)30199-6
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdr.2016.08.026>
Reference: IJDRR409

To appear in: *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*

Received date: 5 May 2016
Revised date: 31 August 2016
Accepted date: 31 August 2016

Cite this article as: Bartolucci Andrea and Magni Michele, INFLUENCE RATHER THAN CONTROL: A NEW APPROACH FOR DISASTER EDUCATION IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF A DISASTER, *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdr.2016.08.026>

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INFLUENCE RATHER THAN CONTROL: A NEW APPROACH FOR DISASTER EDUCATION IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF A DISASTER

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ABSTRACT

The immediate aftermath of a disaster is one of the most critical phase for disaster managers because the assistance by the relief units is not immediately available and authorities have little control over the situation. In this phase people on the field rely on themselves and actions can affect the following operations. This phase has been rarely studied consistently; this lack of knowledge affects both response and preparedness strategies and, in particular, usually results in behavioural guidelines and educational programs that are neither necessary effective for people's safety nor useful for relief activities.

In this paper we suggested an alternative approach based on a decision flow chart that can be used to develop educational programs in order to improve the adapting capacity of survivors to disaster and to consider them as a resource in response activities. 45 individuals were asked to fill a scored questionnaire before and after three different treatments (two educational programs, one video) in order to assess and compare their effectiveness in influencing the survivors' behavior. Results showed that the mean score of respondents trained using the new educational approach was significantly higher than the mean scores of the other groups and that the new approach succeeds in influencing their reaction to a disaster situation. This paper provides an

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