

**INCLUSIVITY OF MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES
DURING THE POST-DISASTER PHASE IN SRI LANKA**

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Doctor of Philosophy

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August 2024

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Thesis/Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree
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DECLARATION

I declare that this is my own work and this thesis/dissertation does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any other University or Institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text. I retain the right to use this content in whole or part in future works (such as articles or books).

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Date: 27.08.2024

The above candidate has carried out research for the PhD/~~MPhil~~/~~Masters~~ thesis/~~dissertation~~ under my supervision. I confirm that the declaration made above by the student is true and correct.

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DEDICATION

*I dedicate this piece of research to my beloved
family and teachers*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am sincerely grateful to all those who contributed to the successful completion of this monumental journey - my PhD. This endeavor was not a solitary pursuit but a collective effort that was made possible by the unwavering support and encouragement of numerous individuals.

First and foremost, my heartfelt appreciation goes to my research supervisor, Dr. Menaha Thayaparan, whose guidance, inspiration, and supervision were pivotal throughout this challenging journey. Her mentorship has been a beacon, shaping not just my research but also molding me into the person I am today in academia. I extend my deepest gratitude to my co-supervisor, Prof. Yamuna Kaluarachchi, for her invaluable guidance that played a vital role in the success of this endeavor and my research career. Further, I am grateful to Prof. Chaminda Pathirage for his priceless advice and suggestions that enriched the quality of my study.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the examiners, Prof. Udayangani Kulatunga, Prof. Thayaparan Gajendran, and Prof. Suzanne Wilkinson, and the chairperson, Prof. Udeni Nawagamuwa, for their insightful and constructive feedback. Their valuable comments have not only enhanced the quality of my thesis but also prompted me to approach my work with a higher level of critical thinking and self-assurance.

The Department of Building Economics at the University of Moratuwa has been my academic home, and I am grateful to all academic and non-academic staff members. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Prof. Anuradha Waidyasekara, the head of the Department of Building Economics, Prof. Yasangika Sandanayake, the dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Dr. Sachie Gunatilake, the director of postgraduate studies, and Dr. Chandanie Handiwattage, the department postgraduate research coordinator, for their enormous guidance provided to make this attempt a success.

I am indebted to Dr. Kaushal Keraminiyage, Prof. Terrence Fernando, Prof. Bingunath Ingirige, and Mrs. Pavithra Ganeshu, along with Dr. Thayaparan and Prof. Kaluarachchi, for facilitating my international exposure at the University of Salford, United Kingdom.

I would like to extend my special thanks to Dr. Aparna Samaraweera, Prof. Kanchana Perera, Ch. QS. Vijitha Disaratna, and Dr. Kanchana Ginige for their unwavering support in honing my research and writing skills. I also appreciate the camaraderie of my fellow researchers in the department.

I express sincere thanks to the interview and focus group participants for their invaluable support during the data collection phase. Their cooperation was instrumental in achieving the desired outcomes of my research.

A heartfelt acknowledgment is also due to Hanneke van Dijk, whose meticulous proofreading greatly contributed to the refinement of my thesis.

Lastly, but with the utmost significance, my heartfelt love and gratitude are reserved for my dear parents and sister. Their unwavering support, infinite patience, and boundless encouragement have propelled me beyond my perceived limits. A special mention of gratitude goes to my husband, who walked beside me from beloved boyfriend during my PhD journey as a constant source of support and encouragement. Finally, heartfelt appreciation to my friends and the unsung heroes behind my success - your steadfast support has been the wind beneath my wings.

This journey has been challenging, transformative, and immensely rewarding, and I am deeply grateful to each individual who played a role, no matter how small, in making this achievement possible.

ABSTRACT

Marginalised communities are often overlooked during post-disaster management despite the adoption of resilience and inclusion ideals by the international community. The existing community protection system is too limited and needs to better serve the real needs of marginalised communities in post-disaster situations in Sri Lanka. There is limited literature on the participation of marginalised communities during the post-disaster phase, and policies need to be reviewed to ensure they benefit such communities. Therefore, this research aimed to enhance the inclusivity of marginalised communities during the post-disaster phase in Sri Lanka.

This research took an interpretivist philosophical position and used the abductive approach for theory development. The chosen methodology was a mixed methods approach with a predominant qualitative focus. Literature review, structured interviews, desk study, stakeholder interviews, key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and expert validation interviews were used to collect data. Data analysis techniques included literature synthesis, relative importance index, stakeholder analysis, thematic analysis, and code-based content analysis.

The research findings showed that greater inclusivity, transparency, and support could be achieved by considering the priorities highlighted by marginalised communities in the face of post-disaster challenges. The stakeholder analysis revealed a lack of clearly defined responsibilities among most key stakeholders. There is also a shortage of collaboration among the key stakeholders. While policies do exist in Sri Lanka that address the needs of marginalised communities in disaster management to some extent, gaps in policy implementation, formulation, and a lack of stakeholder awareness of the policies exclude these communities from post-disaster situations. Therefore, a framework was developed that includes eight strategic goals, each with short-term, medium-term, and long-term target activities, to address the issues identified in the research. Prioritising and equally addressing all strategic goals is recommended to provide holistic support throughout the post-disaster phases. The developed framework can significantly impact disaster management professionals, policymakers, and governments worldwide, promoting equity and social justice in disaster management and beyond.

Keywords: Inclusivity; marginalised communities; post-disaster phases; Sri Lanka; stakeholder analysis

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
ADB	Asian Development Bank
DMC	Disaster Management Centre
DOJF	Disability Organisations Joint Front
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
KII	Key Informant Interview
NCDM	National Council for Disaster Management
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PRISMA	Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses
SA	Stakeholder Analysis
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
UN	United Nations
UN CEDAW	United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

UN Spider	United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WHO	World Health Organisation

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