

**NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES OF FLOOD VICTIMS AND THE ROLES OF
LIBRARIANS AND MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS: A QUALITATIVE CASE
STUDY OF FLOOD VICTIMS IN KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA**

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ABSTRACT: *Flood is one of the unwanted disasters human beings experienced on this earth. In order to propose for post-traumatic therapies for flood victims, this study was set up to find out the negative experiences of flood victims in Kaduna state Nigeria during and after flood disasters that occurred in 24th August, 2018. Specifically, the role of Librarians and mental health Counselors can play to cope with the undesirable experience. In order to achieve these unique objectives, qualitative research methodology was adopted and interviewed ten (10) participants. Findings of this study revealed that shocked and confused, Stranded, Loss of valuable materials and mocking from neighborhood were the negative experiences of flood victims in Kaduna state Nigeria during and after flood disasters that occurred in 24th August, 2018. Finally, the researchers proposed some recommendations for practical intervention.*

KEYWORDS: Experiences; Flood; Flood Victims; Librarians; Counselors; Qualitative Case Study; Thematic analysis.

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INTRODUCTION

It is not longer new news that flood is one of the disasters that occurred co-currently around the globe. Flood alone has been reported to be the course of death for over 10,000 people and displaced the live-hood of over 3.4 million people (Jakubica, 2010). Flood has several consequences such as psychological effects, mental health effects, separates healthy relationships and loss of business activities and infrastructure. To address issues related to flood disaster, scholars have approached

the problem from different dimensions. For example, Jakubicka 2010 and Amooko 2015 identified the causes of flood. While, Ahodzie 2006 discussed the strategies for flood management. Meanwhile, North 2004, and Amooko 2012 focused on the challenges of flood disaster, Liu 2002, Goenjian 2001, captured the experiences of flood victims.

Even though the above scholars have succeeded in reporting incidents of floods in their various articles, but, at the time of writing this research work we confirmed that there is no one single empirical study that identify, capture or document the negative experiences of flood victims in Kaduna state, Nigeria that occurred on 24th August 2018 and more importantly the roles of Librarians and counselors in curbing the negative experiences. Therefore, there is a critical need for this study to be conducted.

What we knew

Scholars from different profession debated, discussed and published empirical research articles on issues related to the concept of flood, causes of flood and affects of flood.

What we don't know

In this study, the researchers confirmed that at the time of conducting this study there is no one single empirical study that identified and discussed the negative experiences of flood victims in Kaduna state Nigeria during and after flood disasters that occurred in 24th August, 2018. Particularly, the contributions of Librarians and Counselors to cope with the undesirable experiences.

Objectives of the study

This study was set up to specifically to achieve the following objectives:

1. To find out the Negative Experiences of Flood Victims in Kaduna State, Nigeria.
2. To identify the roles of Librarians in curbing the negative experiences of Flood Victims in Kaduna State, Nigeria.
3. To ascertain the roles of mental health counselors in curbing the negative experiences of Flood Victims in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

METHOD

Qualitative case study approach was used to design semi-structured interview for ten (10) participants. Qualitative case study allows for an in-depth examination of individuals' social phenomenon, or other observations within their real-life context for the purposes of investigation, theory development and testing (Lincoln & Guba, 2000).

Analysis

All data collected in this study was analyzed based on thematic analysis phases. Thematic analysis is a qualitative analytical method for identifying, analyzing and reporting patterns, themes, phrases and key words in minimally organized and describable data in rich and detail (Braun & Clarke, 2006).

Phase 1: The entire voice recorded interview was transcribed into written document while later, the researchers carefully read and re-read the data more than five times with the help of highlighter pen in order to search for themes or phrases which directly answered the research questions.

Phase 2: Open codes (themes or phrases which directly answered the research questions) were identified from the participants narratives.

Phase 3: Open codes were condensed together and formed sub-categories.

Phase 4: Sub- categories based on a particular research question were grouped together (related sub-categories) and formed several themes.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations in research refer to a designated policy protecting the reputation of participants under investigation. For the purpose of this study, the researchers explained the study purpose, objectives and the whole research process to the participants before obtaining their consent to participate. Moreover, the researchers assured the participants that should anyone of them wants to discontinue during the course of the research he/she will be free to do so. Confidentiality and anonymity was censured by protecting the privacy of the research participants for not exposing their names at any stage in this research.

RESULT

Rich qualitative data was collected and analyzed from flood victims of Kaduna state Nigeria regarding their experiences during and after flood disasters that occurred in 24th August, 2018 then literally generated the following themes and sub-themes as described below:

Table 1. Experiences of Flood Victims of Kaduna State, Nigeria

Investigation	Themes	Sub-Themes
What are the experiences of flood victims of Kaduna state that occurred on 24 th August, 2018?	Experiences during flood	• Shocked and confused
	Experiences after flood	• Stranded • Loss of valuable materials • Mocking from neighborhood

The above table represents the voices of flood victims of Kaduna state that occurred on 24th August, 2018. The table consist two (2) major themes and four (4) sub-themes which were explained below:

Experiences during flood

The above was generated from the narration of flood victims in this case study. The theme comprises only one sub-theme.

Shocked and confused

Shocked and confused was described by flood victims of Kaduna state as the negative experience they gain during the flood disaster incident that occurred 24th August, 2018. Over 10/10

participants reported shocked and confused as one of the experience they gained during the incident. For example one of the victims stated that:

“Gosh! Seriously speaking I was shocked and confused when my wife waked me up shouting and crying for help. Can you believe that we had to wait for a canoe to be rescued before we evacuate our house. Yah! It was indeed shocking”.

Another participant with similar but different experience narrated that:

“Oh! Oh! uhm, you see on that very day of the incident I was suppose to travel but I just don’t know what made me change my mind. So I became so scared, shocked and confused because I thought I wet my bed not knowing that it was really actually flood in our community so when I wake up I was totally out of my mind I don’t know where to start”.

Experiences after flood

The above theme contains several sub-themes representing the experiences of flood victims in this case study after the incident occurred such as i, stranded, ii, loss of valuable materials and mocking from neighborhood.

i. Stranded

Stranded as sub-themes in this study captured how depressed flood victims became after the disaster occurred. About 7/10 participants narrated how stranded they became after the incident occurred. For instance one of the participants stated that:

“Kai, Wallahi, you know me and family members managed to escape from the flood. But, later we became stranded, we don’t know where to go because I am not originally indigene of this state, it is the nature of my job that brought me here”.

Another participant claimed that:

“Well, you see even though we manage to escape before it got worst I was upset and angry because I don’t know where to go from there or even where to start from, seriously speaking I was stranded at that moment”.

ii. Loss of valuable materials

Among the negative experiences of flood victims in this case study was loss of valuable materials. Over 10/10 participant reported loss of valuable materials as their negative experiences. For example in the words of one of the participants, he stated that:

“Ah! You see among the things I lost from that undesirable incidents were my primary school leaving certificates such as primary school certificate, WAEC and my diploma certificate and up to now I did not visit court for affidavit”.

Another participant with different narration stated that:

“Well, It was really a terrible experience for me because am not going to lie to you (The Interviewer) I lost my valuable items. My money, my house credentials my appointment letter and also my agreement letter for other business I did”.

iii. Mocking from neighborhood

Most of the flood victims of this case study reported that after the unwanted incident occurred some of their neighborhood that was not affected with the disaster mock them. Over 8/10 participants made this claim. For instance in the narration of one participant he stated that:

“uhm, I just can’t believe that my neighbor was gossiping and mocking me about what happened to me. He was like telling people that it was my stinginess that leads the water into my house can you believe it, someone I thought is a friend of mine has no sympathy for?”

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study were discussed below:

1. Shocked and confused was found as one of the negative experiences of flood victims in this study. This is not a surprising finding because unexpected disaster like unaware flooding especially in the night leads to heart attack, confusion, anxiety and denial of unacceptable realities (Olaussen, Blackburn and Fitzgerald 2014).
2. Another findings from this study indicated that flood victims were stranded after the incident occurred. This indicates that the posttraumatic aspect of flood is being stranded and left with thinking of where to access food and shelter is the most common experiences of flood victims (Goenjan, 2001).
3. Moreover, the findings of this study revealed that loss of valuable materials was another experiences flood victims experienced in this study. Loss of valuable materials is a great deal and undesirable realities to humans that is why when they found themselves in such situation they came hopeless, unhappy and it triggers inner anger behavior.
4. Finally, mockery by flood victims’ neighbors was reported as the findings of this study. Mockery is nothing rather than negatively attacking someone’s physical appearances, social status, financial status or lifestyle. Therefore, when flood victims were mocked based on the situation they found themselves there is every tendency they would retaliate madly and it would literally leads to conflict.

Contrary but similar to the findings of this study Tuason and Carroll (2012) reported that survivors of Hurricane Katrina experienced multiple and significant personal and financial losses, including loss of material or sentimental possessions, employment, prospect for the future, and most significantly, the deaths of friends and relatives.

On the other hand, Yande (2009) claimed that citizens of Sikaunzwe Community in Kazungula District of Zambia experienced critical damaged to agriculture, health, education, housing, water and sanitation and property and assets by floods.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study the researchers confirmed that flood victims of this study encounter so many challenges during and after the flood disaster, at the time of the incident. Therefore, the researchers proposed the following roles of librarians and counselors in providing counseling information to victims.

Roles of Librarians in curbing Flood experiences

Ideally, librarians are the custodians of information that is why they select, acquired, process, store, retrieve and disseminate information to their clients in any formats. As such the researchers of this

study recommend that professional librarians especially, public librarians in Kaduna State Nigeria should:

1. Package all necessary information resources such as newspapers, magazine flyers and grieving motivational video clips and communicate it restrictedly to flood victims and mental health counselors in Kaduna State Nigeria
2. Be frequently organizing lectures, talks and seminars in collaboration with both the public librarians and mental health counselors in Kaduna State Nigeria being the public library as the venue.

Roles of Counselors in curbing Flood experiences

When the Mother Nature wreaked havoc on human's land disaster occurs such as flood. The incident made humans experience what they never experienced before just like what happened to flood victims in this case study. Therefore, the researchers of this study identify and present the roles mental health counselors can play in curbing the negative experiences of flood victims in Kaduna State Nigeria as follows:

1. Professional counselors in Kaduna State should immediately search and identify flood victims in the state and organize special aftermath therapy sessions with them aimed at enlighten them the strategies for coping shock and confusion during and after flood disaster.
2. Post-traumatic counseling services should be communicated through social Medias such as facebook, twitter and Whatsapp for flood victims in Kaduna. Specifically, topics related to how to curb with loss of valuable materials and being stranded due to flood disaster should be formulated and discussed via the platform.
3. Anti-stereotyping and mocking of flood victims campaign should be establish in Kaduna state for the purpose of eradicating stigmatization to flood victims in the state.

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