

Vulnerability and Environmental Security: Assessing the Impact of Disasters on a Community

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KEYWORDS Traffic Accidents. Physical and Social Vulnerability. Natural Disasters

ABSTRACT Vulnerability is the extent to which a community can be affected by the impact of a hazard while environmental security is environmental viability for life support. Environmental security affects humankind and its institutions and organizations anywhere and at anytime. This paper aims at examining the concepts of vulnerability and environmental security and assessing the impact of disasters on a community. Data were obtained through secondary sources coupled with review of literature. This paper reveals that about 1.2 million people are killed in traffic accidents every year in the world; in the United States about 43,000 people are killed in fatal car accidents every year while in Nigeria, according to the World Health Organization about 32,000 people die yearly through road accidents. This paper also shows that the Pandemic that occurred between 1330 and 1351 killing 75,000,000 people was the deadliest natural disaster ever experienced in the world. This paper reveals that Nigeria has suffered a lot from the problem of disaster. The world Disaster Report gave an annual average of people killed and affected by disasters in Nigeria as 96,786 representing 0.09% of people killed and affected by disasters in the world. In addition this paper discloses that there has been series of building collapses in Nigeria; in Lagos State alone, over 100 buildings have collapsed since 1978. Finally recommendations were made and the need for government at all levels to exhibit strong political will regarding disaster management in order to mitigate its occurrence and impact is highlighted.