

(1142) Data and Documentation of Indian Civilian Landmines/Uxos Victims: Lesson Learned

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PROBLEM

Following attack on Indian parliament by terrorists on 13 December 2001 the Indian Army planted more than one million landmines along India Pakistan border in the states of Rajasthan, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir. Due to geographical factors, sand storms, rains, rodents and snow landmines shifted from their places and killed and injured more than 1408 civilians. No data collection was undertaken or available with any agencies.

OBJECTIVES

- The main aim of data collection of landmines victims was part of a larger strategy designed to facilitate the prioritization of violence and injury prevention, promote public awareness, mobilise intellectual, social and financial support for safety promotion, practice and polity.
- The study also wants to enhance specialised expertise in the field and encourage co-ordinated inter sectarian partnerships in the quest to advance the safety and health status of all people affected by landmines.

METHOD

Indian Institute for Peace, Disarmament & Environmental Protection (IIPDEP) started the project of data collection and documentation from December 2003 to March 2004 as per the format of UNDP and scientifically collected the data of civilians landmines and other unexploded ordinance and found more than 1408 civilians killed and injured.

RESULTS

It was revealed that half of the injuries occurred among youth people (15 - 44 years). Data collection acknowledged the devastating health, psychological and general health imputes and injury. It leads and enhance specialised expertise in the field and encourages co-ordinated inter-sectarian partnership in the quest to advance the safety and health status of all people affected by landmines.

Data collection lead to public awareness, heightened coordination in response to prevention, enhance expertise and networks of agencies and individuals collaborating to reduce violence and injuries throughout India. It stimulated further refinement in policy and practice decision in the safety promotion sector within Government, NGOs and other agencies.

On ground data collection and research helped in linkage between various academic disciplines and civil society based prevention initiative.

Data and research highlighted the following:

- 1) determination of anti-personnel landmines, small arms and UXOs violence,
- 2) risk determination of injuries in children,
- 3) documentation of pedestrian safety programmes,
- 4) experience of public spaces by road user,
- 5) rise and determination of traffic fatalities and
- 6) studies tracing contextual, content and social actors.

Data of landmine victims lead to a multi-sectoral approach that attempts to develop and consolidate the imputes and contribution to movement, NGOs INGOs and private sector to the prevention of violence and injury.

CONCLUSION

- Landmine victims' data specify the regional concern in South Asia about security, political stability, poverty, relief, post conflict peace initiative between India and Pakistan and economic development.

- Data and research indicate that it is a primarily political phenomena, due to uneasy and unfriendly relations between India and Pakistan. Citizens were identified as a particularly high risk for becoming victims on India Pakistan border in both countris.

- Data and research findings argue for the inclusion of violence prevention as a priority health issue.

- Data collection is the vehicle for the dissemination of injury and violence reserch and prevention practice and as such permits the diffision of expertise across the diversity of counteies and their participating sectors.

Word wide many countries are affected by landmines especially in African and Asian continent. The proper data collection findings adn/or conclusion of one country could be used with some variations globally as well as regionally. The landmines violence or injuries is epidemic and has to be tackled globally, regionally and nationally. Data thus collectd will lead to action