

“An inclusive and global membership network”

**Rapid Analysis of the Poll Surveys and Feedback from
the Avoidable Deaths Network’s Special Session entitled
“Disaster Risk Management - Discourses from Asia and Latin America”**

Background

The Avoidable Deaths Network organised a closed Special Session titled “**Disaster Risk Management - Discourses from Asia and Latin America**”, facilitated by the University of Management and Technology in Pakistan, for the Center for Disaster Management.

The session was held on 4 March 2021 virtually, commencing at 9.30 AM GMT.

Three esteemed speakers delivered the Session:

- I. **Dr Hideyuki Shiroshita** (Associate Professor, Kansai University, Japan) presented on “Implementation of Disaster Risk Education for Tsunami Hazard in Osaka, Japan.”
- II. **Dr Richard Kotter** (Senior Lecturer, Assistant Professor and Acting Programme Leader, Northumbria University, UK) presented on “Thinking Service Design for Improvements in Emergency Preparedness and Response: Cases from Pakistan (Lahore, Punjab and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, AJK) and the International Emergency Team UK”.
- III. **Dr Holmes Paez** (Professor, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia) presented “Disasters, Reconstructions and Climate Change in Colombia and Latin America”.

The panel of speakers was introduced by Ms Shaiza Khawaja, Lecturer at the Center for Disaster Management, School of Governance and Society at the University of Management and Technology in Pakistan.

To analyse the immediate impact of this Special Session, two-point poll surveys were used.

The polls (first and second) were held at two different points during the Session.

The first Poll was conducted before presenting the first speaker (Dr Hideyuki Shiroshita) and the other invited speakers. It consisted of three questions:

1. Do you have any prior knowledge on service design?

Based on your current knowledge (i.e., up to the point of starting this Special Session), please rate your current level of confidence on the usefulness of ‘service design’, where 1 = not at all confident, and 5 = very confident

2. Do you have any prior knowledge on disaster education?

Based on your current knowledge (i.e., up to the point of starting this Special Session, please rate your current level of confidence on the usefulness of 'disaster education', where 1 = not at all confident, and 5 = very confident

3. Do you have any prior knowledge on disaster reconstruction?

Based on your current knowledge (i.e., up to the point of starting this Special Session), please rate your current level of confidence on the usefulness of 'disaster reconstruction', where 1= not at all confident, and 5 = very confident

The second poll was conducted after the last speaker's talk (Dr Holmes Paez). It consisted of one question:

4. After attending this Special Session, how would you rate your confidence level on the usefulness of the topics, where 1= not at all confident, and 5= very confident.

Results

39 participants took part in the first poll and the results are as follows:

Q1. Service Design

Do you have any prior knowledge on service design?		
Yes	7 (<i>Participants</i>)	18%
No	15 (<i>Participants</i>)	38%
A little	17 (<i>Participants</i>)	44%
Based on your current knowledge (i.e., up to the point of starting this Special Session), please rate your current level of confidence on the usefulness of 'service design', where 1= not at all confident, and 5 = very confident		
Not at all confident	7 (<i>Participants</i>)	18%
Only slightly confident	11 (<i>Participants</i>)	28%
Somewhat confident	12 (<i>Participants</i>)	31%
Moderately confident	6 (<i>Participants</i>)	15%
Very confident	3 (<i>Participants</i>)	8%

Q.2 Disaster Education

Do you have any prior knowledge on disaster education?		
Yes	26 (<i>Participants</i>)	67%
No	3 (<i>Participants</i>)	8%
A little	10 (<i>Participants</i>)	26%
Based on your current knowledge, i.e. up to the point of starting this Special Session, please rate your current level of confidence on the usefulness of 'disaster education', where 1= not at all confident, and 5 = very confident		
Not at all confident	3 (<i>Participants</i>)	8%
Only slightly confident	6 (<i>Participants</i>)	15%
Somewhat confident	14 (<i>Participants</i>)	36%
Moderately confident	4 (<i>Participants</i>)	10%
Very confident	12 (<i>Participants</i>)	31%

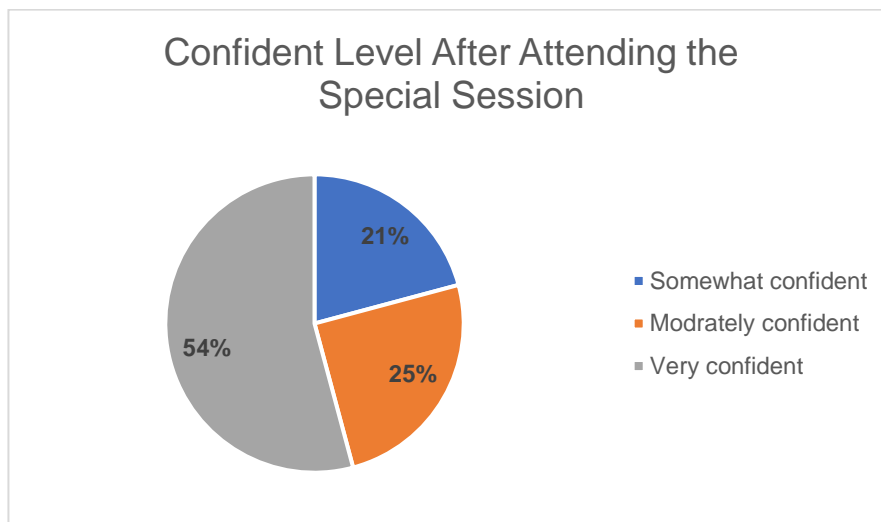
Q.3 Disaster Reconstruction

Do you have any prior knowledge on disaster reconstruction?		
Yes	22 (<i>Participants</i>)	56%
No	6 (<i>Participants</i>)	15%
A little	11 (<i>Participants</i>)	28%
Based on your current knowledge (i.e., up to the point of starting this Special Session), please rate your current level of confidence on the usefulness of 'disaster reconstruction', where 1= not at all confident, and 5 = very confident		
Not at all confident	5 (<i>Participants</i>)	13%
Only slightly confident	9 (<i>Participants</i>)	23%
Somewhat confident	10 (<i>Participants</i>)	26%
Moderately confident	6 (<i>Participants</i>)	15%
Very confident	9 (<i>Participants</i>)	23%

For the second poll, 24 participants took part, and the results for Question 4 are as follows:

Q4. Confidence level on the usefulness of the topics

After attending the Special Session, how would you rate your level of confidence on the usefulness of the topics discussed, where 1= not at all confident, and 5 = very confident		
Not at all confident	0 (<i>Participants</i>)	0%
Only slightly confident	0 (<i>Participants</i>)	0%
Somewhat confident	5 (<i>Participants</i>)	21%
Moderately confident	6 (<i>Participants</i>)	25%
Very confident	13 (<i>Participants</i>)	54%



Analysis

82% of the participants said they had little or no knowledge on Service Design before the special session. It seems to have an intrinsic relationship with their confidence level at the start.

67% of the participants said they had prior knowledge on Disaster Education. However, despite the high percentage of prior knowledge, the level of confidence seems uneven.

A combined 61% of participants felt 'slightly confident', 'somewhat confident' or 'moderately confident' on Disaster Education. While a mere 31% said, they had both prior knowledge and felt 'very confident'.

56% said they had prior knowledge of Disaster Reconstruction. Yet, similar to Disaster Education, 64% rated their confidence level between 'only slightly confident', 'somewhat confident' and 'moderately confident' before the session.

Overall, knowledge and confidence levels on these topics seemed low before the Special Session on *Disaster Risk Management*.

After attending the Special Session, 54% of participants said they felt 'very confident', while 46% either said they felt 'moderately confident' or 'somewhat confident'. No participant said that they were 'not at all confident' or 'only slightly confident' after the session.

This is a positive outcome because most participants (82%) had 'no knowledge' or 'a little knowledge' of service design the Special Session.

Conclusion

Overall, it was good to see that the participant's confidence level and knowledge increased due to the presentations held at this Special Session. However, it should be noted that the results from these poll surveys only provide an indication. The use of this method has several limitations. It does not provide in-depth insight and gaining qualitative inputs are difficult to gather through these quick poll surveys. Also, if participants do not have smartphones or were unable to use the poll survey feature of Zoom, then the participant was excluded.

Furthermore, one should be conscious that the poll survey data are self-assessed by the participants and could be biased. Mindful of this bias, the Special Session's impact could be complemented gathered through the semi-structured feedback form, which is normally also conducted. However, this was beyond the remit of this Special Session because this event was organised by ADN's Organisational Partner, the University of Management and Technology in Pakistan and email addresses for the participants were not gathered by the ADN Team. Thus, it was not possible to send out feedback forms.