

BACKGROUND

With the increased negative impacts of climate change, pandemics, and global economic shocks, more resources are injected into emergency management (preparedness, response and recovery) policies and strategies globally.

Scholars and practitioners in Hampton Roads continue to underscore the growing need for emergency management strategies, especially considering the recurrence of extreme events in the area. To that end, web-based Geographical Information Systems (GIS), cellular phones, digital collaborative tools, and non-technological tools are necessary before, during, and after emergencies.

As is evidenced by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, researches into the technological facets of emergency management are pivotal. Such studies are significant for the optimization and sustenance of emergency management plans and resources. These plans are initiated well in advance of emergencies, thus, requiring ongoing planning.



The early stages of this research will include data sampling, collection, and analysis. It goes farther, as the findings will help to put forward feasible, justifiable, and necessary recommendations and policy options.

This model will integrate the Innovation and Diffusion Framework as a working guide for identifying key stakeholders and developing the model through all the four (4) stages of emergency management.

What exactly is 'E-Resilience'? Learn more from the United Nations



RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The main purpose of this study will be to unearth feasible technological tools to bolster emergency management in Hampton Roads. Furthermore, to decipher the collaborative and non-technological components needed for e-resilience. To that end, the research questions for the proposed study are:

1. What role has technology played in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery in Hampton Roads? 1b. What tools/ resources are used?
2. What are the non-technological aspects of e-resilience?
3. Who are the main collaborating actors for sustained e-resilience in Hampton Roads?

METHODS

Methodology: A phenomenological methodology will be adopted, underpinned by the social constructivist research paradigm. Data will be collected through elite interviews, focus group discussions, and secondary data review.

Analysis: Rich data will then be organized and entered in NVivo, followed by phenomenological coding, constant comparative analysis, and a model development based on the findings. Emergency plans from Old Dominion University and the City of Norfolk will be consulted and analyzed.

Sampling: Experts from the disaster management, public policy, and technology fields will be interviewed for this study. The study will be delimited to the Hampton Roads Area; however, the implementation model will be relevant for emergency management strategies globally.

IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

This research will significantly contribute to emergency management theory and practice. Specifically, feasible strategies will be explored such as:

1. The development of an implementation plan that can be adopted by schools, businesses, and government entities. Through innovation and diffusion, this plan could influence sustained emergency management strategies globally
2. A focus on the tools, resources, and collaborations needed for sustained emergency management. The identified resources will not be exhaustive, but pivotal for managing emergencies
3. Emergency management calls for innovative and flexible policies and strategies. This model can be tweaked to suit the needs of various stakeholders in different contexts
4. This model will promote academic, technical, and policy discussions. Those discussions may initiate strategies for strengthening the model and introducing new facets. That would be possible by using web-based GIS, cellular data, and other technological tools, along with human resources, and non-technological components

Bibliography



Feedback



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Note to reviewers: This is a research proposal that will undergo ethical reviews before the study is initiated. Additionally, this model is not to be interpreted as a one-size-fits-all approach but one that will be tweaked, as necessary.