

ABSTRACT

Disaster preparedness and emergency management -
An evaluation of shelter managers' preparedness for
emergency management in Kingston and St. Andrew

Nancy I. Pichery

The research was undertaken to assess the state of preparedness of shelter managers for their role. This cross-sectional evaluation study was done during February and March of 1991 on a sample of 28 shelter managers in Kingston and St. Andrew. To facilitate this process an evaluation tool was devised to assess level of post training activity, knowledge of shelter management procedures and community resources, health knowledge and attitude all of which combined resulted in a total performance score which in turn reflected the state of preparedness.

Total mean performance score was 81.1% with a standard deviation of 9.1%. The majority of managers obtained scores between 73% and 93%. The 95% confidence interval for the population mean was $\mu=81.11\pm3.35$.

Positive significant associations were found between age and level of performance ($p<0.05$), post training activity versus knowledge ($p<0.05$), and knowledge versus

attitude ($p < 0.05$).

Level of performance did not differ significantly with type of employment ($p > 0.05$).

Shelter managers are key response personnel charged with the critical role of managing persons during disaster periods. The nature of the role and resultant responsibilities demand that periodic evaluations be undertaken to assess preparedness for disaster and emergency management.