

An analysis of the effects of human settlements on increasing and strengthening the natural disasters: a case study of Iran

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ABSTRACT:

In recent decades, a considerable tendency towards increasing casualties and monetary losses due to natural disasters can be seen all over the world. One of the important and influencing factors for this increment is growing urbanization and most importantly the settlements that are particularly prone to natural disasters. Natural disasters and hazards are the important factors in environmental planning. These disasters would may be intensified by the incorrect human functions and operations in some situations. So the objective of this research is the study of the role and effect of human settlements on occurrence or intensification of natural disasters. In this regard the effect of human settlements on increasing or strengthening of some natural disasters such as flood, land slide, subsidence, and earthquake were studied. Results showed that, however man has not the significant role or effect in occurrence of natural events, but has an important role in turning natural phenomenon to natural disasters due to human activities. Indeed the human activities can increase the frequency and intensity of natural disasters. For example depletion of green spaces and vegetation cover led to intensification of erosion process or inappropriate changes in land use led to expedition and intensification of land slide. Most disasters such as flood and land slide are related to demolition of environment and depletion of ecological resources. On the other hand, the protective role of natural eco-system has been decreased due to human activities which is led to intensification of disasters.

Keywords:

Earthquake, Flood, Human settlements, Landslide, Subsidence