



The Role of Religious Attitudes and Rituals in the Face of Natural Disasters

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Abstract

When looking at the turning points in world history, the first detail that stands out is the concept of disasters. When the sociological effects of earthquakes, wars, famine, terrorist attacks, and epidemic diseases, which have paved the way for the collapse of many states and civilizations, are examined on society, it is seen that they initiate a process of change and transformation culturally, functionally, and structurally. These disasters, also known as challenging life events, subject individuals to intense stress emotionally, physically, psychologically, and socially. After the disaster, some barriers emerge that are difficult to overcome in terms of social communication, interaction, and basic human needs. Therefore, it is of great importance that the structures that bring individuals and the state together in overcoming the humanitarian and ecological barriers in the disaster process act in harmony. The spiritual counseling and religious services provided after natural disasters facilitate the reconstruction of societal values. The fact that religion is the first source of reference in coping with the anomy created by disasters in a hierarchical order on the individual and society, and in reconstructing the disrupted social order reveals the impact of religion on social order and stability. This study discusses the role of religious attitudes and rituals in the face of natural disasters based on a literature review.

Keywords

Sociology of Religion, Sociology of Disasters, Social Transformation, Spiritual Well-being, Social Vulnerability.

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