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Disasters triggered by natural hazards continue to cause significant destruction and loss of life globally. Due to its unique geographical and climatic conditions, New Zealand is particularly exposed to a range of hazards, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones and landslides. Building community resilience—which can be regarded as the ability of a community to adapt when confronted with disasters—is therefore a critical national and community challenge. While national governments hold primary responsibility for disaster risk reduction, the active involvement of community-based organisations and locals is essential for fostering disaster-resilient communities (UNDRR, 2015).

New Zealand hosts approximately 8,000 community sport clubs (Johnston et al., 2022), which play a distinctive role in cultivating social connections and collaboration among members and local stakeholders. Their influence often extends beyond sport, fostering social connections and collaboration among club members and external local stakeholders. Although some literature suggests that community sport organisations (CSOs) have supported local communities in the aftermath of disasters, their role in enhancing community resilience remains underexplored in academic literature.

This research explores the potential contribution of CSOs to disaster resilience through the lens of social capital theory, employing a narrative review method. It examines theoretically how CSOs can promote three main forms of social capital, including bonding, bridging and linking as described by Aldrich and Meyer (2015), and how these forms of social capital may contribute to community resilience.

In this presentation, I will introduce key theoretical insights from the review and illustrate how CSOs might serve as potential actors in disaster contexts, which has not been the focus of previous research. Findings from the review contribute to future research as a theoretical background for empirical studies.

Keywords

Community resilience; Natural hazards; Community sport organisations; Social capital; Sport management

References

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