FEEDBACK TUTORIAL LETTER

ASSIGNMENT 1

SECOND SEMESTER 2017

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

[DRM712S]
Dear Student,

Let me thank you all for submitting your first assignment for Disaster Risk Management. I know it is a challenge studying on a distance mode but you have to do your best. The feedback tutorial letter is aimed to give you general feedback on the outcome of marking of your assignments. Hence, the purpose is to discuss important issues that have arisen during the marking of your assignments. I have given individual comments in your respective assignments as far as it is possible. The comments are meant to help you understand the criteria for completing your assignment and to once again inform you what is expected from you although it is contained in the first tutorial letter. Please read and understand these comments and if you do not understand; do not hesitate to contact me. The comments I made are meant to help you in your academic journey and to ensure that you learn and at the same time get good marks.

I’m going to reiterate that you need to put in efforts if you are to get good marks or pass this course. Hence, when compiling your assignment you need to understand the question as well as what is expected from you. You also need to brainstorm. Brainstorming involves searching and gathering all relevant information that will help you in completing your assignment. Moreover, you need an outline on how you are going to approach your assignment and finally start writing your assignment. It is important to acknowledge all the sources you have used in compiling your assignment. It is also vital that you paraphrase (read and understand and use your own words) instead of copying and pasting like many of you did. Furthermore, it is vital that you edit and proofread your assignment before submission to ensure that you have answered the question asked and that there are few spellings and grammatical errors.
I believe you are all final year students but your work is very disappointing. Most of you have plagiarised (copying and pasting). That is not acceptable and it is academic theft. Please read the First Tutorial letter and ensure that you understand what you need to do. Read it from the first page until the last page. All the instructions are provided in there and if you do not understand feel free to contact me.

Assignment 1 consisted of 2 questions as follows:

**Question 1**

**ASSIGNMENT 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTION 1</th>
<th>MARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. CuveWaters is a German funded project developed to support the national process towards an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). The aim is to provide reliable access to clean water in the long-run and enhance the community’s livelihood and; health and at the same time creates job opportunities. Discuss how this project is contributing to Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Development and Planning. Provide relevant examples and discuss further how the Cuvelai project can be further emulated in other areas.</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Natural hazards strike any country regardless of their income. However the severity of the impacts is directly linked to the income and development levels of the country. According to the Centre for Research on Epidemiology of Disaster and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (2016, p. 12), 68.3% of deaths from natural disasters from 1996-2015 are reported in lower middle to low income countries. Assess why this is the case. Make use of relevant examples to support your argument. Based on your findings, make necessary recommendations.</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expectations for completing the assignment

1. It is important that you read the assignment question carefully and thoroughly to understand what is expected from you.
2. You also needed to highlight key issues or concerns for the questions.

Question 1
You needed to discuss how the CuveWaters project is contributing to Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Development Planning. First of all you needed to give the background to the project (CuveWaters). The project was established in 2006 and ended in 2015. The purpose of the project is to provide reliable access to clean water in the long-run and enhance the community’s livelihood and; health and at the same time creates job opportunities. The project was doing the above through several activities such as rainwater harvesting, flood water harvesting, groundwater desalination, sanitation and water reuse and knowledge sharing.

For you to know whether this project is contributing to Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Development Planning, you needed to know what Mainstreaming DRR is. Mainstreaming DRR in Development Planning is defined by Benson and Twigg (2007) as a the process of assessing the implications of disaster risk on any planned development action - from the policy to the program implementation – in all practice areas and at all levels. This process enables the incorporation of risk reduction concerns and experiences in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national/sectoral policies, programs and projects.

Mainstreaming DRR into development therefore, consider and address risks emanating from natural hazards in strategic development frameworks, in legislation and institutional structures, in sectoral strategies and policies, in budgetary processes, in the design and implementation of individual projects and in monitoring and evaluating all of the above. Mainstreaming supports and encourages the adoption of disaster risk reduction measures by linking it to other development priorities and securing a risk-awareness culture.

Now that you know what Mainstreaming DRR in Development, the question you needed to ask yourself is how the project is contributing to Mainstreaming DRR in Development. Let’s look at the various activities under the project:

1. Rainwater harvesting
2. Floodwater harvesting
3. Groundwater desalination
Let me start with rainwater and flood water harvesting.

The following are the reasons that necessitated the establishment of the CuveWaters Project: sanitation and hygiene problems in the area, particularly in newly proclaimed towns, floods and rainwater going to waste and how can this water be turned into an economic activity and saline groundwater and how can it be desalinated. The project is contributing to Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Development Planning as follows:

- The project is reducing disaster risk by harvesting flood and rain water. That means the project is preventing flood disasters because the water is being harvested and stored safely instead of destroying people’s properties.

- The harvested water is used for ‘gardening purposes, but it can also be used for washing, cooking or watering livestock’ (CuveWaters). The projects created gardens for the local people whereby water-saving drip irrigation systems are used. This is an indication that the project is contributing to Maistreaming disaster risk reduction due to its incorporation of risk reduction concerns in this project. People in this area can water the crops throughout the year because of this project and that means people are not going to be affected by drought.

- The project empowered the local people to build, operate and maintain the facilities. People have learned to cultivate and manage their own gardens and at the same time make profits from the yields or harvest. The yields from the fields, are being sold at the local markets. So people are getting income. The conclusion that one can make from this project is that, the project is contributing to Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction due to the fact that it supports and encourages the adoption of disaster risk reduction measures in its planning and implementation.

- Harvesting water, desalinating underground water and empowering the people are measures aimed at reducing disaster risks. The sanitation and water reuse activity which is also part of the project reduce disaster risks in such a manner that water-borne diseases are prevented because people are not using the bush anymore. Additionaly, the water is being reused and turned into something useful. The CuveWaters website states that the waste can be turned into fertilizers or biogas. This is another measure of reducing disaster risks because it is turning waste into something useful.

On the question of how the project can be emulated, you could have looked at areas that are prone to flood and drought. These areas can make use of activities such as water harvesting during the rainy season in order to be able to have their gardens and
grow their crops all year round because they have plenty of water. These kinds of projects have the potential to ensure food security in the country and create employment for our young people.

**Question 2**

**Reasons why more deaths are reported in lower middle to low income countries**

The reason for more deaths in poor countries is because of their income and development levels. The poorer the country, the higher the number of disaster deaths. Poor countries do not have financial and human resources to ensure that their people are resilient. Poor countries do not have advanced technology and infrastructure to be able to predict and inform or warn their citizens to be prepared when disasters hit. This will lead to them having more fatalities because they are vulnerable and not prepared. This is similar to poor people, for example in Namibia, people that are mostly affected by disasters are the poor. Poor people like in Namibia live in informal settlements which are vulnerable to most hazards such as fire and floods. If flood happen in an informal settlement, its impact will be more severe, than when it happen in formal settlements. Just like when a disaster hit a developing country such as Namibia and the same disaster hit a developed country like USA, the impact will differ because of differences in infrastructure and the level of development.

According to the Centre for Research on Epidemiology of Disaster and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (2016), many poor countries are either in post-conflict or conflict situations and they lack the resources to account adequately for their disaster losses or to reduce their vulnerability to disasters. Also in poor countries, there is no political will to invest in disaster risk reduction activities. Additionally, social issues such as poverty need the government immediate attention than disaster risk reduction activities.

That is an overview of what I expected from you.
Concerns on lack of seriousness on the part of some students

➢ It is very disappointing that some of you don’t take time to read the instructions in the tutorial letter and understand what is expected from you. The tutorial letter is an important document and you should read it from the first page to the last page. If you don’t read the tutorial letter you will not know what you need to do. You don’t just jump to the questions but try to read the whole tutorial letter thoroughly and understand it.

➢ I also realised that you don’t read and understand the questions, please make sure to read and understand the questions. If you do not understand, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will gladly explain to you.

➢ I believe you know that you have to acknowledge your sources as truthfully and honestly as possible. You only acknowledge the sources you have used in compiling your assignment. You need a minimum of six sources. Some of you indicated sources that you have not used. This is academic dishonesty and is regarded as misconduct under the NUST Rules and Regulations. Please refrain from doing this. You should also refrain from copying sources from the books or sources you read. You cannot do this, please read your own sources and acknowledge accordingly as per the APA referencing style prescribed by NUST.

➢ You also need to edit and proofread your assignment to ensure that there are few errors.

Given that the second assignment is submitted already, I wish you all the best for your exam; those of you that qualified.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any queries regarding this course.

Yours sincerely

Ms. M. Shakela

E-mail: mshakela@nust.na

Tel: 061:2072224