







IRAN, AS A LAND OF EARTHQUAKE

Fereshteh Mokhtari¹, Fatemeh Arab Mokhtari²

¹ M. A in Geography, University of Isfahan, fmokhtari2@yahoo.com ²M. A in climatology, University of Yazd, f.mokhtary92@gmail.com

Abstract

Nowadays the developed communities, having taken necessary measures, have succeeded in overcoming earthquake, and so they did not call it hazard anymore. However, in Iran, earthquake still continues to be one of the dangerous hazards which leaves a lot of human and financial losses. The findings of this research show that two important factors can be effective in causing such damages:

- (a) Natural factors or specific geographical platforms in Iran, including Iran's position in the Alpine-Himalayan orogenic belt; there is a lot of faults, and there are the plates movement within the in the Iran's plateau, and the earthquakes in Iran are in low focal depth.
- (b) Human factors such as the establishment of most of the settlements near or on the fault, the fatalist view of the view of risk, structural and unstructured factors, and crisis management in managing crisis.

Keywords: earthquake, faults, hazard, crisis management, Iran,

Introduction

Studies show that the risks due to the earthquake have made most financial and fatalities damages in Iran, hence Iran has been considered as the sixth country in respect of number of earthquakes in the world (Negaresh, 2003). Out of 153 destructive earthquakes occurring worldwide, 17% is related to Iran (Amini and Broumand, 2012). According the reports recorded from 40 types of crashes worldwide, 31 identified cases have happened in Iran . Earthquakes impose more than 15.000 deaths and more than 140 billion dollars financial losses annually, especially in developing countries.

In recent decades, Iran has experienced human and financial losses widely from the earthquake of Bouin Zahra (1963) to the earthquake in Azerbaijan (2012) (Rezai Shahabi and Salehi, 2013). According to the United Nations Development Program Report (UNDP), (INPO, 2013), Islamic Republic of Iran has been considered as one of the 15 disaster-prone country in the world at the beginning of 2005. According the report, in the

last ten years, Iran has had the highest number of deaths due to the earthquakes in the world (Fig 1).

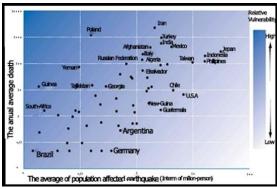


Fig1. Frequency of Deaths Affected by the Earthquake Disaster Per Population, Taking into Account the Relative Vulnerability in the World

The Reasons of High Rate of Earthquake Damages in Iran

A large part of historical experiences of nations is resulted from events with geographical origin. In forming such origins various geological, climate and human factors had roles. Earthquake as one of the geological indicators, affected by geographical situation of regions, has been historically considered as underlying vulnerability of many cultures and Most civilizations. of the population settlements had been formed at the foot of the mountains, where they had access to the water and had security relatively. These regions have had numerous faults and high seismicity relatively and so the occurrence of natural disasters, including earthquake in these areas would have many casualties. Moreover, the experience of some countries such as Japan shows that in spite of the unfavorable geographical context, the losses of natural disasters can be greatly reduced. In general, the causes that earthquake causes a lot of damages in Iran can be divided into two parts:

(A): Specific Geographical Context of Iran (B) Human Factors