Relation between the use of media and disaster-related behavior among people living in non-suffered area: In case of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Takeshi HASHIMOTO

This study examined relation between the use of media immediately after the Great East Japan Earthquake and disaster-related behavior among people living in non-suffered area. The survey was conducted on April 2011 (one month after the earthquake), and 292 undergraduates (116 males and 176 females) living in Shizuoka prefecture completed the questionnaire. Results indicated that respondents watched TV more long time than using internet to gather information. Respondents showed a degree of general stress responses such as depression and sadness, even though they did not exhibit post-traumatic stress responses. These general stress responses associated positively with length of watching TV. Positive attitude toward a mood of voluntary restraint indicated weak positive correlation with stress response, but not with watching TV. Overall, commitment toward the disaster positively associated with both prosocial behaviors such as donation and keeping order attitude, and nuisance behavior such as stocking up.