

## INVESTIGATING AWARENESS OF STUDENTS IN SARPOL-E ZAHAB AND MALARD ABOUT EARTHQUAKE AND SAFETY

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**Keywords:** Earthquake, Safety, Drill, Student's awareness

### INTRODUCTION

Iran is located in one of the seismic regions of the world and the occurrence of major earthquakes such as Bam earthquake in Kerman province, Ezgeleh earthquake in Kermanshah province and Malard earthquake in Karaj indicates the importance of paying attention to education and increasing community preparedness for earthquake especially among students. The experience of past earthquakes shows that this issue should be addressed more by educational planners. The aim of current study is to investigate the awareness and reaction of students who experienced earthquakes in Kermanshah and Malard and to use the findings of this study to provide educational solutions and expand earthquake and safety curriculum.

The research method was survey and the data were collected by interview and questionnaire including four open-ended questions. The statistical population includes the students of all three educational levels (elementary and high school 1 and 2) who experienced the earthquake in Ezgeleh-Sarpol-e Zahab in Kermanshah and Malard in Karaj. The sample size included 156 students (67 girls and 89 boys). Sampling method was simple random sampling and the data were analyzed by descriptive and inferential statistics using SPSS 11 software.

### DATA ANALYSIS

Review of Question "what did you do during an earthquake", and Question "Do you know what to do at the time of earthquake", indicates that though 95.5 percent of students had adequate information and knew what to do during an earthquake, only 30 percent of them could have appropriate performance at the time of earthquake.

Investigation of Question "How have you learned information about earthquake and safety", indicates that school's contribution to education on how to seek shelter and securing and to function properly has been greater than other cases such as family, media and so on. The above results are shown in the following diagram:

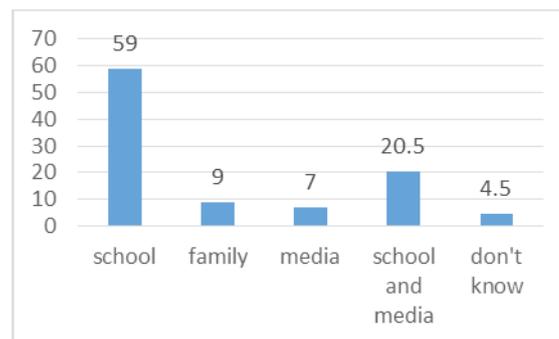


Figure 1. Frequency percentage of how did you learn this information.

Investigation of Question “Is the national earthquake and safety drill held at school”, (December 29) shows that 76.3 percent of students have performed earthquake and safety drill at their school, while also examining the inferential relationship between age, and performing drills at the schools indicates that there is a significant relationship between the age of the students (educational level) and performing drills. That is, the tendency for the school principals to hold maneuver is less by increasing the educational level, which can be attributed to the large load of educational material in these educational levels, probability of disruption in school, students’ unwillingness to participate in drill, interfering with school seasonal exams, and so on.

The inferential analysis of gender and performing drill in schools indicates that female and male schools paid attention to performing drill identically, and there is no significant difference between two variables. While findings by other research by the same authors of the current research in 2015 indicated that there is significant relationship between gender and performing drill, and female students held more earthquake and safety drill than male schools.

## RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Investigation of the performance of students during an earthquake indicates that students have necessary information in this regard, and operational and practical domains should be more taken into account, and the students’ knowledge should be practiced and implemented.

Studies show that the school has a stronger role increasing awareness and training of students. Thus, it is recommended that performing earthquake and safety drill are considered more seriously and practically. The drill should be further expanded and seasonally implemented to provide the basis for institutionalizing a safety culture.

There is a significant relationship between age (educational level) and performing drill, it is suggested that drill executives and secondary high school principals perform drill alternately with regular planning at times when students’ academic load is lighter, and using incentives, encourage students to participate in drill.

Investigation of gender and doing drill variables show that there is no significant difference between these two variables, and in recent years, earthquake and safety drill has been more prominent in male school activities, and more attention has been paid to than ever before.

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