

What did dietitians in the disaster area want in the Great East Japan Earthquake?

Moeka Harada^{1, 2}, Akana Motomura^{1, 2}, Sakiko Ueda¹, Jun Oka²,

Nobuyo Tsuboyama-Kasaoka^{1, 3}

1. National Institute of Biomedical Innovation, Health and Nutrition
2. Tokyo Kasei University
3. Evidence Team, Committee of JDA-DAT, The Japan Dietetic Association

Introduction

1,588 dietitians were dispatched from the Japanese Dietetic Association to the disaster area for the first time on a nationwide scale in the Great East Japan Earthquake. Various studies have been conducted based on the activity reports, but the support that the disaster area wanted was not clarified. The purpose of this study is to clarify the support that was needed in the disaster area and to use that for the future disaster.

Methods

Questionnaires were sent to 1,911 registered dietitians and general dietitians who were members of the Japan Dietetic Association in 3 affected prefectures in August 2012. Four hundred thirty-five dietitians (n=435, 22.8%) completed the questionnaire. Among the question items of the questionnaire, we analyzed the free description “Please fill in freely about the support that you wanted at the time of the disaster.” (n=331). Using the KJ method, we extracted the support they wanted and categorized into similar groups and labeled.

Results

The support they wanted classified into four categories: (1) “goods”, (2) “system in advance for large-scale disaster”, (3) “information” and (4) “human”. (1) mainly included “food”, “gasoline”, “special nutritious food” and “water”. (2) mainly included “system and preparation for distributing relief supplies” and “making cooperation and communication system in disaster”. (3) mainly included “information for living in disaster areas”. (4) mainly included “manpower”, “registered dietitians and general dietitians” and “people with disaster supporting skills”.

Conclusion

To provide smoothly “goods”, “information” and “human” to the disaster area, it’s important to make a “system” in advance assuming large-scale disasters.

Conflict of interests

The authors of this document confirm there is no conflict of interests.