

THE SERENDIPITOUS EFFECTS OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT BY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS : STUDIE CASES IN JAMAICA AND COSTA RICA

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INTRODUCTION

This article is focussed on the presentation of serendipitous effects(unforeseen positive and negative effects)in the case of disaster management by nonprofit organizations.

The following points will be reviewed : disasters as special events,the code of the nonprofit sector, a field study in Jamaica and Costa Rica and an anthropological approach of serendipity.

I.DISASTERS AS SPECIAL EVENTS

In a general sense,"*a special event recognizes a unique moment in time with ceremony and ritual to satisfy specific people*"(Goldblatt,1990:2).

A "special event" can be defined as an extraordinary item producing data which "*explain or predict pattern interruptions in the time series data of an organization's performance measures*"(Gorr,1986 : 532).

It is the case,for example, of a flood, a strike,a demographic change(rate of birth),heavy competition coming from another organization,to take as examples large or extented size special events.

A special event is generally speaking unforeseen and can create some troubles the organization.

In the global sense, a special event is the most part of the time unwanted and negative (but it can also be happy and constructive).

II.THROUGH THE LOOKING-GLASS OF THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

An alternative way to assess nonprofit organizations is the search for bad or good serendipitous effects (unforeseen effects) as being a part of the twilight zone of the organization profile because they are marked by a certain invisibility of evaluation they are a part of the organization life and results but

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