Rebuilding Lives Post-Disaster, by Julie L. Drolet

Lucas Prieto
Michigan State University

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Drolet provides a wide range of disaster examples and the impact of the disaster from different areas of the world. Each chapter has a takeaway lesson that is beneficial for future...
inclusive strategies of disaster recovery plans. One specifically valuable chapter explores the ‘double jeopardy’ rural migrant women face due to working in a male driven field of agriculture and having limited English proficiency (LEP). Drolet outlines the barriers, resiliency, and the utility LEP women migrant workers have on disaster reduction. This chapter also discusses the perspective of emergency leaders and stakeholders with the rural migrant community. Each chapter of the book provides rich quotes from the focus group interviews that helps the reader understand the struggle and challenges people, especially women, face pre- and post-disaster.

A criticism of the book is that the information presented is at times overwhelming. Readers may find the dense descriptions and extensive historical context a bit repetitive. But the fundamental essence of the book examining the case studies is done beautifully. Although Drolet mentions briefly other vulnerable populations at an increased risk during disasters, I would have liked to see a case example on how disasters and disaster recovery impacted members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community. My area of research interest is in LGBT health and Drolet’s book sparked ideas on how different disasters and resilience strategies impact the lives of the LGBT community. My hypothesis is that disaster recovery would look vastly different from other marginalized groups; even within the umbrella term of LGBT community, the response may look completely different. Examination of sexual orientation and disaster recovery may be beneficial to explore further in the future.

Overall, Rebuilding Lives Post-Disaster provides a great “how-to” guide to engaging with various communities and disaster recovery. The RLPDP offers invaluable suggestions on how communities, stakeholders, responders, bureaucratic systems, and social workers should approach community disaster recovery from a new perspective. This book helps readers reframe how disaster impacts different populations beyond typical dimensions of monetary damages, physical damage, and incorporates the impact of social aspects.

Lucas Prieto
Michigan State University