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'Understanding volcanoes and society: the key for risk mitigation'



Children and teenagers facing volcanic emergency situations

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The present work aims to be a contribution to the society for the decrease of the negative psychological impact of volcanic eruptions, and promote a culture of prevention before the early alert. The stress situations produce different emotional responses in consequence of the lack of knowledge and the uncertainty; changes from fear to denial. We consider that the best tool for "prevention" is EDUCATION. The school environment is the ideal scenery in order to learn preventive measures before different natural hazards were implemented in the school-room activities. Our proposal is to design a "scholar curriculum development" for every educational level; to implement it to any organization for teachers' educational formation, including knowledge of volcanology, mental health, epidemiology and civil protection. In which the students will: - be involved on the volcanic phenomena process. - be qualified in risk management. - be informed about possible myths, religious traditions and misunderstandings. - be trained to promote individual and/or team resilience programs before crisis. The final goal is to educate into prevention; to create a sphere where children and the young people can turn into replicators of this idea and to manage the proficiency of teenagers to make them to take an active role of assistance.