

The Waves Came Crashing: A Salutation to Colleagues in Sri Lanka for Bettering the Lives of the Post-Tsunami Poor

Carol Reade

ABSTRACT:

This essay pays tribute to colleagues in Sri Lanka for their role in bettering the lives of the post-tsunami poor. Following the 2004 AsianTsunami, the faculty, staff, and student body of the Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM), Sri Lanka's leading institute of management education, directed their efforts and resources to addressing the needs of the destitute. Their efforts, which can be viewed through the lens of action research, problem-based learning, and service learning, are briefly recounted from the point of view of an American professor and former PIM faculty member. It is proposed that PIM's experience may offer a model for use in other parts of the world, not only for crisis management but for ways in which management education might play a role in addressing conditions of poverty.

Keywords: Sri Lanka, tsunami, poverty, management education, action research, problem-based learning, service learning

Dr. Carol Reade is on the faculty of San Jose State University located in Silicon Valley, California. She is a former PIM faculty member