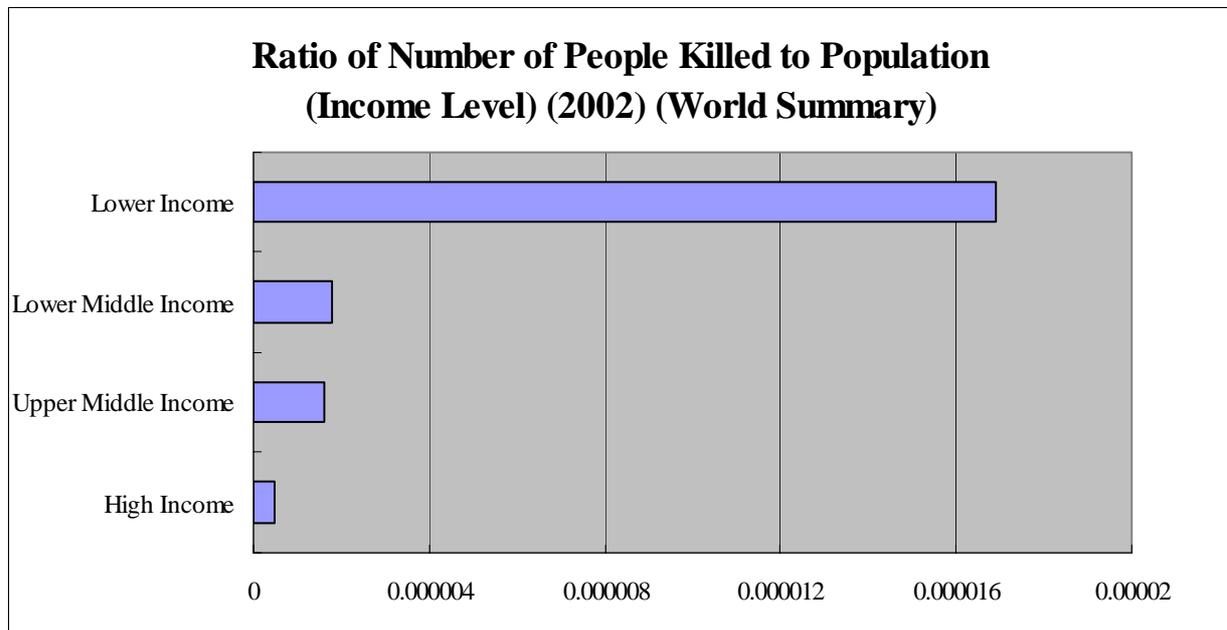


2.3 Economies of Natural Disaster Impact:

In this section, the analysis will focus on the country's income level as related to disaster impact. A country's income level is determined by the per capita GDP of the country and is then related to disaster characteristics. The following Tables show this relationship and it is evident that the majority of the human and economic losses is from low and lower middle income countries. Though the real economic loss from disasters is higher in high-income countries due to their developed infrastructural framework and the economic establishments that have accumulated social capital, loss from disasters in developing and lower income countries is more substantial when compared to the GDPs of those countries. When human loss and suffering are considered, it is once again visible from the following tables and figures that the lower income and lower middle-income countries suffer greatly. Once again, this firmly emphasizes the need for a holistic disaster management approach with due consideration of a country's disaster vulnerability, the impact and extent of disaster related damage, and the impact of a disaster on the economy.

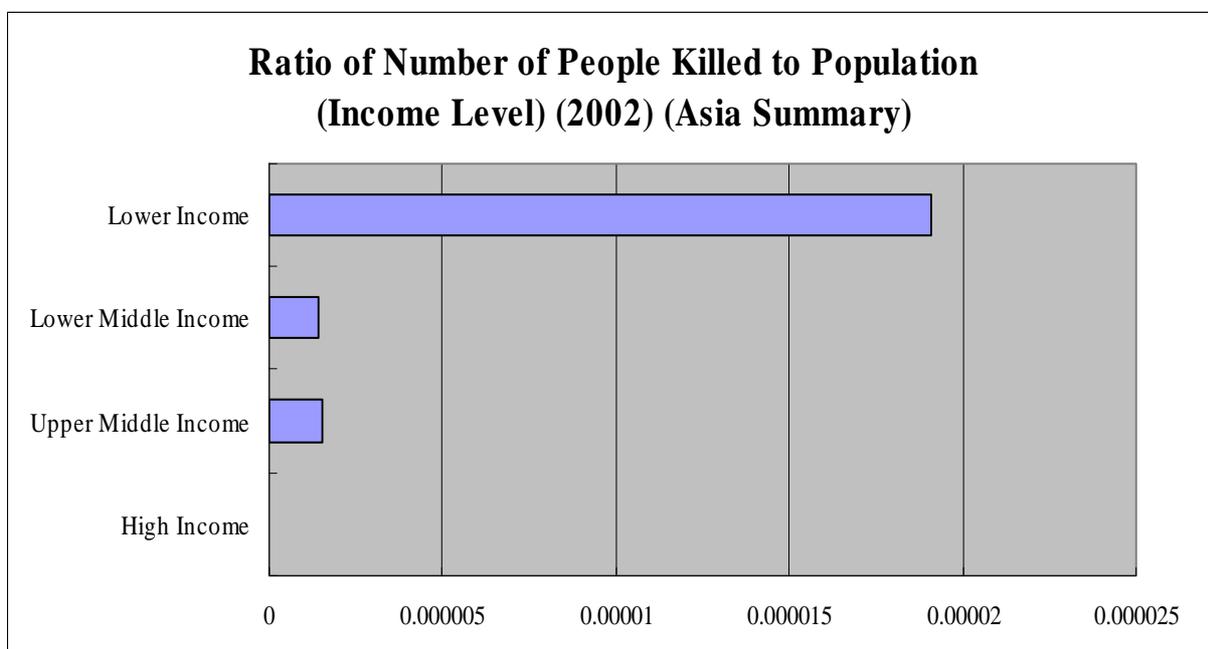
The economic impact of disasters varies according to the type of disaster, the disaster period (length), and the post disaster recovery period. A country's income level plays a crucial role in deciding the recovery period of a disaster. In addition, the income level of a country and the magnitude of the economic impact of a disaster are proportionally related to each other and the ratio of such impact to the country's GDP demonstrates the negative effects of disasters upon low and lower middle income countries. Figures 13-16 portray similar trends for the world and the Asian region.

Figure 13:



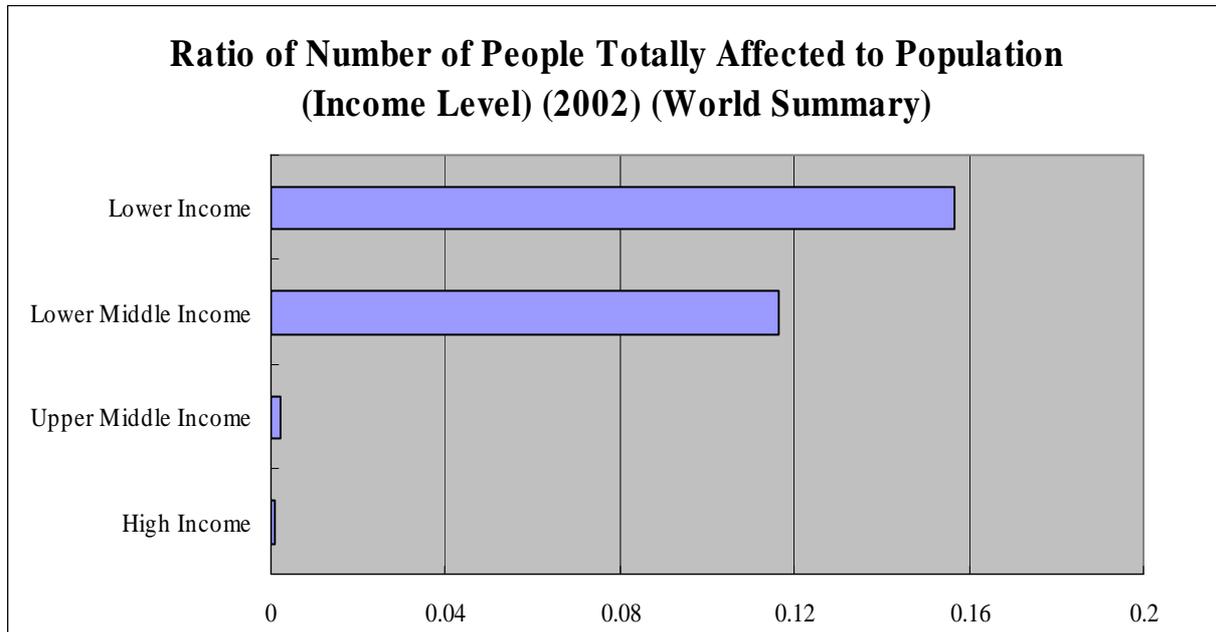
Source: ADRC, Japan, CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium and UNDP, 2002

Figure 14:



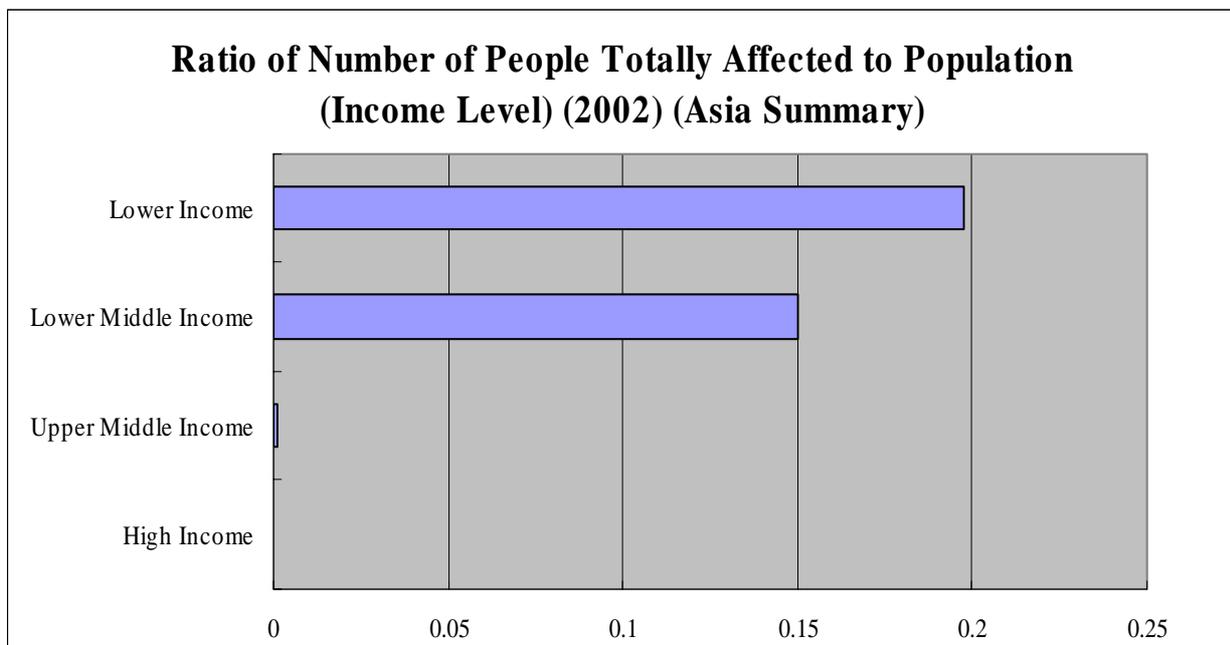
Source: ADRC, Japan, CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium and UNDP, 2002

Figure 15:



Source: ADRC, Japan, CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium and UNDP, 2002

Figure 16:



Source: ADRC, Japan, CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium and UNDP, 2002

It is evident from these figures that the extent of damage by natural disasters is connected to a country's socio-economic level and poverty rate. As seen in the above tables and figures, disaster management and post disaster activities are crucial to sustainable development in the year 2002, as they were in the previous years. It can be said that in 2002, like many previous years, natural disaster impact is closely related to poverty, education, quality of health, gender related issues, and changing policy scenarios in relation to global socio-economic characteristics. Hence disaster mitigation and management strategies must incorporate these areas into holistic disaster management approach that is in line with sustainable development.