

Investigating Evacuation Trends and Restoration Processes from Serious Earthquake Damage in Japan

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Abstract

Japan has experienced many large-scale natural disasters, such as earthquakes, typhoons accompanied by heavy rain, and landslides. Based on data for the damage caused by four recent major earthquakes in Japan, we investigate the trends in the number of evacuees and evacuation centres after these disasters as well as the restoration processes for public utilities such as electricity, gas, water, and communication lines. We compare the restoration speeds and trends of the damaged infrastructure systems. We also propose various mathematical models to approximate the recovery trends using both evacuee-related data and damage recovery process data. These results can be used to design natural disaster mitigation policies not only in Japan, but also in other countries. The results of various statistical data analyses and mathematical modelling techniques are applied to provide policy suggestions.

Keywords

Earthquake, Evacuees, Restoration Process, Statistical Data Analysis, Public Utilities, Mathematical Model, Social Infrastructure

1. Introduction

Japan is a nation that is highly vulnerable to disasters such as earthquakes, landslides, and tsunamis; it faces numerous disasters every year, resulting in losses to human life and the economy. Natural disasters affect millions of people every year with the mass destruction costing billions of dollars. Earthquakes, typhoons, and tsunamis have frequently struck Japan, and after every major catastrophe, people are left with damaged homes and severely damaged social infrastructure. The post-disaster restoration process has been a significant challenge

for affected nations, as natural disasters, particularly earthquakes, are unpredictable with respect to time, location, and magnitude. As huge financial resources are required for the reconstruction and restoration of livelihoods, it has always been very difficult after natural disasters to restore the necessary infrastructure and attain the pre-disaster level of economic growth [1]. According to the International Disaster Database [2] (also cited in [3]), the number of natural disasters has significantly increased from 837 to 4939 worldwide between 1970-1979 and 2000-2012; 40.8% of these disasters have occurred in Asia. Japan experiences numerous earthquakes, landslides, and other types of natural catastrophes because it is located on the Pacific earthquake belt, while its complex coastline is vulnerable to tsunamis and typhoons [4].

Japan experiences three or four earthquakes of magnitude 6.0 or greater every year [2]. The Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (January, 1995) resulted in 6400 people being classified as either dead or missing. In March 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake resulted in 16,000 deaths and 2800 missing people. Moreover, as a result of this earthquake, more than 320,000 evacuees still have not returned to their homes. The East South Sea Earthquake, which is predicted to occur in the near future, is expected to result in 25,000 dead or missing people, 960,000 damaged homes, and 50 trillion yen in economic losses. Moreover, earthquakes cause severe damage to public utilities such as electricity, gas, and water, which results in the interruption of services. This forces residents to evacuate to areas such as public schools and public halls, where they must often remain for long periods.

In recent years, Japan has experienced four major earthquakes: the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake¹ (HNSA) in 1995, the Niigata-Chuetsu Earthquake² (NGTC) in 2004, the Great East Japan Earthquake³ (GEJE) in 2011, and the Kumamoto Earthquake⁴ (KMMT) in 2016. These four recent major earthquakes resulted in severe damage. Major data for these earthquakes are listed in **Table 1**.

EQ.	Date	Mw.	D & M	Inj.	EV (Max)	EL (Yen)
HNSA	1995.01	7.3	6434 (3)	43,792	316,678	10TY
NGTC	2004.10	6.8	68	4805	100T	3TY
GEJE	2011.03	9.0	19.689 (2563)	6233	100T	16 - 25TY
KMMT	2016.04	7.0	273	2809	183,882	4.6TY

 Table 1. Recent major earthquakes in Japan.

Mw.: Magnitude, D & M: Deaths and missing, Inj.: Injured, EV: Evacuees, T: Thousand, EL: Estimated losses, TY: Trillion yen.

1https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E9%98%AA%E7%A5%9E%E3%83%BB%E6%B7%A1%E8%B7%AF%E5%A4%A7%E9%9C%87%E7%81%BD.

²https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E6%96%B0%E6%BD%9F%E7%9C%8C%E4%B8%AD%E8%B6%8A %E5%9C%B0%E9%9C%87.

³https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E6%9D%B1%E6%97%A5%E6%9C%AC%E5%A4%A7%E9%9C%87 %E7%81%BD.

⁴https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E7%86%8A%E6%9C%AC%E5%9C%B0%E9%9C%87_(2016%E5%B 9%B4). In **Table 1**, EV (Max) indicates the maximum number of evacuees at the peak time, and EL (Yen) indicates the estimated economic losses due to the earthquake damage. Using data regarding deaths and missing people, evacuees and evacuation centres, water supply suspension and restoration, and other parameters, we applied statistical data analysis techniques to investigate these earthquakes with various corresponding mathematical models in order to develop more desirable and efficient mitigation policies for natural disaster preparation in Japan.

Among these earthquakes, the GEJE, which was followed by a tsunami, was the deadliest disaster; it was the world's third-strongest earthquake since 1900. The Cabinet Office of Japan estimated the overall losses caused by this earthquake at 16.9 trillion yen [5]. Such disastrous events adversely affect citizens' lives, as basic utilities such as electricity, water, and gas supplies are suspended owing to severely damaged infrastructure. Victims are thus forced to stay in evacuation centres until the recovery of social infrastructure and basic utility services, which may take several months. Generally, local elementary and high schools are designated as evacuation centres after large-scale earthquakes.

Among other utility services, electricity and water supply systems are of vital importance for the health and development of any society, and these need to be adequately provided without interruption. Failure of the electric power supply after natural disasters may adversely affect societal and economic growth. Similarly, fire can break out and envelop both industrial and residential sectors on a wide scale, which cannot be combated if there is a failure of the water supply system after the occurrence of natural disasters. Because these social infrastructure systems are interdependent, damage to one public utility system may lead to the failure of other social infrastructure systems. Therefore, we aim to use various mathematical models to investigate recovery trends and describe the post-disaster restoration process. First, a damage analysis is conducted in terms of evacuees and evacuation centres, and the restoration of public utilities damaged by natural disasters is then examined. The public utilities under study include electricity, gas, telecommunication lines, and water supply systems to end-users.

Among the four recent major earthquakes, HNSA occurred in the most urban area, encompassing large cities such as Kobe and Osaka, while the others occurred in more locally remote areas. In particular, the most serious disaster, the GEJE, occurred in the remote Tohoku (Northeast) area in Japan. In the GEJE, three of the seriously damaged prefectures—Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima were rather unpopulated areas, except that Miyagi has a large capital city, Sendai. Various quantitative studies have examined the process of infrastructure recovery in post-disaster scenarios using recovery-associated parameters to describe the recovery trends in disaster-affected regions. For example, major factors affecting human casualties of natural disasters were investigated and the recovery policies in Japan were also reviewed [6]. In addition, they applied statistical data analysis to compare historical earthquake and tsunami disasters in Japan and Indonesia. In addition, network flow optimisation techniques to improve transport strategies for relief goods under emergency situations were applied [7]. The impact of the 2011 GEJE and evaluated the subsequent restoration and reconstruction performance was investigated [8].

A cumulative normal distribution approach was used to compare the recovery curves for housing reconstruction after the GEJE with those of other historic disasters [9]. That study focused on solving problems related to the recovery of urban housing by comparing strategies and policies for both recovery and post-disaster planning. The time for infrastructure restoration was estimated by combining 63 recovery curves for electricity, water, gas, and telecommunication systems collected from 19 past disaster events to establish a global mean [10]. Similarly, regression model was employed with covariates to investigate the recovery rates of social infrastructure [11]. This methodology was based on various influencing factors, as covariates and past data were used to estimate the recovery rate. However, to date, no studies have investigated the recovery trends for water supplies and other utility services damaged during large-scale earthquakes in Japan.

Japan is a disaster-prone country as it experiences floods, landslides, earthquakes, typhoons, and tsunamis due to its geographical, topographical, and meteorological conditions; as a result, the water supply can be severely disrupted [12]. Therefore, it is important to develop performance indicators (PIs) to measure the robustness of the water supply quantitatively before and after disasters. This can provide future strategic planning to avoid neglected areas and strengthen the disaster mitigation policy in Japan.

This study investigates the trends in the number of evacuees and evacuation centres after the occurrence of disasters and explores the restoration processes of public utilities such as electricity, water, gas, and telecommunications. Then, we investigate the recovery trends of these utilities after major earthquakes in Japan. First, to determine the degree of devastation, a damage analysis is conducted for each earthquake by considering evacuees and evacuation centres. Second, the recovery of social infrastructure such as electricity, gas, and telecommunication lines in urban areas is analysed after the earthquakes. Finally, the recovery process of the water supply system is analysed after the occurrence of large-scale earthquakes. Basic statistical techniques are employed to examine the recovery rate of the water supply system after four major historical earthquakes in Japan. The various data for the analyses are obtained from the official webpages of the relevant ministries and prefectural governments in Japan. In Section 2, we investigate the trends in the number of evacuees and evacuation centres for recent major earthquakes in Japan. In Section 3, we describe the suspension and restoration processes of social infrastructure, including electricity, gas, water, and communication lines. Section 4 focuses on the recovery of the water supply by applying regression analyses to the water supply disruption data from HNSA, NGTC, KMMT, and GEJE to measure the recovery rates of water supply systems in different regions after large-scale earthquakes. Finally, in Section 5, we summarise the findings and conclude with some policy recommendations.

2. Trend Analyses for Evacuees and Evacuation Centres

We conduct a damage analysis by correlating the number of evacuees with the evacuation centres. First, the changes in the numbers of both evacuees and evacuation centres following major earthquakes in Japan are analysed. The data for evacuees and evacuation centres are plotted after the occurrence of the earthquakes to estimate the degree of damage. Next, the data for evacuees and evacuation centres in each of the major earthquakes are investigated with respect to time after the occurrence of the disaster to develop a mathematical model that describes the rate of decrease in the number of evacuation centres.

Figure 1 and **Figure 2** show the decreasing patterns of the evacuation centres (EVCN) and evacuees (EVCU), respectively, after the occurrence of four major earthquakes in Japan. In these figures, "D" and "M" on the horizontal axis indicate the day and month, respectively. The data are obtained from the webpages of relevant prefectural and municipal governments [13]-[18], and the homepage of the National Police Agency of Japan. EVCN is located on the horizontal axis, while EVCU is on the vertical axis. It can be observed that EVCN and EVCU reach an initial peak and then decrease gradually with time after the HNSA, NGTC, and KMMT earthquakes. However, the GEJE does not follow this pattern, as the EVCN increases over time, with nearly 1500 centres open even after three months. This unusual trend is mainly due to the nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant caused by the powerful earthquake followed by a tsunami in March 2011.



Figures 3-5 show the trends in the relationship between EVCN and EVCU for the HNSA, NGTC, and KMMT earthquakes, respectively. In these figures, dotted



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Figure 2. Trends in the number of evacuees after four major earthquakes in Japan.



Figure 3. Relationship between EVCN and EVCU (HNSA) (Data source: [14] [15]).







Figure 5. Relationship between EVCN and EVCU (KMMT) (Data source: [17]).

lines indicate approximation curves fitted to the actual data. On 17 January 1995, one of the deadliest earthquakes (with a magnitude of greater than 7.0 on the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) scale) in the history of Japan hit Kobe city and other southern parts of Hyogo prefecture. It was the worst seismic disaster since the Great Kanto earthquake of 1923. Apart from the collapsed public infrastructure, the HNSA earthquake created more than 300,000 evacuees as a result of 240,000 damaged homes. The evacuation situation after the HNSA earthquake is plotted in Figure 1 and Figure 2. The maximum number of evacuees was reported on the third day (represented by 3D) after the disaster, as shown by the horizontal dashed line. Moreover, it required approximately 4.5 months for the number of evacuees to decrease to 10% of the maximum number. The HNSA is shown graphically in Figure 3 with its approximation curve. The evacuation situation in terms of the relationship between EVCN and EVCU for each day or month after the HNSA earthquake is shown in Figure 3, in which the dotted curve indicates an approximation of the original data. In Figure 3, the time trend of data moves from large EVCNs, corresponding to the earlier stage after the disaster occurrence, to small ones, for which the general trend approximately follows the dotted curve although in the early stage data show fluctuating moves.

In the NGTC earthquake, the Niigata prefecture of Japan was jolted by three powerful earthquakes (with magnitudes of greater than 6.2 on the JMA scale) that occurred within 40 min on 23 October 2004. The epicentre of the earthquake was Ojiya city in Niigata prefecture. In spite of the moderate intensity, the earthquake was regarded as destructive because of its shallow focal depth, resulting in pervasive landslides causing severe damage throughout the region. The maximum number of evacuees after the NGTC occurred on the third day, represented by 3D. The trend shows a reduction to 10% of the maximum at 25D after the earthquake. The relationship between EVCN and EVCU after the NGTC earthquake is shown in **Figure 4**.

In the KMMT earthquake, Kumamoto prefecture was shattered by a wave of two powerful earthquakes of magnitude 7 (JMA scale) on 14 and 16 April 2016, with the worst damage ever recorded. As per report #119 issued on 11 July 2016 by the Kumamoto Prefecture Disaster Response Headquarter 8241 buildings collapsed completely and 25,663 were partially damaged [17]. From Figure 5, we see that the maximum number of evacuees (183,882) occurred on 3D. This was reduced to 10% at 20D after the earthquake.

In **Figures 3-5**, we indicate the approximation curves as dotted lines for each set of actual data points. The mathematical models of these relationships can be expressed generally by the following polynomial function.

$$y = \sum_{i=0}^{n} a_i x^{b_i} \tag{1}$$

x: number of evacuation centres (hundreds) (EVCN).

y: number of evacuees (thousands) (EVCU).

In Equation (1), a_i and b_i for $i \in N = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ are parameters. Applying the least squares method to estimate the parameters for the datasets in Figures 3-5, we obtain the results given in Table 2.

From the results in **Table 2**, the approximate functions for the HNSA and NGTC earthquakes are expressed as follows.

$$y = ax^b$$
, *a*, *b*: parameters. (2)

In the above Equation (2), parameter a and b can be interpreted as an initial volume of the data and the elasticity of y with respect to x. Transforming the above equation, we can estimate the parameters using the following equation.

$$\log y = \log a + b \log x \tag{3}$$

Thus, parameter *b* indicates the elasticity of variable *y* with respect to *x*, implying the % increase (or decrease) in variable *y* corresponding to a 1% increase (or decrease) in variable *x*.

$$\left(\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{y}\right) \left/ \left(\frac{\mathrm{d}x}{x}\right) = b \tag{4}$$

From the results given in Table 2, we see that the values of parameter b are 2.360 and 1.580 for HNSA and NGTC, respectively. Thus, we find that the recovery

E.Q.	HNSA	NGTC	КММТ	TOTAL
Model	$y = ax^b$	$y = ax^b$	$y = ax^2 + bx$	$y = ax^2 + bx$
	0.0189	4.632	0.3139	0.2357
а	(8.471)	(5.799)	(16.23)	(24.03)
	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)
	2.269	1.580	-61.52	2.114
Ь	(34.27)	(32.72)	(-5.389)	(0.2293)
	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.819)
R^2	0.9719	0.9730	0.9505	0.9783

 Table 2. Regression results for mathematical models.

speed for HNSA was faster than that for NGTC. In the case of KMMT, we obtain the following approximation expression from the quadratic function.

$$y = ax^2 + bx$$
 a, b: parameters (5)

Differentiating the above formula with respect to *x*, we obtain the following.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2ax + b \quad a, b: \text{ parameters}$$
(6)

From the above expression, we can determine that when the number of evacuation centres decreases by 1 (unit amount) from EVCN values of 500 and 200, the decrease in the EVCU value obtained from (6) would be approximately 252 and 64, respectively. This implies that the decrease in EVCU with a unit reduction in EVCN is much larger when EVCN is greater.

The GEJE was a devastating disaster that occurred in the Tohoku region on 11 March 2011, with a seismic intensity of greater than 9.0 on the JMA scale. A huge tsunami occurred after the earthquake, which demolished the east coast of Japan, including Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima. The tsunami also caused severe damage to the FDNPP (Fukushima Dai 1 Nuclear Power Plant), resulting in electric power failure and subsequent explosion of the plant. The government requested that residents living within a radius of 20 km evacuate their homes to avoid harm from the nuclear radiation released by the explosion. Most of these evacuees remained unable to return to their homes even after four months.

Unlike **Figures 3-5** that exhibit a gradual decrease in the EVCU and EVCN over time, **Figure 6** shows an irregular pattern after including the trend of the GEJE. Compared with the evacuation situations after the HNSA, NGTC, and KMMT earthquakes, **Figure 6** shows an entirely disparate trend for the GEJE, with nearly 1500 evacuation centres even after a lapse of three months. This is mainly due to the nuclear disaster at the FDNPP caused by the earthquake and subsequent tsunami. Because the GEJE was an oceanic plate earthquake accompanied by a huge tsunami, its trend in **Figure 6** is significantly different from those of the other three large-scale earthquakes. However, interestingly, we find that the trend for the GEJE, as shown in **Figure 6**, returns to near the points on the "approximation curve" for the other major earthquakes about three months after its occurrence.

A comparison of the evacuation situations in the three major earthquakes, excluding the GEJE, is shown in **Figure 6**. Using the data for the HNSA, NGTC, and KMMT major earthquakes, we can find an approximation curve with the polynomial quadratic form given in Equation (5). The results of the corresponding parameter estimates are given in the TOTAL column in **Table 2**, and a plot of the original data and the approximation curve (the dotted curve) is shown in **Figure 7**.

It can be observed that HNSA was the most destructive earthquake, followed by KMMT and NGTC, in terms of the number of evacuees. In terms of damage, HNSA peaked with 310,862 evacuees in 998 evacuation centres, whereas the peak evacuation situations after the KMMT and NGTC earthquakes comprised



Figure 6. Trends in EVCN and EVCU (HNSA, NGTC, KMMT, and GEJE).



Figure 7. Trend in EVCN vs. EVCU and the corresponding approximation curve (HNSA, NGTC, and KMMT).

183,822 and 103,178 evacuees staying in 855 and 498 evacuation centres, respectively. Although there is a difference in scale, the three earthquakes have similar evacuation trends. Nevertheless, the rate of decline in the number of evacuation centres was more significant for HNSA than NGTC and KMMT. Moreover, it can be observed that EVCU and EVCN peaked initially, after which both variables gradually approached the origin (0, 0).

3. Suspension and Restoration Processes for Social Infrastructure

We investigated the suspension and restoration processes for social infrastructure following four major earthquakes: the HNSA earthquake (17 January 1995), the NGTC earthquake (23 October 2004), the GEJE (11 March 2011), and the KMMT earthquake (14 April 2014).

Table 3 indicates the number of households (HHs) with suspended public utilities including electricity, gas, water supply, and communication lines, and the number of days required to restore these services in Kobe city following the HNSA earthquake. Electricity was restored first, in six days, followed by communication lines in two weeks; the gas and water supplies required almost three months for restoration. These trends were similar for all of the studied natural disasters. Therefore, we aimed to shorten the restoration period for the gas and water supplies, considering that restoration even a few weeks earlier would be extremely beneficial. In addition, we considered that the restoration trend curves differ among the public utilities. In particular, the electricity and water supply exhibited convex forms, whereas the gas supply and communication lines were rather concave. Moreover, the gas supply sometimes produced a convex-to-concave trend with a convex trend followed by a concave trend. Therefore, these properties need to be considered when developing natural disaster mitigation policies.

Table 3 reveals the restoration trends for public utilities such as water, gas, electricity, and communication lines following the HNSA earthquake.

Table A1 in the Appendix summarises the restoration trends for electricity, water supply, gas, and communication lines for the HNSA earthquake. Corresponding to the data in Table A1, Figure 8 and Figure 9 show both the actual data and approximation curves for the electricity and water supply, respectively. The approximation curves for the restoration processes are shown as dotted lines.

For the electricity restoration shown in **Figure 8**, we obtain the approximation function in the form of Equation (2). Using the transformation given in Equation (3), we can estimate the parameters from **Table 3**.

The parameter estimates for a and b corresponding to the restoration of the electricity and water supply are listed in **Table 4**. As seen in **Figure 8** and **Table 4**, we find that the approximation curve is accurate with high adj. R^2 value. Thus, the restoration of electricity in Kobe can be given by the following mathematical model:

$$y = 2.589x^{-2.726} \,. \tag{7}$$

Immediately after the HNSA earthquake, the water supply was cut off in

Public utility	Suspension	Days required for restoration
Electricity	2600 HH	6
Gas	855.9 HH	84
Water	495.3 HH	90
Communication lines	101.66 LN	14

Table 3. Suspension and restoration of public utilities (HNSA).

HH: Households (unit: 1000 homes); LN: lines.

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Parameter –	Electricity	Danamatan	Water supply
	Disrupted HHs	Parameter	Disrupted HHs
	5.5902		-141.47
$\log a$	(28.93)	а	(47.067)
	(0.00)	(0.00)	
	-2.7261		600.1533
Ь	(17.668)	Ь	(56.80)
	(0.00)		(0.00)
adj. <i>R</i> ²	0.9842	R^2	0.9664
п	5	п	77

Table 4. Parameter estimates for the electricity and water supply restoration models.

adj. R^2 : adjusted R^2 ; *n*: number of data points; figures in parentheses indicate the *t*-value (upper) and *P*-value (lower).



Figure 8. Electricity restoration trend and approximation curve (HNSA).





1,265,730 HHs in 10 cities and 7 towns. This corresponded to almost 90% of the total number of HHs in these areas. Moreover, in 5 cities and 4 towns, including the major cities of Kobe, Nishinomiya, and Ashiya, all of the HHs experienced disrupted water supplies. However, the restoration was very rapid in these areas, with the water restored in one town the day of the incident, in one city and one town the next day, and in two cities and four towns within a week. After one week, the percentage of HHs with a suspended water supply was 45.1%, which is almost half those that were without water on the first day. After two weeks, the total was 3.2%, indicating that the water supply had been restored in almost all HHs. In the entire Hyogo prefecture, the percentage of HHs with a suspended water supply was 33.7%. We used these statistical data to develop various types of mathematical models to evaluate their relationships and processes. The mathematical model expressing the approximation function for the restoration of the water supply can be given in the form of the following nonlinear function:

$$y = a \log x + b$$
 a, b: parameter. (8)

Therefore, as shown in **Figure 9**, the restoration process for the disrupted water supply to Kobe HHs can be described using the following mathematical model:

$$y = -141.47 \log x + 600.15 \tag{9}$$

Figure 8 and **Figure 9** show that the actual and estimated values for the restoration of both the electricity and water supply are in good agreement. In **Figure 8**, we see that the actual and estimated values coincide. In **Figure 9**, the number of HHs with a disrupted water supply becomes zero when

 $y = -141.47 \log x + 600.153 = 0$, *i.e.* when $x = \exp(4.243) = 69.57$. Thus, the number of HHs with a disrupted water supply becomes zero almost 70 d after the occurrence of the disaster.

Figure 10 shows the trend in the number of HHs with a disrupted water supply following the HNSA earthquake. The figure shows that almost 1.3 million HHs



Figure 10. Trend in the number of HHs with a disrupted water supply following the HNSA earthquake.

were disrupted. The restoration speed was very fast during the first month after disruption. However, after that period, two to three months were required for the water supply to be restored in all HHs.

In Figure 11 and Figure 12, we show the restoration trend data of the gas supply and communication lines, respectively. In these figures, actual data corresponding to x and y axes were proportionally transformed into the range between 0 and 1. Namely, for both horizontal and vertical coordinates, the total number of the days needed to restore and the total number of disrupted HHs by the incident correspond to 1.0, respectively. Thus, Figure 11 and Figure 12 show



Figure 11. Gas supply restoration trend and its approximation as a survivability function (HNSA).



Figure 12. Communication line restoration trend and its approximation as a survivability function (HNSA).

the restoration trends and approximation curves for HHs with disruptions in their gas supply and communication lines, respectively, following the HNSA earthquake in 1995. These figures show that the approximation curves for these restoration processes begin to decrease from the maximum of 1.0 with a concave form in the early stage, and then in approach 0.0 in the final stage with a concave form. Thus, for both the gas supply and communication line restoration, we assume that the approximation curves can be expressed by the following function, which is referred to as a survivability function. **Table 5** lists the regression results and the parameter estimates for the survivability function in Equation (5) with a high goodness of fit.

$$f(x) = \frac{(1-x^{p})^{q}}{x^{pq} + (1-x^{p})^{q}} \quad p, q. \text{ parameter.}$$
(10)

Incidentally, we have found that this survivability function has many applications in the analysis of social systems.

From Figure 11 and Figure 12, we can see that for the telecommunication lines, no restoration was observed in the first six days after the occurrence of the earthquake, although they were completely restored after fifteen days. Similarly, a negligible restoration of the gas lines was observed during the first ten days after the occurrence of the disaster, followed by notable progress after 1.5 months. However, the restoration trend fell considerably in the last month before complete restoration, as shown by the relatively flatter curve in Figure 12.

Social infrastructure includes electricity, the water supply, the gas supply, and communication lines. According to the analyses above, the restoration processes can be divided into two types. The first group consists of electricity and water, which exhibit convex restoration curves. The second group includes the gas supply and communication lines, which have the form of a concave function or a concave function following a convex curve. Thus, from the viewpoint of public policy focusing on natural disaster mitigation, for electricity and water systems, increasing the slope of the decreasing curve is important, whereas for gas and communication lines, shortening the initial flat part of the curve before the decreasing portion is more important.

4. Disruption and Restoration Processes for the Water Supply System

We investigated the restoration trends for water supply systems following four

Param.	Gas	Comm.
р	0.8222	3.0026
q	2.1489	1.2438
R^2	0.9971	0.9956

Table 5. Parameter estimates for the survivability functions.

Param.: Parameter, Comm.: Communication lines.

major earthquakes in Japan. Generally, the water supply system includes raw water collection, water treatment facilities, pumping stations, storage tanks, and distribution systems for end-users. Figure 13 shows the water supply restoration curves in various prefectures affected by four recent major earthquakes in Japan. Data were adapted from the official webpages of the relevant prefectural governments and the MHLW of Japan (refer to [14] [15] [16] [17]). It is clear in the graphical representation that the recovery of disrupted HHs was fastest in the first month after the occurrence of a disaster, followed by a relatively slower restoration pattern. In a few cases, after one month, a sudden increase in the number of disrupted HHs can be observed, as for the GEJE. This is due to the aftershocks of the GEJE that occurred on 7 April and 11 April in coastal prefectures such as Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima, which caused a sudden rise in the number of disrupted HHs. It can be observed that the situation in almost all cases started to return to normal approximately one and a half months after the earthquakes.

The water disruption in Hyogo prefecture as a whole after the HNSA earthquake in 1995 (data in **Table A2** in the **Appendix**) is shown in **Figure 14** (refer to [19]). On the day of the HNSA earthquake, water supply services to nearly one million HHs were disrupted; however, the restoration process began the day after the earthquake, and the number of disrupted HHs approached zero after three months. In **Figure 14**, the approximation function is obtained by applying the form given in Equation (3) to the whole period of D1 - D90. Thus, the approximation function for the HNSA dataset can be expressed as follows:

$$y = -259.22\ln x + 1088.50\tag{11}$$

It can be observed from Equation (11) that the number of disrupted HHs becomes zero when $y = 1.088 - 0.259 \ln x = 0$, *i.e.* when x = 66.68, which implies that the number of disrupted HHs becomes zero at approximately D67. The regression results for the restoration of the water supply after the HNSA earthquake are given in **Table 6**.







Figure 14. Disrupted HHs in Hyogo prefecture (HNSA).

E.Q.	HNSA	E.Q.	NG	атс
Model	$y = a \ln x + b$	Model	<i>y</i> =	ae^{-bx}
Period	D1 - D90	Period	D1 - D14	D14 - D41
а	1088.50		11.760	9.2326
	(52.84)	а	(100.38)	(330.19)
	(0.0)		(0.0)	(0.0)
	-259.22		-0.2279	-0.5227
Ь	(-45.96)	Ь	(-16.56)	(-53.58)
	(0.0)		(0.0)	(0.819)
adj. <i>R</i> ²	0.9596	adj. <i>R</i> ²	0.9546	0.9907

Table 6. Parameter estimates for the water supply restoration models (HNSA, NGTC).

The restoration of the water supply to disrupted HHs after the NGTC earthquake in 2004 (data in **Table A3** in the **Appendix**) is shown in **Figure 15** (refer to MHLW (2004)). It can be seen that approximately 125,000 HHs experienced water supply disruption on the day of the earthquake; however, the restoration process started the day after the earthquake, and water service was restored to all of the disrupted HHs after one month. To apply the approximation function, we can conclude that the period from D1 to D41 should be split into two sub-periods, as these exhibit very different behaviour: the initial sub-period shows a drastic decreasing trend, while the trend in the later period is extremely slow and stable. We have established that the first two weeks or so are very important for maximising the speed of the restoration process. Thus, two sub-periods are designated as follows: the former comprises D1 through D14, and the latter comprises D14 through D41. Then, the approximation functions are determined separately, as shown in **Figure 15**. We assume an approximation function with an exponential form as follows:

$$y = ae^{bx}$$
 a, b: parameters. (12)

By transforming Equation (15) into a logarithmic form, the following equation is obtained, which can be used to obtain estimated values of parameters a and b.



Figure 15. Water supply recovery process for disrupted HHs (NGTC) (Data adapted from [20] annexed in the **Appendix**).

$$\ln y = \ln a + bx \quad a, b: \text{ parameters} \tag{13}$$

Applying the above approximation function, the actual values and estimated values (dotted segments) are shown in **Figure 15**. The regression results for the restoration of water after the NGTC earthquake are listed in **Table 6**.

The GEJE, which occurred on 11 March 2011, was one of the most powerful earthquakes in the history of Japan, with a seismic magnitude of 9.1 on the JMA scale. This earthquake caused severe damage to coastal prefectures such as Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima. Figure 16 shows the HHs with water disruption in these prefectures affected by the GEJE; the corresponding data are listed in Table A4 in the Appendix. In the trends in Figure 16, we can observe a bump in the restoration curves for all three prefectures approximately one month after the occurrence of the earthquake. This unusual phenomenon is due to the major aftershocks that affected six eastern coastline prefectures, mainly Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima. The magnitude of the aftershock on 7 April was 7.4, while the magnitude of that on 11 April 2011 was 7.1 (JMA scale). Figure 16 shows the overall trends of the water supply restoration in the three prefectures after the GEJE [15]. Figure 16 shows the water supply restoration after the GEJE for the three prefectures overall, which had a large number of disrupted HHs. It can be observed that approximately 60,000 HHs were experiencing water disruption even after three months. This is mainly a result of the two major aftershocks that occurred on 7 and 11 April, one month after the GEJE, and produced the tsunami that caused the nuclear disaster at the FDNPP. Soon after that incident, radiation was released into the atmosphere, which forced the government to evacuate the residents living within a radius of 20 km of the plant to avoid exposure to radiation.

To apply the approximation function, we can conclude that the period from D1 to D100 should be split into two sub-periods, as these periods exhibit very



Figure 16. Water supply restoration process for disrupted HHs in Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima prefectures (GEJE) (Data was adapted from [15]).

different behaviour. Namely, the early sub-period shows a drastic decrease, while the trend in the later period is extremely slow and stable. We have established that the first two weeks or so are very important for maximising the speed of our recovery operation. Thus, two sub-periods are designated as follows: the former comprises D1 through D40, and the latter comprises D40 through D100. Then, the approximation functions are determined separately, as shown in **Figure 17**. We assume the approximation functions have the exponential form given in Equation (8). Applying the above approximation function, the actual values and estimated values (dotted segments) are shown in **Figure 17**. The regression results for the GEJE are listed in **Table 7**.

The data for the restoration of water utility services after the KMMT earthquake are given in **Table A5** in the **Appendix** and plotted in **Figure 18** (Government of Kumamoto (2016)). On the day of the earthquake, water supply services to more than 90,000 HHs were disconnected; however, the restoration process started the day after the earthquake and water services were restored to all of the disrupted HHs after one month.

To apply the approximation function, we can conclude that the period from D3 to D62 should be split into two sub-periods, as these periods exhibit very different behaviour. Namely, the early sub-period shows a drastic decrease, while the trend in the later period is extremely slow and stable. We have established that the first two weeks or so are very important for maximising the speed of the restoration operation. Thus, two sub-periods are designated as follows: the former comprises D3 through D24, and the latter comprises D24 through D62. Then, the approximation functions are determined separately, as shown in **Figure 18**. We assume the approximation functions have the exponential form given in Equation (8). The parameter estimates obtained from the regression results for the KMMT earthquake are given in **Table 7**.

Many studies have been conducted in which the performance of water supply

E.Q.	GEJE		E.Q.	KM	IMT
Model	<i>y</i> =	$y = ae^{-bx}$		<i>y</i> =	ae^{-bx}
Period	D1 - D41	D41 - D100	Period	D1 - D26	D26 - D62
ln a	13.716 (122.27) (0.0)	11.514 (979.33) (0.0)	ln <i>a</i>	11.601 (83.305) (0.0)	9.8987 (46.833 (0.0)
Ь	-0.05495 (-11.628) (0.0)	-0.00592 (-36.255) (0.0)	Ь	-0.1716 (-19.802) (0.0)	-0.1243 (-26.618) (0.819)
adj. <i>R</i> ²	0.7793	0.9563	adj. <i>R</i> ²	0.9445	0.9516

Table 7. Parameter estimates for water supply restoration models (GEJE, KMMT).



Figure 17. Water supply restoration process for disrupted HHs (GEJE) (Data adapted from [15] annexed in **Appendix**).



Figure 18. Water supply restoration process for disrupted HHs (KMMT) (Data adapted from the Kumamoto prefectural government webpage).

systems is measured by defining performance indicators (PIs) using actual data. PIs were used to assess the performance of a water supply system in terms of its efficiency and effectiveness. PIs are tools for evaluating the efficiency, effectiveness, and robustness of water supply systems, and they can help decision-makers develop safe and reliable infrastructure strategies based on past and present trends [21] (see also [22] [23] [24]). The PI system in Japan consists of an excessive number of items, and principal component analysis was used to reduce the dimensionality of the original data [25]. They emphasised the importance of establishing PIs, as an adequate supply of safe and high-quality water is the basic purpose of any water supply utility, and noted that the ultimate purpose of PIs is to provide information for decision-makers rather than for statistical evaluation.

5. Summary and Conclusions

We adopted a quantitative methodology to investigate the evacuation situation and recovery process after recent severe natural disasters in Japan. The analysis focused on three aspects: data on evacuees and evacuation centres; the restoration process for public utilities such as electricity, water, gas, and telecommunication lines in large urban areas; and the restoration of the water supply system. Analysis of the evacuation situation revealed that the relationship between EVCN and EVCU could be expressed by a polynomial function for each of the HNSA, NGTC, and KMMT earthquakes, as indicated in Table 2. Collectively, in these three cases (excluding the GEJE), this relationship was given by a quadratic function passing through the origin, as listed in the TOTAL column in Table 2. We also found that the data for the exceptional case of a huge, unusual, and unprecedented earthquake (the GEJE) approached the approximation curves given for the other three earthquakes as a quadratic function after three months. In the case of the GEJE, however, we know that the evacuation situation was different from that in the other cases because the GEJE resulted in the nuclear disaster at the FDNPP following the earthquake and subsequent tsunami.

We investigated the restoration processes for public utilities such as electricity, water, gas, and telecommunication lines using the data for the HNSA earthquake. The results showed that the electricity and telecommunication systems were restored within one or two weeks, whereas the restoration of gas lines and the water supply could require more than three months. We found that the restoration processes of social infrastructure could be divided into two types. The first group consists of electricity and water, which exhibit convex restoration process curves, while the second group includes the gas supply and communication lines, which take the form of a concave function or a concave function following a convex curve. From the viewpoint of natural disaster mitigation policy, this implies that for electricity and water systems, increasing the slope of the approximate decreasing curve is important, while for gas and communication lines, shortening the initial flat period before the decreasing part of the curve is more important. In addition, with regard to the recovery of gas lines, we found that in addition to shortening the flat stagnant period before starting the decrease, obtaining a greater rate of decrease is also a significant and necessary measure.

The recovery trends for the water supply system after large-scale earthquakes reveal that water supply systems require longer periods of restoration than other public utilities. We found that a log-linear function could best describe the water restoration after the occurrence of the HNSA earthquake. Regarding the water supply restoration for the NGTC, KMMT, and GEJE, exponential functions could best fit the actual data. Here, in applying approximation functions to the water supply recovery process, we found that the restoration period should be split into two sub-periods with very different behaviour, as given in **Table 6** and **Table 7**. Specifically, the early sub-period is characterised by a drastic decrease, while the trend in the later period is extremely slow and stable. This implies that from the perspective of natural disaster mitigation policy, obtaining a greater rate of decrease in the first period is effective and important.

Finally, we believe the approaches discussed in the present study will contribute to the development of effective mitigation policies for natural disaster preparation in Japan.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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Appendix

Table A1. Restoration	processes for	or water	supply, g	gas, electricity,	and communi	cation
lines (HNSA).						

Date	No.	Water	Gas (10 ³)	Electricity	Comm. line	Date	No.	Water	Gas
1/17/1995				2,600,000	101,660	2/24/1995	37	83,200	415.1
1/18/1995				400,000	101,660	3/3/1995	44	55,250	203.1
1/19/1995	1	495,300		120,000	101,660	3/17/1995	58	7800	73.359
1/20/1995	2	456,300	849.5	80,000	101,660	3/24/1995	65	650	40.95
1/21/1995	3	393,250		40,000	101,660	3/31/1995	72	130	20.25
1/22/1995	4	384,800		15,000	101,660	4/6/1995	78	130	
1/23/1995	5	373,100	855.9	0	92,160	5/7/1995	109		
1/24/1995	6	367,250			92,160	5/8/1995			
1/25/1995	7	359,450			81,160	5/9/1995			
1/26/1995	8	347,100			81,160	5/10/1995			
1/27/1995	9	338,650	834.1		61,660	5/11/1995			
1/28/1995	10	321,100			48,660	5/12/1995			
1/29/1995	11	302,900			31,660	5/13/1995			
1/30/1995	12	286,650			15,660	5/14/1995			
1/31/1995	13	267,800			0	5/15/1995			
2/3/1995	16	239,200	737.8			5/16/1995			
2/9/1995	22	168,350	644.8			5/17/1995			
2/17/1995	30	138,450	529.9			5/18/1995			

Table A2. Water disruption in overall Hyogo Prefecture (HNSA).

Days after disaster	Disrupted households	Days after disaster	Disrupted households
D1	953,720	D15	415,000
D2	953,720	D16	405,000
D3	842,220	D17	325,000
D4	800,000	D18	315,000
D5	660,000	D19	305,000
D6	650,000	D20	290,000
D7	632,940	D30	178,000
D8	620,000	D40	100,000
D9	610,000	D50	29,000
D10	590,000	D60	6000
D11	560,000	D70	1000
D12	530,000	D80	90
D13	500,000	D90	1
D14	472,800		

Days after disaster	Disrupted households	Days after disaster	Disrupted households
D1	125,352	D16	4615
D2	117,106	D17	4340
D3	45,295	D18	4030
D4	42,122	D19	3928
D5	33,692	D20	3751
D6	33,216	D22	3191
D7	23,226	D24	2889
D8	19,512	D26	2420
D9	17,276	D28	2279
D10	15,668	D30	2086
D11	13,714	D32	1796
D12	7739	D34	1781
D13	6222	D36	1583
D14	5076	D38	1451
D15	4846	D40	1302

 Table A3. Water disruption in overall Niifgata Prefecture (NGTC).

Table A4. Water disruption in 3 affected prefectures (GEJE).

Days after disaster	Disrupted households	Days after disaster	Disrupted households
D1	580,000	D15	470,000
D2	580,000	D16	430,000
D3	650,000	D17	310,000
D4	750,000	D18	260,000
D5	880,000	D19	250,000
D6	760,000	D20	230,000
D7	740,000	D30	198,500
D8	740,000	D40	83,600
D9	720,000	D50	73,450
D10	630,000	D60	71,100
D11	600,000	D70	64,100
D12	570,000	D80	61,000
D13	560,000	D90	58,266
D14	550,000	D100	58,210

 Table A5.
 Water disruption in overall Kumamoto prefecture (KMMT).

Days after disaster	Disrupted households	Days after disaster	Disrupted households
D3	91,615	D14	11,943
D4	90,282	D15	9912

Continued				
D5	31,018	D16	7881	
D6	23,837	D17	5849	
D7	22,365	D18	5367	
D8	20,873	D19	4885	
D9	20,154	D20	4392	
D10	16,393	D30	464	
D11	14,617	D40	112	
D12	20,116	D50	51	
D13	16,030	D60	12	
D14	11,943	D62	2	
D15	9912			
D16	7881			
D17	5849			