

# Can risk be measured?

Now, the question comes, can we really measure risk, can risk be measured?

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- Lord Kelvin (Beer – 1967) : “ Anything that exists.....exists in some quantity and can therefore be measured”

There is a person Lord Kelvin, he is saying that anything that exists; exists in some quantity and can, therefore, be measured, if there are 5 people, we can say 5 people so, it exists so, anything that exists, that exists in some quantity, a glass of water; yes we can tell it.

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## Distinction should be made -

- Real / actual / objective/ measurable risk – obeys the formal law of statistical !!
- Subjective risk – perceived by non-experts !! There is nothing called “cultural risks”!!

So, distinction should be made between real, actual, objective measurable risk, which follow the scientific rules, scientific law of statistics. So, statistically we can say how much risk is there, another one is the subjective one that perceived by non-expert, there is nothing called cultural risk, it is your problem man, but there is a scientific.

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Britain Department of Transport

- Safety / Danger of the road = casualty record
- The consequence of real accidents



Now, Britain Department of Transport, they are saying that yes we can measure the risk, it is very simple, we can measure it based on casualty record, how many people are dying in a particular time and a particular road. The consequence of real accidents, these are simple parameters to tell people how much risk is there. Also, this is actual danger because if you want to be flamboyant, you can be, no problem but that is the consequence.

And if you do it, if you do not believe it, this is your personal problem but, scientifically we know that this road is danger, you should not do this so, you are at risk.

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## Safe and unsafe road



Safe and unsafe road; according to them is very clear like, if there is no accident left-hand side then this road is safe, and if this road is unsafe, because we can see that there is an accident okay.

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## Really ? Can risk be measured?

So, really; can we really measure the risk? so that is a big question, these questions that whether we can really measure, can we really distinguish between objective risk and perceived risk that challenge will continue. In our next series, we will discuss on this aspect that how, when, what extent we can distinguish between objective risk and subjective risk and can we really do it, so and what and how extent it will affect the preparedness.

Thank you very much.