



Human Awareness and the Disaster Management in India

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ABSTRACT:

Disaster is a situation arising from natural forces where large scale disruption of infrastructure services occurs, causing the serious impact on human life, economy and environment. It can also defined as, “Disaster” which is a sudden calamitous event bringing great damage, loss of devastation of life and property which exceed the ability of the affected society to cope using its own sources.

The national disaster which caused devastation are – Tornados, Cyclones, Hailstorms, Snowfalls, Frost, Windstorms, Lightning, Rainfall, Flood, Draught, Landslide, Earthquake and Forest Fire, Nuclear Radiations and other type of chemical and biological disasters.

The damage caused by disaster is immeasurable and varies with the geographical location, climate and type of earth surface and degree of vulnerability. This impacts the mental, socio-economic, political and cultural state of affected area.

It is very important to make aware the general public towards the natural disaster. The present study discusses the importance and need of awareness and training of the general public. All the disaster management techniques that are being developed are understood by and confined to the intellectual community and hence lacks the mass participation. Awareness towards disasters is the only effective way in which one can bring out mass participation. Therefore, any disaster management can only be successful if the general public has some awareness towards the disasters.

In respect to India's view point there is lack of public awareness on 'Disasters', the Indian Government's awareness programs are not strongly promoted as they were in countries like Japan, but in recent years the intensity of the disasters are increasing day by day, it is necessary to aware and train the general public so that they can save themselves and others in the event of any disaster.

Keywords: Disaster, Awareness, Mitigation, Risk Management

Introduction:

Disaster is a situation arising from natural forces where large scale disruption of infrastructure services occurs, causing the serious impact on human life, economy and environment. It can also defined as, “Disaster” which

is a sudden calamitous event bringing great damage, loss of devastation of life and property which exceed the ability of the affected society to cope using its own sources.

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Disaster and Disaster Management:

‘Disaster’ as a term has been interpreted in a lot many ways by various individuals and organizations. The reason for this is the lack of consensus on, what a disaster is?, but in recent times due to increase in the amount of researches going into disasters and their management developing knowledge, skills and values at all levels. Government of India in its Tenth and Eleventh five year plan has emphasized the need to enhance knowledge skills and values to reduce the impact and disasters through education sector.

Prevention of natural disaster is next to impossible task but human imposed disasters are controllable, damages caused by natural disaster could be stopped by undertaking some disaster mitigation strategies which are as follows:-

- Early warning strategies should be developed to alarm the people around to get ready for some expected disaster.
- Preparation and implementation of disaster plans.
- Proper communication system, Tele-Medicinal Services should be mobilized.
- Planning for rehabilitation and reduction in post disaster effects.

It is much necessary how general awareness of disaster management be spread amongst common public. The best way is through media so that we can communicate our thoughts to large number of people in short time duration. Disaster can be substantially reduced if people are well informed and motivated towards a culture of disaster prevention and resilience, which in turn requires the collection, compilation and dissemination of relevant knowledge and information on hazards, vulnerabilities and capacities. Someone said very correctly, “Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.”

The key activities, priorities (HFA) Hogo Framework for Action, 2005-15 as priorities:

- **Information management and Exchange** -relevant information network, strengthening, cooperation and partnership among stakeholders, information sharing.
- **Education and Training** – School Curricular, training targeted at specific sectors.
- **Research** – Multi-Risk Assessment, socio-economic cost benefit analysis strengthens the capacity.
- **Public Awareness** – literacy is a major factor in awareness, literate people can be made easily as they understand easily and with less effort and money.

Media usage refers to the media being used by the people for news, entertainment and in general acquiring information, cinema, street plays, television, newspapers and mitigation, almost many of definitions have more or less than taking about humans sensitivity towards natural or man-made environmental hazards, i.e., in other words the definitions have become anthropocentric and have reached a level of standardization. So in order to understand the term 'Disaster' we need to understand the term 'Hazards' and human sensitiveness towards hazards. Hazards can be defined or viewed as a naturally occurring or human induced processes or event with the potential to create losses, i.e., a general source of danger. In simple words hazard is a rare or extreme event in the natural or human made environment that adversely affects human life, property or activity to the extent of causing a disaster.

'Disaster Management' is nothing but skillful ways, methods of controlling a disaster. Disaster Management techniques or methods are based on the economic status of the country and hence it varies from country to country. Any disaster management technique involves certain amount of investment. Hence, the process of managing the disaster and thus increasing safety involving a balancing act that between the cost of reducing the risk of disaster and the benefit arising from the amount of risk reduced. Thus, developed countries managed disasters better than developing countries.

Now the question is how the disaster can be managed in India through awareness?

In India the public awareness program are not strongly promoted as in the country like Japan. In India the main disaster happen very often are floods (in river valleys), draught, earthquake (in unstable regions like Himalayan Region, Eastern India and some part of Western India), Forest Fire (mainly in hilly regions), landslide (also in hilly regions with heavy snowfall), storms and hurricanes (in coastal regions).

Natural disaster affects every one alike. However, the nature of impact varies based on their vulnerability which is physical, social and attitudinal and coping capacity of these effected. Each time a disaster occurs; there is physical, educational, economic and psychological impact. About 85% of India's geographical area is prone to natural hazards such as cyclones, floods, earthquakes, landslides and draught. Traditionally India has received in its approach towards disasters with precious resources being spent on relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction. Off late there has been a major shift in its approach. The focus has shifted to pre disaster aspects like, prevention, mitigation and preparedness, as it is felt that appropriate mitigations measures can substantially, if not completely mitigate the impact f disasters. Education of disaster management is a trans-disciplinary exercise aimed at magazines based on the media which is most used, the awareness can be created

through that media which makes the work simple and again reduce the cost. Media usage is a factor which is more or less based on literacy.

To build in a culture of safety and resilience at all levels in the education sector, there is a need to carry out a large number of initiatives. Some of the ongoing initiatives of the Government of India with support from various stakeholders are:

- ✓ Inclusion of disaster management in curriculum.
- ✓ To reduce vulnerability, CBSE with support from ministry of Home Affairs and Human Resource Development. Government of India and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) having corporate disaster management as part of its frontline curriculum in social science for class 8th to 11th, social and geography.

Conclusion:

Thus the above discussion clears that the mechanical processes are essential and very useful and effective but their results depend on human awareness. The people who are literate can be better trained, better explicable and can be better educated about the media usage.

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