



DISASTER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES: NEW IMPLICATIONS

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ABSTRACT

Indian sub continent has been always open to natural calamities & disasters. There have been several natural disasters which have been causing heavy loss of public property & precious human life. The government has taken several steps towards disaster risk reduction management & the policy towards disaster risk reduction management has been a failure as the people have been able to come out of miseries due to calamities. This paper examines the importance the civil defense can make in disaster risk reduction management & disaster risk management.

Keywords: Disaster risk reduction management, role of community involvement, need for an integrated participatory policy

Introduction

Disaster risk reduction management (DRR) is the concept & practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts. The concept involves steps to analyze & reduce the casual factors of disasters. It includes systematic strategies for reducing exposure to hazards, lessening vulnerability of people & property towards disasters. It means wise management of land & the environment & improving preparedness & early warning for adverse events are all examples of disaster risk reduction.

Multi-Disciplinary Approach

DRR affects the entire humanity hence it needs a multi disciplinary approach. It includes disciplines like disaster management, disaster mitigation, disaster preparedness & disaster reduction strategy planning . The strategies towards DRR should help countries to achieve sustainable development. The concept of Disaster has become a common issue during these days as countries have come in to face disaster quite often .Natural calamities or otherwise disasters have been causing serious effects on human resistance.

Forms of Disasters

The disaster may come in the form of natural calamities such as floods, earth quakes, avalanches, mud slides, landslides, storms, hurricanes, inundations, sudden outpours, tremors, etc. But manmade disasters cause additional impact as they are quite often influence whole humanity. Manmade disasters arise out or



man's craving to master whole universe. The following can be listed as more frequent manmade disasters threatening the whole human existence.

1. Armed confrontations,
2. Atomic explosions,
3. Armed War ,
4. Army Coups
5. bombing
6. Poisonous chemical leakage in industries
7. Caste / Class/ Creed/ Based Bias
8. Caste Based Disturbances
9. Communal Fights leading to massacres
10. Dislocation of local inhabitant
11. Geographical / Divisional Bifurcation
12. Ethnic Violence
13. Evacuation / Forced Displacements due to heavy industrial establishments
14. Factional Bigotry
15. Internal Strife & friction ,
16. Migration & delayed resettlement
17. Political redistribution of states ,
18. Racism
19. Religious Conflict
20. Tribal Strife
21. Terrorism & terrorism related human violence

Effects of Disasters on Humanity

The whole humanity are subject to various types of atrocities. There are several effects which can be listed as follows

1. Aggravation of distress & mental unsteadiness caused due to catastrophes
2. Aggravated gender assault
3. Coldblooded massacre of kith & kin
4. Damaged living options
5. Devastation
6. Food insufficiency
7. Gender based atrocities
8. Growing redundancy & employability
9. Insufficiency of alternate residential support
10. Lack of basic means of livelihood
11. Lack of compensatory support
12. Loss of life due to insufficient medical aid
13. Loss of livelihood means
14. Loss of property due to theft / burglary
15. Plundering –intended & accidental
16. Sexual harassment
17. Submerging of residential houses
18. Suffering caused due to infectious diseases



Besides above there are a number of various other causes which cause fatal effects on life & livelihood means. These days all countries across the globe are knocked by the effects of terrorism more than any other disaster.

The Strategies

1. **Formation of regional platforms** - Regional platform development is a primary strategy towards building DRR. These regional platforms can help to assist in creating awareness about DRR.
2. **Periodical review**- reviewing periodically the progress made in the field of DRR is very much necessary. This helps to pull together recommendations on the coordination between central & state Governments
3. **Establishment of multi stakeholder forums** -A multi stakeholder forums that reflect the commitment of governments to improve coordination & implementation of DRR activities while linking to IN & national efforts needs an immediate attention.
4. **Building community resilience** -Support local efforts to reinforce serious services & build community resilience also should be planned meticulously.
5. **Fund risk reduction activities** - Fund risk reduction activities such as vulnerability assessments for potentially disaster prone areas needs an immediate attention. Fund reduction activities on impact mitigation & efforts to ensure post disaster reproductive care & access to livelihood means are very much necessary. Fund training for healthcare providers to identify and strengthen the most vulnerable populations.
6. **Support programs**-Support programs that assist policy makers & NGOs to channelize assistance in disaster-affected areas can be a best supportive challenge. Support research into the ongoing effects of disasters on populations, as well as effective ways to build coping capacities among individuals and communities.
7. **Training through capacity building** - Training through capacity building helps the people as well as NGOs to make people aware of the situation . These capacity building activities helps the community as a whole to counter disastrous situations with calm & ease. When people are calm support systems can channel freely . But in most of the situations people become disappointed with sluggish & measured assistance following a crisis & they even misuse & squander assistance . (The National Disaster Management Authority official website 2014).
8. **Role of NGOs** – In India there are several NGOS which are taking efforts to support Indian Government in DRR such as red cross societies , red crescent organizations , scouts & guides organizations , First aid societies , Red ribbon organizations etc. (The National Disaster Management Authority official website 2014).



9. Good humanitarian donor ship- besides all these the humanitarian aspects of DRR play a key role in DRR management. Charitable institutions should come forward to support people in disaster. Liberal grants are often misused & exploited by notorious elements. This has to be stopped People should adhere to civic sense & patriotism. (The report of the Global risk reduction 2015)

Above all these, Self defense is always a blessing in disguise; People have to educate themselves with self defense tactics. These attributes cannot be taught or dictated. The mental preparedness is a invariable key to countenance any disastrous circumstances. Each community has to open up with experience sharing about self defense during these situations which helps in capacity building. (The report of the Global risk reduction, 2015)

Role of technology in DRR

Technology has a imperative role to play in reducing the people's risk to disasters. Technical support can help to alleviate distressed people from disastrous situations. These days there have been several practical actions well placed to connect humanitarian DRR with the need to build disaster preparedness & avoidance of disaster into pro -developmental strategies. (The National Disaster Management Authority report 2014).Technological support has been seen as an imperative augmentation in DRR.

1. Water treatment management for reducing deaths by transmittable diseases is being conjectured as a priority area for DRR. Most of the deaths which follows a disaster occurs through water borne contagious diseases. The priority scheduling of water treatment policy can reduce the magnanimity of such disasters. (UNESCO Report On Gender & Disaster Risk Reduction – 2012).
2. Emergency shelters for homes, public facilities, e.g. toilets, bath rooms, make shift homes, sanitation halls, dormitories; etc can be made with modern technology. New innovative ideas are being searched across the globe for supporting these causes. Support through bedding, body warmers, light weight quilts, foldable tent materials, portable sleeping mats etc are being manufactured to serve people in distress. (UNESCO Report On Gender & Disaster Risk Reduction – 2012).
3. Energy generation through lightening is being thought as a new innovative methodology for reducing disasters.
4. solar communication technology for mobile phone charging , nights lamping , room heating for homes , temporary residential places , help desk offices, including medical centers can become an alternate supportive system in DRR.
5. Supply of rain water conservation in temporary / permanent reservoirs & tanks can be an important support



6. Supplying pure drinking water will reduce nearly half of the magnanimity of disasters.
7. satellite linked weather automated knowledge services are also helpful ,
8. Identifying seismic prone micro –zones predictions has become more elaborate & systematic these days. This technology can help positively in DRR. Metrological, hydrological & climate services to support science based risk management decisions as well as investments in early warning systems. (UNESCO Report On Gender & Disaster Risk Reduction – 2012).

Conclusion

Thus an integrated policy towards creating an awareness with community stake holder support need priority scheduling through all levels of governmental policy making. Thus DRR can become more effective with inclusion of whole community in its policy procedure. Harnessing a DRR technology evolving risk funding mechanism, long term recovery & rehabilitation public private partnerships, multi stakeholder participation, stimulation is all needed to DRR. it should become a long term rehabilitation & reconstruction policy. Thus the DRR needs a greater integrity in policy making. Even the world meteorological mission focuses on DRR as the core of its mission. A paradigm shift from post disaster response to a proactive risk reduction approach can be the best solution.

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