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Research Paper

Disaster Management - Importance and Challenges

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ABSTRACT

"Disaster is an event that causes sudden great loss." Thus, disaster is unexpected and unpredictable even for which people are not prepared. It causes irrecoverable loss to life and property. Thus, disaster management is a set of systematic action to mitigate a disaster. Disaster management has also faced many challenges. Impact of climate change, population pressure and so on to avoid this problems, disaster management undertakes Rescue Operations, Disaster preventions strategies, programmes for disaster control etc. various measures for putting in place institutional and policy framework, disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness and also initiatives being undertaken by state and central government, the community, civil society organizations and medias plays very important role to achieving overall of moving together towards a safer India.

KEY WORDS:

Disaster management, challenges, important unexpected preparedness.

INTRODUCTION:

India has been traditionally vulnerable to natural disaster on account of its unique geo climate conditions. Floods, droughts, cyclones, earthquakes and landslide have been a recurrent phenomena. About 60% of the landmass is prone to earthquakes of various intensities; over 40 million hectares is prone to floods; about 8% of the total area is prone to cyclones and 685 of the area are susceptible to drought. In the decade 1990-2000, an average of about 4344 people lost their lives and about 30 million people were affected by disasters every year. The loss in terms of private, community and public assets has been astronomical.

Disaster management has also faced many challenges e.g. Impact of climate change, population pressure, Democratization of information etc. To avoid these problems, to undertaking Rescue operations, Formation of disaster, Co-ordinating with different agencies, providing Relief measures, Systematic planning is also very important in disaster management.

Disaster management is very important concept. Though man has made tremendous technological progress in his relatively brief existence on the earth, he is still virtually helpless against the vagaries of nature. Natural disaster such as floods, cyclones, landslides and earthquakes ravage man's domain at will and causes much loss to life and property. In addition to natural disaster, man has added man-made disaster such as chemical and gas leakages, industrial fires, accidents, environmental fall outs, cyber crimes etc. All these require disaster management to minimize loss of life and property.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

- 1) To study the importance of Disaster management in India.
- 2) To study the challenges of Disaster management in India.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY :

The present study is based on secondary data which is collected from various publications, journals, magazines, reference books, internet etc.

DEFINITION OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT :

Disaster :

The World Health Organization (WHO) is defines "a disaster as any occurrence that causes damage, economic destruction, loss of human life and deterioration in health services, on a scale sufficient to warrant an extraordinary response from outside the affected community or area."

The United Nations defines a disaster, "as a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society. Disaster involve wide spread human, material, economic or environmental impacts, which exceed the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources."

Disaster Management :

The Red Cross and Red Crescent societies define disaster management, "as the organization and management of resources and responsibilities for dealing with all humanitarian aspects of emergencies, in particular preparedness, response and recovery in order to lessen the impact of disaster."

TYPES OF DISASTER :**1) Natural Disasters -**

Its includes Earthquakes, Flood, Cyclone, Tsunami, Landslides, Snowstorms, Epidemics, Volcanic eruptions, Forest fires, Desertification, Meteorite strike etc.

2) Environmental Emergencies -

Including technological or industrial accidents, usually involving the production, use or transportation of hazardous material, and occur where these materials are produced, used or transported and forest fires caused by human.

3) Complex Emergencies -

Including conflict situations and war.

4) Pandemic Emergencies -

Involving a sudden onset of contagious diseases that affects health, disrupts services and businesses, brings economic and social costs.

IMPORTANCE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT:**1) Forecasting of Disaster -**

Disaster management team can forecast probable disaster and can take action well before its occurrence.

2) Undertaking Rescue Operations -

Rescue operations can be undertaken by the disaster management team effectively, trained team members can rescue the people from landslides, fires, earthquakes, floods etc.

3) Co-ordinating with Different Agencies -

Disaster management team can successfully co-ordinate with other agencies for financial, medical and legal assistance so that disaster can be managed effectively.

4) Releasing Tension -

Disaster management team can assure total assistance before and after the disaster. The tension developed due to disaster can be released through psychological, financial and material support by the disaster management team.

5) Formation of Disaster -

For managing disaster successfully, Government, business and non-business organizations build a team of experts to avert disaster, examine causes and suggest and implement measures. This team contains the policy group which deals with emergencies; the management groups that undertaken planning and sets procedure and liaison group which co-ordinates related activities by establishing contracts with respective agencies.

6) Providing Relief Measures -

The team can provide relief measures to the disaster victims e.g. making arrangement of food, shelter, medicines, relief camps etc.

7) Systematic Planning -

All activities related with averting disaster are well planned. The planning activity contains details about what action to be taken, when to act, how to act, and who is responsible to implement these actions.

CHALLENGES OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT :**1) Increasing frequency and intensity of disaster in recent times:**

India is prone to disaster due to number of factors; both natural and human induced, including adverse geo-climatic conditions, topographic features, environmental degradation, population growth, urbanization, industrialization etc. As far as the geographic dimensions of the country i.e. Himalayan region, the alluvial plains, the hilly part of the peninsula, and the coastal zone have their own specific problems while on one hand the Himalayan region is prone to disaster like earthquakes and landslides, the plain is affected by floods almost every year. The desert part of the country is affected by droughts while the coastal zone is susceptible to cyclones and storms. On account of its multilayered vulnerability, an increase in frequency and intensity of disaster in the past resulting in widespread ruin. The human & economic losses from disasters are enormously high in India as compared to other developing nations of the world.

2) Impact of Climate Change :

The various effects of climate change pose risks that increase with global warming. The effect of global warming is the ecological and social changes caused by the rise in global temperatures. Evidence of climate change includes the instrumental temperature record, rising sea levels, and decreasing snow cover in the Northern Hemisphere. Thus, the climate changes happening due to global warming could have serious challenges for disaster management.

3) Population Pressure:

Rapid population growth particularly in urban areas is one of the serious problems for disaster management. The unplanned growth of urban areas makes response much more difficult. Unsafe building practices in rapidly growing urban settlements constitute one of India's greatest challenges for disaster management.

4) Continuous Preparedness :

There must be continuous preparedness in disaster management because it is required before and after the disaster preparedness. People should be made aware about serious effects of disaster before its actual happening. The disaster management teams should be continuously alert so that effect due to disaster can be minimized. But this one of the challenge of disaster management.

SUGGESTIONS :

- 1) Need of training in theory and practice of disaster management.
- 2) Need of designing the culture of preparedness.
- 3) Need for effective, transparent and accountable administration.
- 4) Need of use of modern information and communicative technology.
- 5) Need of planning for disaster management.
- 6) Need of integrating disaster management programmes in development planning.
- 7) Need of cultivating public awareness.
- 8) Need of mobilization and utilization of financial resources.

CONCLUSION :

Disaster is an event that causes sudden great loss. This, disaster is expected and unpredictable event for which people are not prepared. It causes irrecoverable loss to life and property. Thus, disaster management is a set of systematic actions to mitigate a disaster. In disaster management so many challenges are there various measures for putting in place institutional and policy framework, disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness and also initiatives being taken by the central and state governments, the community, civil society organizations and media plays very important role to achieving our goal of moving together towards a safer.

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