

BA 2nd year

EDUCATION (Major)

Paper 4.2: Environmental and Population Education

Disaster Management education:

Disaster is a sudden, calamitous and unfortunate event that brings with it great damage, loss, destruction and devastation to human life as well as property. Disaster management is very important to survive in case of natural or man-made disaster. Disaster management activities are aimed to minimize loss of life and damage in the event of disaster. Disaster management measures can help removing people and property from a threatened location by facilitating timely and effective rescue, relief and rehabilitation at the place of disaster thereby reducing loss of property, protecting people and reducing trauma among people. Disaster management has assumed great importance in recent times. As disasters cannot be avoided, we can always be prepared for them beforehand. For that, we need to be up to date with the latest technologies so the impact on the lives of people, animals and plants can be lessened.

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

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 disasters. So, disaster management is defined as the process of saving and protecting mankind and property from the atrocities of natural and man –made disasters. Many time natural disasters like- floods, hurricane, earthquakes, cyclones, droughts and landslide cause great harm to people and their wealth and result in massive destruction.

According to Cambridge Dictionary “A disaster is an event that results in great harm and causes damage, death or serious difficulty”. The word ‘Disaster’ is derived from the middle French word ‘desastre’. It is come from the Ancient Greek word ‘Dus’ which means ‘bad’ and

‘Aster’ which means ‘star’. The root of the word disasters come from the astrological sense of calamity blamed on the positions of the planets

India is one of the most disasters prone countries of the world, almost 80% of India’s geographical area is considered at risk one or more type of natural disaster. Especially floods and droughts significantly impact the majority of India though they are most prevalent in the northwestern and eastern regions respectively. Every country is at the risk of exposure to some type of disaster, whether natural or man-made. In order for each country to prepare for any kind of disaster, it must inform its citizens about the different types of disasters. The local residents must also be aware of how they can effectively participate in preparing for a disaster, mitigating potential impacts of a disaster and the recovery process after a disaster. One of the most effective mechanisms for a country to prepare for a disaster is by conducting education and public awareness programmes at the local community level. Public awareness in disaster management is a process of educating and empowering the population through sharing knowledge and information about the various types of disasters and their potential risks as widely as possible so that people act appropriately when a disasters occurs.

In India, the govt. has set up various institutions, funds to lessen the impact of disasters on the people of the affected areas and the country. Organizations like- National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Remote Sensing Centre(NRSC), Indian council of Medical Research (ICMR), Central Water Commission(CWC) are working tirelessly to aid and do conducive research in combating and helping the people during disasters in the best way possible.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the apex body that is mandated to lay down the policies and guidelines for disaster management to ensure timely and effective response towards disasters. There are both direct and indirect impacts of the disaster which have been deadly destructive and damaging effects on human life. Disaster management is a collective and coordinated effort. A number of activities need to be performed at the time of disaster. This involves the coordination, command and full control, rapid assessment of damage, restoration of power, telecommunication, the deployment of search and rescue teams, medicals and Para-medical teams , water for drinking and food material, setting up of temporary shelters, sanitation and hygiene identification, last but not the least, maintenance of law and order is equally

important. Each and every person must take an active part in disaster management to reduce the risk of human life. The proper disaster management team can take charge as soon as possible when the disaster strikes.

There are four types of disasters seen and vulnerability varies country to country.

1. **Natural disasters:** It includes floods, hurricanes, earthquakes and volcano eruptions that have immediate impacts on human.
2. **Environmental emergencies:** Here includes 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 humans.
3. **Complex emergencies:** Involves break-down of authority, coding and attacks on strategic installations, including conflict situations and war.
4. **Pandemic emergencies:** involving a sudden onset of contagious disease that affects health disrupts services and businesses, bring economic and social costs.

Disasters have a major and long lasting impact on people. Any disasters can interrupt essential services, such as- health care, electricity, water, sewage/ garbage removal, transportation and communication. The interruption can seriously affect the health, social and economic networks of local communities and countries. At the time of disaster local, regional, national and international organizations are all involved in mounting a humanitarian response to disasters. Each will have a prepared disaster management plan. These plan cover prevention, preparedness, relief and recovery.

Disaster prevention: There are some activities designed to provide permanent protection from disasters.. Not all disasters, particularly natural disasters can be prevented, but the risk of loss of life and injury can be mitigated with good evacuation plan, environmental planning and design standards.

Disaster preparedness: These activities are designed to lessen loss of life and damage- for example by removing people and property from a threatened location and by facilitating timely and effective rescue, relief and rehabilitation. Preparedness is the main way of reducing the impact of disasters.

Disaster relief: This is a coordinated multi agency response to reduce the impact of a disaster and its long term results. Relief activities include- rescue, relocation, providing food and water, preventing diseases and disability, repairing vital services such as telecommunications and transport, providing temporary shelter and emergency health care.

Disaster recovery: Once emergency needs have been met and the initial crisis is over, the people affected and the communities that support them are still vulnerable, Recovery activities includes rebuilding infrastructure, health care, rehabilitation. These should blend with development activities.

Therefore, disaster management is the art of reducing the impact of disasters. It is obvious that we cannot stop natural disasters from happening but we can always take some steps to reduce the amount of damage it causes to the earth. Hence, management is all about lessening the damage to a greater extent.

Disaster management is linked with sustainable development, particularly in relation to vulnerable people such as those with disabilities, elderly people, children and other marginalized groups.

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