

7.5 DISASTER MANAGEMENT: FLOODS, EARTHQUAKE, CYCLONES AND LANDSLIDES

- Disasters are as old as Mankind.
- A disaster is defined as any occurrence that causes damage, ecological disruption, loss of human life, deterioration of health and health services on a scale, sufficient to warrant an extraordinary response from outside the affected community or area (WHO).
- A disaster can be defined as an occurrence either nature or manmade that causes human suffering and creates human needs that victim cannot alleviate without assistance (American Red Cross).
- Hazard is defined as any phenomenon that has the potential to cause disruption or damage to the people and their environment.
- A hazard is natural event while the disaster is its consequence.

Classification of disasters:

- Natural, Meteorological, Topographical, Environmental, Manmade, Technological, Industrial, Warfare.

Meteorological Disasters:

- Floods Tsunami, Cyclone, Hurricane, Typhoon, Snow storm, Blizzard, Hail storm.

Topographical Disasters:

- Earthquake, Volcanic Eruptions, Landslides and Avalanches.

Disaster Management: A continuous and integrated process of planning, organizing, coordinating and implementing .

measures which are necessary or expedient for:

- Prevention of danger or threat of any disaster.
- Reduction of risk of any disaster or its severity or consequences.
- Capacity-building. Preparedness to deal with any disaster.
- Prompt response to any threatening disaster situation or disaster.
- Assessing the severity or magnitude of effects of any disaster.
- Evacuation, rescue and relief. Rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Integrated Disaster Management:

- Preparedness Response Recovery Mitigation Activities prior to a disaster.
Preparedness plans Emergency exercises Training
- Warning systems Activities during a disaster.
- Public warning systems Emergency operations
- Search & rescue Activities following a disaster.
- Temporary housing Claims processing Grants
- Medical care Activities that reduce effects of disasters
- Building codes & zoning Vulnerability analyses Public education.

Vulnerability Profile of India:

- Asian region is most disaster prone region with 60% of the major natural disasters of world.
- India is vulnerable in varying degrees to a large number of natural as well as man-made disasters.
- 12 % land is prone to floods and river erosion.
- 58 % landmass is prone to earthquakes.
- 5,700 km coastline is prone to cyclones and tsunamis.
- 68% cultivable area is vulnerable to drought.
- Hilly areas are at risk from landslides and avalanches.

- Further, the vulnerability to Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) disasters and terrorism has also increased.

Disaster Management Training:

- NIDM provides Web based training courses.
- Satellite based demonstration cum Training Programme on Disaster Management conducted through Edu-SAT Network.

Response and Rescue National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Composition:

- 10 battalions Tasks- Specialized Response during disasters.
- Well equipped and trained in search and rescue. Assist in Community Training & Preparedness.
- Impart basic and operation level training to SDRF.
- Proactive Deployment during impending disaster situations.
- Liaison, Rehearsals and Mock Drills.