

Importance of Disaster Management

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Introduction:

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 and also hampers the ongoing developmental projects in a particular area being affected by the disaster. A disaster has been defined in many ways; World Health Organization has defined disaster as any sudden occurrence of the events that cause 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. Disaster management is very important to survive in the case of a natural or a major man-made disaster and can be defined 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 a sudden disaster. The damage caused by disasters is immeasurable and varies with the geographical location, climate and the type of the earth surface/degree of vulnerability. At times there can be disasters where there is no loss of human life and at times these can also cause a huge loss of life and property. This influences the mental, socio-economic, political and cultural state of the affected area. A disaster can be caused by human activities or due to some natural changes. Disasters are events that are unpredictable most of the times. It is important for any government, state or community to manage disasters by being prepared for it in advance. The government provides legislation, allocates resources and does the rational planning and sustainable development. Disaster management and planning is a key part of government work and an issue to be taken up seriously by the concerned authorities.

Definition and concept: Disaster management includes sum total of all activities, programmes and measures which can be taken up before, during and after a disaster with the purpose of avoiding, reducing the impact or recovering from its losses.

Disaster management means managing resources and various responsibilities to deal with all humanitarian aspects of emergencies. This may include preparedness before disaster, response and recovery i.e. rebuilding and supporting society. The purpose of this is to lessen the impact of disasters. Disaster management can be defined 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.

Objectives:

1. To know the concept of Disaster Management
2. To study the effect of Disaster
3. To study Types of Disaster
4. To Give Proper suggestion

Research Methodology:

In the present study researcher use secondary data like that books ,Newspapers,etc. This study is based on only secondary data.

Effects of Disaster

A disaster is an event of sudden calamity causing disruption in normal routing and causing a lot of destruction depending upon the intensity of the disaster. Generally, disaster has the following effects in the concerned areas:

- It completely disrupts the normal day to day life.
- Causes a lot of loss in the terms of life and property.
- Leads to a loss of agriculture and animal life as well.
- Disasters hamper developmental projects in an adverse manner.
- Disaster causes destruction to the state of art and infrastructure.
- It negatively influences the emergency systems.
- Normal needs and processes like flood, shelter, health, etc. are affected and deteriorate depending on the intensity and severity of the disaster.

Types of Disasters

Disasters are inevitable; there is no country that is immune from disaster, though vulnerability to disaster varies. Generally, disasters are of two types – Natural Disasters and Manmade Disasters. Based on the devastation caused and intensity of the disaster, these are further classified into major/minor natural disaster and major/minor manmade disasters. Some of the disasters are listed below:

Natural Disasters:

Natural disasters are generally unpredictable types of disasters and the destruction caused by these depends upon the intensity of the disasters. These disasters include floods, hurricanes, earthquakes and volcano eruptions that can have immediate impacts on human health, as well as secondary impacts causing further death and suffering from floods causing landslides, earthquakes resulting in fires, tsunamis causing widespread flooding and typhoons sinking ferries. Majorly the cause of these disasters is the change in climate as well as the movements inside the earth like moving of tectonic plates or lava. Depending upon the intensity as well as the destruction caused these can be classified as:

- **Major Natural Disaster:** Major natural disasters include the events of the high-intensity earthquake, floods, cyclone, flash floods, some major landslides and event of draught. These disasters generally cause a high loss of life and property and also lead to displacement of a lot of people from their shelters. Generally, these disasters pose a major threat to the developmental projects as well as the infrastructure of a particular area. Preparedness against these disasters should be on the top of the priority list.
- **Minor Natural Disasters:** Cold wave, heavy rains causing disruption in normal life, heat wave, thunderstorms, mudslides, some minor landslides and low-intensity earthquakes can be few cases of minor natural disasters. These disasters do not cause much loss in the terms of human life as well as property. Though, if care is not taken then these can prove to be fatal for human beings. There is generally not much need for disaster preparedness at the community level but this kind of disaster requires personal preparedness and awareness against these disasters. For example, there can't be disaster preparedness for heat-wave or cold wave at the community level; it is our own responsibility to take care of ourselves in the event of severe cold and heat.

Man-made Disasters:

These are the disaster generally taking place due to human activities and human negligence and can lead to a lot of destruction in the terms of life and property. At times these are really fatal and sometimes these could be a minor event of an emergency and can be handled at the personal level. At most of the times, these take place due to human negligence and hence are unpredictable most of the times, however, the events of wars, attacks etc are predictable

disasters. The loss taking place due to these disasters depends upon the intensity of these disasters. These can be classified as:

- **Major Man-made Disaster:** Some major man-made disasters may include the events of forest-fires, event of wars, nuclear attack, major fires, industrial accidents as well as the event of building collapsing or accidents at construction sites causing a lot of loss and damage. Generally, the events leading to human negligence such as industrial accidents, events of fires and construction accidents are unpredictable and cause a major loss in the terms of life and infrastructure. Some major events of industrial fires have been reported in past years that have led to the death of a lot of workers and reported a huge loss of material and machinery. It is advised to have an emergency preparedness for evacuation in the events of an emergency and also industrial units should be vigilant and install all the safety gears as well equipment such as fire extinguishers and emergency alarms in the plant.
- **Minor Man-made Disasters:** Some events of train or road accidents, minor household fire, food poisoning, minor industrial accidents, events of looting, terrorist attacks or event of a fire at shops etc resulting mostly out of personal negligence is termed as minor man-made accidents. These do not lead to a high loss of life through loss of property may be evident in such cases. Personal awareness and caution can help you avert such incidents as well as to escape unhurt in case of such disasters. Hence it is advised to be cautious and vigilant to avoid such incidents.

Different kinds of Disaster

- Floods
- Train Accidents
- Aeroplane Crash
- Tsunami
- Earthquakes
- Wild Fires
- Rock and Snow Avalanches
- Nuclear Accidents
- Drought
- Cyclones
- Tornadoes
- Typhoons

Disaster Preparedness

Disaster preparedness or disaster management activities are aimed to minimize loss of life and damage in the event of a disaster. Disaster management forces can help by removing people and property from a threatened location and by facilitating timely and effective rescue, relief and

rehabilitation at the place of disaster. Preparedness is the only way of reducing the impact of disasters as most of the disasters are unpredictable and even if predicted, there is not much time to act. Community-based preparedness and management should be a high priority in physical therapy practice management. Also, it should be the main agenda of the government to appoint a proper department dealing with the disaster management and preparedness. Every municipality must have a disaster management plan as part of its Integrated Development Plans, according to the Municipal Systems Act. The local authorities should be empowered to act as soon as possible in the event of a disaster. It may take time to get relief and rescue operation to start, so in the meantime, it is the role of Municipal disaster management team to provide rescue work as soon as disaster strikes. Disaster Management has four phases namely:

- **Mitigation:** Mitigation can be defined as the effort to reduce the loss of life and property in the event of a disaster by lessening the impact of disasters. Mitigation is taking action now before the next disaster to reduce human and financial consequences later. Mitigation involves analyzing risk, reducing risk and ensuring against risk. Personal mitigation is a key to national preparedness. Individuals and families train to avoid unnecessary risks. This includes an assessment of possible risks to personal/family health and to personal property. Effective mitigation at the time of disaster requires that we all understand local risks, address the hard choices, and invest in long-term community well-being. Without mitigation actions, we jeopardize our safety, financial security, and self-reliance. For effective mitigation, coordination, planning, and mock activities are very important. Disasters can happen at any time and anyplace; their human and financial consequences are hard to predict, preparedness is the only solution.
- **Rescue:** Disaster can strike any place at any time. The response phase of an emergency may commence with search and rescue but in all cases, the focus will quickly turn to fulfil the basic humanitarian needs of the affected population. The assistance may be provided by national or international agencies and organizations but it is the role of local bodies to act as soon as possible. Effective coordination of disaster assistance is often crucial, particularly when many organizations respond and local emergency management agency capacity has been exceeded by the demand or diminished by the disaster itself. Rescue operation involves providing medication to those hurt and taking people out of the affected area and debris in the events of earthquake and floods etc. There are various rescue teams at national and state level which come into action as soon as disaster strikes. But it is also better if local authorities are also trained as they have the best knowledge about the geographical location and other local conditions.
- **Relief:** This is a coordinated multi-agency response to reduce the impact of a disaster and its long-term results. Relief operation starts as soon as disaster strikes and the main emphasis is laid on providing injured with medication and providing food as well as clean drinking water to the people. Relief activities include rescue, relocation, providing food and water, preventing disease and disability, repairing vital services such as telecommunications and transport, providing temporary shelter and emergency health care. It is very important to provide relief operation as soon as possible to minimize the

number of casualties and to provide relief for injured. The relief workers are trained in basic first aid and medication and are also given training on maintaining coordination even in the event of a crisis. The relief operation is best supported only when carried out as a teamwork and all the members of the team should coordinate well with each other and also support one another without any discrepancy.

- **Rehabilitation:** As soon as disaster strikes the first thing that comes to mind is relief and rescue operations. Once emergency needs have been met and the initial crisis is over, the people affected and the communities that support them are still vulnerable and it is time to start rehabilitation activities. Rehabilitation activities include rebuilding infrastructure, health care, and other basic necessities. These should blend with development activities, such as building human resources for health and developing policies and practices to avoid similar situations in the future. The immediate goal of the rehabilitation phase is to bring the affected area back to some degree of normalcy and to get back to the normal situation as soon as possible. During reconstruction, it is recommended to consider the location or construction material of the property and it should not be hurried rather reconstruction should be done properly and effectively.

Conclusion :

Disasters are events that have a huge impact on humans and the environment. Disasters are inevitable, we cannot do anything to prevent these but disaster preparedness is only in our hand. Disasters management requires government intervention and a proper planning as well as funding. It is not necessary that these disasters are always unpredictable. Floods take place in valleys and floodplains, droughts in areas with unstable and low rainfall, and oil spills happen in shipping lanes. This predictability provides opportunities to plan for, prevent and to lessen the impact of disasters. Disasters are inevitable although we do not always know when and where they will happen. But their worst effects can be partially or completely prevented by preparation, early warning, and swift, decisive responses.

Disaster management aims to reduce the occurrence of disasters and to reduce the impact of those that cannot be prevented. The government White paper and Act on Disaster Management define the roles of Local Authorities as well as Provincial and National government in disaster management. Disaster management forces come into action as soon as a disaster strikes and help out in the relief, rescue and rehabilitation process. These are trained individuals and are given extensive training to perform in the event of a disaster or a natural calamity and they work as a team to reduce the loss of life and helping the locals getting back to normal life.

References:

- [Modern Management Practices](#)
- [D:/DisasterManagement](#)Importance