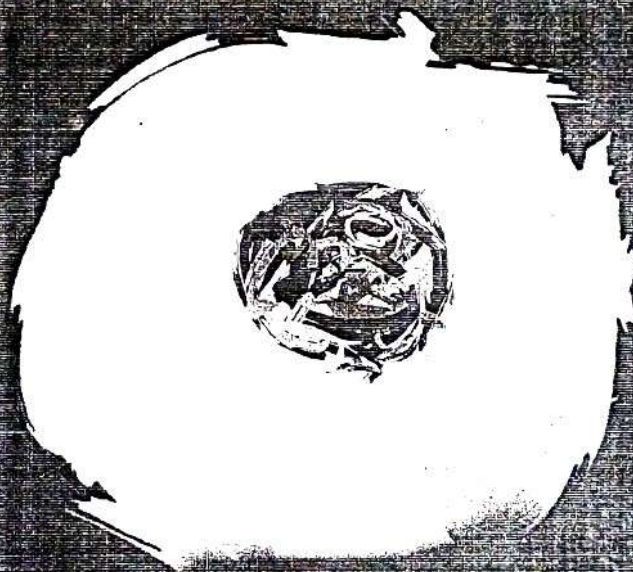




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Disaster Risk Management: Policies & Programmes

Dr.Amit Bhowmick
Dr.Sudipta Pramanik

"Mainstreaming disaster management into the development planning process essentially means looking critically at each activity that is being planned, not only from the perspective of reducing the disaster vulnerability of the activity, but also from the perspective of minimizing that activity's potential contribution to the hazard. Every development plan of a ministry or department should incorporate elements of impact assessment, risk reduction and the 'do no harm' approach. Examples of this approach are urban planning and zoning, upgradation of building codes and their effective enforcement, adoption of disaster resilient housing designs and construction of schools and hospitals, flood proofing, response preparedness planning, insurance, establishment of early warning systems for various types of disasters, generating community awareness, creating technical competence and promoting research among engineers, architects, health experts, and scientists."

(-----Eleventh Five Year Plan, Planning Commission,GOI)

According to the World Disaster Report 2010 published by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), during the period 2000 to 2009, as many as 85% of the people affected by disasters belonged to the Asia Pacific region. The Global Assessment Report 2011 published by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN ISDR) estimates that more than 90% of the global population exposed to floods live in south Asian, East Asian and the Pacific countries. According to the World Bank, during the period 1996 to 2000, India lost approximately 2.25% of the Gross Domestic Product and 12.5% of the revenue annually due to natural and man-made disasters. In the first decade of the 21st century, India faced devastating disasters like Bhuj earthquake in 2001, the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004, the Kashmir earthquake in 2005. The Koshi floods in 2008, the Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka floods in 2009, the Leh cloudburst and the Uttarakhand floods in 2010 and the Sikkim earthquake in 2011(Menon, Yojana, March 2012). According to a UNDP Report in 2004, the real annual economic

losses have averaged \$ 75.5 billion in the 1960s, \$ 138.4 billion in the 1970s, \$ 213.9 billion in the 1980s, and \$ 659.9 billion in the 1990s (Menon,Yojana,June 2009).
Vulnerable Situation of India: India is a country highly vulnerable to natural disasters. Enormous population pressures and urbanization have forced people to live on marginal lands or in cities where they are at greater risk to disasters and the damage they can cause.India is a nation with varied climatologically and hypsographic conditions. Therefore 68% of the land is drought prone, 60% is prone to earthquake, 12% to floods, 8% to cyclones. This count to almost 85% of the land area in India is vulnerable to natural hazards while 22 States have been marked as hazards prone states. The main natural disasters in India includes floods, earthquakes, droughts and cyclones while the minor natural hazards in India are landslides, avalanches, hailstorms, forest fires and bushfires. In India most of the states experience more than one type of disaster (Sharma & Ashutosh, Yojana, March 2012).

Disaster Risk Reduction & Global Conference:

" Sendai Framework: The plan termed as 'Sendai Framework' was adopted during the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in the Japanese city of Sendai in 2015. Interestingly, it is the first major UN agreement on the post 2015 development agenda consisting of four major priority areas and seven targets to be met by 2030. The four priority areas of Sendai Framework include:

- (01) Understanding Risk;
- (02) Strengthening Risk Governance;
- (03) Investing in disaster resilience; and
- (04) Improving capacities for disaster response

as well as for building back better after disasters (Rijiju:Yojana, January 2017).

" Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Management: India, after the Sendai framework adopted in 2015, hosted first Asian Ministerial Conference in the month of November 2016 to draw a Asian Road Map for Disaster Risk Reduction, predominantly pre disaster activities, for the Asian and Pacific nations. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India had inaugurated and guided by giving ten principles for disaster risk reduction and resilient development (Kumar, Yojana: January 2017).

Prime Minister's 10 Point Agenda on Disaster Risk Reduction Outlined at the AMCDRR

(01) Ensure that all development projects- airports, roads, canals, hospitals, schools, bridges- are built to appropriate disaster resilient standards and contribute to the resilience of communities they seek to serve. Build a coalition to support disaster resilient infrastructure.

(02) Work towards risk coverage for all- start