

Role of Community in Management of Disaster

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Abstract:

The goal of this paper is to examine how communities may lessen the effects of disasters. Putting the community first during a crisis is crucial for its prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. Prior to the arrival of official assistance, it is the first line of defense to react to the crisis and assist fellow citizens. This exploratory study is based on information and secondary data that were obtained from pertinent sources. The study design is descriptive in nature, outlining the community's initiatives and the courses of action to be taken in order to escape the dire circumstances. In order to promote community-based disaster management, the National Disaster Management Authority of India introduced the Aapda Mitra Scheme in 2016. Children, people with disabilities and members of minority groups are among the vulnerable populations whose needs are met by CBDM, which is implemented in a number of areas including education, health, water, sanitation, transportation, and communication.

Keyword: Disasters, Community-Based Disaster Management (CBDM)

Introduction:

Disaster is a catastrophic situation which obstructs the entire living pattern of a society. Disasters can have a significant effect on a community's infrastructure, social fabric, infrastructure, and quality of life. Community being at the forefront of disaster plays a significant role. In times of crisis, the community steps in as the first line of defense to respond to the situation and support one another before official help arrives. It offers prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery measures. It manages the community's efforts and the plans of action to be taken in order to escape the dire circumstances. Community participation, engagement, and resilience-building are crucial components of disaster management initiatives because of the intricate and multidimensional effects that catastrophes have on communities. Together, communities, governments, and other stakeholders may improve catastrophe preparedness, response, and recovery, therefore lowering risk and improving the welfare of impacted populations. The community possesses the ability to collaboratively analyze and comprehend threat, capability, vulnerability, and risk, with the backing of local and scientific knowledge. There is Community-Based Disaster Management, which was created together with input from all stakeholders and is fervently regarded as an essential component of the development strategy in

India's Disaster Profile

The disasters around the world are substantially growing and so is their impact on the lives of the people. India ranks 3rd most disaster-prone countries of the world as per United Nations disaster Risk Reduction Report of 2020. As per the World Risk Report 2023, India again ranked 3rd amongst 193

countries as most risk-prone country with a score of 41.52 only after Philippine's 46.86 and Indonesia's 43.50. India is prone to earthquakes, landslides, floods, avalanches, forest fires, cyclones, and droughts. 27 of total 36 states and union territories of India are disaster prone which comprises of 58.6% landmass prone to earthquake, 40 million hectare of land prone to floods and soil erosion, 7516km prone to cyclones and tsunamis, 68% cultivable land prone to droughts, and hills being prone to landslides and avalanches.

Community Based Disaster Management

Community-based disaster management refers to a procedure whereby the people living in areas that are vulnerable to disasters or have already experienced one band together to control and manage the dangers and potentially dangerous circumstances that arise in their surroundings. A comprehensive strategy for disaster risk reduction and response is known as "community-based disaster management" (CBDM). It actively incorporates nearby communities in all phases of disaster management. Identifying, evaluating, and addressing communities' vulnerabilities and capacity in the face of disasters is the fundamental tenet of community-based disaster management (CBDM). It describes a procedure for identifying, analyzing, responding to, keeping an eye on, and assessing potential disasters in order to set up a plan of action. It acts as the hub for carrying out the disaster management strategy. The foundation of community-based disaster management is the development of volunteer capacity and training, as community members are the first to respond to emergencies. The goal of capacity building and training interventions for CBDM must be carefully designed, given the multitude of stakeholders and community representatives that require sensitization and training. Since it unites all the vulnerable individuals on a single platform where they may prioritize actions and develop plans, it is governed by the ideals of equity and inclusion, public accountability, heterogeneity, economies of scale, and subsidiarity. To be comprehensive, economical, multifaceted, and community-focused, CBDM should integrate with current institutional frameworks, mainstream practices, and social welfare delivery initiatives. Due to its very nature, CBDM necessitates a decentralized, bottom-up strategy that involves extensive microinterventions at the ward, village, or Panchayat level.

Stages of Community-Based Disaster Management

The community-based disaster management starts long before any kind of calamity happens. It is a continuous process which is accountable to the public. The stages are:

- 1. Risk and vulnerability assessment for disasters:** It is employed to forecast disaster management requirements. It concerns the evaluation of a community's overall exposure to disasters, as well as an analysis of their susceptibility and ability to lower risk within the context of their projects, activities, and programs. Applying this is necessary to ensure that needs and available resources are appropriate. In order to begin situation analysis, community profiles can be created in order to gain an understanding of the risk of disasters through participatory research on historical disaster information, geoclimate, physical, spatial, and sociopolitical-cultural factors, as well as economic activity within vulnerable groups.. Risk assessment is a collaborative process that identifies the nature, extent, and magnitude of the disaster's adverse effects on households and communities within a projected timeframe. An additional technique to ascertain potential or trending impact (damage or losses) on risky living assets is made easier by community catastrophe risk assessment. Community perception of risk, disaster mapping (on characteristics), vulnerability mapping, capacity mapping

for overcoming disaster, risk assessment and evaluation, potential mapping on resources and its mobilization, analysis, and collaborative reporting to the community are all included in the community disaster risk assessment.

2. **Planning for disaster mitigation:** Implementing precise interventions, working collaboratively, deepening the context of disaster risk through training, exchanging experiences, and other means, including disaster management and emergency, emergency patient handling, disaster monitoring and supervising, policy advocacy, microeconomic, and other means, can help mobilize people to understand the context. The outcome of the risk analysis is used to implement program planning and formulation. Planning for an important event, identifying a financial campaign, creating a program plan, and objective formulation (increasing capacity and reducing vulnerability to intensify the ability to prevent, mitigate, and prepare for themselves) are all included in this planning.
3. **Post-disaster relief:** In addition to evacuation and transportation services to the community following the catastrophe, this would call for an emergency shelter, medical attention, food, and basic supplies. A crucial component of this phase is recovery and rehabilitation.
4. **Early warning systems:** This program's goal is to arrive at a planned planning agreement that can effectively mitigate risk. Organizing events, allocating resources, carrying out prearranged programs, keeping an eye on their progress, and applying the information gathered from these activities to enhance risk reduction efforts going forward are just a few of the tasks involved. It involves the process of recording, learning from, and disseminating successful practices to the community and other places in an effort to minimize the likelihood of repeat disasters. In addition to geographic dispersion, dissemination will also take into account sectoral dissemination and the integration of efforts to lower disaster risk in development and other facets of daily life in order to avert disasters and advance civilization. Community-based early warning systems (EWS), community-based early detection systems (EDS), and community-based early information systems (EIS) are available in disaster-prone areas; they are reliable and accessible within the community and combine efficient technology with local knowledge. It must also be accurate in order for the community to govern it.
5. **Monitoring and evaluation:** Program assessments that are modified in order to conceal the disaster are anticipated to be utilized to determine the efficacy of efforts. The results of the evaluation will thereafter be applied to further community empowerment and enhance catastrophe risk reduction.

Significance of Community Based Disaster Management

1. **Identifying the target community:** The focus of Community-Based Disaster Management (CBDM) is on the active participation of community members, including underprivileged groups like women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, in disaster management decision-making processes. The government needs the assistance of those who are vulnerable in order to quickly plan and implement mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery actions. This is due to the fact that the communities identify the vulnerability and devise a plan to prevent the disaster first.
2. **Local participation:** It requires local level participation of volunteers to provide necessary services and logistics help to the victims during and after the disaster. Such a strategy has been encouraged both in the developed and the developing countries and launched on Community-Based Disaster Management (CBDM) strategy.
3. **Evacuation and transportation:** Plans for backup should be in place for both human transportation and evacuation. This measure needs to be taken prior to the disaster so that nobody is left stranded.

4. **First-aid:** Basic first aid should be taught to the population. Additionally, the local level should have a sufficient supply of first-aid kits on hand. First-aid education and awareness campaigns ought to be held.
5. **Food and other essential supplies:** It is the grassroots community's duty to make arrangements for food and other hygienic necessities for persons experiencing a crisis. Fruits and vegetables should arrive at the scene of a crisis in good time to keep people healthy and energized so they can escape the situation.
6. **Comforting companions:** Rescuers, caregivers, and oftentimes the last consoling companions for the terminally ill were volunteers and involved members of the community. They served as the first, and frequently the only, line of defense for several weeks. A community may handle physical health issues more quickly, reduce the likelihood that its members will experience mental stress, and recover more quickly if it prepares for natural catastrophes in advance.
7. **Build Back Better:** In the event of a disaster, local volunteers working together and citizen groups can help mitigate the effects and "build back better." The emergency personnel will be locals. Different levels of readiness mean that when a crisis strikes, many communities are caught off guard. To be as effective as possible, the process of training locals to serve as first responders in a community needs to start before and continue through after such drastic incidents. The most qualified people and organizations to assess their immediate requirements, plan ahead, support government response activities, put emergency response plans into action, and participate in local decision-making for upcoming occurrences are those who live local.
8. **Local techniques:** In order to lessen the effects of disasters, communities in high-risk locations have frequently created their own coping techniques and plans. To increase the ability of the populace to withstand the effects of disasters, it is critical to value these local resources and expertise and to expand upon them.
9. **Trained Leadership:** Using a participatory method to train a chain of community cadres and develop community leadership can help the community become more resilient and resourceful in handling difficult situations.
10. **Establish connectivity:** The local community through its own sources can establish the lost connectivity be it road, rail, electricity, or network shortage due to broken or damaged sources.
11. **Awareness programs:** Every now and then, the National Disaster Management Authority conducts awareness-raising campaigns on various disasters through print, electronic, and social media media. The goal is to enlighten, educate, and raise public awareness. These campaigns feature Dos and Don'ts, audiovisual productions, and preparedness-related messaging prior to, during, and following disaster situations.
12. **Aapda Mitra Scheme:** In order to prepare 6000 community volunteers (200 per district) in 30 flood-prone districts across 25 States and UTs for disaster response, with a particular emphasis on flooding, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has launched the Aapda Mitra Scheme as a pilot project. This will enable the volunteers to attend to the immediate needs of the affected communities following a disaster. Under the pilot program, more than 5500 volunteers have received training.

Conclusion

In most cases, the community reacts to disasters first. The goal of community-based disaster management is to lessen public vulnerability and provide the public with the skills and information needed to accept risks as a part of life and keep them from turning into disasters. The justification for involving communities in disaster management has been established by a plethora of case studies from both national and international contexts. The creation of a disaster management plan, the formation and operation of disaster management committees (DMCs) and disaster management teams (DMTs), the conduct of simulated drills, awareness-raising, community training, and the creation of a community contingency fund are the primary elements of this process. The Community-Based Disaster Management procedure needs to be connected to the community to produce effective results.

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