DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

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ABSTRACT

Healthy Environment is essential part of our wellbeing. Environmental degradation reduces the capacity of ecosystem and affected many important services to communities like food, fire food, medicines and protection from natural hazards. There is a clear need to reinforce the importance of environmental concerns in the entire disaster management cycle of prevention, preparedness, assessment, mitigation and response and to integrate environmental concerns into planning for relief,. In this context role of Good Governance are very important. As defined by UNDP; Governance is the exercise of political, economic and administrative authority in the management of a country's affairs at all levels. It comprises mechanisms, processes and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences. Government encompasses all relevant groups, including the private sector and civil society organizations. The key to efficient disaster management is the initial public awareness to recognize and address risk, supplemented with the political will to set policy and allocate appropriate resources. Equally critical is the need for sufficient managerial and coordination capacity to manage and integrate the efforts of relevant sectors and account for vulnerable and poor communities. Such capacity is dependent on the human, social, physical, economic and environmental capital of a society. The principles of good governance include broad participation, transparency, accountability, efficiency and responsiveness. All are as important for Disaster Risk Management as they are for development at large. Systematic integration of Disaster Risk Reduction into the development spheres should be the concern of the government and an integral part of good governance. Overall though, disaster governance research is less concerned with investigating the effects—both positive and negative—of governance or how to truly transform existing risk management structures. Instead, most research remains at an abstract level. Although conceptual studies regarding the characteristics of disaster governance are a fundamental necessity, research needs to offer more empirically-based evidence on the risk reducing effects of governance. The promises as well as the limits of disaster governance require more scientific scrutiny. Otherwise, justifying a fundamental shift of risk management structures from government to governance systems remains a challenge.

KEYWORDS: *Environment degradation, Disaster Risk Management, Good governance, Traditional knowledge, Sendai Framework, Disaster Management Act, 2005*

The concept of governance is not new. It is as old as human civilization. Since governance is the process of decision-making and the process by which decision are implemented. An analysis of the governance focuses on the formal and informal actors involved in decision-making and implementing the decisions made. Government is one of the actors of governance. Other actor of governance for example in rural areas, include influential land lords, associations of peasant, farmers, cooperatives, NGOs, religious leaders, finance institutions, political parties etc (Singh, 2007)

Whole idea of good and responsive governance is that of giving of service and doing well to the people or solving their problems and making their lives more liveable, satisfying and enjoyable. It comes close to Gandhi's concept of politics for service of the people and not for becoming master of the people. Good governance has eight major characteristics viz. Participation, Rule of law, Transparency, Responsiveness, Consensus oriented, Equity and Efficacy and accountability. It assures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making. It is also responsive to the present and future needs of society (Ibid) Any disaster can interrupt essential services, such as health care, electricity, water, sewage/ garbage removal, transportation and communications. The interruption can seriously affect the health, social and economic networks of local communities and countries. Disasters have a major and long-lasting impact on people long after the immediate effect has been mitigated. Poorly planned relief activities can have a significant negative impact not only on the disaster victims but also on donors and relief agencies. So it is important that physical therapists join established programmes rather than attempting individual efforts.

The United Nations define 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.

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(Retrieved from https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/disaster-management-definition-process-various-phases-chatterjee) India is Susceptible, in varying degrees, to a large number of natural as well as man – made disasters. 58.6 per cent of the landmass is prone to earthquake of moderate to very high intensity; over 40 million hectares (12 per cent of land) is prone to floods and river erosion; of the 7,516 km long coastline, close to 5,700 km is prone to cyclones and tsunamis; 68 per cent of the cultivable area is vulnerable to drought an hilly areas are at risk from landslides and avalanches. Vulnerability to disasters/emergencies of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) origin also exists. Heightened vulnerabilities to disaster risks can be related to expanding population, urbanization and industrialization, development within high risk zones, environmental degradation and climate change In the context of human vulnerability to disasters, the economically and socially weaker segments of the population are the ones that are most seriously affected. Within the vulnerable groups, elderly persons, women, especially women rendered destitute, children–children orphaned on account of disasters and differently abled persons are exposed to higher risks.

At the global level, there has been considerable concern over natural disasters. Even though substantial scientific and material progress is made, the loss of lives and property due to disasters has not decreased. In fact, the human toll and economic losses have mounted. It was in this background that the United Nations General Assembly, in 1989, declared the decade 1990 – 2000 as the International Decade for Nature Disaster Reduction with the objective to reduce loss of lives and property and restrict socio – economic damage through concerned international action, especially in developing countries. The super cyclone in Orissa in October, 1999 and the Bhuj earthquake in Gujarat in January, 2001 underscore that need to adopt a multi dimensional endeaor involving diverse scientific, engineering, financial and social process; multi dimensional endeavor involving disciplinary and multisectoral approach and incorporation of risk the need reduction in the development plans and strategies.

Disaster management occupies an important place in the country's policy framework as it is the poor and the under privilege who are worst affected on account of calamities|disasters. Disaster retard socio-economic development, further impoverish the impoverished and lead to diversion of scare resources from development to rehabilitation and reconstruction. The steps being taken by the Government emanate from the approach outlined above. The approach has been translated into a National Disaster framework underimpowerish approach Framework [a roadmap] covering institutional mechanisms, disaster prevention strategy, early warning system, disaster mitigation, preparedness and response and human resource development. The expected inputs, areas of intervention and agencies to be involved at the National, State and District levels have been identified and listed in the roadmap. This roadmap has been shared with all the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Ministries and Departments of Government of India, and the State Governments/UT Administrations have been advised to develop their respective roadmaps taking the national roadmap as a broad guideline. There is, therefore, now a common strategy underpinning action being. (https://www.unisdr.org/2005/mdgs-drr/national-reports/India-report.pdf) Thus we can say that people were largely effected disasters and the Role of Governance is very wide.

TYPES OF DISASTERS

There is no country that is immune from disaster, though vulnerability to disaster varies. There are four main types of disaster.

Natural disasters:

Including floods, hurricanes, earthquakes and volcano eruptions that have immediate impacts on human health and secondary impacts causing further death and suffering from floods, landslides, fires, and tsunamis.

Environmental emergencies:

Including technological or industrial accidents, usually involving the production, use of transportation of hazardous material, and It occured where these materials are produced, used or transported.

Complex emergencies:

Complex emergencies Involving a break-down of authority, looting and attacks on strategic installations, including conflict situations and war.

Pandemic emergencies:

Involving a sudden onset of contagious disease that affects health, disrupts services and businesses, brings economic and social costs. (http://www.wcpt.org/disaster-management/what-is-disaster-managementJump to navigation)

IMPORTANCE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The Res Cross and Red Crescent societies define disaster management as the organisation 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. (https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/disaster-management-definition-process-various-phases-chatterjee)

Disasters are events that have a huge impact on humans and environment. Disasters are inevitable We can`t do anything to prevent these but preparedness is only our hand. Disaster management requires government intervention and a

proper planning as well as funding. It is not necessary that these disasters are always unpredictable. The preditibility provide opportunity to plan for prevent and to lessen impact the impact of disaster. Disaster has the following effects in the concerned areas-

- it completely disrupts the normal day to day life

-causes lot of loss in the terms of life and the property

-Leads to a loss of agriculture and animal life as well

- disasters causes destruction to the state of art and infrastructure

-it negatively influences the emergency system

- disasters hamper the development projects in an adverse manner

In this context Disaster management is essential. There are some Goals of disaster management these are

- Proactive plans to mitigate various business risks

- Minimizing loss via more effective preparedness and response

Creating more effective and durable recovery (http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2015/2/20/Good-governance-for-disaster-recovery.html)

In brief, Disaster management is a collective term encompassing all aspects of planning for and responding to emergencies and disasters including both pre and post-event activities. It refers to the management of both the risk and the consequences of an event. In essence, disaster management is more than just response and relief; it is a systematic process aimed at reducing the negative impact and/or consequences of adverse events.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN INDIA: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

In Bharata (India) the concept of management persists since Vedic period. Systematic management practices are found in the Vedic literature. This literature elaborates the concept of disaster management in Kautilya Arthasastra. This text is designed to run the biggest industry called 'nation'. Kautilya's book deals with the disasters faced by a nation. Hence, we shall understand the idea of disaster management from the great guru of the science of polity, known as Kautilya.

KAUTILYA'S IDEA ABOUT CALAMITIES AND GOVERNANCE

We have seen that in modern times disasters are divided into two - natural and unnatural. Kautilya calls them vyasana. In Sanskrit, the words nipata, pidana, apatti / vipatti and vyasana are used for calamity. Yet, the word vyasana means

something which is caused by ill fate. One can correlate this with hazards or natural calamities. Systematic categorization of any subject is a peculiarity of Kautilya. Followingthis, he has categorized the vyasana, i.e. calamities,into two -

☐ Daivam i.e. natural

☐ Manusam i.e. manmade.

Daivam is indeed a very apt word used by Kautilya long ago. Daivam means that which is divine. Even the western scholars consider it as the act of god. We have already seen the etymology of disaster. Thus, it shows that all over the world disasters were considered as the result of astrological or supernatural forces. In the fourth book of Kautilya, eight types of daivam or natural calamities are mentioned. They are fire (agni), flood (udaka), epidemics (vyadhi), famine (durbhiksa), rats (musaka), beasts (vyala), snakes (sarpa) and demons (raksamsi).For Kautilya, there is no control over the daivam or natural vyasana. But for manusavyasana, though misfortune is responsible for them, he equally blames human beings. Thus, for him, the calamities fall either by misfortune or by wrong policies After mentioning them, he has warned the king that it was his duty to protect his subjects from these calamities. (Retrieved from http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2015/2/20/Good-governance-for-disaster-recovery.html

CONTEMPORARY LEGAL AND TECHNO LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN INDIA

The Government of India has come up with legislation with the objective to provide for requisite institutional mechanisms for drawing up and monitoring the implementation of the disaster management plans to ensure measures by various wings of Government for undertaking a holistic, co-ordinate and prompt response any disaster situation.

After the Bhopal Gas Leak Tragedy, the Indian Parliament enacted the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA), 1986 for the purpose of safeguarding and protecting the environment from unregulated industrial or other activities.Under the EPA, the central Government is entrusted with responsibility to take all the measures for protecting and improving the quality of the environment and preventing controlling and abating environmental pollution.It prohibits persons carrying on any industry, operation or process from discharging or emitting any environmental pollutants.

On 23 December 2005, the Government of India (GOl) took a defining step by enacting the Disaster Management Act, 2005, (here in after referred to as the Act) which envisaged the creation of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), headed by the Prime Minister, State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) headed by the Chief Ministers, and District Disaster management Authorities

(DDMAs) headed by the District Collector or District Magistrate or Deputy Commissioner as the case may be to spearhead and adopt a holistic and integrated approach to DM. there will be a paradigm shift, from the erst while relief-centric response to a proactive prevention, mitigation and preparedness-driven approach for conserving development gains and to minimize loss of life, livelihood and property. A disaster refers to a catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence from natural or manmade causes, which is beyond the capacity of the affected community. Distster Manegement involves 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.

India has been following five year national plans, although they are not on a rolling basis. The Tenth Five-Year Plan 2002-2007 for the first time had a detailed chapter entitled "*Disaster Management: The Development Perspective*". The plan emphasized the fact that development cannot be sustainable without mitigation being built into the development process. Disaster mitigation and prevention were adopted as essential component of the development strategy.(http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2015/2/20/Good-governance-for-disaster-recovery.html)

India and including United Nations 188 member adopted `Sendai Framework` 2015-2030 has set targets for substantial reduction in losses including reduction in number of deaths from disastes, number of people affected by disastes, economic losses and infrastructure losses. Post sendai Declaration india has successfully hosted the Asian ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction(AMCDRR) November 2016 and adopted New Delhi Declaration and Regional Action plan for implementation of the Sendai Framework. Prime minister set 10 points Agenda on Disaster Risk Reduction these are-

1. Ensure that all Development projects- airports, roads, canals, hospitals, schools, bridgs–are built. It Appreciates disaster resilience of communities they seek to serve. Built a coalition to support disaster resilient infrastructure.

2. Work towards risk coverage for all-starting from poor households to small and medium enterprises to multi –national corporations to nation states.

3. Encourage greater involvement and leadership of women in disaster risk management.

4. Invest in risk mapping globally for all hazards.

5. Leverage technology to enhance the efficiency of our disaster risk management efforts.

6. Develop a network of universities to work on disaster issue.

7. Utilize the opportunities provided by social media and mobile technologies.

8. Build on local capacity and initiative.

9. Ensure that the opportunity to learn from a disaster is not wasted. Establish a facility for technical support to post disaster reconstruction of houses.

10. Bring about greater cohesion in international response to disaster.

ROLE OF GOVERNANCE IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Role of Governance in Emergency management consists of five phases:

Prevention

Prevention was recently added to the phases of emergency management. It focuses on preventing the human hazard, primarily from potential natural disasters or terrorist attacks. Preventive measures are taken, 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 plans, environmental planning and design standards.

Mitigation

In electrical risks, a periodical power quality audit and exhaustive preventive maintenance process with the help of electrical consultants can avert fire risks due to electrical reasons, which is the major cause (>85%) of fires. In earthquake prone areas, these preventive measures might include structural changes such as the installation of an earthquake valve to instantly shut off the natural gas supply, seismic retrofits of property, and the securing of items inside a building. The latter may include the mounting of furniture, refrigerators, water heaters and breakables to the walls, and the addition of cabinet latches. In flood prone areas, houses can be built on poles/stilts. Disaster mitigation measures are those that eliminate or reduce the impacts and risks of hazards through proactive measures taken before an emergency or disaster occurs.

Preparedness

Preparedness focuses on preparing equipment and procedures for use when a disaster This equipment and these procedures can be used to reduce vulnerability to disaster, to mitigate the impacts of a disaster or to respond more efficiently in an emergency.

1. Conduct disaster risk assessments

2. Integrate broader social and environmental issues into business strategies and operations

3. Enact measures and systems that reduce risks

4. Develop plans for response and recovery

5. Disaster risk management (DRM) is a systematic application of management policies, procedures and practices to the tasks of identifying, analyzing, evaluating, treating and monitoring risk. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) entails measures to curb disaster losses by addressing hazards and people's vulnerability to them.

6. The most effective disaster risk management often happens before disasters occur, continues after a disaster and incorporates lessons learned, thus mitigating risks to future disasters.

7. Disaster risk reduction is about modifying hazards, reducing vulnerability, increasing capacity.

Response –

The response phase of an emergency may commence with Search and Rescue but in all cases the focus will quickly turn to fulfilling the basic humanitarian needs of the affected population.

1.   Disaster response refers to actions taken during and immediately after a disaster to ensure that its effects are minimized, and that people affected are given immediate relief and support.

2.   These include providing food, water, shelter, and medical aid, removing people from danger, among other outreach efforts.

3.   Disaster recovery refers to the coordinated process of supporting disaster-affected communities in reconstruction of physical infrastructure and restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical well-being.

4.   This includes re-building houses and businesses, and providing medical aid and counseling, among other efforts.

Recovery

The recovery phase starts after the immediate threat to human life has subsided. The immediate goal of the recovery phase is to bring the affected area back to normalcy as quickly as possible. During reconstruction it is recommended to consider the location or construction material of the property. (Retrieved from http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/71640/11/11_chapter%205%20legal%20frame%20work%20for%20disaster%20management)

In brief 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 fulfilling the basic humanitarian needs of the affected population. This assistance may be provided by national or international agencies and organization but it is the role of local bodies to act as soon as possible. effective coordination of disater assistance is often crucial, particularly when many organization respond and local emergency management agency capacity has been exceeded by the demand of diminished by the disaster itself. Rescue operation involve providing medication to the hurt of taking people out of the affected area and debris in the events of earthquake and floods etc. there are various rescue team at national and state level which come into action as soon as disaster strike. But it is also better of local authorities are also trained as have best knowledge about geographical location and other local . Governance have play a wide role in on disaster risk reduction. India has good base of scientific as well as traditional knowledge and understanding of the natural and anthropologies process of risk of disaster but these are not always feeding into the process of designing and implementation of social and economic development progemme, activities and project. This is require that all development activity in a manner that leads to reduction of disaster risk.

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