

Institutional Case Study on Disaster Response

Syllabus

Visit as local NGO/agency such as the United Nations, Red Cross/Voluntary Youth Organisations like Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), National Cadet Corps (NCC), Bharat Scouts and Guides, etc; and prepare a case study **on how the agencies** played a major role in **Disaster Response**.

(Note for the Teachers: The teachers may select the organisation/agency that they would like the students to be associated with. It can be mentioned here that each district in India has a Red Cross wing headed by the District Magistrate/Collector/Dy. Commissioner. The students before analysing **the role played by various agencies** can give a brief background of the organisation/agency on its mandate, objectives and goals and **role during disasters**).

Disaster Management is the discipline of dealing with risks. It is a discipline that involves preparing, supporting and rebuilding society when natural or human made disasters occur.

Effective disaster management relies on govt. and non-govt. involvement.

Disasters can strike at any time, at any place. Nearly 3 million people all over the world may have been killed in the past 20 years due to natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, cyclones, etc. 90% of the natural disasters and 95% of the total disaster related deaths worldwide occur in developing countries in which India has the second largest share.

India with its diverse climatological conditions has 70% of the cultivable land prone to drought, 60% of land area is prone to earthquake, 12% to floods, 8% to cyclone, 85% to a number of natural hazards and 22 states are categorised as multi hazard states.

We have seen in the recent past India suffered the impact of earthquake even where the seismicity was low as per the seismic zoning map, the droughts have occurred in the areas with highest rainfall is Cherrapunji in the north-east.

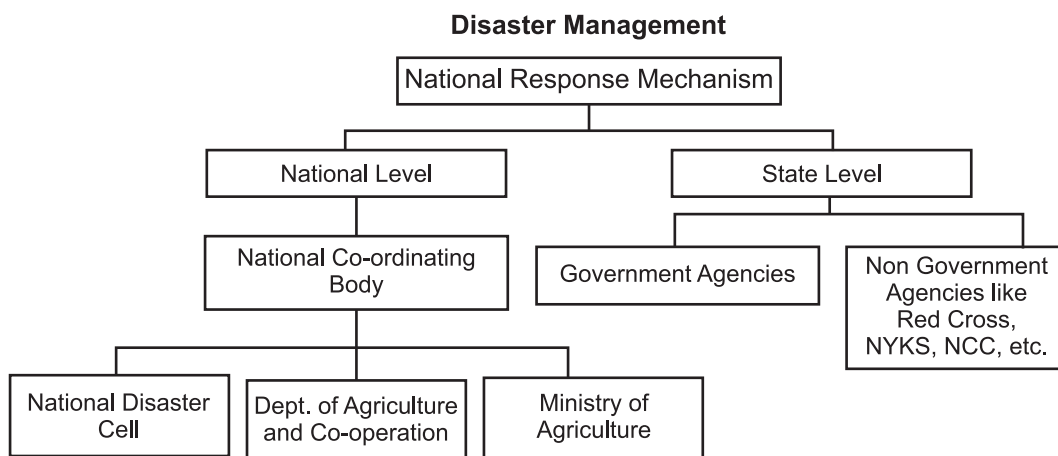
In spite of the best efforts by govt., external assistance and available technologies, the 1999 super cyclone of Orissa, 2001, earthquake of Gujarat have inflicted untold misery. The Gujarat Earthquake of 26th Jan 2001 was one of those rare events in India which significantly affected the economy and the ordinary life.

The earthquake devastated the entire Western part of Gujarat, claiming 17,000 lives, 1,65,000 people injured more than 20,000 seriously.

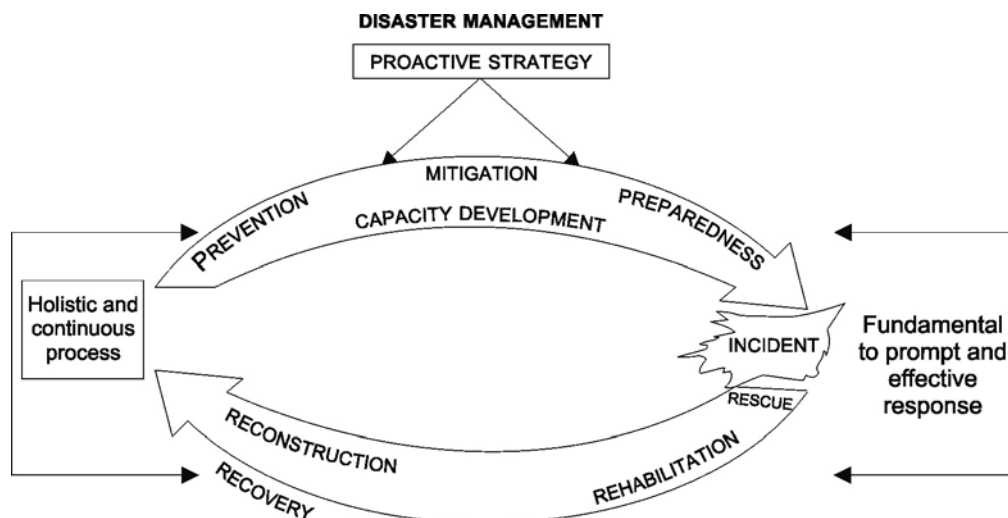
Gujarat being one of the most industrialised states in India—the local economy suffered immensely. More than 10,000 small and medium industrial units went out of production with total losses of US \$ 4.5 billion, which is 10% of the GDP of the Gujarat state.

Disaster Management

- Statutory responsibility of state governments.
- Central govt. provides logistic and financial support.
- Elaborate response mechanism at national level.
- State level responses vary.
- National coordinating body : National Disaster Management cell, Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation; Ministry of Agriculture.

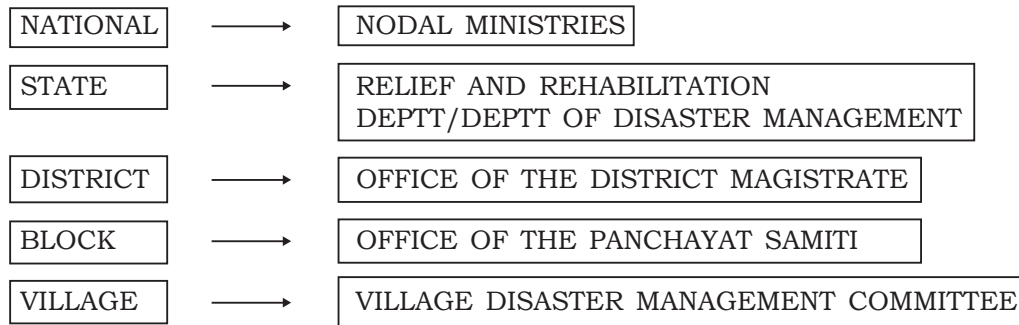


To build a safer and disaster resilient India by developing a pro-active, holistic multi disaster and technology driven strategy for disaster management through collective efforts of all government agencies and non-governmental organisations.



Disaster Management

India has an integrated administrative machinery for management of disasters at the national, state, district, block and village levels. This can be seen from the chart below:



The response from the **Central Govt.** is based keeping in view the following factors:

- Gravity of the disaster
- Scale of the relief operations
- Requirements of the central assistance for augmenting financial resources and logistics support at the disposal of the state govt.
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** is the **Nodal Ministry** at the centre for coordinating disaster management activities except drought.
- **Ministry of Agriculture** under the Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation manages droughts.
- Other Ministers are assigned the responsibility of providing emergency support in case of disasters that fall within their purview.

Disasters	Nodal Ministry
Natural Disasters (other than Drought)	Ministry of Home Affairs
Drought	Ministry of Agriculture
Air Accidents	Ministry of Civil Aviation
Railway Accidents	Ministry of Railways
Chemical Disasters	Ministry of Home Affairs
Biological Disasters	Ministry of Home Affairs
Nuclear	Ministry of Home Affairs
Epidemics	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

The following decision making and standard bodies are responsible for **Disaster Management at the Central Level.**

- Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister.
- Group of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister.
- National Crisis Management Committee, under the chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary.
- Crisis Management Group under the chairmanship of the Central Relief Commissioner and senior officers from various Ministers and other concerned

Department review the contingency plans, measures required for dealing with natural disasters and carry out coordination at the time of disaster.

- Technical Organizations like the Indian Meteorological Department, Central Water Commission (Floods).

Building and Material Promotion Council (Construction laws) Bureau of Indian standards (Norms).

Defence Research and Development Organisation (Nuclear Biological), Director General of Civil Defence provide support for coordination of disaster response and management.

Government alone cannot handle the task of Disaster Management. In addition to national, district and local level organisations there are various other institutions involved in disaster management. These are the UN agencies.

Disasters can be managed effectively through close coordination with various government and non-government agencies.

The Institutions — non-governmental organisations engaged in Disaster Management at different levels in the country are:

1. United Nations
2. Armed-Forces
3. Civil Defence
4. Home Guard
5. National Cadet Corps (NCC)
6. Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan

UN Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) INDIA

- The UN General Assembly has made the UN office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) responsible for all international disaster responses.
- In India UNDMT represents various UN agencies on disaster risk management.
- The primary purpose of UNDMT is
 - (i) To implement disaster preparedness
 - (ii) To mitigate the effects of disasters
 - (iii) To strengthen Govt. capacities on disaster risk management.
 - (iv) To ensure prompt, and effective country level disaster preparedness by the UN system.
- The team of UNDMT includes representatives from 1. FAO 2. ILO 3. UNDP 4. UNFPA 5. UNICEF 6. WFP 7. WHO 8. Any NGO-International level.
- UNDMT helps the Indian Govt. in the implementation of the measures of disaster preparedness, its mitigation efforts and on disaster risk management.

UNDMT shares information with

1. Embassies
2. High Commissions
3. Departments responsible for development assistance through agreements with Govt. of India.
4. International NGO's on damages caused by natural disasters.

5. UNDMT also keeps a record of the existing disaster management programme of the UN agencies in India.
- UNDMT also organises multi-lateral/bilateral meetings on information sharing on emergencies and disaster management.
 - UNDMT also makes the UN agencies—the disaster management programmes in order to streamline the support provided to the Govt. of India.

Armed-Forces

The Army, Navy and Air Force have traditionally played a significant role in disaster management. Its contributions are as follows:

- The Armed Forces of India form the core of the government's response capacity.
- They intervene and undertake specific tasks when the situation goes beyond the control of the civil administration.
- Activities undertaken by the Armed Forces during disaster Management are:
 - (i) Restoration of Communication system
 - (ii) Search and Rescue operations
 - (iii) Provide health and medical facilities
 - (iv) Food and Civil supplies
 - (v) Provide power
 - (vi) Transportation
 - (vii) Public works and engineering in the immediate after month of disaster.
 - (viii) Any other emergency duty.
- NCC has emerged as the single largest structured youth movement in India. It has 13 lakh boys and girls in the senior and junior divisions.
- The motto of NCC is "Unity and Discipline".

National Cadet Corps

- National Cadet Corps was formed in 1948. It has been conducting courses in schools and colleges since a long time.

AIMS

- To develop qualities of character, courage, comradeship, secular outlook, spirit of adventure, sportsmanship and to develop the idea of selfless service among the youth to make them useful citizens.
- To create human resource of organised, trained and activated youth.
- to provide leadership in all walks of life including the Armed Forces and to prepare themselves for the service of the nation.

Features of NCC:

- NCC is open to all school and college students on a voluntary basis.
- Officers and cadets have no liability to join armed forces/active military services.
- It has four divisions
 - First two divisions
 - 1. Senior division for college students
 - 2. Junior division for school students
- College and school cadets are trained differently.
- Junior division (School cadets):

- School should have a NCC troop
- A Board Display at the school entrance with the emblem and Troop number.
- Not more than 100 cadets in one troop.
- Recruitments are done in every academic year.

Following are some requirements for an NCC Cadet:

1. Physical fitness
2. Willingness to participate in its activities
3. Must be on the active role of the school.

Privileges

Supply kit containing uniform, beret, cap, badge, hackles, web-belt are given to every cadet.

Civil Defence

Civil Defence refers to the organisation and training of ordinary people to protect themselves from attack during a war or from natural disasters. In a civil society, civil defence plays an important role. Civil Defence aims at in the event of hostile attacks:

1. Saving Life
2. Minimise damage to property
3. Maintain continuity of industrial production

Two events that compelled the Government of India to reorient the activities of Civil Defence

1. War emergency of 1962 with China
2. War emergency of 1965 with Pakistan

Training of the Civil Defence

The National Civil Defence College was founded on 29th April 1957 at Nagpur as the Central Emergency Relief Training Institute (CERTI) to train the Civil Defence. The main features of CERTI:

- To provide advanced and specialised training to the leaders of relief services-for efficient conduct of relief operations during natural disasters.
 - 5,00,000 Civil Defence volunteers have taken training from this Institute.
- Our national leaders always felt the need of involving students in the national service.

National Service Scheme

- The First Education Commission in 1950 headed by Dr. C.D. Deshmukh recommended the introduction of national service scheme on a voluntary basis for the students. The purpose was to prepare a scheme for compulsory National Service by students prior to their admission in degree courses.
- In the 1969-70, the Ministry of Education, after a lot of deliberations, introduced the National Service Scheme in India.
- The **motto of the NSS** is “NOT ME BUT YOU”.
- The **basis values** underlining the motto of the NSS are
 - (i) Welfare of the individual is ultimately dependent on the welfare of the society as a whole
 - (ii) Involve the youth in national service
 - (iii) Essence of democratic living

- (iv) Promote national service by students on a voluntary basis
- (v) Need of selfless service
- (vi) Appreciation of others' point of view
- (vii) Consideration for fellow beings
- (viii) Dynamism and progressive outlook of the youth

NSS Symbol-Rath Wheel — It resembles the wheel of the Rath of the Sun Temple at Konark in Orissa.

- The wheel symbolises the cycle of creation, preservation and release.
- It signifies the movement of life across time and space.

Programme of NSS

- Today NSS has over 19 lakh students volunteers.
- As per the NSS Manual there are two types of programmes undertaken by its volunteers.
- 1. **'Under Regular Activities'** students are expected to work as volunteers for two years.
 - need to do community service for a minimum of 120 hours per annum.
 - Activities include:
 - (i) health
 - (ii) blood donation
 - (iii) family welfare
 - (iv) tree plantation
 - (v) constructive work in adopted villages and slums.
- 2. **Under 'Special Campaigning Programme'** a camp of 10 days duration is conducted every year in the adopted area on a specific theme.

Some essential requirements

- Every NSS volunteer should put in at least 240 hours of useful social work during a continuous period of two years.
- Work-diary to be maintained by each volunteer.
- Assessment of performances.

Work Appraisal: At the end of the minimum period of service work appraisal is conducted. A volunteer is then awarded NSS Service Certificate through the concerned college.

Nehru-Yuva Kendras

- Nehru Yuva Kendras were set up in 1972 on the occasion of the silver jubilee celebrations of India's independence.
- It is an autonomous body-administered by the Board of Governors headed by the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Objectives:

- To provide the non-student rural youth an opportunity to take part in nation-building activities.
- To provide the youth an opportunity for development of their own personality and skills.
- It has become one of the largest grass-root level organisations of world.
- It serves over 8 million non-student rural youths enrolled through over two lakh village based Youth Clubs.

Home Guards

Besides the Armed Forces a voluntary organisation was raised in 1946 to provide protection to the people and help the police in controlling civil disturbances and communal riots.

- Later it was organised and adopted as a voluntary citizen's force by some states in India.
- 6th December is celebrated every year as the Raising Day of the Home Guards.
- After the 1962 Chinese Aggression the Indian states and Union territories were advised by the centre to merge their existing voluntary organisations into one uniform voluntary force.

This force came to be known as the 'Home Guards' from then on.

Main Functions of Home Guards

- To help the police in maintaining law and order and internal security.
- To help the community in any type of emergency like fire, earthquakes, epidemic, cyclone, etc.
- To help in the maintenance of essential services
- To promote communal harmony
- To protect weaker sections of the society.
- To participate in various socio-economic and welfare activities
- To perform Civil Defence Duties

In the border states of India-Border Wing Home Guards have been raised to serve as an auxiliary wing of the Border Security Forces.

Eligibility Criteria to be a Home Guard

- All citizens of India.
 - Age 18-50.
 - They are recruited from all sections of the society like doctors, engineers, lawyers, teachers, govt. servants, etc. who can contribute to the betterment of the society.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs formulates the policy related to training, equipping and other important matters of Home Guards.

Bharat Scouts and Guides

It was formed officially on 7th November 1950. The activities of the Scout began on 18th Aug. 1951.

Background: Indians were not permitted to join Scouting. Only the British could be the Scouts. So they started a scout organisation named "The Boy Scouts of India". Later Indians were given permission to start scouting. They formed an organisation called "Hindustan Scouts".

- Scouting is the most important youth movement in India due to its traditional and abiding values.
- Handicapped boys and girls also participate in the Scouting programme.
- The UN selected the Bharat Scouts and Guides as honorary "Peace Messengers" for their significant contribution to the *International Year of Peace*.

Conclusion

The huge cadre of volunteers can make a lot of difference during emergencies if they are used properly.