



Awareness of Disaster: A Way to Nation Building

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Introduction:

India has been traditionally vulnerable to natural disasters on account of its unique geo-climatic conditions. Floods, droughts, cyclones, earthquakes and landslides have been a recurrent phenomena. About 60% of the landmass is prone to earthquakes of various intensities; over 40 million hectares is prone to floods; about 8% of the total area is prone to cyclones and 68% of the area is susceptible to drought. In the decade 1990-2000, an average of about 4344 people lost their lives and about 30 million people were affected by disasters every year. The loss in terms of private, community and public assets has been astronomical.

At the global level, there has been considerable concern over natural disasters. Even as 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 Natural Disaster Reduction with the objective to reduce loss of lives and property and restrict socio-economic damage through concerted international action, specially in developing countries.

Over the past couple of years, the Government of India have brought about a paradigm shift in the approach to disaster management. The new approach proceeds from the conviction that development cannot be sustainable unless disaster mitigation is built into the development process. Another corner stone of the approach is that mitigation has to be multi-disciplinary spanning across all sectors of development. The new policy also emanates from the belief that investments in mitigation are much more cost effective than expenditure on relief and rehabilitation.

Objectives of the study:

The main objective of this study is to make study of disaster, disaster management, rescue operations in general. In addition to that to understand the reasons behind natural and man-made disasters and to give important suggestions

for mitigation of loss and to minimize intensity of disaster.

Methodology:

Primary and secondary data is used for preparation of this research article. This article is exclusively prepared for studying the disaster situation and

management of disaster. People's behavior is observed by studying various incidences with the help of news papers, magazines and discussion made on electronic media. Information required for article is mainly collected with the help of observation.

Result and discussion:

Disaster management is a process or strategy that is implemented before, during or after any type of catastrophic event takes place. This process can be initiated whenever anything threatens to disrupt normal operations or puts people's lives at risk. Governments at all levels as well as many businesses create their own disaster plans that make it possible to overcome various catastrophes and return to functioning normally as quickly as possible.

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 (for example) floods, landslides, fires, tsunamis.
- Environmental emergencies: including technological or industrial accidents, usually involving the production, use or transportation of hazardous material, and occur where these materials are produced, used or

transported, and forest fires caused by humans.

- 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.

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.

Phases of Disaster Management:

Disaster management consists of phases such as prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. These are discussed as follows-

Prevention:

Prevention was recently added to the phases of Disaster management. These are activities designed to provide permanent protection from disasters. It

focuses on preventing the human hazard, primarily from potential natural disasters or terrorist attacks. Preventive measures are taken on both the domestic and international levels, designed to provide permanent protection from disasters. Not



Mitigation:

Personal mitigation is a key to national preparedness. Individuals and families train to avoid unnecessary risks. Preventive or mitigation measures take different forms for different types of disasters. 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 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.

On a national level, governments might implement large scale mitigation measures. After the monsoon floods of 2010, the Punjab government subsequently constructed 22 'disaster-resilient' model villages, comprising 1885 single-storey homes, together with schools and health centres.

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.

Preparedness:

These activities are designed to minimise loss of life and damage – for example by removing people and property from a threatened location and by facilitating timely and effective rescue, relief and rehabilitation. Preparedness is the main way of reducing the impact of disasters. Community-based preparedness and management should be a high priority in physical therapy practice management.

Preparedness focuses on preparing equipment and procedures for use when a disaster occurs. Preparedness measures can take many forms including the construction of shelters, implementation of an emergency communication system, installation of warning devices, creation of back-up life-line services (e.g., power, water, sewage), and rehearsing evacuation plans. Planning for all different types of events, and all magnitudes is of utmost importance, so that when a disaster does occur responders know exactly what their assignments are.

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. This assistance may be

provided by national or international agencies and organizations. Effective coordination of disaster assistance is often crucial, particularly when many organizations respond and local emergency management agency (LEMA) capacity has been exceeded by the demand or diminished by the disaster itself. The National Response Framework is a United States government publication that explains responsibilities and expectations of government officials at the local, state, federal, and tribal levels. It provides guidance on Emergency Support Functions which may be integrated in whole or parts to aid in the response and recovery process.

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.

Communication Networks

Disaster management also often addresses the issue of communication. Many disasters can cause communication networks to fail, so a competent plan will include the quick setup of alternative communication capabilities that do not rely on the switches, towers and hubs that are usually part of telephone and cellular communication networks. By making use of short-wave transmissions that are

supported by satellite technology, for example, communication can continue to flow from the area affected by the disaster.

Disaster Kits :

As part of the crisis management component of a disaster plan, it is not unusual for some type of disaster kits to be created. The kits might include food and clothing for people who have been affected. Kits might also include first aid supplies and basic medication that could help treat headaches, fevers and other minor ailments. In some cases, the kits might include items such as sleeping bags or other necessities that will help displaced people cope after the disaster.

Suggestions and conclusions:

In disaster management, first of all we should classify the disasters i.e. natural disaster and man-made disaster. Again natural disasters are classified into two groups such as – Suddenly occurs i.e. earth quake, volcano etc. and the disasters occurs by giving intimation i.e. flood, land sliding etc.

1. By considering the type of disaster, we can recognize the probable spots and try to make necessary precaution or management against disaster.
2. Secure the flood affected places before flood comes. The places of trespass should be detected. For this purpose, particularly in cities , the development plan of such cities are published on Internet, google etc. It helps the people who

are interested to purchase the plot or construct the houses.

Sanglikar's are always under tension at every monsoon. And today the problem of flood in sangli city is increased, because the Karnataka government decided to increase the height of the Almatti Dam. However, with the proper co-ordination between two governments, the future problem may avoid.

It is also observed by the researcher that, the people from bank of Krishna and Warana river, always under fear of flood. We know the situation take place at the time 2005 and 2019 when rainfall increased in catchment area of these rivers. Hence, proper communication between government authorities, political persons, media and common people are essential.

3. Most of the disaster are man-made and these rare more dangerous than natural disaster. e.g. Land sliding in Malin Village. Such type of disaster may avoid by proper management and by creating awareness among people.
4. All of we know the incidence of 26/11 i.e. terrorists attack on Mumbai. There are two questions that, what is the responsibility of the police officers and how they behave? And what is the responsibility of the electronic media and how they behave?

Is it right to travel the top level officers in the same car? No doubt the intension of the police officers is good , but they have taken decision by heart instead of brain.

Therefore, in such type of disaster, decision may taken by calmly and quietly to minimize the risk and loss.

And, what we say about Electronic Media?

Excuse me, the representatives of print and electronic media present here.

Media is the fourth pillar of the democracy. But how they behave? They are running behind to increase the TRP. They can not care about people as well as nation.

In the 26/11 incidence, at the time of rescue operation going on at Taj Hotel, The NSG commandos are dropping on the tares of Taj from helicopter , the electronic media shows live telecasts of this event on their channels. Is this act of the media is right or proper? The answer is no. There is necessity to reduce the autonomy of the electronic media.

5. There is one programme telecasted on National Geographic channel, i.e. Do or Die. In this programme it is questioned that, what can you do in a specific disastrous situation and scientific answer is also given.

Such type of programme should be prepared and telecasted

on various channels regarding various types of disasters and people's behavior. It creates awareness among people and they know that how can they behave in such situation.

6. Just we have celebrated Lord Ganesha festival. If we display the appearances regarding types of disaster, behavior of people during disaster as well as pre and post disaster, responsibilities of the general people and how they act during such period. It will definitely helpful to create awareness among people about disaster.
7. Recently, Dy. Commissioner of Mumbai Municipal Corporation, Shantaram Shinde and Chief of Disaster Management, Mahesh Narvekar developed two days "First Response Programme". Under this programme, experts guidance is provided to people about "Do's and Don'ts" at the time of disaster, before and after disaster. It includes first aid, fear control, care taking of injured people, preparing statures, type of disasters and means of rescue etc.
It is necessary to organize or implement such type of programmes in the state as well as national level to create awareness among people.
8. NGO should develop co-ordination among all other organizations who helps people at the time of disaster.

9. Last but not least, In America, Institute for Circles, Disaster and Risk Management, George Washington University provides Integrated disaster management education to their students of various course. Such a way in India it is necessary to introduce the "Disaster Management" subject by our Universities, Schools and colleges in the syllabus for various courses compulsorily as like Environment Science.

Conclusion:

India has been traditionally vulnerable to natural disasters on account of its unique geo-climatic conditions. The loss in terms of private, community and public assets has been astronomical. Because of disaster like Floods, droughts, cyclones, earthquakes and landslides we have loose too much natural resources, assets as well as lives. In the decade 1990-2000, an average of about 4344 people lost their lives and about 30 million people were affected by disasters every year. It adversely affected on development of nation. With the help of proper management of disaster we minimize the loss of lives and property.

We hope, if such type of action taken by government, NGO, policy makers, most of the disasters will be avoided and the intense of the disaster will be reduced.

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