



Short Review Paper

Importance of disaster risk reduction and management of vulnerable communities in the context of Atmanirbhar Bharat

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Abstract

In compliance with the Disaster Management Act of 2005, the National Policy on Disaster Management, 2009, is a national-level policy. The policy outlines a framework or road map for responding to disasters in a thorough and all-encompassing way. Accordingly, the state government bears the main responsibility for handling a crisis. The Disaster Management Authority is also set up at the national, state, and district levels. The unveiling of a new government programme is something that the people of India have learned to anticipate. With Make in India, "Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan," and Demonetisation or Less Cash in the last seven years, "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" now refers to a self-sufficient nation. The paper aims to understand the Importance of Community Awareness and Preparedness in Disaster Risk Reduction and to know the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan for Disaster Risk Reduction and its management in communities. The paper's objectives have been met, and the paper has been constructed based on those results. It relied on secondary sources such as magazines, books, and websites, among other things. The descriptive method was used throughout this paper. Every facet of disaster management involves the community in a significant way. The planning for disaster management would not be accomplished without their input and involvement. Assessing community engagement and awareness in rural and urban regions.

Keywords: Disaster Risk Reduction, management of vulnerable communities, Atmanirbharbharat.

Introduction

Communities and residents' participation in disaster risk reduction strategies can benefit the community and the administration not just in times of catastrophe, such as during both a disaster (the emergency stage) and subsequent stages of disaster management, such as preparation and risk reduction (the pre-disaster stage) and recovery and reconstruction (the post-disaster stage). Community Participation promotes independence and a sense of responsibility while reducing reliance on external resources. Communities must know about disaster management procedures to participate in such activities. More than 4.03 billion people were impacted by 7348 disaster occurrences registered globally in the 20 years from 2000 to 2019 that claimed 12 million lives. Because of its vastness, topography, and high human density, Asia saw the greatest number of disasters of any continent. Among the nations affected globally, India ranked third in economic damage and fatalities with 321 occurrences¹.

The term "vulnerability" refers to the degree to which a community, structure, service, or geographic area is likely to be harmed or disrupted by the effect of a specific hazard, given its nature, composition, and location near hazardous terrain or a disaster-prone area. A society, system, or asset is vulnerable if it possesses the traits and conditions necessary to make it sensitive

to the negative impacts of a hazard. There are three main ways to look at vulnerability, even though the size of a disaster brought on by a natural hazard depends on how vulnerable a person is. Consider vulnerability first as a natural occurrence before applying a technical bias to the ways and means of mitigating it. The second viewpoint continues to be based on the idea that humans have become the primary cause of many of these catastrophes by forcibly stealing nature via technology. The third perspective, which appears to be an extension of the second, highlights how different countries' social structures vary and how their human geography is arranged concerning their socioeconomic space affects the size and severity of disasters².

The objectives of the paper: i. To understand the Importance of Community Awareness and Preparedness in Disaster Risk Reduction, ii. To know the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan for Disaster Risk Reduction and its management in communities.

Methodology

The paper's objectives have been met, and the paper has been constructed based on those results. It relied on secondary sources such as magazines, books, and websites, among other things. The descriptive method was used throughout this paper.

Survival of the Fittest: 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' (ABA) and 'Be Vocal for Local' (BVFL): Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed an economic package worth Rs 20 lakh crore on May 12, 2020, in his fifth address to the nation as part of the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan" to address the Covid-19 problem. The recent government pronouncements on helping important industries and Reserve Bank of India actions are included in the Rs 20 lakh crore package. In his speech to the country, the prime minister declared, "We must ensure that the 21st Century belongs to India. There is only one way to achieve this: "Aatmanirbhar Bharat," or Self-Reliant India³.

The five pillars that support Aatmanirbhar Bharat are: i. Economy: Rather than making small adjustments one at a time, the Abhiyaan seeks to boost the economy significantly. ii. Infrastructure: In the nation representing contemporary India, infrastructure facilities that meet international standards will be introduced. iii. Systems: The Abhiyaan wants to develop a technology-based system that is not based on our outdated traditions, laws, and regulations. iv. India's demographics are its greatest asset. We are fortunate to have a young population, which can be used to boost our economy. v. Demand: The Abhiyaan also seeks to strengthen the supply chain's participants. With this action, we can fully leverage supply and demand⁴.

The base of the many efforts Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan is the key to disaster Management. The Prime Minister serves as the chairperson of NDMA. Like this, the Chief Minister of the state in question leads the State Disaster Management Authority. The District Magistrate, District Collector, or Deputy Commissioner in each district oversee the District Disaster Management Authority. The government also established the National Disaster Reaction Force (NDRF), which is regarded as the largest fast-reaction force completely devoted to disaster response in the world. The NDRF employs a comprehensive approach to disaster management, developing plans and procedures and implementing relief efforts⁵.

Literature Review: A literature review of a few studies highlights how local populations were involved in catastrophe preparation and recovery efforts. Some studies also emphasise the part played by neighborhood organisations in uniting the neighbourhoods.

In his study, Bhagat⁶ emphasises the importance of preparing local people for the tragedy. He claims that the government's machinery cannot tackle the calamity alone. He promotes the direct involvement of at-risk populations in all phases of disaster management, including planning and execution. Government Hospital NIMHANS is the case study that Jagannathan et al.⁷ used. As part of a community participation project, the hospital began sewing PPE, masks, face shields, and other safety and health gear in-house during COVID-19. 83 people, including 2 businesses and 1 government agency,

participated in the activity. The case study illustrates how community involvement is successful.

In their case study on community-based disaster risk analysis, Vedika Pant and Ravindra K Pande⁸ stress the need to give communities their due in disaster risk-related plans and initiatives. Their study identifies the exposure, resistance, resilience, vulnerability, hazard, and management status in 5 villages across 5 blocks in 5 districts of Uttarakhand using participatory rural appraisal methodologies.

Community resilience after Kerala's 2018 floods was researched by Joseph et al.⁹. Their research identifies gaps by analysing socioeconomic and community satisfaction characteristics. The study demonstrates that even though they had only completed their primary schooling, the most affected fishermen actively participated in rescue and evacuation and were extremely gratified later.

Importance of Community Awareness and Preparedness in Disaster Risk Reduction: The community is a key participant in disaster management. At every level of the disaster management cycle, it is crucial. Can lessen susceptibility by raising awareness and providing them with the necessary training to aid in disaster preparedness and response. Can produce skilled labour by instructing unofficial groups. Changes need to be made in how individuals view themselves, from disaster response to disaster risk management. If we want the community to participate in disaster risk reduction, we must also inform them about the available resources. They should be aware of where the local shelters are located. To save themselves in a disaster, they should be informed of the evacuation protocols, emergency supplies, and distribution strategy after a disaster. Important facets of community involvement in disaster management.

Awareness: The locals must be informed of the dangers and weaknesses they may encounter during a crisis.

Knowledge – They should know how to deal with disaster damage when it occurs and how to be ready to handle any hazards that may arise.

Supportive environment – The neighbourhood should make all essential preparations for disaster risk reduction. They should be prepared with first aid supplies, food, and other emergency supplies.

Skilled – They must be capable of making informed selections. They should be sympathetic and positively interact with the people in their neighbourhood.

Organizational Development: The neighbourhood should host disaster preparedness workshops. A DRR plan for the community with shared duties should be in place.

Additionally, these communities ought to raise awareness among the public. They ought to put together some disaster management-related initiatives, performances, and lectures by local officials.

Community-based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM):

To lessen their vulnerabilities and strengthen their capacities, communities are actively and effectively involved in identifying, analysing, treating, monitoring, and evaluating disaster risk. Therefore, the most crucial component of this strategy is community involvement.

The six stages of disaster risk reduction are: i. Choosing the community - The local government should choose the community by conducting a poll. The following aspects of the survey should be evaluated: The disaster's severity. How poor the affected area is. The cost. Accessibility. ii. Establishing Relationships – The community needs to establish relationships with one another so that members may rely on one another and request assistance without feeling awkward. iii. Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment - This technique includes hazard and vulnerability evaluations. The neighbourhood authority often handles it. iv. Planning for community-based disaster risk management. After assessing the risks, several risk-reduction measures are put into place. v. Community Managed Implementation entails community-level organisation with sufficient local government assistance. Various structural and non-structural activities are also a part of it. Mock drills and community training, for instance. vi. Monitoring and Evaluation – Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) identifies the progress made while including local communities and agencies.

Aatmanirbhar Bharat aims to make India self-sufficient and independent by lowering our reliance on imports and boosting the domestic production of most goods. The Aatmanirbhar Bharat mission can be successful by supporting local suppliers, manufacturers, and businesses and diversifying the services and goods offered¹⁰.

Results and Discussion

The coronavirus pandemic's effects on the world economy gave rise to Atmanirbhar Bharat's audacious campaign. The fundamental objective of this Abhiyaan is to become self-sufficient and a provider to the entire world. India adopted the policies of liberalisation, privatisation, and globalisation after an economic crisis hit it in 1991. Similarly, on May 12, 2020, Prime Minister Modi launched this independent campaign with a Rs 20 trillion economic stimulus programme¹¹.

Activities aimed at preparing communities for catastrophes are essential for increasing their resilience and ability for adaptation. Additional legislation and study are necessary for a more thorough investigation of the dynamics. The importance of community organisations and local institutions in forming partnerships and fostering resilience in community-based

disaster management². Increasing public awareness is necessary to motivate people to participate in community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRM). The neighbourhood should be informed of the area's preparedness plan, vulnerability profiles, emergency contact information, and dos and don'ts. Print media, social media, and local government activities could all be used to spread this information¹².

Conclusion

The community is the first to respond to catastrophes. Traditional knowledge and tactics to reduce vulnerabilities by communities aid in lowering risk, enhancing resilience, and fostering community and local government self-sufficiency. Every facet of disaster management involves the community in a significant way. The planning for disaster management would not be accomplished without their input and involvement. Assessing community engagement and awareness in rural and urban regions was the major goal of the household survey. It was noted to check the community's vulnerability to disaster through visual observation of the external environment¹³.

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