

the injured.

Disaster education and training can help communities in hazard-prone areas to gain a better grasp of the ways to cope with risks achieving disaster-resistance. Integrating disaster management in school, college and university will make available a ready force of educated youth, who can respond to the emergencies with their knowledge, self-confidence and survival skills.

3.3 Role of Government, International and NGO Bodies

Although it is impossible to prevent most of the natural disasters, but it is possible to minimize impacts of the hazards and mitigate various hazards through different measures. The government play an important role in the disaster management at different stages along with the cooperation of International and Non-Governmental Organisations.

Role of Government (in India)

The Government of India enacted **Disaster Management Act, 2005** on 23rd Dec, 2005 to provide the statutory legitimacy for the required institutional mechanism at national, state and district levels for a undertaking a holistic, co-ordinated and prompt response to any disaster situations.

Natural Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was established as the apex body for disaster management with Honourable Prime Minister; as the Chairman. Also State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) were

Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) were established with District Collectors, Deputy Commissioners or District Magistrate as Chairman under Disaster Management Act 2000, the Central Government provide for the overall co-ordination of emergency response in disaster situations is close cooperation with NDMA, emergency response has been made the responsibility of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and training and Capacity building is the responsibility of the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) with the support of the Centres for Disaster Management. This Act also provides for the specific roles for Local Bodies in disaster management including Panchayati Raj Institution as well as Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) such as Municipalities and Municipal Councils.

In India, the basic responsibility for undertaking rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures in the event of a disaster rests with the concerned state government. The central government supplements the efforts of the state Governments by providing the financial support in case of severe natural calamities. In addition, the logistic support extended by the Central Government includes deployment of aircrafts and boats, specialist teams of Armed Forces, Central Para Military Forces and personnel of NDRF.

The Central Assistance also includes the arrangement for relief materials and essential commodities including medical stores, restoration of critical infrastructure facilities including communication network and such other assistance as may be required by the affected states to meet the situation effectively.

Important initiatives regarding disaster management taken by government in India can be highlighted under following points:

1. High Powered Committee: The first and the foremost is the constitution of high powered committee for formulating a systematic fail proof approach to disaster. This committee was formed in 1999 at National level.

2. National Committee on Disaster Management: After the Gujarat Earthquake 2000, an all-party national committee was set up with the Prime Minister as the Chairman with representatives from national and state level political parties. This was set up to enable preparation of disaster management plans and to suggest best mitigation measures.

3. Cabinet Committee on Management of Natural Calamities: This committee was set up to oversee all the aspects relating to management of natural calamities including assessment, measures identification and programmes for mitigation. This committee was asked to suggest long term measures for prevention of calamities, formulate and suggest programmes for building public awareness and create resilience and approves the central assistance to the states.

4. Central and State Governments: The primary responsibility for the disaster mitigation plans are state subject. The Central Government initiates coordinating and supplements the efforts of the State governments and provides financial assistance in case of severe natural calamities.

5. District Administration: At district level DDMA (District Disaster Management Authorities) will act as planning, coordinating and implementing body for disaster management, as per guidelines of NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority) and SDMA (State Disaster Management Authority).

➤ **Central Government**

- a. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMS)
- b. State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA)

➤ **State Government Level**

- a. Major Incidents group
- b. State Disaster Coordinate Group
- c. State Disaster Coordination Centre

- a. District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA)
- b. District Disaster Coordination Centre

> Local Level

- a. Local Disaster Management Group
- b. Local Government Disaster Coordination Centre

Fig 3.2: Indian Government initiatives in Disaster Management at different levels

To conclude, the role of government is very vital in disaster management as it set up authorities that could predict any impending disaster. The role starts with proper assessment and rolling out information to the public with proper preventives measures. During the time of disasters, government should provide a central, coordinated plan of action to address the damage caused by such an event as well as the needs of the people affected. The role of government having different situations can be discussed briefly as:

- 1. Co-ordinate assistance:** Responsible for co-ordinating assistance and resources to the particular region at the time of disaster.
- 2. National Response Framework:** Government has an important role in identifying principles, roles and structures to direct its response in times of a disaster. This includes coordination among states, local and central resources. Rebuilding damaged areas and other relief efforts are also part of this

3. Emergency Management: It is involved in providing the solid and support necessary relief to prepare and rebuilding a community in the aftermath of a disaster. This means civil defence units etc. may be called to maintain order or situations like damaged water supplies, power lines, inadequate housing etc.

4. Emergency Response Teams: Trained teams with different speciality area including search and rescue, medical assistance, mobile emergency support and mortuary operations. Doctors, nurses and paramedics provide medical assistance.

5. Communication: A very important role is in providing the lines of communication like phone lines, satellite uplinks, computers and power generation etc. to keep responders in touch with government and public officials.

Role of NGO's and International Bodies:

NGOs are defined as private organisations which conduct and pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interests of poor, provide basic social services or undertake community development.

NGOs or Non-Government Organisations/Non-Profit Organisations (charities) are the bodies or firms that retain a tax exempted status and are registered under various country laws. They work independent of government and generally don't include professional associations, businesses and foundations. These may be local or internationals. E.g. Red Cross, Save the Children, Oxfam, World Vision etc. are NGOs involved in disaster and humanitarian crisis response care. These work on the following three values:

1. Neutrality: Aid will not be used for a particular political or religious standpoint.