

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

AUDIT COURSE(DISASTER MANAGEMENT)

SEMESTER II

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The responsibility of Disaster Management lies with both central and state government. Following are the role and responsibilities of the govt to reduce the effectiveness of any disaster.

Pre-Disaster measures

1. Keep a check and monitoring any impending disaster.
2. Early warning .
3. Planning and liaison with different DM agencies.
4. Educating people about DM.
5. Stocking relief material.
6. Rehearsing drills.

During Disaster

1. Launch search and rescue operations as quick as possible.
2. Provide relief material.
3. Transport people to safe places.
4. Provide temp shelter.
5. Immediately medical and health facilities.
6. Provide clean water and food.
7. Shift critically injured people to hospital.
8. Pool all resources and DM agencies. (Include Army, Navy and Airforce if required).

Post Disaster

1. Analyse the damage
2. Cleanup of rubble and rebuilding activities to begin.
3. Preference to rebuild and restart basic amenities
4. Analyse causes of disaster and future planning to tackle such disaster in future.
5. These are some the responsibility of our govt to tackle and minimise the damage of the disaster. Our NDRF and district administration are needed to be better prepared for any contingencies, this reducing the reaction time



Indian context

On 23 December 2005, the Government of India enacted the Disaster Management Act, which envisaged the creation of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), headed by the Prime Minister, and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) headed by respective Chief Ministers, to spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to Disaster Management in India.

The National Disaster Management Authority has been constituted under the Disaster Management Act 2005, with the Prime Minister of India as its Chairman-; a Vice Chairman with the status of Cabinet Minister, and eight members with the status of Ministers of State. With well-defined functional domains for each of its members and concern to carry out the mandated functions, NDMA has evolved into a lean and professional organization which is IT-enabled and knowledge based. Skills and expertise of the specialists are extensively used to address disaster related issues. A functional and operational infrastructure has been built, which is appropriate for disaster management involving uncertainties coupled with desired plans of action.

Functions and Responsibilities of NDMA

NDMA, as the apex body, is mandated to lay down the policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster Management to ensure timely and effective response to disasters. Towards this, it has the following responsibilities:-

1. Lay down policies on disaster management
2. Approve the National Plan
3. Approve plans prepared by the Ministries or Departments of the Government of India in accordance with the National Plan
4. Lay down guidelines to be followed by the State Authorities in drawing up the State Plan
5. Lay down guidelines to be followed by the different Ministries or Departments of the Government of India for the Purpose of integrating the measures for prevention of disaster or the mitigation of its effects in their development plans and projects
6. Coordinate the enforcement and implementation of the policy and plans for disaster management
7. Recommend provision of funds for the purpose of mitigation
8. Provide such support to other countries affected by major disasters as may be determined by the Central Government

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9. Take such other measures for the prevention of disaster, or the mitigation, or preparedness and capacity building for dealing with threatening disaster situations or disasters as it may consider necessary
10. Lay down broad policies and guidelines for the functioning of the National Institute of Disaster Management.

Role of International agencies

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction: Created in 1999. It was created to implement an international strategy for disaster management. It has four priorities: understanding disaster risk, strengthening disaster risk governance, investing in disaster risk reduction, enhancing disaster preparedness.

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR): Its priorities are climate change adaptation, building disaster resilient cities and schools and hospitals.

International Committee of Red Cross: The International Committee of the Red Cross was formed in response to the experiences of its founder, Jean-Henri Dunant, at the Battle of Solferino in 1859. Dunant witnessed thousands of wounded soldiers left to die for lack of adequate medical services. The ICRC is now one component of a large network including national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. (The Red Crescent was adopted in lieu of the Red Cross in Muslim countries.) The governing body of the ICRC is the committee, consisting of no more than 25 members. All the members are Swiss, in part due to the origins of the Red Cross in Geneva but also to establish neutrality so any countries in need can receive aid. The Committee meets in assembly 10 times each year to ensure that the ICRC fulfills its duties as the promoter of international humanitarian law and as the guardian of the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross: “humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality.”

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