Sharing Responsibility
–Role of Local and State Bodies

At the time of disaster various agencies both government and non-government organizations play a crucial role in preparing the society. Home Guards, Civil Defence, Volunteers of National Service Scheme, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan too play a major role at the time of crisis. This chapter tries to understand the functions and role of these agencies in disaster management, who make the society a better place to live.

READ THE FOLLOWING ...

26th January 2001, Earthquake of an intensity of 6.9 occurs in Bhuj.

26th January 2001, reports of the State Government state that, more than 13,000 people have been declared dead and about 1.67 lakh people have been injured. About 1.97 crore population spread over 21 districts have been affected. About 3.20 lakh, permanent and semi permanent (pucca/kucha) houses and 14,000 huts have been fully destroyed and about 7.33 lakh permanent and semi permanent (pucca/kucha) houses and 31,000 huts have been partially damaged,.... What went wrong? Did the houses have faulty structural design?

28th January 2001, relief teams started reaching Ahmedabad and Bhuj. Individuals, Voluntary organizations, Professionals, Aid agencies have started approaching materials for providing assistance.

Mr Khan is a driver in the town of Bhuj. Thankfully none in his family was injured during the quake; they lost all their valuables, cash, and their house. More than 100 organizations, private, government and non-government, were providing relief materials after the earthquake, but Mr. Khan could not get a single tent for his family, who were living on the street... Who will coordinate?

It is not only Mr. Khan a poor driver who was suffering. There were many ill-fated families and this could happen to you and me. Think about it... When disasters occur they teach us lessons at a very high cost usually to life and property. This indicates how important and how crucial planning for a disaster is. So, are we prepared to face another jolt like the Bhuj? Isn't it time for us to learn from our past experiences?

Let’s join hands and be prepared. Students are the future generation of the country and they can make a difference by helping the community for a safer place to live.
Managing Disasters

Disasters can be managed effectively through close coordination with various government and non-government agencies. .... Do you know the agencies that work for our safety?

Let’s understand the various agencies which play a key role in Disaster Management.

How are Disasters Managed?

The flow chart given below would give you a better understanding about the management of disasters at various levels in our country.

Do you remember the administrative divisions in India, which you had read in your civics book?

![Flow chart showing the management of disasters at various levels in India](Image)

India with its federal system of Government has specific roles for the Central and the State Governments. The country has an integrated administrative machinery for management of disasters at the National, State, District and Sub-District levels. The basic responsibility of undertaking rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures in the event of natural disasters is with the concerned State Governments. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government by providing financial and logistic support.

**NATIONAL LEVEL:**

The response from the Central Government is based keeping in view the following factors:
1. The gravity of the disaster
2. The scale of the relief operations
3. The requirements of the Central assistance for augmenting financial resources and logistics support at the disposal of the State Government.

The Ministry of Home Affairs is the Nodal Ministry at the centre for coordinating disaster management activities for all natural hazards except drought which is taken care by Ministry of Agriculture under the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. Other Ministries are assigned the responsibility of providing emergency support in case of disasters that fall within their preview.
ACTIVITY 2

As a District Magistrate of a district of Delhi, which is in seismic zone IV (high risk zone), what are the measures or activities you would have organized to generate awareness among the school children and the communities around your school?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>Disasters</th>
<th>Nodal Ministry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Natural Disasters (other than drought)</td>
<td>Ministry of Home Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Drought</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Air Accidents</td>
<td>Ministry of Civil Aviation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Railway Accidents</td>
<td>Ministry of Railways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Chemical Disasters</td>
<td>Ministry of Home Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Biological Disasters</td>
<td>Ministry of Home Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Nuclear</td>
<td>Ministry of Home Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Epidemics</td>
<td>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STATE:**

The responsibility to cope up with natural disasters is essentially that of the State Government. The role of the Central Government is to support in terms of physical and financial resources. The Chief Minister or the Chief Secretary of the State heads a state level committee which is in overall charge of the relief operations at the State and the Relief Commissioner who is in charge of the relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural disasters. In many of the states, Secretary, Department of Revenue is also in charge of relief operations. The states have the relief manual called as the ‘State Relief Code’ and the State Contingency Plan which guides them to manage disaster scenarios.

**DISTRICT:**

The district administration is the focal point for implementation of all governmental plans and activities. The actual day-to-day function of administering relief is the responsibility of the District Magistrate/ District Collector/ Deputy Commissioner who exercises coordinating and supervising powers over all the departments at the district level.

The 73rd and the 74th constitutional amendments recognise Panchayati Raj Institutions as ‘Institutions of self-government’. These local bodies can be effective instruments in tackling disasters through early warning system, relief distribution, providing shelter to the victims, medical assistance etc.

A Disaster Management Committee has been set up at the district level headed by the District Magistrate and officials from the health department, Irrigation Department, Veterinary Department, Department of Water and Sanitation, Police, Fire Services, representatives from National and International NGOs, etc. The Disaster Management Committee which is basically the decision making body takes the help of the Disaster Management Teams, like the Fire Services, Police, Health practitioners etc. are:
**BLOCK:**
The Block Development Officer/ Taluka Development Officer is the nodal officer at the Block level for all the disaster management activities. The Disaster Management Committee at the Block/ Taluka level is headed by this Nodal Officer. The other members of the committee are officers from the Social Welfare department, Health department, Rural water supply and Sanitation Department, Police, Fire Services, representatives from youth organizations, Community Based Organizations, Non Governmental Organizations, eminent senior citizens, elected representatives etc. The main functions of Block Disaster Management Committee are:

- Helping the Block administration in preparation of the Block Disaster Management Plan
- Coordinating training for the members of the Disaster Management Teams
- Carry out mock drills

**VILLAGE:**
At the village level, the Village Disaster Management Committee headed by the Sarpanch/ Village Headman is responsible for preparing the Village Disaster Management Plans and also coordinating with various agencies for providing training to the Disaster Management Teams. The members should see to it that mock drills are carried out by the villagers at regular intervals by the villagers for various hazards.

It is accepted that the Government alone cannot take on the entire responsibility of Disaster Management. Apart from national, state, district and local levels there are various institutions who are involved in disaster management at various levels in the country. This includes the police and Para-military forces, Civil Defence and Home Guards, fire services, National Cadet Corps (NCC), Youth Organizations, UN agencies, International and National voluntary groups, public and private sector enterprises, media etc. play a major role in managing disasters. Functions of some of the organizations have been mentioned below.

Recollect and discuss with your friends in the classrooms regarding various disaster management teams at the village level – their members and their roles and responsibilities in before, during and after disasters.

1. **UN DISASTER MANAGEMENT TEAM (UNDMT) – INDIA**
UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), has been made responsible by the UN General Assembly mandate for all International disaster response. In India, UNDMT represents various UN agencies to implement disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts and strengthen Government’s capacities on disaster risk management. The UNDMT has representation from various UN Agencies such as FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and WHO which act together whenever there is a disaster. The primary purpose of the UNDMT is to ensure prompt, effective and concerted country level disaster preparedness by the UN system, and the response when appropriate.
2. INDIAN ARMED FORCES:

The Armed Forces are the core of the government’s response capacity. They intervene and take on specific tasks only when the situation is beyond the capacity of civil administration. Due to their ability to organize action in adverse ground circumstances, speed of operational response and the resources and capacities at their disposal, the armed forces have historically played a major role in emergency support functions such as communications, search and rescue operations, health and medical facilities, transportation, power, food and civil supplies, public works and engineering, especially in the immediate aftermath of disaster.

3. NATIONAL CADET CORPS (NCC)

The National Cadet Corps, a body formed in 1948 aims at:

- developing qualities of character, courage, comradeship, discipline, leadership, secular outlook, spirit of adventure and sportsmanship and the ideals of selfless service among the youth to make them useful citizens.
- This it does by creating a human resource of organized, trained and activated youth.
- Providing leadership in all walks of life including the Armed Forces and making themselves available for the service of the nation.

Be a part of NCC and serve the country...

Every Indian school going student can join NCC. The NCC is open to all regular students of schools and colleges on a voluntary basis. The officers and cadets have no liability for active military service. It has been divided into four divisions (they are not similar to the Army divisions). The first two divisions are; the Senior Division for college students and the Junior Division for school students. The college cadets and the school cadets are trained differently. To enter the Junior Division, the high school you are studying in should have an NCC troop. If it has one, a board is usually displayed at the school entrance, with the emblem and Troop number. If you meet the physical standards and if all is well you will receive your kit, which contains uniform, beret cap, cap badge, hackles, web belt, etc. An identification card is issued, but it might take some time, since it comes from the Battalion HQ. An NCC troop cannot have more than 100 cadets in its roll, so if you want to join, do it quick. The recruitment begins every academic year.

4. CIVIL DEFENCE

Civil Defence aims at saving life, minimizing damage to the property and maintaining continuity of industrial production in the event of a hostile attack. The two war emergencies faced by the country in 1962 and 1965 compelled the Government of India to reorient its emergency training activities from natural disasters to those concerning protection of life and property against enemy action. The National Civil Defence College
was founded on 29th April 1957 at Nagpur as the Central Emergency Relief Training Institute (CERTI) to function as the training wing of the Emergency Relief Organization of the Government of India. This Central Institute focuses on advanced and specialist training to the leaders of relief services, which was essential for efficient conduct of relief operations during natural disasters. Today there are around 500,000 Civil Defence Volunteers throughout the country.

5. NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME (NSS)

Ever since independence there has been growing awareness of the desirability of involving students in national services. The first Education Commission (1950) recommended the introduction of national service by students on a voluntary basis. Ministry of Education introduced the National Service Scheme during 1969-70. The motto of NSS is “NOT ME BUT YOU”. It underlines that the welfare of an individual is ultimately dependent on the welfare of the society as a whole. The NSS symbol is based on the “Rath Wheel” of the Konark Sun Temple of Orissa. It stand for dynamism and progressive outlook of youth. Any student enrolled as a NSS volunteer, as per NSS Manual should put in atleast 240 hours of useful social work in a continuous period of two years (i.e. 120 hours per year). A work diary is to be maintained by each NSS volunteer, which will help him/her in the assessment in his/her performance. Such volunteer is eligible to get NSS Service Certificate from the colleges. The Service Certificate given in the NSS Manual should be strictly adhered. Each NSS unit in the college is expected to adopt a near by village/slum and work for its all-round development. Regular activities and special campus should preferably be organized in the adopted village/rural unit/slum for this purpose.

6. NEHRU YUVA KENDRAS:

The Nehru Yuva Kendras were launched in the year 1972 as part of the Silver Jubilee celebration of India’s Independence. This was on the recommendation of the National Advisory Board on Youth with the objective of providing the non-student rural Youth avenues to take part in nation building activities and also to provide opportunity for the development of their own personality and skills. As volunteers the members have helped the community at times of crisis. Today, it functions under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. NYKS is a registered society and is governed by a Board of Governors headed by the Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports.

7. HOME GUARD

Home Guard is a voluntary force, first raised in India in December 1946, to assist the police in controlling civil disturbance and communal riots. Subsequently, the concept of a voluntary citizen’s force was adopted by several States. In the wake of Chinese aggression in 1962, the Centre advised the States and Union territories to merge their existing voluntary organization into one uniform voluntary force known as ‘Home Guards.’ The function of Home Guards is to

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In the tsunami affected areas of Tamil Nadu about 1200 NSS volunteers have spread themselves into affected areas with relief material especially in the slums. In Pondichery also, the NSS volunteers have been deployed for relief work and they are constantly working under the supervision of NSS Regional Director.
- Serve as an auxiliary to the police in maintenance of internal security
- Help the community in any kind of emergency such as air raid, fire, cyclone, earthquake, epidemic etc.
- Help in maintenance of essential services
- Promote communal harmony and assist the administration in protecting weaker sections
- Participate in socio-economic and welfare activities and perform Civil Defence duties.

**MAINSTREAMING DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN EDUCATION**

In order to make available a competent force, training right from the School to the Technical colleges and Higher education courses about disaster management is being introduced. Courses have been designed with a purpose to sensitize students in all the aspects of Disaster Management.

Various leading institutes of the country like the Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) and The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) intend to upgrade the skilled human resources for the country by providing training to various government level functionaries of various departments. All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) has introduced Disaster Management courses in Engineering. Similar efforts are being made to introduce Disaster Management in Architecture course and Urban Planning, Medical courses etc. Disaster Management has also been made a part of the foundation course for All India Services like the Indian Administrative Services (IAS), Indian Police Services (IPS) and Indian Forest Services (IFS) etc.

**Reference for further reading:**

http://mha.nic.in/ch13.html
http://www.iitd.ac.in/~nss/
http://www.annauniv.edu/nss/aboutnss.htm
www.nyks-india.org

**Exercise**

1. If you were the Relief Commissioner of the State of Assam which is affected by floods every year list out five departments that you need to contact.
2. List out four members of the Disaster Management Committee at the district level.
3. Write the main aim of the National Cadet Corp.
4. List the organisations which help the state govt. functionaries in responding to disasters.
5. Explain the role of Central Govt. in responding to disasters.
Planning ahead…
by the people, for the people

FOCUS

Gopal Hazong aged 57 years having a family of 5 members lived in Nalbari village of Assam. Every year the tyrant Brahmaputra River washed his house away. Apart from his house the whole village was being affected and ninety percent of the houses washed off. One day a trained volunteer approached him and said that they could reduce the loss that they have been facing since years. They first decided to prepare a Community Plan to combat floods. They involved all the villagers and prepared a village map. The map became a key reference point and this exercise was carried out for three days.

More details were added day by day, until every household detail was added in the map. This mapping exercise gave the villagers a chance to identify the most vulnerable and it led to discussions that described how the situations could change. It was decided by the villagers that henceforth all the houses would be built on raised platforms and to combat the problem of drinking water, all the tube wells would be raised. All the villagers then decided to contribute their best of efforts in this gigantic task and formed Village Disaster Management Teams.

In Standard IX Chapter 6, we discussed about the process of community planning for disasters. In continuation to the earlier chapter this chapter outlines the practical steps of community level disaster preparedness. It covers important steps such as awareness building in the neighborhood or community, analyzing the situation, formation of task force and drawing emergency response plans for taking long-term measures to reduce risk.
Community Planning

Community planning is a forward planning process, which identifies human and material resources and puts in place potential response system. It involves active participation from the people residing in that locality in making decision about the implementation of processes, programmes and projects, which affect them.

In other words, a community plan is a list of activities a neighborhood, community or a group of people agree to follow to prevent loss of life, livelihoods and property in case of warning or a disaster. The Plan identifies in advance action to be taken by individuals, in the community so that each one knows what to do when a warning is received or when a disaster strikes. The major thrust is to address possible scenario of an event and focus on the impact the humanitarian operations.

For what do we need to plan?

We can plan for any possible critical event. It can vary upon the scale of operations or processes involved as well as the population that could possibly be affected in case of an untoward event. The most common could be natural disasters affecting human operations or industrial disaster. The primary goal of Community Planning for disasters is to reduce the vulnerability of the concerned community and strengthen its existing capacity to cope up with disasters. The approach of preparing a Community Based Disaster Management Plan considers people’s participation a necessary prerequisite for disaster management. By involving the community in the preparedness phase, it increases the likelihood of coordinated action by the communities during emergencies.

Importance of Peoples’ Contingency Plan

A contingency plan need not be sophisticated, very scientific, or computer generated model. It need not have a series of flow diagrams showing the process of planning. Use of technology or sophisticated analysis is only useful when it is combined with the people’s participation. Basic information, risk assessment and intelligence analysis is normally adequate to have a functional people contingency plan for various hazards. The task cannot be of a single person in the preparation of a working plan, since accuracy is considerably enhanced through the assimilation of experience, information and skills of widest possible range of sources.

Contingency plans are prepared at different levels such as Neighborhood, Village, Block, District, State and National Levels. It has to be made very specific by involving both government and non-government organizations. The plan should be ideally people-centric and hence the term peoples’ contingency plans.

**Contingency Plan can be:**
- Natural disaster affecting humanitarian operations and needs.
- Outbreak of an epidemic or serious health problem
- Industrial accidents (Onsite/Offsite Plans)
- Threat to staff, staff evacuation, attack on premises etc.
- Outbreak of civil conflict affecting civilian population
- Sudden shortage of food or other commodities.

**Why peoples’ Contingency plan?**
- They know better about the risk, their vulnerabilities and the capacities.
- They have the best idea of the place where they stay and also the strengths and weaknesses of the community to cope with an eventuality.
- They are the First Responders.
- They are also the ultimate sufferers. Their plans will be more effective to respond to any situation if confronted.
An effective contingency plan is prepared involving people from all areas and different categories using participatory process. The active community members take a lead in facilitating and developing the plan. It is also important that the plan prepared at the lowest level should be in lines to the plans prepared at the higher levels for effective coordination during a disaster.

**What should a Community Contingency Plan answer?**

A typical contingency plan should answer the **WHO, WHERE, WHEN, WHAT** and **WHY** with regard to Disaster Preparedness. The Plan should answer the following:

| Who/Whom          | Who is assigned what?  
|--------------------|------------------------
|                    | Who is living where?   
|                    | Whom to give priority? 
|                    | Who will listen to messages?  
|                    | Who will mobilize what?  

| Where/Where to     | Where to inform?  
|--------------------|-----------------
|                    | Where does each family live?  
|                    | Where do they go?  
|                    | Where do they work?  
|                    | Where are the safe places for shelter?  

| When               | If it is an event with early warning: (Well before the event or on raise of early warning/Just before the event or a season/During different stages of the event/ After the event)  
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------
|                    | If it is a sudden event: (Before the event - preparedness measures/ During the event/After the event)  

| What               | What arrangements are there at the community level?  
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------
|                    | What are the available resources?  
|                    | What material needs to be stocked to meet the emergency?  
|                    | What equipments are available?  
|                    | What is the condition of safe shelters and the equipments?  
|                    | What is to be done at different time intervals?  

| How                | How to reach a place?  
|--------------------|-----------------------
|                    | How to get the message?  
|                    | How to disseminate the message in case of early warning?  
|                    | How to plan movement of people to safe places?  
|                    | How to ensure security?  
|                    | How to ensure stock in supply of essential food/water?  
|                    | How to take care of emerging rescue/medical attention?  
|                    | How to keep in touch and seek outside help?  

| Why?               | Why each of the above?  

*Note: This is not to be treated as a complete list. It is just an example.*

The contingency plan is followed by a set of operational plans by various individuals, teams and agencies. Further improvement of the plan should be carried out based on the lessons learnt during practice.
How to prepare a plan and what should a contingency plan consist of?

The Contingency Planning Exercise is a forum and opportunity for all sections of the society to participate. Each has something useful to contribute to the planning. The views of one may differ from others, but this will often be to the advantage of the planning process since it provides a useful forum for all assumptions to be questioned and refined. The end product is thus more realistic. To start with the plan one individual or a group of people may facilitate the Contingency Planning Exercise. Due importance is given to each individual in the development of the Plan.

In this part we will look into some detail on the preparation of the Contingency Planning process. There is no clear demarcation of an exact procedure as situation may vary in terms of geographical spread, the hazard, the location from the hazard, the exposure, vulnerability aspects and processes involved. A typical Community Contingency Plan will involve following basic steps:

- Initial awareness and rapport building
- Outlining the profile of the community
- Analyzing the situation on a participatory basis
- Selection of Task Forces, Indicative Responsibilities and Capacity Building of Task Forces
- Rehearsals/ Mock Drills.

1. Rapport Building and Initial Awareness

Rapport building with the senior citizens, Village Self Help Groups, youth clubs, elected representatives etc. is the first step in preparation of the Community Contingency Plan. The main objective is to motivate them and get them involved in the planning process. Usually Government functionaries working at the village level, elected representatives and voluntary organizations help in the preparation of plans at the community level.

Discussing the recent disaster incident and the losses and risks that were involved could generate initial interest. The discussion has to be done through a participatory process. If the community does not have a recent experience to recollect, but still is a potentially vulnerable area the incidences of nearby areas should be discussed.

Local knowledge to cope up with the disaster should not be overlooked during these discussions. It is essential to tap information and take it forward towards a meaningful process during the next step of analyzing situations.

The important task here is to mobilize community participation through awareness generation techniques by various options such as:

- Mass meetings
- Cultural activities
- Street plays
- Audio/visual aids
3. Outlining the profile of the community
It involves outlining data pertaining to the following namely:
- Population
- Local resources (both human like skilled manpower - health practitioners, Ex-servicemen etc and material like boats, generators etc).
- Housing pattern in that locality (RCC, tiled etc).
- Cropping and Occupational pattern

4. Review and Analysis of Past Disasters
It refers to prioritizing disasters based on its frequency and analysis of the estimated losses. This can be carried out by taking the help of elderly people of the village. The villagers analyze the losses that they had incurred during various disasters and learn the best practices carried out. Based on the assessment of the situation actions need to be assigned to the community members.

5. Seasonality Calendar for Disasters
While analyzing the past experiences pertaining to various natural hazards, communities develop the seasonality calendar based on the occurrence of the disaster.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seasonality Disaster Calendar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hazards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest fire</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: Dainik jagaran

A village disaster management committee save dozens lives......

Villagers of a sea coast village in Cuddalore district in Tamil Nadu were taking lessons on Disaster management when they were caught by killer tsunami waves. The lesson learnt came handy to them in saving many lives. The death toll restricted to 22 -21 in this village of around 2000 population. Villagers were asked to make use of local resources such as dry tree stem or empty drums when drowning in sea. The Village had of the VDMC set up in October last year. Women in team were engaged in giving first aid to the victims.

Source: Dainik jagaran
4. Mapping Exercise

One of the most important activities of preparing the Disaster management plan at the village level is the mapping of risk, vulnerabilities and capacities of the village by the community itself as it is a simple and cost effective tool for collecting ground level data. This is done through Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercise. This mapping exercise aims to provide a pictorial base to the planning process especially to the semi-literate populace and ensures maximum community involvement across gender, caste and other divides. The villagers/community members are encouraged to draw the maps on the ground using locally available resources such as stones, colour powders etc. for different items and indicators. The types of maps are as follows:

(a) Social Mapping

The villagers/community need to pictorially show the overall layout of the locality. The map shows

- Location of the habitat with respect to natural topography
- Number of pucca houses and kuchha houses
- Other common infrastructure (eg. Safe shelter, temple, mosque, church, drinking water facilities, school, health centre, hospital, telephone, public addressal system, road, electricity etc).

(b) Resource Mapping

It focuses on the locally available resources and assets that can be utilized for building the capacities of the community during and after disasters. Individual skills too can be identified in the map. The resource map is therefore not limited to a map depicting the available resources but also plotting the distribution, access and its use.

Mapping of the natural resources in the area includes:

- Individual skills (community leaders/doctors/drivers, swimmers etc)
- Resources around the area (boats, food stock etc)
- Important locations such as open land/low lying and elevated areas
- Protection bunds
- Drainage facilities
- Agriculture area, Forest area, mangrove plantations, shelterbelts etc.
The picture is a Resource map prepared by the community under the Village Plan of Assam. Map shows the location of human resources, equipments to be used during emergency, open spaces etc.

(c) Vulnerability Mapping

In this mapping exercise the members of the community are expected to know the hazards that the village is prone to and the possible areas that are likely to get affected like:

◆ Household wise vulnerable groups
◆ Vulnerable houses and defunct infrastructure
◆ Low lying areas prone to floods
◆ Landslide prone areas
◆ Location of hazardous industries/ electrical installations/ tall weak structures - buildings, etc.
◆ Narrow roads.

(d) Safe and Alternate route mapping

In this exercise the members of the community are expected to know the places that are safe. For example in areas that are frequently affected by floods we need to know the houses that are located on raised platforms, multi-storied buildings, mounds etc.

This map should also show the alternate safest approach route to the area. It could be either roadway or waterways.

5. Selection of Disaster Management Teams (DMTs)

After analyzing the situation and mapping out the resources the next step is to form Disaster management teams/ task forces from the village/ward/city so as to carry out response activity for facing any crisis situation.

Selection of Disaster management teams

Willing and active men and women folk from the community can be members of the Disaster management teams. The DMTs/task force should also involve experienced and skilled people such as doctors, nurses, fire fighting personnel, Ex-service men, police personnel, swimmers, youth with Scout/NCC/NSS background, Civil Defence personnel’s, mahila samiti members and others. It is ideal to have a team of 25 members per task force for a unit of 400-500 households. If the area/community is large, it is advised to increase the number of teams accordingly.
It is necessary to allot and specify the responsibilities to the selected task forces in pre/during and post disaster operations. The different task forces are as follows:

Early Warning Team, First Aid Team, Rescue and Evacuation Team, Shelter Management, Relief Team, Water and Sanitation, Carcass Disposal Team, Trauma Counseling, Damage Assessment

**ACTIVITY**

Select any one of the teams and indicate the role and responsibilities of the team members in pre, during and post disaster

6. Training of Disaster Management Teams (DMTs)

The selected team members need to be well trained in specific skills so as to carry out their specific tasks efficiently during a given situation of a disaster. The DMTs, which need to be well trained, are:

1. First Aid Group
2. Rescue and Evacuation Group
3. Water and Sanitation
4. Trauma Counseling

To train the DMTs/task force members one take the help of the Fire Services, Local health Centre, Red Cross, St. John’s Ambulance etc.)

7. Rehearsals/Mock Drills and Plan Updating

It is important to conduct live disaster situation drills/rehearsals. Mock drill is an integrated part of the disaster preparedness plan, as it is a preparedness drill to keep the community alert.

The drills are basically a series of actions according to the plan and are usually tried out as a dummy exercise by keeping the people informed of the exercises. If practiced several times the community would be well prepared to respond to the situation. This is usually done keeping in mind the real time situation. In case of areas prone to cyclone or flood the drills shall be conducted twice a year, one immediately before the cyclone/flood season and other after 6 months time. The drills should be conducted at least twice a year.
The plans should not just remain on paper rather it should be dynamic and working. The plan should ensure that it addresses the responsibilities of the task force members as well as the families/individuals living in that area. Over a period of time there could be many changes/developments in an area for which the contingency plan has been prepared. Hence it is very important that the plan is revised every six months or at least once in a year with updated information. The working plan prepared by the community should be aimed towards the development in the region. It is also important to note that there should be an effective convergence of the plan prepared by the community with the larger programmes/development plans of the region.

Suggested activities for students:

- Choose one natural disaster in the country and:
- Identify what it was, where and when it occurred.
- What effects did this disaster have in the local community, various lifelines and essential services?
- Were the local people prepared and did they have any contingency plan?
- What sort of problems did the affected population went through and how did they cope with during and after the disaster?
- What steps do you think should have been taken by the community and the administration to prevent the losses?
- In a few points describe suitable mitigation and preparedness measures that the community should take in advance to guard this kind of disaster occurring again.

1. Define Community Contingency Plan and give two reasons for the need of a Plan?
2. Name four elements of Community Contingency Plans or what should the Community Contingency Plan consist of?
3. Identify the components to be present in a Resource map?
4. Identify four different task forces and list out two responsibilities of each of the task forces?

References for further reading:
www.ndmindia.nic.in
www.osdma.org
www.gsdma.org
http://planningcommission.nic.in/plans/planrel/fivyear/10th/volume1/v1_ch7.pdf (Chapter 7- Disaster Management: The Development Perspective)