



Role of donor agencies in disaster management

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Abstract

The word 'donor' is associated not only with the money, but physical labour/ service also, because the importance of labour donation before, during and after the disaster cannot be ignored. As a citizen, it is our duty to familiarize the Natural Disaster, its types and also understand the term management. There are various important multi-disciplinary, multi-skilled and high-tech agencies surrounding us which play a vital role to minimize the loss of life but we lack these agencies. These are related to disaster management directly or indirectly. This research paper enables us to know these different donor agencies, their history, role, funding mechanism, their control units, strength, information we needed before, during and after the disaster and how we can contact them in any emergency.

Keywords: role of donor agencies in disaster management

Introduction

Objective

The objective of this presentation is to acquaint you with the role of various donor agencies in disaster management.

Scope

The presentation will cover the facts of various donor agencies and their role in disaster management. As the topic is 'Role of Donor Agencies in Disaster Management', but I would like to mention here that the word 'donor' is associated not only with the money, but physical labour/ service also, because the importance of labour donation before the disaster, during the disaster and after the disaster cannot be ignored. These are the agencies which are related to disaster management directly or indirectly, about which I will speak to you in the next few minutes.

What is Natural Disaster?

A catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence affecting any area, arising from natural causes:

- Substantial loss of life or human suffering or damage,
- Destruction of property or damage to,
- Or degradation of environment,
- Nature or magnitude as to be beyond the coping capacity of the community of the affected area.
- In other words it can be defined as the serious disruption in the function of society.

Types of Disasters. Disasters are of two types. These are

- a. Natural Disasters.
- b. Manmade Disasters.

A. Natural Disasters. It includes

1. Earthquakes.
2. Floods.

3. Cyclones.

4. Landslides.

5. Tsunami.

6. Droughts.

B. Manmade Disasters.

1. Setting of fires.

2. Epidemic.

3. Deforestation.

4. Pollution due to cultivation.

5. Chemical pollution.

6. Wars.

7. Industrial disaster.

Disaster Management

Disaster management is the discipline of dealing with and avoiding risks. It is a discipline that involves preparing, supporting, and rebuilding society when natural or human-made disasters occur. Disaster Management includes to train people to minimize loss during disaster.

We can stop many natural disasters

Natural disasters are easier to prevent than many other environmental problems. Today, there is more scientific knowledge and technological know-how than ever before to predict the effects a hazard might have before it strikes.

After we find out the risks of a hazard and we can often take effective actions to reduce them. The cost of doing this is normally far lesser than the cost of clearing up after a natural disaster.

Donor Agencies

There are various important agencies in our nation and worldwide also who donate in disaster management. These agencies are:

a) The United Nations Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) India

The UN Resident Coordinator is responsible for forming and leading the UN Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) in each disaster or emergency prone country. The team is a mechanism for coordination, providing a forum for information exchange, discussion and seeking consensus on disaster-related initiatives. Beginning in 1989, all UNDP offices in disaster and emergency prone countries were requested to set up UN Disaster Management Teams (UNDMTs). In consultation with the host Government and the UN Country Team, the UN Resident Coordinator heads the UNDMT, consisting of UN agencies concerned with response to humanitarian emergencies. The UN Resident Coordinator acts also as the focal point for disaster reduction and mitigation, as well as ensures the effective relief assistance into rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes.

The primary purpose of the UNDMT is

- To ensure a prompt, effective and concerted country-level support to Government response in the event of a disaster, at the central, state and sub-state levels;
- To coordinate UN assistance to Government with respect to long term recovery, disaster mitigation and preparedness;
- To coordinate all disaster-related activities, technical advice and material assistance provided by UN agencies, as well as to take steps for optimal utilisation of resources by UN agencies.

In India, ten UN agencies comprise the UN Disaster Management Team. These agencies are, Food and Agriculture Organisation, International Labour Organisation, United Nations Development Programme, UNESCO, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations High Commission for Refugees, UNICEF, World Food Programme and WHO. In January 2009, UNAIDS (Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS) became a member of the UNDMT.

The UNDMT have played a vital role during disaster in our country. The UN Disaster Management Teams have monitored the situation and coordinated emergency relief operations during various emergencies. For eg. Bihar Floods on 18 August 2008, Indian Ocean Tsunami on 26 December 2004, Gujarat Earthquake on 26 January 2001 at 08:46, West Bengal Floods in 2000, Orissa super-cyclone on 29 October 1999, Maharashtra earthquake at Latur on 30

September 1993, on 14 June 2013, The latest Himalayan tsunami that suddenly struck Uttarakhand and some parts of Himachal Pradesh and recently on 12 Oct 2013 a very severe cyclonic storm struck the coastal regions of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. According to GOI reports thousands of people have been died, lakhs have injured, lakhs were evacuated to safer places, lakhs of houses were damaged and people in crores have been affected by these disasters at different times. Over 6.5 lakh people (5.5 lakh in Orissa and 01 lakh in AP) had been evacuated by the administration before the strongest super cyclone hit the region. The Indian Army readied 18 helicopters, 12 aircrafts, 2 naval ships and 2000 personnel. The NDRF put 29 teams for Orissa and 15 for Andhra Pradesh. Timely warning, good planning and proper execution

enabled the authorities to minimise the loss of life.

b) National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), headed by the Prime Minister of India, is the Apex Body for Disaster Management in India. On 23 December 2005, the setting up of the NDMA and the creation of an enabling environment for institutional mechanisms at the State and District levels is mandated by the Dis. Mgmt Act, 2005. The Logo reflects the aspirations of National Vision, of empowering all stakeholders for improving the effectiveness of Disaster Management in India.

Notwithstanding the fact that an elaborate disaster management structure has been put in place and it is mentored by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under the Prime Minister, the level of response of Central and state agencies left much to be desired. The fact is that, except for the NDMA, even after eight years of the enactment of the Disaster Management Act, SDMAs are yet to be established all over the country and made operational. In some states, the department for disaster management is the changed name of the department of relief and rehabilitation, home guards and emergency fire services with adhoc personnel.

c) National Disaster Response Force

The role of NDRF is to handle a threatening disaster situation or a disaster. It functions under the National Disaster Management Authority. The NDRF is multi-disciplinary, multi-skilled and high-tech force. This force has constituted eight battalions and these battalions are located at nine different locations in India.

Funding Mechanism

- Finance Commission makes decision on devolution of funds.
- National Calamity Relief Fund.
- National Calamity Contingency Fund.
- Proposal to create a disaster mitigation fund.
- Prime Minister's Relief Fund.
- Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

d) National Civil Defence College

The First Disaster Management Training Institution of the country was founded on 29th April 1957 at Nagpur as the Central Emergency Relief Training Institute (CERTI) to support the Emergency Relief Organisation of the Government of India. This Central Institute organized advanced and specialist training for the leaders of Disaster Relief and Response operations to manage the consequences of any natural or manmade disaster. The vision of the National Civil Defence College will be a nationally recognized Center of Excellence for All Hazard Responder Training for Emergency Responders and Security Services in India.

e) Role of Armed Forces in Disaster Management

The latest Himalayan tsunami that suddenly struck Uttarakhand and parts of Himachal Pradesh has once again revived debate over whether it was a natural disaster or a man-made tragedy. Whatever be the answer, one thing that comes out clearly from what followed the catastrophe is that neither

the Centre nor the state governments were in a position to respond to it adequately. The ITBP, Indian Army and Air Force, resultantly have to step in and assume total control of a situation where in the first responders proved inadequate. Thousands of pilgrims and locals who were left stranded in the flood-hit regions might have lost their hope after the routes connecting the areas of safety were destroyed by the flash floods, until they saw the men in uniform – The Indian Army. The Indian armed forces were the first to reach the state. They did all they could - be it helping people to cross the river with ropes or carrying the weak on their shoulders.

It is the armed forces under the defence ministry that were called out to assist and manage the situation. Their involvement, however, was meant to work on the principle of being the 'last to enter and the first to leave'. Conversely, in most post-disaster operations, the armed forces have been the

First to enter and the last to leave

IAF Chief Marshal Mr Browne, who visited the state after the tragic accident, told reporters, "Oh I just told them (soldiers) that I want to see them smiling. I told them they need to keep moving forward." Really, the soldiers are the unsung heroes. However, in view of the fact that the disaster management system of the civilian administration is yet to become operational, the civil authorities will continue to depend on the armed forces for disaster response. Hence, a defined role for the armed forces in disaster management is required.

f) Role of Indian Red Cross Society

During the First World War in 1914, India had no organization for relief services to the affected soldiers, except a branch of the St. John Ambulance Association and by a Joint Committee of the British Red Cross. Later, a branch of the same Committee was started to undertake the much needed relief services in collaboration with the St. John Ambulance Association in aid of the soldiers as well as civilian sufferers of the horrors of that Great War. A bill to constitute the Indian Red Cross Society, Independent of the British Red Cross, was introduced in the Indian Legislative Council on 3rd March 1920 by Sir Claude Hill, member of the Viceroy's Executive Council who was also Chairman of the Joint war Committee in India.

On 7th June 1920, fifty members were formally nominated to constitute the Indian Red Cross Society and the first Managing Body was elected from among them with Sir Malcolm Hailey as Chairman. Indian Red Cross Society is a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

g) Role of Students in Disaster Management

A student is a person who is having a great zeal at any subject. Student power cannot be compared and distinguished with any other power. Such a great force is with students. Our educational system has included the training programs to the students from school level to rouse the helping nature in them at times of need. It needs unity in people to come out of that disaster. Youth plays a vital role in getting out the victims as fast as possible. The students can play a major role in disaster management. They can donate and help in rehabilitation, resettlement of victims at times of floods, earthquakes and

drought etc. They can play a very important role in disaster management. They can help the victims with basic needs and they will do whatever they can at times of these disasters. It is the duty of the teachers and school management to let them understand their duties and responsibilities during and after the disasters. This will minimize the uncontrolled disaster to the most extent. We should have to motivate them to donate and save the lives of millions. So it is the responsibility of the nation to make utilisation of such powerful resources of the nation from the students.

National School Safety Programme

I would like to mention here that, The Government of India has approved National School Safety Programme (NSSP) under Other Disaster Mitigation Projects with a view to provide safe learning environment in the country. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) shall implement the Project in partnership with Ministry of Human Resource Development and 22 participating States/UTs with in a time frame of 24 months from the date of sanction of scheme on June 2011. I am sure, that this project would have been implemented till date. For this, 22 State/UTs and 43 districts have been selected initially for National School Safety Programme. Approximately rupees 49 crore have been sanctioned by the Government of India for six different components in this programme.

h) National Service Scheme

The National Service Scheme (NSS) is an Indian government-sponsored public service program conducted by the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of India. Popularly known as NSS, the scheme was launched in Gandhiji's Centenary year, 1969. It aims at developing student's personality through community service. NSS is a voluntary association of young people in Colleges, Universities and at +2 levels. The cardinal principle of the NSS programme is that it is organised by the students themselves, and both students and teachers through their combined participation in community service, get a sense of involvement in the tasks of nation building.

i) Objectives

The programme aims to inculcate social welfare in students, and to provide service to society without bias. NSS volunteers work to ensure that everyone who is needy gets help to enhance their standard of living and lead a life of dignity. It also provides help in natural and man-made disasters by providing food, clothing and first aid to the disaster victims.

j) Role of National Cadet Corps

The history of National Cadet Corps dates as far back as May 1901 when C. M. Philips, the acting principal of Raffles Institution formed a cadet corps unit. The NCC is active in India since Apr 16, 1948. The National Cadet Corps is the Indian Military Cadet Corps with its HQ at New Delhi. It is open to schools and college students on voluntary basis. NCC is a Tri-services organization, comprising the Army, Navy and Air Force. The NCC in India is voluntary organisation which recruits cadets from high schools, colleges and universities all over India. The year 2001 was a significant one for NCC as it

marks the 100th anniversary of the formation of the elite organisation. Today the National Cadet Corps is one of the biggest UG in the family of Uniformed Groups with more than 13 lakh cadets.

Aim

The aim of the movement is to improve the physique and discipline of the students, and to inspire them with ideals of esprit-de-corps and patriotism.

k) Role of the Bharat scouts and guides

The Bharat Scouts and Guides is the national Scouting and Guiding association of India. Scouting was founded in India in 1909 as an overseas branch of the Scout Association and became a member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement in 1938. Guiding in India started in 1911 and was amongst the founder members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in 1928. The BSG serves 28, 86,460 (Approx 29 Lakh) Scouts (as of 2011) and 12, 86, 161 (Approx 13 Lakh) Guides (as of 2005). In colleges, these Scouts and Guides are known as Rangers and Rovers.

Scout Motto.

- Cubs/Bulbuls - Koshish Karo (Do your best).
- Scouts/Guides - Taiyar (Be Prepared).
- Rovers/Rangers - Seva (Service).

l) Role of Nehru Yuva Kendras

Nehru Yuva Kendras were established in the year 1972 with the objective of providing rural youth avenues to take part in the process of nation building as well as providing opportunities for the development of their personality and skills.

In the year 1987-88, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) was set up as an autonomous organization under the Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, to oversee working of these Kendras. This sangathan is the largest grassroots level voluntary organization; one of its kind in the world. Over the years, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan has established a network of youth clubs in villages, where Nehru Yuva Kendras have been set up. The core strength of NYKS lies in its network of youth clubs.

Objectives of NYKS are

1. To involve the rural youth in nation building activities.
2. To develop such skills and values in them with which they become responsible and productive citizens of a modern, secular and technological nation.

m) Role of Mahila/ Yuvak Mandals

After Independence the main thrust was given for the rural development to build strong and Modern India as enshrined in Gandhian thoughts. As a part of this, National Extension Service Scheme was implemented by Govt. of India. Karaikal region (in Andhra Pradesh) was declared as National Extension Service Block, and the office started functioning at Thirunallar on 2nd October 1956. These Mahila and Yuvak Mandals have played a vital role in disaster management

during the past times and have contributed a lot for the development of the society.

Objectives

Objectives of Mahila/Yuvak mandals are to carry out various Community Development Programmes in the blocks, districts and state levels. Promotion and Strengthening of Yuvak / Mahila Mandals.

n) The Role of Hospitals in Disaster Management.

The health sector is one of the another important donation agency in disaster and risk management. It is emphasized that lack of clarity has impacted the government's implementation capacity at the grass root level, where good governance matter to the poor and the marginalized.

The role and the tasks and responsibilities of the private hospitals and health facilities in disaster risk management are of utmost important. Several pitfalls are identified including the focus on response plans which would have measures for prevention, reduction, control, mitigation and finally response and recovery. Another identified pitfall is that standard operating procedures are often considered sufficient in terms of preparedness to respond where what is required is a written plan, which is disseminated and simple to use, and which allocated roles and responsibilities to all the key players within the facility. Equipping health care facilities for times of natural disasters is of great importance all over the world, especially in developing countries such as India.

o) NGOs

A large number of Non-Governmental Organisations donate and play an integral role in the preparedness for, response to, and recovery from all scales of emergency or disaster at worldwide. Some of them are :-

1. Action by Churches Together.
2. ACTIONAID.
3. Adventist Development and International Relief Agency.
4. African Medical and Research Foundation.
5. Amnesty International.
6. Australian Aid.
7. Catholic Charities USA.
8. Christian Disaster Response Intl.
9. Food for the Hungry.
10. Intl. Relief Friendship Foundation (IRFF).
11. Japanese Red Cross Society.
12. Medical Teams International.
13. National Emergency Response Team.
14. REACT International.
15. International Red Cross / Red Crescent.
16. World Health Organization.

Conclusion

India envisions the development of an ethos of Prevention, Mitigation and Preparedness and will strive to promote a National resolve to mitigate the damage and destruction caused by natural and man-made disasters, through sustained and collective efforts of all Government agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations and people's participation, by

adopting a Technology-Driven, Pro-Active, Multi-Hazard and Multi-Sectoral Strategy for building a Safer, Disaster Resilient and Dynamic India.

Recommendations

- In India, the level of preparedness for DM at the Centre and in the states is extremely uneven and requires considerable strengthening.
- N. Disaster Communication Network (Early Warning Techniques) should be improved.
- Eff. trg pgmes to educational institutes & other government and non-government agencies.
- International Cooperation.
- Provision of adequate funds.
- Project Preparation and Research Programme.
- Strengthen coordination between disaster management agencies.
- Like R.T.I., like in all the govt offices and in all the institutions, as they display the information regarding Name of Public Information Officer, his address and telephone numbers, similarly the information about various donor agencies should be displayed alongwith their full address, telephone numbers and other relevant information etc, so that these agencies may be approached / coordinated before any emergency.

Discussion Points

1. NDMA, even after eight years of the enactment of the Disaster Management Act, SDMAs are yet to be established all over the country and made operational. This process is very slow. We should imagine why after 8 years SDMAs have not been formed till date in some of the states.
2. Role of Armed Forces should be well defined, because, the primary task of Armed Forces is to secure the borders/boundaries of our nation. But, what we see in our daily life, everywhere army is ordered to handle the situation within the country. For example, a boy or girl fell in a ditch or bore well, naxalists problem, communal riots in states and so on. The army is deployed without doing any serious efforts by the local and state administration. So, this is a serious problem as far as role of armed forces is concerned. Their involvement, however, was meant to work on the principle of being the 'last to enter and the first to leave'. But mostly, in disaster operations, the armed forces have been the first to enter and the last to leave.

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