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DISASTER MANAGEMENT: A CASE STUDY OF UTTARAKHAND

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ABSTRACT

Everyone would be agree that disaster can ruined the life of anyone or demolish the city or the whole geographical area only in a few seconds. We people can't fully stop these natural disasters but by doing some pre disaster planning only can reduce the loss of ruination that was happened in Uttarakhand. We people feel unassisted in front of environment at the time of natural disaster. For handling these types of critical situations in country as well as state district have best disaster management team who can follow up each and every step regularly that are given regarding the disasters.

KEYWORDS

National Disaster Management Authority, Disaster Mitigation and Management Centre, State Disaster Management Authority.

INTRODUCTION

A disaster is a catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence from natural or manmade causes, which is beyond the copying capacity of affected community and for this there is a management that is called Disaster Management. Everyone in this globe should be aware of the word disaster management which we called Emergency Management. As everyone knows that in this whole world no country is immune by this disaster. It can affect the whole survival of any individual that means it can interrupt anybody's whole life. Disasters are mainly of four types:-

NATURAL DISASTERS

These disasters includes floods ,hurricanes ,earthquakes and volcano eruption that can have immediate effect on human health as well as secondary affect from flood causing landslides , earthquakes results in fires , tsunami results in widespread flooding and typhoons sinking ferries.

ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES

These emergencies include technological or industrial accidents that include hazardous material and occur where these materials are used, produced or transported.

COMPLEX EMERGENCIES

These emergencies involve a breakdown of authority such as looting and attack. This emergency occurs mainly at the time of war.

PANDEMIC EMERGENCIES

This is a type of emergency that occur when a sudden type of contagious disease occurs that affects not only health but services also.

Local organizations, Regional organization, National organization and a lot of International organizations are involved in mounting to Disasters. Each will have preparing a lot of Disaster Management programs as well as plans. But when these organizations do not work properly the result of this was like Uttarakhand disaster.

As we have seen that the scene of natural disaster was too much weird on the Holy land of Kedarnath when the cloud was bursted. In fact Uttarakhand and its related areas received a heavy rainfall that was more than the benchmark during a normal monsoon. Ruination and death was coming in the form of flowing water. This natural disaster has lost a lot of local life as well as those devotees who went Kedarnath for their pilgrimage. In a few seconds this rain makes all devotees dead and on this holy land thousands of dead body, has made a graveyard. Those people who are surviving in that graveyard are struggling for their life. By seeing this dangerous scene of environment we people should take lesson, because due to the carelessness of human being the disastrous capacity of environment increases. It's the century's biggest disaster for India. There was a havoc of stormy rain and the breaking of mountain in Uttarakhand and its related areas; everywhere death and ruin were splitted. Devotees, tourists as well as local people all are captured by this disaster. This was really the original face of "Shiva- Tandava- Stotram" that was environment playing. As the All India Meteorological Department (IMD) of Dehradun regional centre has warned before time that is on 13th June 2013 that there will be a heavy rain in next 48 to 72 hours¹ on the upper part of Uttarakhand. But the Disaster Management Agencies did not take that warning seriously, and the result was in front of everyone ruination in the form of stormy water.

Before that the warning was already given in October, 2012 Disaster Mitigation and Management Centre (DMCC) of Uttarakhand send a report of 48 pages and the topic of that report was " Testing of Assay Ganga Valley After August 2012, Cotangent flood and land sliding." There was also a request to stop these types of disasters in that report and a warning for a big disaster in near future. But no precautionary steps were taken by management to prevent from these types of natural disasters. As the Vice Chairman of Natural Disaster Management Authority had rejected the news which was flashed in on 13th June 2013 , through Meteorological Department he says that it was a general news, he said that in that news there was nothing as special so the management become active. NDMA work is totally for the disaster, but at the time of Uttarakhand disaster its work was too much slow, as the agency has imported twenty five satellite phones after the nine days of that disaster from Hong -Kong and that was due to when Chairman of NDMA interrupted in that case. This NDMA was build after 2004 Tsunami so that the loss that arises due to disaster will be prevented in future.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

For the purpose of depth study the contents have been taken from relevant articles, journals and websites. Both primary as well as secondary sources have been taken.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

With result to human vulnerability to disasters, the economically and socially weaker segments of the populations are the ones that are mostly affected. With the vulnerable groups, elderly persons, especially woman rendered destitute and children orphaned on account of disaster differently able person are exposed to high risk.

As on 23rd December 2005, the Government of India (GoI) took a step by enacting the Disaster Management Act 2005, through which National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was created and it is headed by Prime Minister of India, and on the basis of this act for State level State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) created that is headed by Chief Minister and for District level District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) which is headed by District Magistrate or District Commissioner.

OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES OF NATURAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

There are a lot of objectives of Natural policy on Disaster Management which are given below:-

- Promoting a culture of prevention, preparedness and resilience at all levels through knowledge and education.
- Encouraging mitigations measures based on technology, traditional wisdom and environmental sustainability.
- Mainstreaming disaster management into the developmental planning process,
- Establishing institutional and techno-legal frame work to create an enabling regulatory environment.
- Ensuring efficient mechanism for identification, assessment and monitoring of disaster task.
- Developing contemporary forecasting and early warning system backed by responsive system failsafe communication with the support of information system.
- Promoting a productive partnership with the media to create awareness and contributing towards capacity development.
- Ensuring efficient response and relief with a caring approach towards the needs of the vulnerable sections of the society.
- Undertaking reconstructions as an opportunity to build disaster resistant structure and habitat for ensuring safer living.
- Promoting, productive and proactive partnership with media in disaster management.

VISION OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The main vision of these disaster management authorities is to build disaster resistant India by developing a holistic, proactive multidisaster oriented and technology driven strategy through a culture of prevention, mitigation, preparedness and responses. Disaster Management involves a continuous process of planning, organizing, coordinating and implementing measures that are essential for the following:-

- Prevention of danger or threat of any disaster.
- Mitigation or reduction of risk of any disaster.
- Capacity building including research and knowledge management.
- Preparedness to deal with any disaster.
- Prompt response to any threatening disaster situation.
- Assessing the severity or magnitude of affects of any disaster.
- Evacuation, rescue and relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

As we have seen that a typical disaster management comprises of six factors with two phases: - The pre disaster phase that includes prevention, mitigation and preparedness while the post disaster phase that includes response, rehabilitation, reconstruction and recovery.

CONCLUSION

Uttarakhand disaster has been seen from a lot of perspectives but the main are developmental, environmental and disaster management. Flash flood is a type of disaster but whether the government was active with environment then this type of big disaster did not come. To take prevention from these types of natural disasters State Disaster Management Authority have to be effective and its operating rules must be passing and promulgated. The Disaster Management Authority should be constituted and staffed as per requirement by professional people and not some political appointees. As a state which is large and difficult to access areas must create and train State Disaster Responses Forces because National Disaster Responses Forces are at National level , its add on and always take some time to be effective. After that certain regulations must be enforced.

Once the actions have been taken in the above para then the State Disaster Management Authority can take essential steps to manage a disaster.

As Uttarakhand disaster will be a warning for whole country to be aware for future heavy rainfall, so the Government and Disaster Management Authorities will be aware of this.

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ABOUT THE JOURNAL

In this age of Commerce, Economics, Computer, I.T. & Management and cut throat competition, a group of intellectuals felt the need to have some platform, where young and budding managers and academicians could express their views and discuss the problems among their peers. This journal was conceived with this noble intention in view. This journal has been introduced to give an opportunity for expressing refined and innovative ideas in this field. It is our humble endeavour to provide a springboard to the upcoming specialists and give a chance to know about the latest in the sphere of research and knowledge. We have taken a small step and we hope that with the active co-operation of like-minded scholars, we shall be able to serve the society with our humble efforts.

Our Other Journals

