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DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN INDIA: POLICY RESPONSES

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Abstract
India's approach to disaster management has changed dramatically, moving from a disjointed, reactive relief model to a comprehensive governance framework that places an emphasis on resilience and risk mitigation. Coordinated disaster governance was shaped by the Disaster Management Act of 2005, which created an extensive institutional structure at the federal, state, and local levels. The impact of public policy tools on institutional coordination, governance systems, and community involvement in catastrophe risk reduction is examined critically in this research.

The research finds major obstacles to policy implementation, such as capacity limitations, governance gaps, and impediments to inclusivity, based on a thorough analysis of policy documents, institutional reports, and empirical investigations. In order to improve catastrophe resilience in India, it suggests strategic paths that emphasize adaptive policymaking, efficient interagency cooperation, and more community engagement. The study emphasizes how crucial participatory governance strategies and cogent institutional design are to negotiating India's complicated disaster risk environment.

Keywords: Disaster management, public policy, institutional frameworks, governance, resilience, community participation, India.

Introduction

India is vulnerable to a variety of natural disasters, such as floods, cyclones, earthquakes, droughts, and landslides, due to its great geographical and climatic diversity. Nearly 58% of India's land area is subject to moderate to severe seismic activity, and more than 12% is at risk of flooding (C. G. Bhatia et al., 2020; NDMA, 2016; Sharma et al., 2020. Its roughly 7,500 km of coastline puts several coastal areas at risk from tsunamis and tropical storms, and erratic monsoon patterns lead to frequent droughts that have an impact on water security and agricultural output (Pradhan et al., 2020) [32].

Dense populations, rapid urbanization, and socioeconomic inequality all contribute to this complex hazard profile, increasing the likelihood of disasters and their effects in different areas. As a result, India faces considerable and varied problems in safeguarding lives, livelihoods, and sustainable development amidst repeated and increasingly complex disaster scenarios (Sukhwani & Shaw, 2020) [41] . Over the past 20 years, India's disaster management paradigm has drastically changed in response to these vulnerabilities.

National Disaster Management Plan

For every stage of the disaster management cycle, the National Disaster Management Plan, 2019 gives government agencies a framework and guidance. It complies with the guidelines provided in the National Policy on Disaster Management (NPDM) 2009 and the provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005. According to NDMA 2019: xxvvii, the plan is a dynamic document that must be updated on a regular basis to reflect new global best practices and disaster management expertise. Building catastrophe resilience is one of the plan's thematic topics.

According to the strategy, global disaster resilience responsibility (DRR) frameworks are shifting their emphasis from disaster management to disaster risk management by including disaster resilience into policy processes (NDMA 2019: 97). This transition is supported on a global scale by the idea that disasters are societal phenomena rather than acts of God (OKeefe et al., 1976; Tiranti, 1977).

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), which the plan adheres to, defines resilience as the capacity of a system, community, or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, and recover from its effects in a timely and efficient manner, including the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions (UNDRR 2020). However, the plan does not provide a guiding definition for resilience. Thus, creating a resilient society involves more than just lowering the danger of calamity. Along with identifying and lowering the risk of hazards, it also entails strengthening community capability. According to the plan, the part on catastrophe resilience is the one that covers every facet of pre-disaster risk management.

Due to their location in multi-hazard prone areas, poor economic and social conditions, and lack of coping mechanisms to deal with these disasters, nearly all of India's billion+ citizens—and four times as many worldwide—are exposed to one or more types of disasters, and one-third of them suffer critical injuries. These helpless millions have been resigned to their fates to the "Angels of God," or more temporally, the "Wraths of people."

The blueprint for the future was established by the plan. The future blueprint for disaster management in India is based on the idea that, although there exist risks in today's society, disasters don't always have to be such, and society may be ready to deal with them when they do. It is imperative that we develop a multifaceted approach to risk management that includes initiative development efforts focused on risk reduction and mitigation on the one hand, and prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery on the other. Only then can we anticipate "sustainable development."

In order to effectively mitigate and manage disaster risk, a comprehensive National Disaster Management framework has been developed based on this philosophy. This framework emphasizes the interdependence of the economy, environment, and development and links the issues of poverty alleviation, capacity building, and community empowerment with various other structural and non-structural issues of prevention and preparedness, response, and recovery.

NDMA- Organization Structure

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) led by the Prime Minister, with a vice-Chairman and five additional members, has been established in accordance with the terms of the Disaster Management Act of 2005. The NDMA will be in charge of establishing the nation's policies, programs, and guidelines as well as organizing their implementation and enforcement.

The NDMA will be assisted in carrying out its duties by a national executive committee (NEC), which will be led by the Union Home Secretary and comprise secretaries in charge of major national departments as well as the chief of the integrated defence staff. This committee will be in charge of carrying out the NDMA's policies and plans and making sure that the governments and the NDMA's directives regarding disaster management in the nation are followed.

State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA). It is led by the Chief Minister of the States; in Union Territories, it is chaired by either the Chief Administrator of Territories or the Lieutenant Governor. Other members of these authorities will be nominated by them. In addition to approving state plans created in compliance with the NDMA's criteria, the SDMA will be in charge of establishing the state's disaster management policies and plans. Additionally, the State Government Departments and District Administration's disaster management plans will be approved by the SDMA, which will also oversee its execution by suggesting provinces as needed.

Every state would establish STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES (SEC), which will be composed of concerned secretaries to the state governments and chaired by the chief secretaries of the states in question. The SEC will support the SDMA in carrying out its duties, be in charge of carrying out the State and National Plans, and serve as the state's coordinating and oversight body for disaster management.

District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) would be created for every district in the state under the co-Chairmanship of the District Collectors and Chairperson of the Zilla Parishads. In compliance with the standards established by the NDMA and the SDMA, the DDMA will serve as the district planning, coordinating, and implementing body for disaster management at the district level.

Local authorities, including municipalities, district boards, cantonment boards, town planning authorities, and Panchayati Raj Institutions, shall actively participate in disaster management at the local level by closely collaborating with the people that are most susceptible. Every construction project that the local government undertakes will adhere to the rules and guidelines established for disaster mitigation and prevention. In compliance with the state and district plans, the local authorities will be in charge of carrying out relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction efforts in the impacted areas..
The disaster management act created two separate federal, state, and local programs, the national disaster response fund and the national disaster mitigation fund, to comprehensively address disasters throughout all of their cycles. the formation of the funds, their relationship to the already-existing national calamity relief fund and national calamity contingency fund, and their connection to various mitigation schemes and programs under the annual and five-year plans are among the important decisions that will be made in the coming months.

It is anticipated that all of these activities in the nation's developing framework for disaster management would have a positive impact on lowering the country's short- and long-term disaster risks.

Policy Responses
Since 1996, India's readiness for disaster management has significantly improved. The Government of India published a comprehensive Natural Disaster Management Plan in May 1916 in response to the expert committee's 2001 suggestion. A thorough framework for recovery and rehabilitation following the storm is methodically documented in the third chapter of this report. The first focus is on using information systems, observation networks, and research forecasting to understand the danger. It is important to prioritize zoning, mapping, and tracking the development of cyclones.

Disseminating information and data from warning systems, as well as hazard risk and relative susceptibility, should be acknowledged as crucial elements. The report also included policy recommendations about the institutions involved, general disaster governance, response systems, and

shared duties. It is advised that social housing programs, multipurpose cyclone shelters, and hazard-resistant buildings be constructed. It has also been argued that legal systems and capacity building are necessary to handle situations during cyclones. Pandey (2016) recommended reviewing India's current disaster management legislation. In terms of policy, this study is very comprehensive. It remains to be seen how the implementation process proceeds, and that will only be revealed in the subsequent catastrophic episode.

.When only the damage to homes, agriculture, and public utilities is taken into account, the overall economic losses from 1953 to 2020 amount to 437 thousand crores. The expenses associated with the deaths of cattle and people, as well as the cost of restarting the development clock, have not been estimated. There are losses that occur in remote locations that are not covered by the organizations gathering statistics, however the estimates of the loss shown in the table represent recorded losses.

These losses are significant across all of the aforementioned industries. Floods have been frequent visitors to our area, and the Central Water Commission of the Government of India has performed research that make it easy to understand both the region of incidence and the expected intensity.

Important mitigation strategies that have been proposed include: (1) an early warning system based on metrological data and rainfall forecasting in the river catchment areas; (2) an evacuation mechanism organized by NDRF and SDRF and maintaining constant vigilance in any circumstance; (3) Historically, flood-prone places have developed a great culture of adapting to natural events and making adjustments for minor shocks, but this does not help with uncommon disasters.

Even in typical flood-prone areas, the losses from disasters are significant despite preparation and expertise. Finding new regions that have not historically been impacted by flooding is more crucial. These areas record significant losses in human and animal capital as well as economic Although most rivers have multiple flood control authorities, the harm caused by floods persists. The authorities' preparation, the behavior of the flood hoodwinks, or their lack of understanding of the actual issue. v. River connection and Inter Basin Transfer of Water Resources (IBTWR) have been discussed for a long time, but not much has been accomplished thus far. The goal of the IBTWR project was to use water resources in drought-prone areas and connect two or more rivers by building a network of reservoirs and canals in an effort to reduce some rivers' frequent flooding. harm; iv. The annual upkeep of the river embankment should be a top priority.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), a special purpose organization of the Indian government, has planned earthquake disaster resources, shelves, and capacity building programs. Additionally, the National Earthquake Risk Mitigation has been ongoing as a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme. It will be executed between 2013 and 2015 and will cost Rs. 24.87 crore. As in the Philippines, the adoption, implementation, and upgrading of the National Earthquake Risk Mitigation Techno-legal Regime in relevant cities and states have been given top priority (Britton 2006).

A total of Rs. 8.20 crore was allotted for this. At a cost of Rs. 9.52 crore, efforts were made to strengthen the institutional network and develop citizens' potential through institutions and educational facilities. Additionally, a separate budget of Rs. 3.85 crore was set aside for practicing engineers, civil contractors, and work, and another fund of Rs. 1.88 crore was set aside for public awareness. In order to

lessen the catastrophic impacts of earthquakes in the NDMA, a few crucial elements were given priority.

Conclusions

Since the impoverished and disadvantaged are the ones most impacted by tragedies and disasters, disaster management plays a significant role in this nation's policy framework. Disasters cause the poor to become even poorer, delay socioeconomic growth, and divert limited resources from development to rehabilitation and reconstruction.

India's distinct geo climatic circumstances have historically made it susceptible to catastrophic calamities. Landslides, cyclones, earthquakes, floods, and droughts have all occurred often. Approximately 60% of the landmass is vulnerable to earthquakes of varying intensities; more than 40 million hectares are vulnerable to floods; 8% of the overall area is vulnerable to cyclones; and 68% is vulnerable to drought. Between 1990 and 2000, an average of 4344 people died and 30 million people were impacted by catastrophes annually. There has been an enormous loss of governmental, private, and community assets.

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