

Education (General)
Semester -6th
Paper -6.02
(Environmental Education and Population Education)

Unit-4
Environmental Stressors and Disaster Management

Meaning of Disaster Management

Disasters management includes variety of activities and skills to be undertaken by the people at different situation that emerge at the time of disasters. Disasters management is also known as emergency management. It is the process of dealing with and avoiding both natural and manmade disasters. It involve preparing for a disaster before it happens, disaster response (e.g. emergency evacuation, quarantine, mass decontamination etc.) as well as supporting and rebuilding society after natural or human made disasters have occurred.

Disaster Management refers to the management of natural catastrophes such as fire, flooding or earthquakes. Related techniques include crisis management, contingency management and risk management. There are several principles of disaster management which includes the right use of resources for the day -to-day purposes, co-ordination between various organizations, efforts of individuals, focus on large scale events, right knowledge of geographical location and nature of the society etc.

Disaster management means a continuous and integrated process of planning, organizing, co-ordinating and implementing measures which are necessary for prevention of danger or threat of any disaster, mitigation or reduction of risk of any disaster or its severity or consequences, capacity -building, preparedness to deal with any disaster, prompt response to any threatening disastrous situation, assessing the severity or magnitude of effects of any disaster, evaluation, rescue and relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction. The Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies define disaster management as the organization and management of resources for dealing with all humanitarian aspects of emergencies, in particular preparedness, response and recovery in order to lessen the impact of disasters.

Objectives of disaster management

1. Ensure awareness on the nature and type of disaster.
2. Management of the three phases of a disaster.
3. Designing a disaster management plan.
4. Rescue operations.
5. Evacuation drills.
6. Accident prevention and safely measures.
7. Environmental laws, rules and audits.
8. Occupational health and occupational diseases.
9. Fire fighting tutorial and demonstration.
10. Handling medical emergencies.

Role of education in disaster management

Environmental hazards and disaster are generally in terms of lives and property. There are a few benefits from natural disasters, i.e., floods renew the soil fertility, landslides sometimes result in formation of lakes or change in the course of a river, volcanic eruptions enrich soil with minerals and sometimes earthquakes cause ground water barriers resulting in new source of water but in most of the cases damage is beyond imagination. As a result there must be proper measures to deal with the situations to minimize the adverse effects of disaster. To cope with such situations education plays an important role. Broad-based education which reaches everyone including the scientists, engineers, administrators, policy-makers and decision-makers as well as general public through popular and common media both print and electronic media such as newspaper, periodicals, radio, television, computer, internet, cinema, etc. The following steps can be taken in this regard-

1. To provide information about the occurrence of those extreme events and disasters through various media in advance, so that everyone may be mentally prepared and can plan for the protection. The communications are of crucial importance in the assessment and reduction of damage caused by disasters.
2. To create awareness about the disasters among general public and also to train the administrators and policy makers to handle the situations created by a disaster by providing detailed map of the problem area.
3. To explain the measures as well as techniques of immediate relief for the reduction of the impact of disasters.
4. To persuade people to improve the quality and standard of construction of their buildings, houses so as to escape disaster.
5. To assess the impact of plans, projects dams, reservoirs, industries, factories, deforestation in view of their adverse effect on environment.
6. To educate people for moral and religious values and discourage too much economic values to maintain the quality of environment.
7. Systematic and scientific environmental education is essential to maintain the harmony between man and his environment. It can lead to the ecological balance in the environment.
8. Integration of moral and cultural values in education, especially in environmental education can solve the environmental problems and encourage sustainable development.

(Prepared with inputs from- *Environmental Education*: R. A. Sharma, *Environmental Education and Population Education*: Dr. Phunu Das Sarma, Dr. Fatima Tohsin Sahidullah)