

17. Disaster Preparedness and Management

BVES-151: Environmental Studies

Unit 4: Disaster Management: Natural and Man-Made Hazards

Topic: Disaster Preparedness and Management

□ What Is Disaster Preparedness and Management?

Disaster Preparedness and Management refers to a systematic approach to **reducing risks, saving lives, and ensuring quick recovery** during and after natural or man-made disasters. It includes all the steps taken **before, during, and after** a disaster to minimize its impact on people, property, and the environment.

□ Objectives of Disaster Management

- To **prevent or reduce** the risk of disasters.
- To **prepare** people and systems for emergency situations.
- To **respond quickly and efficiently** when a disaster occurs.
- To **recover** and rebuild affected communities.
- To promote **resilience** and long-term sustainability.

□ Phases of Disaster Management

Disaster management has **four main phases**:

Phase	Purpose
1. Mitigation	Reduce the potential impact of future disasters (e.g., building stronger homes).
2. Preparedness	Planning and training for emergencies (e.g., drills, education, stocking supplies).
3. Response	Immediate actions during a disaster (e.g., rescue, medical aid, evacuation).
4. Recovery	Long-term rebuilding and support (e.g., rehabilitation, restoring services).

□ Key Components of Disaster Preparedness

Component	Example
Risk Assessment	Identifying vulnerable areas and populations (e.g., flood-prone zones).
Early Warning Systems	Alarms, weather alerts, mobile messages to warn of incoming disaster.
Public Awareness	Educating people through posters, drills, and campaigns.
Emergency Planning	Creating action plans for schools, hospitals, and communities.
Training and Drills	Mock exercises for rescue teams, students, and citizens.
Stockpiling Resources	First aid kits, food, water, fuel, medicines, and rescue tools.

□ Disaster Management Authorities in India

Authority	Role
NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority)	Develops policies, coordinates disaster response at the national level.
SDMA (State Disaster Management Authority)	Plans and manages state-specific disaster strategies.
NDRF (National Disaster Response Force)	Specialised force trained for rescue and relief operations.
District Authorities & Local Bodies	Implement disaster response at the local and community level.

□ Community-Based Disaster Management (CBDM)

CBDM involves **training local people** to become first responders. It is **cost-effective and empowering** because:

- Locals are familiar with the terrain and needs.
- They can act **faster** than distant responders.
- Encourages **self-reliance** and preparedness.

□ Role of Students and Citizens

- Participate in **awareness campaigns** and school drills.
- Learn **first aid** and basic rescue techniques.
- Report unsafe infrastructure or illegal construction.
- Help spread correct information and **avoid panic** during emergencies.

□ Example: Earthquake Preparedness Plan

Action	Details
Before	Anchor heavy furniture, store emergency supplies, learn drop-cover-hold technique.
During	Stay away from windows, take cover under sturdy furniture.
After	Check for injuries, avoid damaged buildings, follow official updates.

□ Important Terms

Term	Meaning
Hazard	A potentially harmful natural or man-made event.
Vulnerability	The level of risk or exposure to a hazard.
Resilience	The ability to recover quickly from disaster.
Evacuation Plan	A strategy for safely exiting an area during emergency.

□ Self-Check Questions

1. Name the four phases of disaster management.
2. What is the role of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)?
3. Give two examples of preparedness activities.
4. Why is community-based disaster management important?



5. What should a student do if an earthquake occurs during class?

□ **Summary: Disaster Preparedness and Management**

- Effective disaster management **saves lives** and reduces suffering.
 - It includes **planning, risk reduction, rescue operations, and rebuilding**.
 - National and local authorities must work with **citizens and communities** to build a **disaster-resilient India**.
 - Preparedness is not just the government's job—**you too have a role to play!**
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