

WHERE CLASSICAL WISDOM MEETS INTELLIGENT LEARNING

### 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

Mitigation Reduce the potential impact of future disasters (e.g., building stronger homes).
 Preparedness Planning and training for emergencies (e.g., drills, education, stocking supplies).
 Response Immediate actions during a disaster (e.g., rescue, medical aid, evacuation).
 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 AwarenessEducating people through posters, drills, and campaigns.Emergency PlanningCreating action plans for schools, hospitals, and communities.Training and DrillsMock exercises for rescue teams, students, and citizens.Stockpiling ResourcesFirst aid kits, food, water, fuel, medicines, and rescue tools.

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## □ 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)
NDRF (National Disaster Response Force)
District Authorities & Local Bodies

Plans and manages state-specific disaster strategies. Specialised force trained for rescue and relief operations. 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?

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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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