

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction-2024

Empowering the Next Generation for a Resilient Future



Wednesday, 23rd October 2024
Dr Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath,
New Delhi-110001

Organized by

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT
(Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India)

Celebration of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction-2024

Background and Theme

The increasing trend of disasters, often exacerbated by climate change, threatens the well-being of all impacted. Children and youth being one of the vulnerable lots are affected the most. According to UNICEF, approximately one billion children worldwide are at extremely high risk due to climate impacts, including climate-related disasters. In India, an estimated 24.1 million children are impacted by floods, cyclones, heatwaves and other emergencies every year.

To achieve the goal of the Sendai Framework of reducing global disaster risks and losses, the theme of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) 2024, which falls on 13th October, is on the role of education in protecting and empowering youth for a disaster-free future.

Objective of the workshop

National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), being the apex institute for capacity building in the country, commemorates the IDDRR every year. This year as well, NIDM conducted a workshop on the theme of the IDDRR at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC), New Delhi with a broader aim to mainstream DRR into the education sector.

Inaugural session



Shri Rajendra Ratnoo, Executive Director, NIDM welcomed all participants and emphasized that NIDM is working towards empowering youth through the IUINDRR-NIDM initiative and current workshop has connected 318 universities through live streaming. The workshop showcases resilient approach of Govt. of India. He mentioned that solution to climate crisis lies on the shoulder of Children and Youth.

Shri Govind Mohan, IAS, Union Home Secretary highlighted the fact that disasters and hazards are increasing due to emission of GHGs as well as changing weather patterns and become a major challenge for cities affected by urban flooding frequently. Youth and children are the most affected by disasters, as seen during COVID-19, and there is a need to empower them. Youth needs to be encouraged to adopt the principle of "Seva" from Civil Defence and Home Guards and actively participate in voluntary services.



Shri Rajendra Singh, Member & HOD, NDMA underscored the significance of empowering youth through education for building a resilient future. The Sendai Framework, and PMs 10-point agenda are guiding documents for global and national resilience efforts. The Aapda Mitra scheme, launched in 2016, has successfully trained one lakh volunteers in disaster preparedness. Youth equipped with energy, idealism, and self-confidence can be inspired to focus on technology driven disaster preparedness initiatives.



Shri Sanjay Kumar, IAS, Secretary, Dept. of School Education & Literacy laid emphasis on the importance of empowering communities, especially children, youth, and women, in combating future uncertainties. Climate change impacts education sector adversely leading to school closures in India and Asia-Pacific region. School Safety and Security Guidelines, 2021 focuses on resilient infrastructure, cyber and psychological security, capacity building, and community involvement. Approximately 62.5% of schools have Safety and Disaster Management Plans, 73% follow fire safety measures, and 57% have DRR curricula. The Eco Club initiative clubbed with Mission LiFE, promotes sustainability in 8 lakh government schools and planted 5 crore trees in schools through this initiative.



Shri K. Sanjay Murthy, IAS, Secretary, Dept. of Higher Education talked about the multidisciplinary approach of NEP 2020 promotes Disaster Resilience. The role of institutions like IITs and NITs in developing sustainable solutions through use of AI in Energy, Health and manufacturing is imperative. Students from various disciplines are encouraged to engage in DRR related projects. UGCs SWAYAM portal is a key resource for online quality courses.



Shri Nityanand Rai, Hon'ble Minister Of State For Home Affairs, Government of India stated that India has made significant progress in disaster mitigation, reducing casualties from 10,000 in the 1999 Orissa supercyclone to zero in recent Cyclone Biparjoy highlight importance of early warning. PM's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 envisions youth leadership across various sectors. Youth and students



must be aware of past and recent research on disaster mitigation, through integration DRR in school and university curricula. Traditional wisdom should be blended with modern technology for effective disaster risk reduction (DRR). Early warning systems and social media are vital for disaster preparedness, with youth playing a key role in disseminating information. The PM's 10-point agenda for DRR is actively followed in workshops and programs. He highlighted the work of IUINDRR - NIDM including empowering children and youth towards DRR. The government is focusing on resilient infrastructure in high-risk areas and opening of digital open schools, combining traditional wisdom with modern techniques. NDRF team now also has women members, aligning with the vision of PM. Financial distribution is important and hence distinct classification has been developed. For year 2021-25, NDRF and SDRF fund of 30 billion US dollar is kept showcasing the urgency to integrate DRR in all aspects. India's role in forming the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) has been globally appreciated, reflecting India's leadership in DRR.

Panel session 1

Session Title: Building Resilient Learning Spaces

Session Chair: Sh. Rajendra Kumar Singh, Member NDMA

Session Co-Chair: Shri Sunil Kumar Barnwal, IAS, Addl. Secretary, Dept. of Higher Education



Prof Yogendra Singh (IIT Roorkee) discussed accelerograms, seismograms, and displacement plots for assessing seismic forces. He laid emphasis on lateral movements affecting building stability during earthquakes. He also drew attention towards strategies for enhancing building resilience, including retrofitting school walls and roofs.

Dr Anil Kumar Pandit, Former Spl DG, CPWD presented key insights into the critical processes and challenges involved in earthquake retrofitting to enhance seismic safety. His discussion focused on the essential retrofitting techniques required for reinforcing older buildings, the role of specific materials and methods for structural stability, and the comprehensive steps required to strengthen buildings against seismic forces.

Shri Ravinath Raman, IAS, Secretary (Education), Uttarakhand provided an in-depth exploration of Uttarakhand's vulnerability to natural disasters, the role of the Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA), and the impact of frequent disasters on the state's school ecosystem. Through a detailed discussion on these issues, he highlighted the critical importance of disaster preparedness in educational settings.

Shri Vishal Pathak, AIDMI highlighted essential considerations for ensuring safe and resilient educational infrastructure in India, particularly in disaster-prone regions. Mr. Pathak emphasized a multifaceted approach to proactive planning, architectural integration of safety features, and the adoption of national safety standards.

Prof Niyati Jigyasu, University Institute of Architecture, Chandigarh University highlighted critical elements of integrating disaster risk management (DRM) within architectural education and the importance of designing resilient infrastructure, especially in educational settings. Participants engaged in a robust dialogue around the role of architects in disaster preparedness, capacity-building needs for disabled students, and the necessity of a systematic data management approach for institutional planning.

Panel session 2

Session Title: Empowering Youth & Children through mainstreaming in DRR in education

Session Chair: Shri Anil Kumar Sinha, Retd. IAS, Former Executive Director, NIDM

Session Co-Chair: Shri Rajendra Ratnoo, IAS Executive Director, NIDM



(Ms. Amarpreet Duggal, IPoS Jt. Secretary, Coordination and Media Cell, Dept. of School Education and Literacy, GOI) stated that the government has launched several initiatives, including Mission LiFE, Samagra Shiksha, safety guidelines, and Eco Clubs, to enhance safety and climate resilience in schools. These initiatives underscore the significance of creating secure educational environments that not only protect children but also empower them to engage actively in sustainability efforts and disaster preparedness.

(Shri Govind Jaiswal, IAS, Jt. Secretary (Tech. Enabled Learning), Dept. of Higher Education) emphasized that utilizing digital tools and innovative pedagogical methods, such as games and assignments, enhances the accessibility and engagement of disaster management education. This comprehensive approach fosters positive behavioral changes in children, empowering them to adopt proactive attitudes toward safety and resilience while ensuring a deeper understanding of disaster preparedness in real-world contexts.

(Prof. Devesh Walia, NEHU) highlighted that Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are crucial in disaster risk reduction for India's 1.4 billion people, focusing on research-based education, interdisciplinary training, and community outreach. By partnering with government and industry, HEIs enhance knowledge sharing and leverage technologies like AI and Big Data for effective risk assessment, fostering a culture of safety, resilience, and community empowerment.

(Shri T.D. Dhariyal, President, National Association for Blind) mentioned that to address the disproportionate impact of disasters on PwDs, it is vital to incorporate their specific needs into disaster management planning as mandated by the RPwD Act, 2016. This includes implementing assistive technologies and training first responders to enhance accessibility and safety during emergencies.

(Shri Elangovan Kariappan, Asst. Innovation Director, School Innovation Cell, Ministry of Education) informed Ministry of Education advancing the higher education through initiatives like the Smart India Hackathon 2019, international partnerships, and programs such as the School Innovation Council, Kalam Program for IP Literacy and Awareness (KAPILA) etc, with a funding allocation of 3 crores for the School Innovation Contest, these efforts collectively enhance creativity and innovation across educational institutions.

(Shri Santhosh Kumar Gupta, Asst. Controller General of Patents Designs & Trademarks) laid emphasis on the fact that a lifecycle approach enhances preparedness, risk reduction, and resilient recovery. While technological applications in flood and earthquake management are strong, further investment is needed for cyclones and landslides. Government initiatives like the IP Awareness program encourage youth innovation, having already trained 21 lakh students across India.

Valedictory Session

Dignitaries and Chief Guest of valedictory session:

- Shri Rajendra Ratnoo, Executive Director, NIDM
- Shri Adil Zainulbhai, Chairman, Capacity Building Commission
- Shri Sanjeev Kumar Jindal, Additional Secretary (Disaster Management), MHA
- Ms. S. Sundari Nanda, IPS, Special Secretary (Internal Security), MHA
- Lt. Gen. Syed Ata Hasnain, Member, NDMA
- Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister of Culture & Tourism, Govt. of India
- Col. P. S. Reddy, Joint Director, NIDM



Shri Rajendra Ratnoo, IAS, Executive Director, NIDM, opened the valedictory session by summing up proceedings of the event. He emphasized the critical importance of youth empowerment and disaster risk reduction (DRR) in the context of climate change and highlighted NIDM's initiative under agenda 06 of PM's 10 point agenda by connecting 318 universities through the IUINDRR programme.



Shri Adil Zainulbhai, Chairman of CBC, stated that the Hon'ble Prime Minister's recent launch of the **National Learning Week** is a vital component of Mission Karmayogi. He emphasized that the goal of this initiative is to ensure that every civil servant in India possesses the necessary competencies and tools to serve the citizens effectively. He then shifted focus to the central theme of the conference – engaging youth in national disaster management planning. Shri Adil Zainulbhai highlighted the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of a "Viksit Bharat", stressing that the youth of today and the next generations will be the true beneficiaries of the nation's progress. He advocated for integrating disaster and climate education into school curriculums, recognizing that today's youth will inherit and address the consequences of these challenges.



Shri Sanjeev Kumar Jindal, Additional Secretary (DM), MHA, commended NIDM for organizing this significant event to celebrate the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, observed globally on October 13th each year. He highlighted the importance of adapting livelihoods and creating frameworks that prevent and mitigate disaster-related losses. He emphasized the need for policymakers and stakeholders to develop DRR strategies that prioritize the safety and resilience of schools across India. He called for building



disaster-resilient schools equipped with early warning systems and urged that existing unsafe school buildings be identified and made secure. He advocated for revising school curriculums to address climate change and disaster preparedness, helping students become agents of change.

Ms. S. Sundari Nanda, IPS, Special Secretary (Internal Security), MHA emphasized the need for mainstreaming DRR in education, particularly focusing on building resilient learning spaces for youth and children. Ms. Nanda admired the distinctive resilience framework developed by Mata Amrita Anandamayi's organization, which focused on psycho-social principles like safety and calmness in the aftermath of a high-intensity Tsunami.



Lt. Gen. Syed Ata Hasnain, Member NDMA stressed the importance of understanding national aspirations, particularly India's goal of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2024, and the challenges that disasters pose to achieving this. He urged to recognize the role of youth in disaster management as a means to contribute to national security. He lauded the work of NIDM in disseminating knowledge and aligning efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR).



Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister of Culture & Tourism, Government of India talked about how the development of human civilization, especially over the past 150 to 200 years, has been profoundly shaped by scientific advancement. The Hon'ble Minister emphasized that many of the crisis we are confronting today have been self-inflicted. He mentioned that communities in rural villages in Jaisalmer adapted to harsh conditions with limited resources, maintaining their shared resources, such as village ponds and pastures, through a collective sense of responsibility. He asserted that we must address the exploitative mindset and the drive for maximum extraction from nature that has brought us to this critical juncture. Further, he emphasized that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has introduced "Mission Life" which promotes sustainable living and conscious lifestyle changes for the benefit of future generations. India, with its burgeoning population and heavy reliance on groundwater, must proactively tackle these challenges by 'Amrit Sarovar Yojana'. He mentioned that there is a need to work collaboratively to develop climate-resilient crops and implement sustainable agricultural practices to ensure food security.



In conclusion, the Hon'ble Minister underscored the significance of our relationship with nature, stating that we are custodians of the environment, responsible for its preservation for future generations. As we reflect on our actions and their repercussions, let us strive to leave behind a healthier planet, abundant in resources and biodiversity, for those who will follow. He expressed gratitude to everyone involved in organizing the workshop, hoping that together they could cultivate a culture of environmental stewardship.

Col P.S. Reddy, Joint Director, NIDM extended warm regards to the Hon'ble Minister of Culture & Tourism, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Lt. Gen. Syed Ata Hasnain, Member NDMA, Ms. S. Sundari Nanda, IPS, Special Secretary (Internal Security), MHA, Shri Sanjeev K. Jindal, Additional Secretary (DM), MHA, Shri Adil Zainulbhai, Chairman, CBC, Shri Rajendra Ratnoo, IAS, ED-NIDM, and all the distinguished dignitaries, administrators, scientists, professors, partner organizations, members of academia, youths from across the country.



Screening of films

NIDM had organized a Short Film Contest on Disaster Risk Reduction to educate and empower communities in understanding and mitigating the risks associated with disasters. NIDM received 78 short films highlighting critical themes like flood management, cyclone preparedness, Fire waste management among other disasters. The winning entries were screened during the workshop.

Exhibition Stalls

NIDM organised exhibition area where 12 stalls were displayed by NGOS, Academic Institutes and corporates presenting innovations in Disaster Management in the form of Disaster simulations, Drone mapping for disaster management, Self-glowing evacuation maps, Advance First Aid Kit, Robot demonstration, Board game on DM etc.



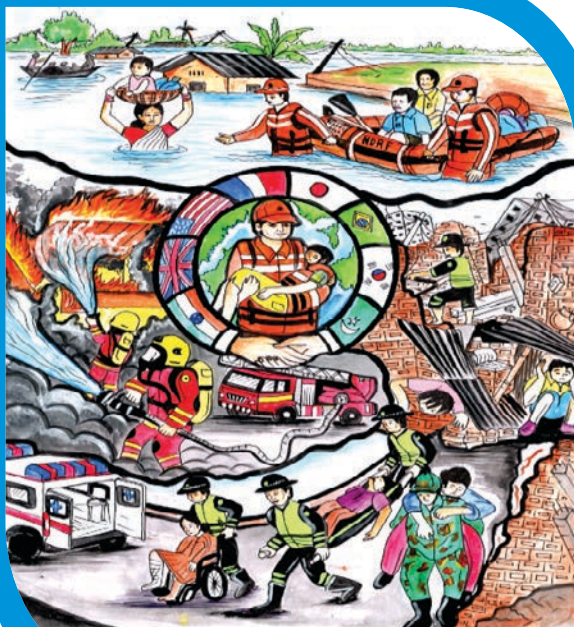
Cultural Event

The event culminated with a cultural event "Kala Saanjh" featuring mesmerizing performances by NIDM Brand Ambassador and renowned folk singer, Ms. Maithili Thakur, along with the enchanting Kathak recital by Pt. Abhimanyu Lal and Ms. Varsha Dasgupta.

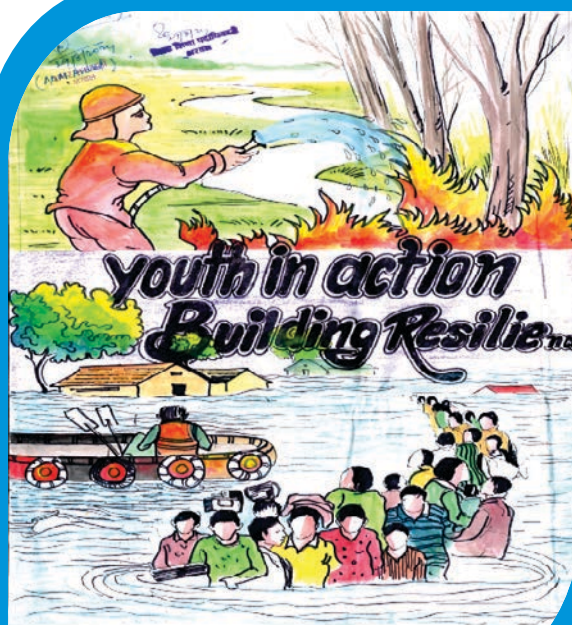




PAINTING COMPETETION AWARDEES



1st Winner
Nayan Changmai (Class - XII)
P. M. Shri Govt. H. S. School, Assam



3rd Winner
Sonam Kumari (Class - X)
Sarvodaya High School, Bihar



2nd Winner
Roshni Khatun (Class - XII)
P. M. Shri Govt. Sr. Sec School, Singtam Sikkim



Consolation Prize
Mansha Gayas (Class - X)
Sangtorum Public School, Jammu & Kashmir

MEDIA COVERAGE



