Valedictory Session

SECOND INDIA DISASTER MANAGEMENT ONGRESS

Policy Planning & Crosscutting Issues

S.N	Thematic session	Sub Themes
1	Disaster, Development and Governance	Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Development Involvement of communities, civil society and NGOs in disaster management
2	Education, Training and Capacity Building	Education, Training and Capacity Building for Disaster Management
4	Social and Economic Issues	Gender and Disaster Children and Disaster Financing Disaster Management
5.	Emergency Health Management	Public Health Emergencies & Mass Casualty Management Psycho-Social Care Pandemics
6.	Emerging Issues and Concerns	Urban Risk Management
7.	Corporate Sector in Disaster Management	Corporate Sector in Disaster Management
8.	Media and Disaster Management	Role of Media in Disaster Management
9.	Post Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction: International Experiences and Best Practices	Post Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction: International Experiences and Best Practices

In this section Nine Thematic Areas with 14 sub themes are covered

Total No of abstracts submitted: 230

Total number of abstracts selected for printing and presentations: 150

Key Issues

Mainstreaming DRR :

Natural as well as human induced disasters create lot of tremendous impact on the development process. Disasters triggered by natural hazards put development gains at risk. At the same time, the development choices made by individuals, communities and nations can pave the way for unequal distributions of disaster risk. Development and disasters interlinked.

1. Development programmes/schemes should be revisited so as to examine minimise its potential contribution to disaster risk/vulnerability.
2. Development plan of a ministry/department should incorporate elements of impact assessment and risk reduction
3. There is a need to have research / case studies on how a disaster creates differential impact on the people and their livelihood depending on development choice.
4. We need to develop indicators for resilient development which can give clear picture of safe development at the programme and policy levels as well as indicators at the community, different economic tools for understanding the cost benefit of the mainstreaming DRR projects and also provide support to the research and development institution engaged in the sector.
5. Poverty reduction is the key and should be the central theme for reducing vulnerability of the poor people from various disasters. Hence all the poverty alleviation programme should have special focus on DRR issues indicating how the assistance given to them is actually helping in risk reduction also. Govt. Schemes such as NERGA/JNURM/IAY may be revisited from this perspective.
6. Traditional knowledge has helped in building the community resilience and enhancing their coping mechanisms. It is important to recognize the value of indigenous knowledge and create enabling mechanisms wherein this could be integrated in disaster risk reduction measures especially at the community level.
7. This knowledge needs to be effectively synergized with the scientific knowledge and disseminated in the form and manner that a community acts upon with the greater sense of empowerment especially in the context of disaster risk reduction .
8. Strengthening of the PRIs capacity for better disaster risk reduction.
9. The research – practice interface is important. The focus so far is on, emergency and relief, the most neglected phase 'rehabilitation' calls for ethnographic, longitudinal research to understand the process and interface of disaster and development.
10. A realistic understanding of the limits to mainstreaming is essential to prioritize the interventions.
11. There is a need for the creation of ex-ante funding for disaster risk reduction at all the levels from community to the national levels.
12. The ex-post funding is largely available in the form of CRF/ NCCF for relief. There is need to have a mechanism for disaster recovery and reconstruction fund. This will reduce the dependency on multi-lateral support.
13. Insurance market can be utilized for risk transfer mechanisms and Insurers should be encouraged to come with more products which are affordable and suitable for the people who are exposed various kind of risks
14. Micro finance and micro insurance can help reducing vulnerability of the poor. Institutional support and flexible norms should be developed for these institution in the hazard prone areas

Community

15. Experiences from past disasters have show the importance of involving local communities and civil society organizations for effective knowledge management and disaster risk reduction.

16. There is a need for strengthening community based institutions for disaster management and hence we need to create community based disaster mitigation fund.
17. Creation of community based knowledge platform where initiatives taken by civil societies, NGOs and PRI could be shared and disseminated.
18. Capacity development of Panchayti Raj Institutions along with the civil societies should be undertaken on a priority basis.
19. Community level warning system should be developed with the help of the scientific community.
20. Concept of community radio can be encouraged for early warning, mitigation, and in educating the community by giving useful information.

Role of Media in Disaster Management

21. Timely mass media communication about impending disasters can lead to individual and community action, which is the key to implementing effective prevention strategies including evacuation and survival of people. Such communications can educate, warn, inform, and empower people to take practical steps to protect themselves from natural hazards;
22. The role of media, both print and electronic, in informing the people and the authorities during emergencies is critical. Govt. & media can form a collaborative mechanism for dissemination of information to each other. This would enable media in contributing to awareness raising and preparedness through educating the public about disasters; warning of hazards; gathering and transmitting information about affected areas.
23. However, during an emergency, the media should be sensitive to the needs of the public in affected areas
24. Media must avoid misinforming and broadcasting unconfirmed reports that may lead to despair and panic.
25. Mechanism for giving correct and reliable information from the govt to the media is an important instrument for balancing the possible effects of incorrect, misleading or even willfully distorted information.
26. Media Ethics is an important aspect of media reporting during any disaster event. It assists media workers in determining what is right and choosing the best from several alternatives. Thus, ethics should set guidelines, rules, norms, codes and principles to lead journalists and other media workers to make moral decisions. A code for media for covering a disaster situation, on the pattern of covering terrorist attack, may be prepared by NIDM/NDMA and be circulated to media houses by competent authority.
27. There should be a designated person at the district level for informing disaster about disaster with whom media can interact. And, this person should be well versed with the disaster risks, vulnerability and management system realated to the incident.
28. Institutions like NIDM and NDMA should display the list of professionals on their website with their specialisation and contact details , especially at the time of disaster, so that media can interact with them. The person would give technical and professional opinion on the event.
29. Information regarding any impending disaster given to media by IMD or any other specialized agency of the govt. must be in common persons language.
30. VIP visiting to the affected site must be stopped and a code of conduct for visiting on site must be circulated . This not only disrupt the process but also make the task of response agencies tougher which ultimately sufferer get the brunt.

Capacity Building, Education and Training

31. Capacity development has to be understood with a broader perspecive to include (a) knowledge (b) skills (c) resources (d) motivation and (e) attitude in an integrated manner for professional development, governance and community. Research and innovation has to have higher priority with adequate support and encouragement. Models need to be developed as per regional/indigenous requirements rather than importing from elsewhere.

32. There are important aspects of capacity development and education that are crucial for sustainable development :– (a) economic and welfare (b) environment and natural resources (c) industrial safety and health (d) disaster preparedness and emergency response, at various levels of governance including state to district and community/panchayat institutions. The capacity plan and integrated approach for disaster management inclusive of risk mitigation, has to focus on interdisciplinary approached rather than the mult-disciplinary segregation within governance.

33. Higher education can play a significant role in disaster management and research/innovation. Interdisciplinary subjects like ecology, economics, environmental science that have the characteristics to accommodate the knowledge and skills of various natural and social sciences, medical, engineering, etc. in infusion mode, can promote specialisation modules on disaster management.

34. UGC may be asked to mobilise the Universities and Colleges to integrate the topics of disaster management within the relevant disciplines. There is section IV of UGC compulsory module of environmental studies for UG course, as per Hon'ble Supreme Court's decision, totally devoted coverage on natural hazards and disaster management. This needs to be highlighted and strengthened with project work/case studies, etc to be assigned to the students.

35. Various training networks like the master-trainers of National Green Corps (NGC), National Service Scheme (NSS), NCC and Eco-clubs, besides training institutions for rural development, forestry, watershed, agriculture, disaster management, environment, safety, at state, district and local levels have to be integrated by developing an inventory of the network and launching an organised mission of knowledge propagation through the channel of master trainers and management. Modules must be developed with region-specific challenges and strategies and adapted to the need of the time.

36. Environmental degradation and climate-change could aggravate not only hazards but also the vulnerabilities, thus, making a disaster causing more serious impacts. There are already missions and programmes for environmental management, social welfare and development, which indirectly, address both – disaster risk reduction and development including livelihood, health, amenities, etc. There is a need to develop integration of disaster management infusion along the training and education network for environment and development programmes, especially in the regions.

37. Industrial/commercial development along the urban areas, human interventions in coastal and mountain areas, river-basin challenges, specialised interventions for disaster management. There is a need to focus on developing case studies for different

environment types and economies in order to under these hazards and vulnerability, enabling to evolve region-specific strategies of disaster management training and education.

38. National/state agencies like – University Grants Commission, Higher Education Department (Ministry of Human Resource Development), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Environment & Forests (Research Division), Council of Social Science Research, Ministry of Science & Technology, Indian Science Congress Association, and related institutions may take up initiative for promoting disaster management aspects in higher education, research and innovations.

39. School safety is an important subject. However, schools relevance to disaster management may be looked more than the aspects of safety of children but also 'schools' as the resource for training, awareness, knowledge management, forewarning, and capacity development in masses. School safety must include the aspects of laboratory safety, electrical, chemical safety to make the progamme holistic.

40. Training must focus on multi-tier, multi-sector, multi-layer approach – targeting (a) professional and research development (b) policy analysis and decision making (c) planning and deliveries (d) educators and trainers (e) primary responders and receptors. A disaster management training policy must be formulated to guide the training need analysis, design, module development and human resource planning at different levels. Preference must be given to interdisciplinary knowledge over the hard-core sector specialists. Besides, multi-disciplinary support professionals may be identified from the existing systems to facilitate the core disaster management systems.