

ROLE OF ARMED FORCES IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

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INTRODUCTION

- Disasters a challenge to human development cycle.
- **Asia Pacific region most vulnerable – 70% of all disasters except droughts.**
- Hazard vulnerability profile of India
 - 57% **Earthquakes.**
 - 16% **Droughts.**
 - 12% **floods.**
 - 8% **High speed winds (cyclones).**
 - 3% **Landslides.**

AIM

To provide an overview of the disaster management with special emphasis on role of the armed forces.

PREVIEW

- Disasters and their types.
- **Disaster Management.**
- **Armed Forces in Disaster Management.**

DISASTERS AND THEIR TYPES

DISASTER

- **Catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence** in any area.
- Arising from **natural or man made** causes, or by **accident or negligence.**
- Results in **substantial loss of life or human suffering or damage to and destruction of property** or damage to or degradation of environment.
- Is of such a nature or magnitude as to be **beyond the coping capacity of the community** of the affected area



TYPES OF DISASTERS

- **Natural Disasters.**
 - Earthquakes.
 - Tsunamis.
 - Cyclones.
 - Floods.
 - Cloud bursts.
 - Dam failures/dam bursts
 - Avalanches.
 - Landslides & mud flow.
 - Volcanoes.



TYPES OF DISASTERS

- **Manmade Disasters.**
 - Air, road & rail accidents.
 - Nuclear, chemical & biological disasters.
 - Wars.
 - Sabotage.
 - Riots.
 - Industrial accidents.



DISASTER MANAGEMENT



DISASTERS MANAGEMENT

- Mitigation.
- Preparedness.
- Response.
- Recovery.



MITIGATION

- Eliminate or reduce the vulnerability or the effects of a disaster.
- Mitigation phase begins with conducting hazard identification and vulnerability analysis.
- Hazard identification and vulnerability analysis is a two step process :-
 - Hazard is identified which has the potential of affecting the population.
 - How people, property and structures will be affected by the disastrous event.



PREPAREDNESS

- State of being ready to react promptly and effectively in the event of an emergency.
- Being prepared means that a plan of action exists for an emergency.
- Depends upon the analysis of hazard severity and vulnerability.
- Preparedness Plan - to provide a systematic way of responding to an emergency situation.





PREPAREDNESS PLAN

- Identification of possible emergency situations which may occur in an area.
- **Deployment of officer in charge in case of emergency.**
- Developing a strategy for activities likely to be undertaken and resources which could be of use.
- **Identifying government bodies responsible to respond in case of emergency.**
- Establishment of Emergency Operation Center (EOC) or Control Room to carry on emergency operations.



RESPONSE

- Response activities occur during and immediately following a disaster.
- **designed to provide emergency assistance to victims of the event and reduce the likelihood of secondary damage.**
- The five basic stages of response to an emergency or disaster are :-
 - **Notification/ Warning.**
 - Immediate Public Safety.
 - **Property Security.**
 - Public Welfare.
 - **Restoration.**



RECOVERY

- Final phase of the emergency management cycle.
- **Continues until all systems return to normal, or near normal.**
- Short term recovery is the restoration of vital services and facilities to minimum standards of operation and safety.
- **Long term recovery may include the complete redevelopment of damaged areas.**



ARMED FORCES IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT



ARMED FORCES

- Indirect role.
- **First respondent due to :-**
 - Force readily available.
 - **Easiest for government to deploy immediately.**
 - Disaster management agencies still under development.



WHY ARMED FORCES

- Part of society, equally affected.
- **Inherent strengths – motivation, discipline, preparedness and readiness.**
- Command and control.
- **Suitably equipped.**
- Trained to face all odds.



WHY ARMED FORCES

- Army a potent instrument for disaster relief
 - Suitably poised for rapid response.
 - Self-contained.
 - Composite task forces.
 - Capable of reacting in any part of the country, even overseas.
 - Structured, organised and managed to provide support for a full range of public relief services.



STRENGTHS

- **Decision Making.**
 - By virtue of its organisational strength.
 - Army's hierarchical structure is endowed with quick decision making.
 - Speedy dissemination of information and orders.
- **Versatility of Response.**
 - Versatile capabilities of Army to respond to any disaster situation.
- **The Human Factor.**
 - Army's greatest strength.
 - Humane, impartial and neutral in providing aid.
 - Profound effect on community's ability to recover from disaster.



ROLE OF ARMED FORCES

- Undertake search, rescue and relief operations to save life and property.
- Use medium of land, air and sea during relief operations.
- Utilise assets of three services for disasters.



PRINCIPLES OF EMPLOYMENT

- Armed forces be requisitioned when absolutely necessary.
- Immediate response without delay.
- Operate under own commander.
- No menial tasks.
- Requisition of aid on tasks basis and not number of columns.



PRINCIPLES OF EMPLOYMENT

- Regular liaison and co-ordination at all levels.
- Integration of resources available with civil administration ,civil firms and NGOs.
- Advance planning and training.
- Early de-requisitioning of troops.



TYPES OF ASSISTANCE

- Survey, recce and damage assessment.
- Set up infrastructure for command and control including communication.
- Composite Task Force for search, rescue, evacuation and provision of immediate relief services – medical aid, trauma management, water, food, relief camps.
- Maintenance / restoration of essential services.
- Evacuation of people to safer areas.
- Explosive detection and disposal or deactivation.
- Assist in maintenance of law and order.
- Construction and repair of roads and buildings.
- Provide diving effort.
- NBC disaster response.
- Management of international relief.



REQUIREMENTS

- Synergy and maximising capabilities.
- Jointness between various agencies.
- Disaster relief bricks.
- Early warning and communications.
- State of art equipment.



CHALLENGES

- Being first respondents.
- Response during disasters of grave magnitude.
- Capacity building.
- Evacuation of cities.
- Coordination with NDRF.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- NDRF under Armed Forces.
 - Specialised force under first respondent.
 - Better command and control, faster reaction.
 - Joint training resulting in coordinated actions during relief works.
 - Optimum utilisation of resources, NDRF can be utilised for operational tasks if not used in relief works.
 - Distribution under various geographic commands for availability in all parts of country.
- Disaster relief bricks.

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