

### Editorial Board

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### Message

Dear Readers,

It gives me immense pleasure to put forward our newsletter “Tidings” for the last month of this year. The Institute ended the year with a new beginning when NIDM joined hands with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and stepped into a new arena by launching its first training programme on “Disaster Impact Assessment and its integration with Environment Impact Assessment”. The Institute also conducted training programmes on Incident Response System and on culture of safety through knowledge and education. We are all aware of the crucial role which media can play in pre, during and post disasters. Keeping this in mind, NIDM collaborated with Special Centre for Disaster Research (SCDR), Jawaharlal Nehru University and organized a two days Conference on Media and Disaster Management. The workshop was conducted with the aim to use media reporting for meaningful and sustainable decision making and policy formulation in mitigating and preventing disasters. The Institute was also represented on an international forum in International Consortium of Landslides (ICL) meetings, International Programme on Landslides (IPL) symposium and preparatory meetings of World Landslide Forum (WLF) in Kyoto Japan. The newsletter also carries the views of our faculty Dr Chandrani Bandyopadhyay on the theme “Disability Inclusive Disaster management-Need for affirmative action”. This section reminds us that creation of resilience requires participation of all stakeholders including disabled, and we need to commit ourselves in creating a barrier-free society, in all aspects. Having said that, I would like to assure you that our Institute will continue to take steps towards our goal towards disaster resilient country and society with all our grit and determination. We end this year with our gratitude to all of you and with the hope that your constant co-operation and encouragement will always be with us in all endeavors.



(Sanjeev Kumar Jindal)

# Training Programmes

## Incident Response System (IRS): Planning Section Chief & Incident Commander

December 3-7, 2018 New Delhi

The month started with a national training course on **“Planning Section Chief & Incident Commander under IRS”** on **December 3-7, 2018**, New Delhi with the objectives of enabling the participants to define the roles and responsibilities of positions under Planning Section Chief, elaborate functions and duties of Incident Commander and prioritize the utilization of resources. A total of eighteen officials, from various states of various disaster prone areas of India, attended this programme.

## Culture of Safety through Knowledge and Education

12-14th December 2018, New Delhi

A training Programme on **“Culture of Safety through Knowledge and Education”** was organized by NIDM on **12 – 14 December, 2018**, at New Delhi with the objectives of promoting a culture of disaster preparedness in schools, enhancing conceptual understanding of participants on various aspects of disaster risk reduction and school safety from an inclusive perspective, developing competencies of the participants to undertake disaster risk reduction measures in schools and enabling the participants to develop the School Disaster Management Plan (SDMP). The programme was attended by 26 participants.

## Disaster Impact Assessment (DIA) Integration with Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (with MOEFCC)

December 18 – 21, 2018

*Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)* is an anticipatory mechanism of assigning quantitative values to the parameters indicating the quality of environment before, during and after a major project (or policy/programme) to enable appropriate measure for ecological compatibility and economic efficiency in decision making regarding the project (or policy/programme). On the same lines, *Disaster Impact Assessment (DIA)* is proposed as an integral component of EIA process as anticipatory mechanism to identify, assess and evaluate the impact of a major project (or policy/programme) on the level of (extent, severity & frequency) or hazards and levels of vulnerability (physical, environmental, socio-economic and systemic). The environmental clearance process includes major aspects, viz. air, noise, water, land, biodiversity/ecology and socio-economic/quality of life). With a aim to ensure disaster risk/vulnerability aspects are accounted throughout the entire process of project appraisal process. A national training programme on **“Disaster Impact Assessment (DIA): Integration with Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (with MOEFCC)”** was organized by NIDM during **December 18 – 21, 2018**, at NIDM New Delhi. The programme was attended by 23 participants.

## **Workshops / Seminars and Meetings**

### **Media and Disaster Workshop**

Under NIDM-JNU-Disaster Research Programme (DRP), Special Centre for Disaster Research (SCDR) , NIDM and Disaster Management, Initiatives and Convergence Society (DMICS) organized a two days Conference on Media and Disaster Management: December 06-07, 2018, Constitution Club of India, New Delhi.

The purpose of organizing this conference was borne out of the realization that while media is the first informant for reporting the occurrence of any disaster and the subsequent aftermath yet when it comes to policy making , much information which the governments imbibe and absorb are from reports which are prepared either by the state disaster management authorities and international organizations working in collaboration with Institutes of Technology or Aid agencies. This prevents the real picture from being presented to decision makers as much scanning has already taken place from the information journey starting from a reporter to the policy table. Every reporter's tryst with an unpredictable life threatening and sometimes politically intimidating calamity is adorned with data which even the bureau chief's do not wish to be projected. This prevents a really meaningful and sustainable decision making and policy formulation in mitigating and preventing disasters in every country.

The conference was able to bring together many reporters who had predicted many events before the occurrence of any disaster. The conference proposed that such work of dedicated reporters should be highlighted in academic research and they should become partners in empirical research conducted in universities as well. The conference also had an enthusiastic participation of army men who guided reporters through the calamitous situations. A number of channels were represented in the conference such as The Republic (Mr.Snehesh Philip), NDTV, Janam TV etc. Some of the key newspapers like the Hindu, Hindustan Times, Dainik Bhaskar, Deccan Chronicle, Amar Ujala and Indian Express enlightened the debate by sharing their experience and challenges of reporting a disaster.

### **International Consortium on Landslides (ICL) Meetings, International Programme on Landslides (IPL ) Symposium and Preparatory Meetings of World Landslide Forum (WLF) 5 during 1-4 December 2018 at Kyoto, Japan**

International Consortium on Landslides (ICL) is a non-profitable international non-governmental scientific organization supported by UNESCO, WMO, FAO, UNISDR, UNU, ICSU etc. to promote landslide risk reduction for societal and environmental benefits and to do capacity development in this field. ICL was registered as a legal body under Japanese law for non-profit organizations in August 2002 in the Government of Kyoto Prefecture, Japan. Landslides have become a growing concern due to unfavourable impacts of adverse climate changes, unscientific developments and unplanned urbanizations in the hilly terrains. A

recent study published by the University of Sheffield indicates that so far this century over 50,000 people have lost their lives in landslides.

The 5th World Landslide Forum (WLF5) was organized in Japan to achieve a mid-term review and assess progress made in the implementation of the partnerships, in order to pursue further and enhance thereafter efforts towards landslides risk reduction, the Kyoto 2020 Commitment for global promotion of understanding and reducing landslide disaster risk was launched at WLF5 as a long term, wider and stronger framework for the global landslide risk reduction network.

National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) has been an institutional member of International Consortium on Landslides (ICL) from 2010 to 2014 and again renewed its membership from August 2018 onwards. As the current member of ICL, NIDM has participated in the 2018 ICL-IPL Kyoto Conference during 1-4 December 2018 at Kyoto, Japan and may also participate in the ICL-IPL Conference during 16-19 September 2019 at Paris and the World Landslide Forum 5 (a triennial event) being organized by ICL at Kyoto in Japan during 2-6 November 2020.

## Thematic Views

### DISABILITY – INCLUSIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT: NEED FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

- by Dr. Chandrani Bandyopadhyay

3<sup>rd</sup> December is observed as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (PwD) every year. Proclaimed in 1992 by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 47/3, the day aims to achieve an inclusive, equitable and sustainable world by promoting “the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life” (United Nations).

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines disability is defined as an “umbrella term, covering impairments, activity limitations and participation restrictions. An impairment is a problem in body function or structure; an activity limitation is a difficulty encountered by an individual in executing a task or action; while a participation restriction is a problem experienced by an individual in involvement in life situations.” WHO therefore acknowledges that disability is a complex issue that encompasses physical barriers, social and economic exclusion and institutional indifference. According to the World Report on Disability, 2011, it is estimated that about 15.3% of the global population lives with some form of disability, out of whom 2-4% suffer from severe functional difficulties. More women are prone to disability than men; 19.2% of women are disabled compared to 12.0% among men. The number of disabled are increasing due to an ageing population, prevalence of debilitating diseases and complex risk situations.

That disability is a growing concern and requires urgent intervention is evident by various UN Resolutions advocating the rights of disabled as a human right and need for their inclusion in social activities. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), adopted in 2006, has 162 signatories and 177 parties and is a significant global commitment towards inclusion of persons with disability into

the mainstream.

According to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), the world needs to recognise the right of every disabled person for exercising his/her human rights in a non-discriminatory environment. The UNCRPD is governed by eight Guiding Principles that aim to bring about respect for dignity, autonomy of decisions, non-discrimination and independence of disabled persons along in a non-discriminatory, accessible and inclusive environment. Equality of opportunity, effective participation in decision-making and gender equality are other principles underlining the Convention.

### **Disability in the Indian Context**

The Census 2011 puts the total number of disabled in the country to 2.68 crore persons, who make up 2.21% of the total population. In contrast to the world population of disabled people, males outnumber disabled women in India. 56% of the total disabled are male while 44% are females. 69% of the PwD's live in rural areas. Locomotor disability affects the maximum number of people (20%), closely followed by vision and hearing impairment (19% each). 8% suffer from multiple disability (Govt of India, 2016).

India has taken various measures to improve the conditions of persons with disability. The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995 was enacted to provide equal opportunities to persons with disabilities. The National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2006 recognises that PwD are valuable human resource and create an enabling environment to provide opportunities for their overall development. India is a signatory to the UNCRPD and ratified it in 2007; thereby showing its commitment towards bringing about inclusivity in development. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 was enacted to bring Indian legal framework in line with the UNCRPD. The Act is a significant improvement on the earlier legislation to define disability as an inclusive concept encompassing physical, mental, intellectual and sensory impairment which, when faced with barriers, hinders effective development and participation of an individual in society. The Act considers barriers to range from communicational, cultural, economic, environmental, attitudinal, structural, institutional and social barriers, thereby extending its scope considerably.

The Act specifies 21 types of disability, up from 7 in 1995. It specifies "benchmark disability" as 40% of a specified disability. The Act has provided a more broad-based approach towards disability wherein it has considered disorders like Thalassaemia, Haemophilia, sickle Cell disease and Acid Attack victims which have adverse social impacts as well. This Act gives the right to persons with disability not to be discriminated against and develop their full potential in an environment of equality, dignity and "respect for integrity." Another significant feature of the Act is that it connects with the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and provides for adequate protection and safety of persons with disability during situations of "risk, armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters." (Section 8 (1)). Not only does it provide for assistance during disasters, but also directs the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and State Disaster Management Authorities to ensure inclusion of PwD's in all disaster management activities viz. prevention, mitigation, response, preparedness, rehabilitation and capacity building. The District Disaster Management Authorities are to maintain record of PwDs and provide early warning of disasters. In addition, appropriate measures are to be taken by concerned authorities to ensure accessibility in reconstruction and rehabilitation activities.

## **Disability and Disasters**

Disasters disproportionately affect persons with disability. Disaster events often create new disability among affected people. The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of March 2011 recorded that the death rate for people with disability was more than double than the others. In Haiti Earthquake of 2010, an estimated 1 billion people with disabilities were affected and created new disabled (Stoughton et al, 2015). In conflict situations or war, people with disabilities are more likely to be perceived as weak and exposed to aggression. The impairment faced by the disabled are exacerbated by demographic and social factors like poverty, inadequate employment opportunities and social exclusion, which makes them more vulnerable in a disaster situation. A UN survey of PwD's from 126 countries found that only 20% could evacuate without difficulty (Smith et al, 2012). In a typical disaster situation, a person with disability suffers from issues in

- a) Evacuation and Safety - may arise from lack of timely information, inability to receive/comprehend information and inability to evacuate through constricted spaces.
- b) Disruption of support networks - may arise from lack of friends, family or societal support. Those with mental health issues may fail to recollect family and other details.
- c) Loss and damage of assistive devices - loss of assistive devices like crutches, wheelchairs, sticks etc hit the disabled really hard rendering them helpless and vulnerable.
- d) Inaccessibility of emergency shelters - Elevated flood and cyclone shelters are often inaccessible to people using a wheel chair. In the aftermath of the tsunami of 2004, some people with mental illnesses were denied treatment in public hospitals in Sri Lanka while in India, spaces earmarked for personal hygiene were inaccessible to people with locomotor disability (Alexander, 2012).
- e) Difficulty in accessing basic human needs - Accessing aid and other items of need including medicines are often difficult in evacuation shelters. In a situation of stress during disasters, communicational and attitudinal barriers create an environment of physical exclusion for disabled people.
- f) Exclusion from recovery processes and decision making - Persons with disabilities and their representative organisations are rarely represented in any stage of disaster management and tend to remain an afterthought in emergency response and recovery (Smith et al, 2012). Agencies implementing recovery often have very little knowledge of disability and inclusion methodology.
- g) Stigma and discrimination - Attitudinal barriers and discrimination by family and society manifest in barriers to inclusion, resulting in increasing risk from disasters and lack of capacity to effectively respond to shocks and stresses.

### **Agenda for Affirmative Action: Disability-inclusive DRR**

The needs of people with disability during disasters have attained centre-stage in the global discourse. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction (2015-30) highlights the need for inclusion of specific needs of the disabled in disaster risk reduction framework. It advocates a people-centered approach in design and implementation of policies, plans and standards. Priority actions 3 and 4 refer to inclusion and accessibility. Article 11 of UNCRPD recommends protection and safety in situations of risk, thereby linking both the global discourses. The Incheon Strategy (2012) focuses on disability inclusive disaster management. The Sustainable Development Goals advocate an inclusive society, with the theme, "Leave No One Behind."

Disability-inclusive DRR is a key requirement for a resilient, resurgent society. This can be attained only if PwD's are partners in development and not merely recipients. Following actions are suggested for including disabled in risk reduction process:

- i) Disability Database - An updated database of disabled persons in each area (ward/GP level) will enable identification of their needs during disasters. It is important that this database should have information on their inherent strengths and not merely impairments. The inherent strengths need to be utilised for reducing risks.
- ii) Disability-friendly warning systems and signages - To ensure easy comprehension and action on warnings, warning systems and evacuation signages that are sensitive to disability needs are required.
- iii) Ensure participatory DRR - Participation of PwD's in planning and implementation of DRR projects would ensure that they become primary stakeholders and ensure context and need based intervention.
- iv) Ensure accessibility - Barrier-free and accessible design to be integrated in all construction, keeping disasters in mind
- v) Synergising global and national discourse into local level implementation - The global frameworks and national legal and policy regimes have charted the course for a disability inclusive development. It now needs to be synergised into local level action based on the context and needs of the people.
- vi) Choice and opportunity - Attitudinal barriers are the most difficult to surmount for disabled. These barriers become the cause of demotivation and loss of dignity over time. It is thus incumbent on the entire society to identify the inherent strength of the PWD and provide opportunities to develop to their full potential.

## Conclusion

Disability is a complex, dynamic and multi-dimensional concept. Disasters directly affect the disabled and create new disability in their wake. It is time that we remind ourselves that creating resilience requires participation of all stakeholders including disabled, and commit to creating a barrier-free society, in all aspects. The month of December especially urges us to create a society of equal opportunities for all.

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## Details of Training Programmes

<b>Training Programme organized in month of December, 2018</b>					
<b>S.N</b>	<b>Name of Program</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Faculty</b>	<b>No of Participants</b>
1	Incident Response System (IRS): Incident Commander, and Planning Section Chief	NIDM New Delhi	3 – 7 Dec	Santosh Kumar	18
2	Culture of Safety through Education & Knowledge	NIDM New Delhi	12-14 Dec	Sushma Guleria	26
3	Environment and Disasters: Law, Tools & Practice (with MOEFCC & DST)	NIDM New Delhi	18-21 Dec	Anil Kumar Gupta	23
<b>Upcoming Training Programmes for the month of January, 2019</b>					
<b>S.N</b>	<b>Name of Program</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Faculty</b>	
1	Environmental-Health in Disasters and Emergencies	VMMC, New	15-17 Jan	Anil Kumar Gupta	
2	Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)	NIDM Southern Campus (Karnataka)	21-23 Jan	Santosh Kumar Shekher Chaturvedi	
3	Flood and Drought Risk Management	NIH, Roorkee	21-25 Jan	A D Kaushik	
4	Incident Response System (IRS): Operations Section Chief and Logistic Section Chief	NIDM New Delhi	28 Jan-1 Feb	Santosh Kumar	



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**We welcome comments / responses / articles from readers of our Newsletter**

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