



Addressing issues of Disaster risk reduction management – dissemination of knowledge through professional education

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Abstract

This paper addresses the issues relating to reducing disaster risks and disaster risk reduction management through dissemination of knowledge. A need for focusing on providing appropriate and opportune knowledge through training to all stakeholders will help in minimising the risks of disasters. It is seen through micro level studies that dissemination of disaster knowledge will help to reduce the impact of disasters. Majority of the governments across the world have initiated multi stakeholder strategies to avert the risk of disasters. It is noted that a country suffers overwhelmingly due to reoccurrence of disasters. Community needs to be aware of the situations leading to disaster and their impact on entire society and also the process leading to its mitigation. There is a necessity to make all community stake holders to understand the concepts of disaster management and disaster risk reduction management. The basic awareness about disaster management and disaster risk reduction management can be disseminated through family, schools, workplaces, media, higher education sector, professional organizations and NGOs. The preparedness towards facing adversities before, during and after disasters helps in reducing the impact of disasters on the entire community. The need for sharing knowledge about self protection and safeguards is essential starting from the family surrounding to the workplace level.

Keywords: Disaster risk reduction management, stake holders' role, professional education,

Introduction

Disaster awareness education is essential in the training of the government and private sector professionals', emergency management personnel and emergency service providers who have the major responsibility for disaster mitigation and emergency response

Need for providing professional education- Disaster awareness education is essential in the training of the government and private sector professionals', emergency management personnel and emergency service providers who have the major responsibility for disaster mitigation and emergency response.

1. Professional and continuing education programs on mitigating the effects of natural disasters or manmade disasters should be made widely available through colleges and professional associations.
2. Development of advanced materials for use in curricula, workshops, conferences should be encouraged.
3. Continuing education requirements should be built into the certification licensing and evaluation of professional in the field.
4. Courses in hazard resistant land use design and structural techniques should be included in engineering and architecture courses.

5. This call for redesigning construction curricula. Special attention should be given to planning for reconstruction and other elements of community recovery.
6. Schools of medicine nursing public health need to offer courses on disaster preparedness and response as they relate to community health.

Need for providing awareness and education through media

There is a need to pay special attention to raising the level of knowledge and expertise of public officials and the press both of whom have central responsibilities for dealing with natural disasters. There is a need to develop procedures, protocols and priorities for disseminating information to the public about disasters and their influences on community. Contingency plans need to be put as vital emergency services and key elements of the press are prepared to function even when electricity transportation telephone communication severely disrupted during disaster.

Need for monitoring resources

1. Emergency procedures,
2. Warning signals,
3. Disaster resources for self protection
4. Relief facilities and stand by resources
5. Responsibilities of the officials

All these procedures have to be monitored and needs to be spelled out in advance. Besides reviewed and tested periodically by public officials and the press.

Need for collaboration - Journalism Institutes and journalism and media studies specialized colleges, local press offices, local media offices, local organizations, local NGOs along with collaboration with professional organizations, local radio station, local TV channel station, local government authorities needs to be encouraged to investigate the specific challenges of providing timely and sensible information / news to the community in time of disaster. The role of TV News Directors, Radio station, Directors, professional organization directors, have to wisely cover the disaster and broadcast / telecast / televise the statistical information of the sufferers / fatalities and disaster effects judiciously.

Colleges and academic institutions

Community colleges as well as other higher education Institutions and universities can play a vital role in providing disaster awareness. They can be encouraged to include disaster management training in their curricula. Materials on mitigation and preparedness needs to be made part of departments such as

1. Architecture
2. Business Management Schools
3. Education
4. Engineering
5. Forestry
6. Geo-Science
7. Health & Hygiene
8. Meteorology
9. Planning & construction
10. Public Administration
11. Structural designing

There is a need to publication of materials on disaster effects and disaster risk reduction efforts

1. Publication of books ,compendiums,
2. Publication of research based articles ,
3. Publication of teaching aids ,
4. Publication of awareness handbooks ,
5. Publication of brochures for tourists near disaster hit areas
6. Publication of past experiences of disaster affected area people ,

Financial support to research on disaster management

Supporting disaster management through research and development also assist the community to share the knowledge accrued through research publication. With the funding pattern for micro level and macro level research among higher education faculty and students through projects and assignments needs to be encouraged and supported.

Work place –Awareness and education for disaster mitigation and preparedness needs to be encouraged in the workplace also.

1. Labour unions
2. Industry management
3. Business groups ,
4. Government employers ,
5. Public offices etc

People, who work in different capacities from an assistant to a senior most executive, need the knowledge of disasters and its effects. Existing work safety and security programs needs to be expanded to include disaster preparedness measures and emergency response procedures. Work place safety drills disaster exercises are essentials to ensure that procedures are followed in disaster such as earth quake or flood or hurricane strikes. The following are the important players who can support

1. Insurance companies
2. Labour unions
3. Chamber of Commerce
4. Public utilities & authorities
5. Industrial crisis management offices
6. Emergency meeting offices

School Teacher's training – there is a need to train teachers and students at pre -school level and elementary school level. Integrating materials into the regular curricula so that all students receive the information they need to protect themselves from disasters. They need timely safe guarding tactics Similar training initiatives needs to be directed to teachers at day care centres , play homes, preschools, and elder care homes, orphanages, These initiatives will raise the level of responsiveness and attentiveness which is taught at home. There is a need to provide all preliminary training to kids and kid teacher's trainers is required to mitigate the effects of disasters.

Other innovative initiatives through schools & colleges - Schools and colleges can support the community with

1. Visiting disaster destinations as a part of School / college tour or project work

2. Sharing the experiences of disaster victims through project reports and assignments at higher education level
3. Arranging for painting / debate / drama / dance / essay writing / photo framing and such other co-curricular activities depicting the disaster influences on community
4. Forming school / college disaster management clubs
5. Arranging for visits to rehabilitation centres elder homes orphanages and government sponsored reconstruction centres .

Other innovative initiatives through community organizations

The lessons from the past and experiences from the present can best be displayed or shared at community meetings, community celebrations, or community religious ceremonies. The impact of disasters can be reached to large number of people in a community through these congregations. Lessons of awareness and knowledge sharing can be utilized to the maximum by the community leaders and reach the vulnerable sections of the society.

Conclusion- Thus, sharing the knowledge about disasters will aid in lessening the impact of disasters and eventually will support in facing the challenges more suitably. United Nations empathises training session through Public private partnerships as an effective method of tackling disasters and their influence. The need for training and dissemination of awareness knowledge sharing is very important. India can frame guidelines which cater to the training needs in dissemination of disaster knowledge .

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