

Workshop on Disaster Management for School Teachers

Venue: Central Soil & Materials Research Station, New Delhi

Date: December, 16th - 17th 2005

The workshop was supported by NRDMS & NSDI Division, DST, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.

Thematic Areas:

- Disaster preparedness and mitigation
- Earthquake/tsunami, cyclone
- Meteorology
- Role of Spatial Data in Disaster Management.

Introduction

We are facing disaster of various types, natural as well as man made since our ancient time. As we can not prevent disasters we can at least make built in contingency planning for disaster management involving preparedness, mitigation, relief and rehabilitation. The programme on Disaster Management for School Teachers drew enthusiastic response from the participants in terms of their response and queries. The programme detailed into various aspects of hazards, disaster, preparedness, mitigation, relief and rehabilitation. The terminologies used under the programme were explained as follow: A hazard is a “rare or extreme event in the natural or human-made environment that adversely affects human life, property or activity to the extent of causing a disaster”; a disaster is a “serious disruption of the functions of a society, causing widespread human, material, or environmental losses which exceed the ability of the affected society to cope using only its own resources”; disaster assistance involve “the provision on a humanitarian basis of material aid and services necessary to enable people to meet their basic needs for shelter, clothing, water and food.

Assistance is available for extended periods”; relief is “the provision on a humanitarian basis of material aid and emergency medical care necessary to save human lives. Relief supplies and services are provided in the period immediately following a sudden disaster” ; and Disaster preparedness minimizes the adverse effects of a hazard through effective precautionary actions, rehabilitation and recovery to ensure the timely, appropriate and effective organization and delivery of relief and assistance following a disaster (Source: UNDP).

Disaster management involves the response to or anticipation of a hazardous event through a set of policy and administrative decisions and operational activities which pertains to the various stages of a disaster at all levels. Preparedness focuses on plans to respond to a disaster threat or occurrence. It takes into account an estimation of emergency needs and identifies the resources to meet these needs. The first objective of preparedness is to reduce the disaster impact through appropriate actions and improve the capacity of those who are likely to be affected most, i.e. the children, the women, the marginalized and the poor, and to get the maximum benefit out of relief. The second is to ensure that ongoing development continues to improve the capacities and the capabilities of the system to strengthen preparedness efforts at community level. Finally, it guides reconstruction so as to ensure reduction in vulnerability. Disaster preparedness is essential component of any disaster management planning as it “minimizes the adverse effects of a hazard-” Long-term risk reduction measures are intended to minimize the adverse effects of a hazard by eliminating the vulnerabilities which hazards would otherwise expose. These measures directly reduce the potential impact of a hazard before it strikes. Disaster preparedness assumes that certain groups of people or property will nevertheless remain vulnerable, and that preparedness will have to address the consequences of a disaster’s impact. Disaster preparedness must be seen as an active, on-going process. Preparedness plans are dynamic ventures which need to be reviewed, modified, updated and tested on a regular basis. Some analysts

distinguish between “active” and “passive” disaster preparedness measures. Passive aspects of disaster preparedness include the preparation of disaster manuals, stockpiling of relief goods and the development of computer lists of resources and personnel. “Active” disaster preparedness would include developing comprehensive response plans, monitoring hazard threats, training emergency personnel, and training members of the communities at risk “to ensure timely appropriate and effective delivery of relief-”

Disaster mitigation includes both disaster preparedness and prevention. One of the most difficult aspects of disaster management is that of timing. Timing is also critical to disaster preparedness. Speed and timeliness are often treated synonymously, causing serious problems in the relationship between relief inputs and their effects. There are certain basic needs in some types of disasters, such as shelter and clothing that may be required immediately. In terms of alleviating immediate distress, speed will be essential. However, there are other forms of relief that, under certain circumstances, may be disruptive unless delayed. There is the obvious example of food. Rushing in excessive amounts of food aid before a clear assessment of local market conditions and agricultural prospects are known can create dependency and undermine local economies. Timeliness, not speed, should be the preparedness criterion.

Objective

1. To explain the teachers about the various dimension of natural disaster: earthquake, cyclone, etc.
2. To educate the teachers about the causes and effects of natural disaster and preparedness.
3. To explain about earthquake observation & terminologies, and different rules to obey during a sudden occurrence of an earthquake.

4. To explain about meteorological observation & terminologies, climate change and impact on society.
5. To educate about post disaster mitigation

Methodology

The methodology was interactive participation based on Lecture on Power Point presentation cum audio visual demonstration on natural disaster, booklets on disaster management, booklet on earthquake, leaflets on earthquake and meteorology and Banners on natural disaster.

Participants:

The participants in the workshop were teachers, students and parents from Tagore International School, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi; Tagore International School, East of Kailash, New Delhi; and Tagore International School, DLF, Gurgaon. The focus was on teachers as it was assumed that the teachers are the best medium to replicate the learning on a wider scale in the society through the students' community.

The other participants were scientists from the Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, New Delhi; the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology, NOIDA; India Meteorological Department, Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology, New Delhi; Central Soil and Materials Research Station, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, New Delhi; National Institute of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home affairs, Government of India, New Delhi; and Resource Development Centre, New Delhi, the co organizer of the programme.

Programme Design:

Date: 16th December 2005
INAUGURATION PROGRAMME
<p>Welcome to the Workshop</p> <p>Dr. R. Siva Kumar Head, NRDMS & NSDI Division, Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India</p>
<p>Introductory remarks</p> <p>Mrs. Madhulika Sen Principal, Tagore International School, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi</p>
<p>Inauguration of Workshop and Address by</p> <p>Prof. V. S. Ramamurthy Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India</p>
<p>Vote of Thanks</p> <p>Dr. Asutosh Satpathy President Resource Development Centre, New Delhi</p>

Date: 16th December 2005	
PRESENTATION SESSION	
Themes	Name of the Speakers
<p>Earthquake/Tsunami:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Understanding ❖ Major features ❖ Hazard preparedness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Dr. H. N. Srivastava, Addl DG (Retd), IMD ❖ Dr. A.K. Shukla, Director, IMD ❖ Dr. P.R. Baidya, Director, IMD

❖ Response ❖ Monitoring mechanisms	❖ Shri Manoranjan Mohanty, Scientist, DST
Meteorology as part of Curriculum in Secondary Education	❖ Dr. A.K. Gupta Director, NCMRWF, NOIDA ❖ Dr. K.J. Ramesh, NCMRWF, NOIDA
Lunch break	
Cyclones	❖ Dr. A.K. Gupta Director, NCMRWF NOIDA ❖ Dr. K.J. Ramesh, NCMRWF, NOIDA
Tea/Coffee	
Storms, WD, Local Weather Phenomenon and conclusion	❖ Dr. A.K. Gupta, Director, NCMRWF, NOIDA ❖ Dr. K.J. Ramesh, NCMRWF, NOIDA

Date: 17th December 2005	
PRESENTATION SESSION	
Themes	Name of the Speakers
Meteorological Idioms	❖ Dr. G. Srinivasan Director, DST ❖ Dr. A.K. Gupta, Director, NCMRWF, NOIDA ❖ Dr. K.J. Ramesh NCMRWF, NOIDA
Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation ❖ Individual & community Response ❖ Government	Prof Santosh Kumar Professor, National Institute of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Response ❖ Resource mobilization ❖ Disease spread & control ❖ Disaster recovery 	
Role of Spatial Data in Disaster Management	Dr. K.R. Murali Mohan Director, DST, Govt of India
Open House Discussion followed by Valedictory Function	

Thematic Issues

The speakers and participants in the seminar deliberated on the various issues relating to disaster preparedness and mitigation. The deliberations focussed on the following thematic issues:

The thematic areas of the workshop were as follow:

- i. Earthquake/Tsunami:
 - ❖ Understanding
 - ❖ Major features
 - ❖ Hazard preparedness
 - ❖ Response
 - ❖ Monitoring mechanisms
- ii. Cyclones
 - ❖ Storms, WD, Local Weather Phenomenon
- iii. Meteorological Idioms
- iv. Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation
 - ❖ Individual & community response
 - ❖ Government response

- ❖ Resource mobilization
- ❖ Disease spread & control
- ❖ Disaster recovery

- v. Role of Spatial Data in Disaster Management
- vi. Open House Discussion