

Workshop on “Disaster Risk Management: Role of Volunteer Based Organizations”

A Report



Venue:

Auditorium, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, New Delhi

Workshop

Disaster Risk Management: Role of Volunteer Based Organizations

07th Oct, 2004

Background

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) was constituted by the Government of Delhi to mainstream Disaster Management activities within the system and uptake programmes in a pro-active manner so that the vulnerabilities of communities to disasters can be reduced.

“Hazards can’t be prevented, but the risk of the disasters can be reduced to a considerable extent by promoting preparedness, mitigation and response planning”.

Therefore, it is important to sensitize all possible stakeholders who can contribute in their own way towards Disaster preparedness and mitigation. There is a need to develop capacities of all organizations and agencies that may be directly involved in the building capacities of general public and reducing their vulnerabilities.

Volunteer Based Organizations also play crucial role as they work at the grass-root level involving the common man. The role is not only defined in their charters but also it is quite evident from the past experiences where they have been actively involved in providing relief and rehabilitation services to the victims.

Venue: Auditorium,
Delhi Secretariat, I P
Estate, New Delhi

Participants: senior
officers from NSS,
NCC, Civil Defence
and Home Guards,
Bharat Scouts and
Guides, Indian Red
Cross Society, St. Johns
Ambulance Brigade and
NYKS



Inaugural Session



Welcome Address by the Divisional Commissioner

The *Divisional Commissioner of Delhi*, **Sh. G. K. Marwah** welcomed the eminent members on dais, resource persons and expressed his sincere gratitude to the participants to present in a large numbers which in itself was explaining the interest of participating organizations towards the subject.

Sh. G. K. Marwah stressed upon the fact that Delhi is vulnerable to multiple disasters. He added that Natural hazards (earthquake, windstorms etc) can't be prevented, but the risk can be reduced to a considerable extent by promoting preparedness, mitigation and response planning. Volunteer based organizations who are working for many years on social development issues have to be alive to the fact that they play one of the most crucial roles in percolating disaster management measures in communities. Therefore awareness generation, training and capacity building and disaster management planning within communities can be achieved easily by them since they are already doing similar kind of work. Towards the end, he stressed that this workshop will provide a forum to introduce each other, which will further help us in determining comprehensive role of each organization in disaster management. It will also help us to generate coordination among each other, which will increase our efficiency of work and also improve our response time. He said that the workshop is just a formal beginning of our committed effort. After an elaborate discussion with all agencies, the government should be able to draw a roadmap in which we can define the roles of all organizations in pre and post disaster situation. He suggested that further meetings may be organized to discuss the roadmap in detail..

Inaugural Address by Principal Secretary, Home

In the inaugural address, the *Principal Secretary Home*, **Sh. R. Narayanaswami** urged the participants on the need for disaster preparedness. He quoted examples from past experiences and stressed upon the need to work towards reducing disaster vulnerabilities. He stated, disasters are intimately connected to development, our developmental efforts are at risk and thus require a sense of concern and urgent attention especially in the context of Delhi.

He also stressed on the need of volunteerism and how volunteer organizations help in promoting trust and solidarity within communities.



He also pointed that with the initiation of GOI-UNDP 'Disaster Risk Management Programme' the Government has changed its approach from reactive to proactive that will create a 'Culture of Prevention' with respect to disasters. He stressed that Disaster management cannot remain in the sphere of the Government alone – it needs to involve volunteer organisations, private sector, academic institutions and community based organizations as well. There is a need to build a cohesive relationship with communities so that preparedness and mitigation measures can percolate down till micro unit of society, which can not be possible without the involvement of volunteer based organisations. Over the years, organisations like Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangthan, National Cadet Corps and National Service Scheme etc have been working in implementing various programmes related to health, water, sanitation, literacy and disaster management. Since, the approach of government has changed from reactive to pro-active, there is also a need to redefine the roles of these volunteer based organisations in disaster management. Awareness regarding disaster mitigation and preparedness need to be essential components in the charter of these volunteer based organisations where they can play key role in guiding communities towards preparedness measures. He also shared that Government of India is also taking essential steps to promote volunteerism in disaster management. The effort of initiatives at the national and state levels are targeted at addressing an entire spectrum of issues connected with disaster management.

Vote of Thanks by Shri Sanjay Kr. Jha, Jt. Secretary DDMA/State Project Officer GOI-UNDP DRM Programme



Shri S.K. Jha said that this workshop is just the beginning of the dialogue for partnership. He observed that the agencies had been working in similar direction but in individual capacities. A combined effort may yield much more effective results. There is a need of harmony in the actions of various agencies.

Shri Jha said that the volunteer based organizations have been playing their roles in post disaster scenario, but they can play a significant role in a pre- disaster or peace time

also. These organizations have been interacting with community and can therefore contribute in community preparedness. He thanked all the participants for coming in large numbers and invited them to join for the high tea.

High Tea

Integrating Disaster Risk Management in activities of volunteer-based organizations, a presentation by Shri S. K. Jha, State Project Officer, DRM

The presentation covered the introduction, institutional arrangements, sensitization and awareness generation activities, development of community preparedness and response plans, development of techno legal regime and capacity building at all levels, knowledge networking with various agencies and mitigation and other futuristic measures.

Shri Jha said that the office of Divisional Commissioner is the state nodal agency for disaster management. In terms of probable damage scenario, earthquake is the worst natural disaster Delhi can face. Speaking on awareness generation initiatives, he informed the participants that the Government of Delhi has produced a large number of posters, leaflets and manuals to generate awareness. He highlighted the role of community as first responder to any incident. The importance of community based preparedness planning was stressed upon. The disaster preparedness planning needs to be done at all levels especially schools where a large number of children are available. He explained how awareness generation and planning activities are being taken up in schools in Delhi. The emergency support functions and incident command system were also touched upon. Shri Jha gave examples of state level mock drills when the ESF and Incident Command system in Delhi were first tested and found to be very effective. Talking about the India Disaster Resource Network, Shri Jha said that with this resource inventory, instant information about critical resources and their availability has been possible. Concluding with the futuristic measures, Shri Jha talked about the Delhi Earthquake Safety initiative under which a pilot project for retrofitting of five selected lifeline buildings has been initiated.

This was followed by presentations, by leaders from various participating organizations i.e. Delhi Govt, Civil Defence, National Service Scheme, St. John Ambulance, National Cadet Corps, Bharat Scouts and Guides, Nehru Yuva Kendra and Indian Red Cross Society.

Presentation by Civil Defence and Home Guards

Shri Rahul Sudan explained the twelve major roles played by Civil Defence. The roles include policy and planning, administration and control, training of civil defence volunteers, helping Delhi Fire service as auxiliary fire service, organizing civil defence activities at the districts, rescuing of trapped people and casualty evacuation, provision of first aid services, establishment of link between Civil Defence control room and incident site, looking after welfare of victims in relief camps, providing equipments, providing services, salvage services and dead bodies disposal etc. He informed the participants about the organizations set up of civil defence. Shri Rahul said that the strengthening of training and upgradation of civil defence set up is in process.



Presentation by National Service Scheme (NSS)

Sh. R.N. Sharma, Programme Advisor NSS, made presentation on the strengths of NSS and why volunteer organizations are important in Disaster Management. He stated that with a force of almost 1 crore volunteers all over India, NSS had been very active in post disaster situations in the past. He stressed on the fact that volunteers were our most reliable resource because they are young people who are most vibrant and rolling force of our



society. Being a part of volunteer group like the NSS they receive trainings that make them capable of handling otherwise chaotic situations. He also briefed about the expectations from these volunteers. Then on he went forward narrating experiences from the past how NSS had played a major role in responding to emergencies like the Orissa Cyclone, Gujarat Earthquake, Maharashtra floods etc. In the end he threw light on some of the initiatives taken by NSS in pre-disaster planning phase.

Presentation by St. John Ambulance Brigade

Dr. S.C Goyal from St. John's Ambulance took a very informative session in the Sensitization programme for the Voluntary Based Organizations. He started his session with introduction on the St. John's Ambulance and its entry to the India. Accordingly, St John's ambulance was brought by the Mahatma Gandhi in 1935 and presently it act as the ambulance wing of the Indian Red Cross and Red Crescent Society. At present it has the strength of 6000 volunteers, 400 Ambulance Brigade, and 100 Non Medical lecturers and members in Delhi itself. As per the request of the client the St. John's ambulance provide voluntary service.



He also mentioned the role played by the St. John's ambulance wing in various disasters like, South Asian Tsunami-Earth Quake, Orissa Super Cyclone, Gujarat Earth Quake and Uttarkashi earthquake and many other small and large disasters in India.

Besides this he described the emblem of the St. John's Ambulance and its symbolic meanings like Prudence, Fortitude, Temperance and Justice.

His session lasted for 30 minutes.

Presentation by National Cadet Corps (NCC)

The presentation by NCC begun by a movie that highlighted the aims and values that NCC vouches for. The three main aims highlighted in the movie are

1. To develop Character, Comradeship, Discipline, Leadership, Secular Outlook, Spirit of adventure and ideas of selflessness amongst the youth of country
2. To create a human resource of organised, trained, and motivated youth to provide leadership in all walks of life and always available for the service of nation.
3. To provide a suitable environment to motivate the youth to take up a career in armed forces.



Thereafter the presentation as taken over by **Col. Dua**. He initiated by briefing the audience about the NCC. He told that at present it is a force headed by Director General and has 13.5

lakh enrolled candidates all over the country. Delhi alone has strength of 37,130 cadets in schools and colleges. These all are divided in two wings – The General wing and The Girls wing which have their respective junior and Senior divisions.

He mentioned that disaster Management was not new to the NCC as it had been doing it in the past as well. And they infact have been very good in reaching the public because they are from within the local people and so are well versed with the language and ethics pertinent to the area.

He observed that cadets can give various types of assistance ranging from medical, Engineering, Signal Communication, Driving, Clerical. Distribution of relief etc but it also needs to be kept in mind that they are a very vulnerable group and need to be protected in high-risk situations through correct selection of areas of intervention, Indoctrinisation, and Strict supervision of activities. But above all these resources are required by the cadets to function in a proper manner. There is a need to allocate additional funds for the cadets and the allocation of these funds should depend on the nature of calamity and degree of severity scale specific to the case and worked out specially based on the threat perception.



Presentation by Redcross

Col Krishan Gulati, Honorary Secretary, IRCS gave a presentation about the role of Indian Red Cross in time of a Disaster. He began by sharing his experience about the past disasters that have affected the city of Delhi and how the association has been active to deal with critical situations. He mentioned about the amount of relief material that was distributed in terms of Food and Clothing that had been distributed during the past events of Floods and Fires that

affected the city. He mentioned that all this was in sync with the Objectives of Red Cross the most important of which is “The provision of relief for mitigation of suffering in case of Earthquakes, epidemics, Floods and other Disasters that affect India and other parts of the World.”

He offered his help for provision of Relief material to the government at any time because they keep materials like clothing, medicines, packaged food etc in store. They are also well experienced for management and distribution of material and also organising community Kitchens in co-ordination with the Revenue Department.

In the end he congratulated Divisional Commissioner Sh. G. K. Marwah and ADM (HQ) Sh. Sanjay Jha for pioneering this initiative.

Presentation by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)

Sh. Apoorva Shinde, Dy. Director (Programs) made a presentation highlighting the Role of NYKS volunteers in Disaster Management. He began with information on the objectives of



NYKS and highlighted the fact that the work has always stressed on involvement of Rural Youth and development of their capacities and strengthens their volunteering will. He discussed the organisation's structure and remarked that it was a well-managed network reaching to the remotest areas in 800 districts of India with their district offices and one office having a network of 400-500 youth clubs. They work under three heads – the Regular Programs, Special Programs and implementation of Government schemes and went on to explain detailed components of each.

Then on he gave description the various initiatives that they have taken in the past in Disaster Management since the droughts in Gujarat and Rajasthan in 1987 through the Earthquakes in Gujarat and Lathur and Cyclone of Orrisa to the Tsunami. He highlighted the various activities were taken by the local teams and the ease with which the operations could be undertaken because the team was from within the local community and they have the power to spend an amount of Rs. 20,000 in case of an emergency.

In the end he thanked the organisers for providing him a platform to interact.

Roadmap to future by Sh. S.K. Jha, ADM(HQ)

Sh Sanjay Kumar Jha in the concluding session made a presentation on Roadmap to Future to highlight the various activities that can be taken up in conjunction with these organizations. Sri Jha mentioned that the two main areas where collaboration is sought are the areas of Preparedness and Response. He further went forward to explain the role of each of the agency in the two phases starting with Civil Defence and Home Guards (Ref. Annexure I). In the end he stresses on the fact that for the implementation of these there is the need to have a State level monitoring committee with the heads from each organization as representatives and also detailed discussions can be taken up with all of these to design a programme.



In the end he thanked all the participants for sparing their precious time and be a part of this needful cause.

Annexure I

Road Map

Agency: Civil Defence and Home Guards
Role during Response
<p>Sensitize communities, schools and institutions</p> <p>Prepare Community Based Disaster Management Plans</p> <p>Provide training in Search and Rescue, Fire-Fighting and First-aid</p> <p>Constitute head quarters and field quick response teams for every police station</p> <p>Participate in mock-drills at communities, districts and state level</p> <p>Maintain resource inventory of resources (statures, bandages, vehicles, medicines etc) and trained personal for the emergency period</p>
Role During Preparedness Phase
<p>Provide first-aid, search and rescue and fire fighting equipments</p> <p>Provide adequate number of quick response teams</p> <p>Dealing with fire out break</p> <p>Maintenance of water supply</p> <p>Prevention of rumors</p> <p>Help in providing relief to the victims</p> <p>Trauma Counseling</p> <p>Coordinate with Head quarter and DC offices during emergency period</p>
National Service Scheme
Role during Preparedness Phase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motivate/sensitize students of schools, colleges and technical institutions in normal routine ▪ Prepare School/College/Institution based Disaster Management Plans ▪ Camp in vulnerable communities for awareness generation and community planning ▪ Constitute head quarters and field quick response teams at various levels ▪ Participate in mock-drills at communities, districts and state level ▪ Maintain resource inventory of resources and trained personal for the emergency situations
Role During Response Phase
<p>Warning/Information dissemination</p> <p>Provide adequate number of quick response teams during operation period for rescue and relief work</p> <p>Help in reconstruction and rehabilitation period</p> <p>Help in mobilizing resources and relief materials</p> <p>Help in trauma counseling and maintaining temporary shelters etc</p>

Coordinate with Head quarter and District offices during emergency period
National Cadet Crops
Role during Response
<p>Motivate/Sensitize students of schools, colleges and technical institutions</p> <p>Camp in vulnerable communities for awareness generation and community planning</p> <p>Constitute head quarters and quick response teams at various levels</p> <p>Participate in mock-drills of communities, districts and state</p> <p>Maintain resource inventory of resources and trained personal for the crises</p>
Role During Preparedness Phase
<p>Warning/Information dissemination</p> <p>Help in conducting search and rescue and evacuation operations during emergency period</p> <p>Help in distributing resources and relief materials</p> <p>Coordinate with Head quarter and DC offices during emergency period</p>
Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangthan
Role during Response
<p>Sensitize rural communities in disaster management</p> <p>To inculcate spirit of voluntarism and cooperation among youth communities for disaster management activities</p> <p>Help in preparing community based disaster management plans</p> <p>Camp in vulnerable communities for awareness generation and community planning activities</p> <p>Constitute head quarters and field quick response teams at various levels for relief distribution</p> <p>Participate in mock-drills at communities, districts and state</p> <p>Maintain resource inventory of resources and trained personal for the emergency</p>
Role During Preparedness Phase
<p>Information dissemination in communities about important instructions during emergency</p> <p>Provide adequate teams of volunteers for distributing relief materials in the temporary shelters</p> <p>Repair and clearing approach roads and streets</p> <p>Coordinate with Head quarter and DC offices during emergency period</p> <p>Collect and manage funds and donations for victims</p> <p>Organize night duties in temporary shelters etc</p>
Indian Red Cross Society
Role during Response
<p>To help in organizing events on disaster mitigation</p> <p>Provide training to the students in handling wireless communication systems</p> <p>Promotion of Blood donation camps</p> <p>Constitute head quarters and field quick response teams at various levels for relief distribution</p> <p>Participate in mock-drills at districts and state</p>

Maintain resource inventory of resources (relief materials, blood samples,) and trained personal for the crises period
Role During Preparedness Phase
Provision of food items (tea, biscuits) and temporary shelters Provision of hospital services Provision of ambulance and nursing services Special services of maternity and child welfare Special services for handicapped Provide general amenity like toiletry, bedspreads, tablecloths, cloths etc. Help in rehabilitation
St. Johns Ambulance Brigade
Role during Response
Impart training of first-aid and home-nursing Constitute head quarters and quick response teams at every level Participate in mock-drills of districts and state level Maintaining resource inventory of resources and trained personal for the crises period
Role During Preparedness Phase
First-aid and medical support services Providing ambulance services
Bharat Scouts and Guides
Role during Response
Sensitize school students in disaster management To help in organizing events on disaster mitigation Provide training to the students in handling wireless sets etc Camp in vulnerable communities for awareness generation and community planning activities Constitute head quarters and quick response teams at every level for relief distribution Participate in mock-drills of communities, districts and state Maintain resource inventory of resources and trained personal for the crises period
Role During Preparedness Phase
Provide wireless communication system during emergency Provide adequate teams of volunteers for distributing relief materials Coordinate with Head quarter and DC offices during emergency period