

## Research Paper

**DISASTER MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION OF INDIA : A REVIEW****Shashikant Chandrakant Ramgirwar**

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*v Introduction :*

*The concept of disaster management is presently undergoing a change as the emphasis is on making it more effective. The wrath of disasters, in most cases is experienced by the people of local level and they are the focal point of disaster preparedness and responsive activities. In developing countries like India, generally people do not aware about disaster management. But they are faced a lot of natural calamities like earthquake, cyclones, Tsunami, Flood, Volcanoes, droughts etc. Without unawareness about disaster management we are lost a large number of life's. India cannot be sustainable unless disaster management. The district and local administration is the kingpin of Indian Administration.*

**vObjective/Goals :**

- 1) Highlight the concept of disaster management.
- 2) Describe the government's approach in dealing with disasters.
- 3) To study the working mechanisms of the central, state & district administration and other local agencies in tackling disasters.
- 4) Highlight the strategy for disaster management at the local level. s

**vData-Collection :**

For this research paper I use the secondary data collection sources. In secondary data-collection sources I use reference books, Journals, Periodicals, Newspapers and websites.

**v Disaster Management and Administration of India :**

In India here is a federal system of government with its specific roles for the central and state governments. However, disaster management does not specifically find mention in any of the schedule of the Indian constitution, where different subjects are divided with the central and state governments. There was till now, no specific Central or State Act, which clearly defines the ways, which dealing with disasters. After some natural calamities in 2004 the government of India passed an act, "Disaster Management Act – 2005". According to the Act on national level we create National Disaster Management Authority – NDMA . The central government has requested other State Government to legislate Disaster Management Acts. The government of Gujrat and Madhya Pradesh have already enacted Disaster Management Act's. After the Act's there is State Disaster Management Authority – SDMA and local level their is District Disaster Management Authority – DDMA.

The country has century old integrated Administrative machinery for Disaster Management at the national, State, District and Sub-district level. The old system was worked for relief and rehabilitation after the natural disaster. Fortunately, the thinking is changed towards disaster preparedness.

**v The Role of Central Government in Disaster Management:**

The subject of natural calamities is under the Ministry of Home Affairs. The home ministry is shifted the different natural calamities in various ministry. The ministry

of home affairs is the nodal ministry for co-ordination of all disaster management activities. The disaster specifically allocated to other ministries as given below:

Sr.No.	Type of Disaster	Nodal Ministry
1	Drought	Ministry of Agriculture
2	Air Accidents	Ministry of Civil Aviation
3	Railway Accidents	Ministry of Railways
4	Chemical Disaster	Ministry of Environment & Forests
5	Biological Disaster	Ministry of Health
6	Nuclear Disaster	Department of Atomic Energy

**vThe Role of State Government in Disaster Management :**

At the State level, disaster response, relief and rehabilitation are handled by Department of Relief and Rehabilitation. The focus of this department has been generally provision of post-calamity relief. The Chief Secretary of state is responsible for relief operations in the State and the Relief Commissioner function under the chief secretary's direction and control. The central government of India is working with state governments to convert the Department of relief & rehabilitation into Department of Disaster Management.

The State governments have established specialised agencies to deal with disasters. Ex. Gujrat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA), Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) etc. The objective of setting up these authorities is to ensure that disaster management is seen as the joint responsibility of all the concerned departments. The Disaster Management Act – 2005 provides for a State Disaster Management Authority to be constituted by the state government. It shall be consist of the chairperson and such number of other members. The State has a State Crisis Management Committee (SCMC) also. Which is under the chairmanship of chief secretary and representatives from the various departments of state. A control room is established under the relief commissioner. The control room keeps continuous contact with climate monitoring and forecasting agencies and co-ordinates the action of various agencies.

States like Maharashtra have also drafted the District Disaster Management Action Plans for all its districts. The usefulness of these plans is depending on their periodic revision and updating.

**v The Role of District Administration in Disaster**

**Management:**

The district level is the focal point for disaster management activities at the field level. The District collector is the chief administrator in the district. The Collector/District Magistrate is the focal point for all disaster management activities. The District level Disaster Management Authority is constituted and headed by the collector as chairperson with participation from all related government and non-government organization and departments in addition to elected representatives. The collector is required to maintain close relations with the district and state governments.

The Collector and co-ordination committee functioning under the district collector review preparedness measures prior natural calamity strikes. As all the department of the State Government and district level report to the collector, there is an effective co-ordination mechanism ensuring holistic response. A contingency plans for the district for various disasters, which is approved by the state government. Presently District Disaster Management Plans have been prepared in many districts and in other districts they are being prepared.

The District Disaster Management Plan would facilitate the precautions, response, relief and rehabilitation activities. It outlines the institutional framework with clear cut roles and responsibilities for various agencies at the district level and below for various types of disasters. The Disaster Management Act – 2005 provides for setting up of a District Disaster Management Authority in each district by the state. It shall consist of a chairman and such number of other members, not more than seven by the state government. The district collector shall be the chairperson of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA).

**vThe Role of Sub-district Administration in Disaster Management:**

Each district in India is divided into Blocks and Talukas for administration. The disaster management committees are created at sub-district level. 169 districts of 17 States have been identifying as multi-hazard prone. The committees are being first constituted in the districts. The head of sub-division is the Sub-Division Officer (SDO) or Tehsildar. The head of Tehsil is variously known as Tehsildar or Talukadar or Mamledar. The Village Officer or Talathi is in-charge of certain number of villages. On the appearance on disaster, the district administrative machinery becomes operational. Eventually each village will have a disaster management plan. The Disaster Management Committee which draws up the plan consists of elected representatives at the village level including doctors/paramedics of primary health centers, Primary school teachers, volunteers etc. the teams are provided basic training in evacuation, search and rescue etc. The Disaster Management committee will review the disaster management plan at least once in a year.

**vConclusion :**

Disaster management needs to be an integral part of development process for sustainable development. Disaster Management or Administration is the responsibility of the respective Central Government, State Government, District Administration & Local Self Governments. In case of severe disasters, Central Government collaborates, co-ordinates and assists with State & Local Government.

The National Disaster Management Division (NDM) working under the Ministry of Home Affairs is responsible for all natural disasters in India. The government

of India has ongoing UNDP Disaster Risk Management Programme (DRMP). The Disaster Management Committees are being set up from village, Grampanchayat, District, State to National levels. Similarly, disaster management plans have been prepared and are being prepared at all of these levels Disaster Management Cells are there in State and District Level Administrative Training Institutes, which also undertake research, teaching and bring out publications in local language. As evident from the discussion in the research paper, the entire administrative machinery in the present times is getting integrated, co-ordinated and modernized in the rendering of activities, pertaining to disaster management.

**vReferences :**

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