**COURSE : DISASTER MANAGEMENT (MA/ MSc PART I)**

**Paper : II**

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**Topic : Elements of Disaster Management**

**Introduction**

Disaster management" can be defined as the range of activities designed to maintain control over disaster and emergency situations and to provide a framework for helping those who are at risk to avoid or recover from the impact of the disaster. Disaster management means managing resources and various responsibilities to deal with allhumanitarian aspects of emergencies. This may include preparedness before disaster, responseand recovery i.e. rebuilding and supporting society. The purpose of this is to lessen the impact of disasters.

The term "disaster management" is used to cover all the aspects involved in planning for and responding to disasters. This includes the measures taken before the event happens and those taken after the event happens. Disaster management isn’t just about responding to the event and providing relief to the sufferers. It is also about reducing the total negative impact of the event and preventing its reoccurrence or consequences in the future.

**Elements of Disaster Management**

Natural Disasters causing damage to human life, property, infrastructure and economy has emerged as a global challenge. Requisite safety measures have to be provided for natural hazards. Prevention is better than cure. Once disaster occurred, it is very difficult to handle and control it. Hence proper planning shall always handle and mitigate the various kinds of disasters effectively, for which open, transparent and efficient systems have to be followed. There is a need for systematic identification, preparation, prediction, assessment, evaluation of disaster events and incorporation of mitigate measures. Disaster management is a sequential and continuous process planning. The important elements which are to be considered at all stages during the disaster management are disaster management system and standards (DMS)/ Indian Standard (IS) codes, disaster diagnosis, disaster resource planning (DRP), disaster impact assessment (DIA), investigation of disaster and hazardous risk assessment (IDHRA), onsite and offsite emergency planning, disaster management plans (DMPs), corporate disaster preparedness programmes, emergency response plans, identification of proactive measures (IPM), systematic measurement, resource evaluation and quantification, cost analysis, environmental impact assessment (EIA), feedback towards achieving the disaster control abatement and mitigation strategies, research and development, management innovations, loss assessment & prevention (LAP) measures, recovery, relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation (RRRR) activities, computer aided methods, state-of-art software on disaster management and enforcement of disaster compensation laws. The disaster management must also involve co-ordination activities about disaster events with all participatory sectors namely, all levels of central and state government, districts administration, municipalities, corporations, medical and health administration including industrial disaster and safety administration, occupational health hazard and safety administration, non-occupational health hazard and safety administration, communication services, geographical information system services, environmental remote sensing services, print and electronic media networks, insurance services, social and community mobilization services, fire and explosion services, civil defense and home guards, police and paramilitary forces, armed forces, industrial security forces, border security forces, public and private sector industries, research and development organizations, non-government and voluntary organizations, environmental and ecological protection services, information and broadcasting services, construction sector, education and training sectors. The officials of the above sectors must be imparted specialized on-campus and off-campus training in the emerging areas of disaster management modules such as emergency preparedness plans, DMS, DRP, DIA, IDHRA, IPM, DMP, EIA, LAP training modules, RRRR modules, occupational, non-occupational health hazard, disaster investigation, risk assessment and EIA training modules including training in various computer aided and state-of-art software packages. In this research paper important elements of the disaster management for practitioners have been discussed.

Disaster/emergency planning for records and information should be a planned approach for the prevention of records and information loss,  preparedness and response to the emergency events affecting records and information, recovery of records and information, and necessary processes and equipment for business continuity following the event.

The recovery phase includes the implementation of short-term activities that restore vital records and information while restoring normal business operating procedures and practices. This phase includes   assessing damage, stabilization and salvage techniques, restoration of records, information and equipment, and resumption of operations.

The prevention/mitigation phase involves: establishing a vital records program, completing risk management processes, and developing a disaster prevention plan.

The four primary phases are:

1. **Preparedness** - First, prepare to protect yourself, others and items of great importance in the event an emergency/disaster occurs.
2. **Response** - When there is an actual occurrence,  administer first aid or get medical attention for victims if necessary.  Attend to other emergency procedures that must take place in order to lessen the impact.
3. **Recovery** - After things are under control, begin the clean up or repair any damage and if necessary, call in professional   restoration services.
4. **Mitigation** - Finally, ask how did this disaster,  accident or emergency happen and how can any problems that occurred in handling the incident be lessened.