

Disaster Management

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Abstract

Disasters are a matter of global concern. The death toll from natural disasters is about 250,000 per year. In India too, loss of life due to floods and earthquakes is considerably high. The term disaster refers to a natural or a man made event in combination with its damaging effects, which results in affecting a number of people large enough to disrupt the normal course of emergency and healthcare services. The common denominators are hazard, risk and vulnerability. A large number of classifications are available based on origin/ cause, whether natural or man made. Disaster planning cannot prevent disasters but the effects can be minimized by appropriate plans and preparedness. Disaster management is an intensive exercise involving inputs from local, national and international sources, requiring coordination in the management of a disaster preparedness plan and public participation in restoring normalcy with good speed.

Key words: Disaster management, natural disasters, man made disasters, disaster response, disaster prediction.