

Disaster Management & Disaster Risk Reduction Management – Time for Gender Perspective

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Abstract: With the speedy change in environment, natural disasters & manmade disasters have become a common phenomenon across the globe. Each disaster calls for severe debate over disaster risk management & disaster risk reduction policy framework. But these debates do not become components of the policy making. Hence priority scheduling of disaster management again crops up to become a serious issue. The Governments across the globe spend millions of rupees to reduce the risk of disaster but all in vain. They fail to identify the necessity of involving the whole community especially women in disaster risk management & disaster risk reduction. A gender specific approach towards helps to focus & spotlight the issues relating to disasters vulnerability of women during disasters helping them to prepare confront & recover from these disasters is needed .This paper reveals the issues involved in disaster risk management & disaster risk reduction .This paper spotlights the role of women in disaster risk management & disaster risk reduction as a part of community empowerment strategy.

Key Words: disaster risk management, risk reduction, women, responsibilities, community empowerment

“We cannot stop natural disasters but we can arm ourselves with knowledge: so many lives wouldn't have to be lost if there was enough disaster preparedness”-*Petra Nemkova*

Introduction

Women are a vulnerable population when it comes to

disaster risk management & disaster risk reduction issues. They are considered a problem by their male counterparts when

a disaster creeps in. (UNISDR – report on the disaster risk reduction 2010) A gender specific approach towards helps to focus & spotlight the issues relating to disasters vulnerability of women during disasters helping them to prepare confront & recover from these disasters is needed . It is a known fact that disasters affect men & women separately in separate contexts. (UNISDR – report on the disaster risk reduction 2010).

Objectives of Study

1. This study reveals the issues involved in disaster risk management & disaster risk reduction.
2. This study spotlights the role of women in disaster risk management & disaster risk reduction as a part of community empowerment strategy.
3. This paper focuses on role of government in speeding up the supervision process towards disaster risk reduction & safeguarding the rights of women

A women's resources to reduce the risk of disaster & managing a disaster is controlled by men .Several of the decisions of the male group sometimes hamper women's safety, her individual preferences her priorities affecting her child. (Report of the National Disaster Management Committee 2012).

Women as Vulnerable Components

Women are disproportionately affected during a calamity & her plea for support is neglected as major decision is taken by handful of men. This is because of

1. traditional practices
2. socio religious beliefs
3. irrational conventions
4. socio economic conditions

Forms of Disaster

During bad times of a disaster or a crisis, women are worst hit because gender based violence increases beyond explanatory ratios. (Report of the National

Disaster Management Committee 2012). Women & children become victims to aggressive atrocities during disasters . (UNESCO Report On Gender & Risk Reduction – 2012). The disaster may come in the form of

1. Armed confrontations,
2. Armed War ,
3. Army Coups
4. Caste / Class/ Creed/ Based Bias
5. Caste Based Disturbances
6. Communal Fights
7. Dislocation
8. Divisional Bifurcation
9. Ethnic Violence ,
10. Evacuation / Forced Displacements due to natural calamities
11. Factional Bigotry
12. Internal Strife ,
13. Migration
14. Political Division ,
15. Racism
16. Religious Conflict
17. Tribal Strife

Effects of Disaster on Women

Women are subjected to various types of atrocities while in a disaster such as

1. Aggravated Gender Assault
2. Coldblooded Murder Of Kith & Kin
3. Food insufficiency
4. Gender Based Atrocities
5. Group Rapes
6. Lack Of Compensatory Support
7. Lack of basic means of livelihood
8. Loss Of Property due to Theft / burglary
9. Mugging
10. Plundering –intended & accidental
11. Ravaging
12. Sexual Harassment
13. Shortage Of Livelihood Means

Psychological effects of disasters on women

Women suffer from loss of traditional safety methods can trigger

1. Disturbed Sleep

2. Distress & dullness
3. Depression
4. Fear & panic moods
5. Health Disorders
6. Increased Anxiety
7. Loss of Immunity
8. Loss of Memory
9. Mental Shock
10. Monotony & aggravated ill health
11. Nervousness
12. Terror state of mind
13. Trauma

All these pathetic situations call for gender resilience attitude in disaster management. These entire situations affect women & they become victims of psychological as well as physical violence. (UNESCO Report On Gender & Risk Reduction – 2012).

Role of women during a disaster

Women can play multiple roles during a crisis.

1. Aid In Organizing Resources
2. Co-Ordinate For Better Transportation Effort

3. Create Awareness Among Similar
4. Decrease The Chances Of Isolation
5. Managing Evacuation With Safety
6. Motivate Others To Equip Mentally
7. Saving House Hold Property
8. Saving The Ages Members Of The Family
9. Saving Their Cattle & Livestock
10. Saving Their Children
11. Think Of Creative & Innovative Signals For Safety

Cycle of disaster management

The disaster management has following cyclic procedures

1. Prevention
2. Mitigation
3. Preparedness
4. Reconstruction
5. Rehabilitation

Government Mechanisms towards Disaster Management

1. All the decisions, policies & plans regarding disaster management should include women as key participants. Only when they are included in the policy making process they can voice their opinions & share their experiences towards framing a better disaster management policy.

2. National policy towards disaster risk reduction & management during Natural disasters such as flood, inundation, submerging, heavy rains, tornados, tsunami etc under estimate role of women. Women can play a key role if given precautionary training in risk reduction & management. (UNESCO Report On Gender & Risk Reduction – 2012).

3. During disasters men over power women to receive compensations. Women are sidelined totally. This happens because they lack awareness about how to receive outside support & compensate their livelihood. This can be balanced through supportive training & orientations to women about disaster risk reduction &

management (UNISDR –report on the disaster risk reduction 2010).

4. Women especially girl children should be prepared mentally to avoid off disasters. These girl children become victims of gender discrimination & violence during disasters. They are easily cheated & gullible hence girl children need special precautionary trainings. The natural disasters & general disasters which attest disadvantageous results to girl child, can be avoided if proper integration of awareness programs & policy framing takes place.

5. Recuperating & recovering from risks & crisis is a great impediment to women hence policy should be made to empower women through trainings & orientations towards crisis management

6. The constructive role of women towards crisis management need to be rescheduled among all community stake holders

7. Women's cleverness & dexterity towards preparing

herself & her family needs an evaluation

8. Integrating gender dimensions in risk management is needed today because women are always sidelined in crisis management framework

9. Gender equitable programs should be launched with the help of NGOs & self-help groups

10. Policy towards making women agents of risk resilience is needed

11. The empowerment of women & capacity building for women of all ages & class are required Report on Disaster management strategy & coordination 2012)

12. A universal platform for women to share their experiences at disaster management is needed to make more meaningful participation

13. governmental policies should reflect the participation of women as a part of inclusive growth

14. women should be made a part of all policy & plan policy in climate changes activities (Report on Disaster

management strategy & coordination 2012)

Organizational Support

Organizations working towards disaster management can further their research in involving women in creating an awareness about disasters, reduction of risks & its management.

1. Central Disaster Management Authority

2. National center for Disaster Management New Delhi

3. National center for earthquake Engineering- IIT kharagpur UP

4. Center for disaster Management Bhopal MP

5. Disaster Management Institute Gujarat

6. Environment training institute Hyderabad

Globally an International day is celebrated to promote awareness on disaster reduction & management since 2012 but still a gender sensitive disaster

reduction & management policy is yet to evolve. Disaster mitigation should be made to involve women who have better perspective about disaster management.

Conclusion

Disaster management can become more effective with inclusion of women in its management administration. Women's proficiency can be utilized to prevaricate these disasters with an integrated disaster management policy. The crisis after the disaster is more serious as women suffer from repercussion & mental shocks.. The process of planning, communication, and resource mobilization & sharing of experiences about similar incidents across the globe should be a part of the agenda on disaster management. Women survivors after chaos suffer from getting justice because reporting a crime during a disaster & demanding justice needs supportive assistance. The whole

process of justice & legal action can re traumatize the women victims. A gender specific approach towards helps to focus & spotlight the issues relating to disasters vulnerability of women during disasters. The preparedness, response & recovery during a disaster can be superlatively managed by women only if they are a part of the policy framework.

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