

## Community Planning for Disaster Management

### Role of Village Disaster Management Committee:

The BDO that is the main responsibility would be create awareness amongst the community members so as to reduce the impact of any hazard and also guide the community in the preparation of the village Disaster management Plan.

We also need to have skilled people who are trained in First aid and search and rescue. We need to enhance our skills to be also to respond better in case a disaster strikes.

The BDO that is need to form Village Disaster Management Teams (VDMTs). The team should have volunteers who can be trained in basic functional areas that are critically required in that situation.

There is a bit of serious discussion within the villagers as to what were the different Disaster Management Teams that were likely to be formed in the Village. The Doctor would need help in the PHC to ensure that he can concentrate on critical cases while First Aid can be handled by others.

It is Possible that a group can do to come up with a set of names for each of the following teams:-

- Early warning and communication team.
- Evacuation and Temporary Shelter management team.
- Search and Rescue Team
- Health and First Aid team
- Relief Co-ordination team
- Water and Sanitation team



Picture: - Role of village Disaster management Committee.

## Role of Community

The importance and need for community planning for any hazard that is likely to occur in an area. During and immediately after a disaster. It is most often the neighbours or people of the community who respond first. They are normally with 'first responders' before the affected the people can seek any support from the local authorities of any Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The first few hours before and after a disaster are critical and precious to save lives and reduce further injuries. Often, external help may take time to reach the disaster site. It is in this situations that well trained community members play a vital role and are considered as lifesaving assets.

Further communities play a vital role in risk reduction, without whose education and involvement, a disaster management could not be complete.

Mitigation measures that can be taken for various hazards. But to effectively mitigate hazards that are prevalent in a particular locality, there is need for the community to join hands and take up initiatives along with the government.

The Government of India strongly advocates the building of community capacities in various aspects of disaster response and urges community to develop disaster management plans to prevent, mitigate and better to combat various hazards. Teachers as educated members of the society play a crucial role on guiding and facilitating the process of Planning in Communities, to reduce disaster risks.

1) **First Responder:** Since the community is at the site of the disaster, it is first one to respond to it.

2) **Source of Maximum Information:** When a disaster occurs in an area, no one will have better or more comprehensive and 'up to date' information on the people living there and its resources than the inhabitants of that area.

3) **Local Coping Mechanisms:** Most disasters are recurrent; hence there is always a traditionally established coping mechanism that is handed down over the generations. This would ideally be the most immediate response measure for the local environment though it could be the most immediate response measure for the local environment though it could be improved through technical backing.

4) **Self-help is in self interest:** It would be the natural instinct of the community to respond quickly on such occasions since over dependence on external resources may be time-consuming and even ineffective.



