
UNIT 3 ROLE OF VARIOUS AGENCIES IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Structure

- 3.0 Learning Outcome
- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Framework for Coordination at the Governmental Level
- 3.3 Relevance of Community Participation
- 3.4 Role of Non-governmental Organisations
- 3.5 Role of Other Agencies in Disaster Management
- 3.6 Conclusion
- 3.7 Key Concepts
- 3.8 References and Further Reading
- 3.9 Activities

3.0 LEARNING OUTCOME

After reading this Unit, you will be able to:

- Highlight the framework for coordination of disaster management process at different governmental levels
- Examine the relevance of community participation; and
- Discuss the role of NGOs and other important agencies involved in disaster management.

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Disaster management needs a strong political commitment for erecting an effective planning and coordination process at the governmental and societal levels. A structure with a clearly defined authority as well as an appropriate budget to maintain an effective disaster plan is needed. Preparedness plans should be comprehensive in scale and operation as disaster management planning is a sequential and continuous process. Effective planning requires systematic diagnosis, resource evaluation, and continuous feedback towards fulfillment of the goals of disaster reduction. Since the scope of disaster management is quite wide and the actors involved in the process are numerous, it is essential that a framework for coordination is accepted and provided for.

Management is needed at all stages of a disaster: the disaster preparedness and mitigation phase, the disaster event phase, the response phase, and the recovery phase comprising rehabilitation and reconstruction processes. This is achieved through various actors-governmental, non-governmental and private, engaged in the area of disaster management. This Unit deals with the role of the different agencies in disaster management and developmental activities, It will try to explain the importance of the role of each of these sectors, and also their vital interlinkages, so essential for a coordinated and comprehensive disaster management system.

3.2 FRAMEWORK FOR COORDINATION AT THE GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL

There is a systematic structural framework for coordination of disaster management **tasks** at the central, state and district levels. It is essential that there is some level of **understanding** between these levels in order to avoid delays and overlapping of time and efforts. Let us discuss this structural framework now:

Central Level

At the central level, a National Crisis Management Committee, headed by the Cabinet Secretary, has been constituted with the nodal ministries in charge of various types of disasters and supporting ministries as members. The Central Relief Commissioner functions as the coordinator at the national level, under whom a Crisis Management Group (CMG) has been constituted. The CMG meets as often as required in the wake of natural disasters to coordinate at the central level and also liaise with the state governments as and when required. There is a National Contingency Action Plan (CAP) that facilitates the launching of relief and rescue operations without delay. The CAP identifies initiatives to be taken by various central ministries and public departments in the wake of natural disasters. It sets down procedures and determines focal points in the administrative machinery.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) acts as the nodal agency for disaster management. In the MHA, the Relief Commissioner functions as the nodal officer to coordinate relief operations for all natural disasters. Besides, the MHA, some other ministries are assigned the responsibility of disasters that fall in their purview of activity like Agriculture, Railways or Civil Aviation etc. The Ministry of Agriculture is in charge of droughts. Lately, there has been a change in focus on disaster management, from 'relief and response' to 'prevention and preparedness'. The High Powered Committee of the Government of India (2001) on 'Building a Culture of Prevention' has come up with a comprehensive review of disaster situation in India. Its recommendations though still remain on paper.

The Tsunami disaster of December 2004 has brought the debate on policy reforms back into focus. It has thrown up new challenges in the area of disaster management at the governmental and non-governmental levels. It has forced those concerned to revise their attitudes towards disaster management. A positive development has been the setting up of the National Disaster Management Authority with a statutory status at the central and state levels. The Authority will be chaired by the Prime Minister at the central level and the Chief Minister at the state levels. The objective is to go into each and every aspect of disaster management in order to ensure disaster preparedness and come up with a 'National Policy on Disasters'. There will be a separate allocation for disaster management for each concerned ministry. Disaster Management Authority will also facilitate the streamlining of the number of departments and ministries involved in disaster management in order to improve coordination and scientific thinking, as well as remove red tapism and wastage.

State Level

In tune with the federal structure of the country, disaster management falls under the State List. Therefore, the responsibility to cope with natural disasters is essentially that of the state government. The role of the central government is **supportive**. It **supplements** the physical and financial resources of the state governments. Most of the states have Relief Commissioners/ Secretaries who are in charge of the relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural disasters in their states. The Chief Secretary is in overall charge of the relief operations in the

state and the Relief Commissioner and the Additional Relief Commissioners function under his direction and control.

In many states, the Secretary, Department of Revenue is also in-charge of relief. The state governments usually have Relief Manuals and the districts have their Contingency Plans that are updated from time to time. In case of a disaster, the state government also invites the NGOs and other national and international relief organisations, to join in the efforts to reach out to the victims. Recent developments at the state level organisational set-up include the setting up of a separate Department of Disaster Management under a Ministry of Disaster Management and Wealth in the new state of Uttaranchal. The state has also created the position of a Principal Secretary of Disaster Management, The creation of a Disaster Management and Mitigation Centre under the Department of Disaster Management in the Uttaranchal State is in the pipeline.

District Level

The district administration is the focal point for the implementation of all government plans and activities. Considerable powers have been vested in the District Collector to carry out relief operations in the shortest possible time. In the event of shortage of funds, the Collector is also empowered to draw money from the district treasury under his emergency powers. The district administration is also required to prepare a contingency plan in advance depending on the type of disaster likely to affect the district. The actual day-to-day functions of administering relief are the responsibility of the Collector/District Magistrate/Deputy Commissioner who exercises coordinating and supervising powers over all departments at the district level.

There is also a District Level Relief Committee consisting of officials and non-officials including the local legislators and Members of Parliament to review relief measures, A district is divided into sub-divisions or 'tehsils' or 'talukas'. While the head of the Sub-division is called the Sub-divisional Officer, the head of the 'tehsil' is generally known as Tehsildaar or Talukdar in some states. At the block or circle level, there is the Block Development Officer or Circle Officer who looks after relief works, At the village level, the Patwari or the Village Level Worker remains in contact with the villages under his charge.

The organisational set-up, as we just discussed, at the central, state and district levels needs to be in place and well-gearred up to face any eventuality. What we must not forget is that any type of administrative set-up is enormously dependent on the participation of all the stakeholders involved in disaster management. The community is the most important stakeholder in the process and, thus, we will now turn our attention to the relevance of community participation in mitigating the disaster aftermath.

3.3 RELEVANCE OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The community, as an institution in itself, is emerging as the most powerful among all the agencies involved in disaster management. In the event of a disaster, the community, if well aware of the preventive actions it is required to take, can substantially reduce the damage caused by the disaster. Education, awareness and training of the community are particularly useful in areas that are prone to frequent disasters.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines the community as a group in face-to-face contact with each other, having harmony of interests and aspirations. It is also bound by common values and objectives. The efforts of the community in certain areas are laudable. At some places, they have formed their own organisations that take the initiative in disaster

situations. These Community-based Organisations or the CBOs are doing a lot of work in the area of disaster management,

The CBOs, it has been pointed out, perform certain pertinent functions. They:

- Offer mutual support and solidarity
- Strengthen people's ability to face crisis

Generate consciousness, awareness and analysis on issues of common concern

Enable people to demand an access to services and information offered by government agencies (the new Right to Information Act has facilitated this role)

- Organise collective acquisition of skills and knowledge in various spheres

One important community-based organisation is the Village Task Force. These Task Forces have been formed in villages of Andhra Pradesh, followed by similar task forces in villages of Orissa and Gujarat. The volunteers of the Village Task Force are trained in emergency evacuation and relief within the village. Salient features of their training are:

- Orientation training in disaster preparedness for villagers and staff members
- Discussion on disaster preparedness in general meetings
- Sponsoring of staff for specialised training; and
- o Reparation of a handbook for emergencies.

Each community should have its own Disaster Task Force (DTF) comprising 10-12 members. The following criteria should be followed while selecting the members:

- They must be young and healthy persons
- o They must be members of the gram panchayat

They must have acceptability and credibility in the community

- a They should be persons who do not go to distant places for daily work
- They should have a strong inclination and commitment towards community service and volunteerism

The people should elect the Task Force and during disasters, it must serve as the nodal body for disaster management at the village level. It has to mobilise resources for the community and disseminate necessary information passed on by the outside agencies to the villagers. While the community as an effective institution is yet to take shape in developing countries like India with low literacy levels and widespread poverty, considerable efforts are being made to form and strengthen community-based organisations at the grass roots levels.

The significance of community preparedness in handling disasters has been duly recognised over time. If human interventions can be listed as the cause for increase in the scale of destruction then it is through community preparedness that the scale can be reduced. The Report of the High Powered Committee, set up in 1999, also emphasises the need to look into community preparedness components and strategies such as nature of hazard assessment, risk

analysis, disaster prevention, emergency planning, public information and awareness.

Any effort towards strengthening the capacity of CBOs should aim at:

- Enabling them to efficiently and effectively develop, manage and sustain disaster mitigation, preparedness and response programmes
- Promoting effective coordination between the community organisations, NGOs and governmental agencies in disaster response
 - a Developing a forum for exchange of knowledge and experiences in managing disasters
 - a Creating a pool of trained disaster management personnel drawn from the community who can act as key resource persons in disaster management
- Ensuring training of women in order to assess and meet the health and safety needs of other disadvantaged groups

3.4 ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

The Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) are the most effective means of achieving an efficient communication link between the disaster management agencies and the affected community. There are different types of NGOs working at the advocacy as well as the grass roots levels. In typical disaster situations, they could be of help in preparedness, relief and rescue, rehabilitation and reconstruction, and also in monitoring and feedback. If the potential of NGOs is utilised in the right earnest, they could act as the key to a successful and participatory approach to disaster management.

NGO participation forms a vital part of a disaster management strategy. This becomes clear from the multifarious functions that the NGOs are expected to perform before, during and after the disasters. Characteristics unique to NGOs such as their quick response time and the close links that they share with the community make them the most suitable agencies for specific activities related to disaster management.

In order to fully capitalise on the non-governmental sector, there is a need to streamline its structure and also document it. At the same time, the government's role vis-à-vis the NGOs also needs to be clearly identified and systematised so that an effective disaster management mechanism could be made operational within a short span of a disaster occurrence. In order to be able to achieve all these objectives, collective action of the entire community is the need of the hour. The NGOs are the key players in this regard.

The non-governmental sector and the vital CBOs that operate at grass roots level, have an edge over governmental agencies as far as invoking community involvement is concerned. This is due to their proximity with the community, and the flexibility in their procedural matters. NGOs are of different types, with specific areas of operation and varied fields of expertise. Though organic in nature and informed in character, the non-governmental sector covers a whole range of activities through its various networks. Some major types of NGOs are given as under:

NGOs with Dedicated Field Operations and Resource Backup

These are large organisations, such as the International Red Cross Society. They have specific areas in which they carry out field operations. They have access to a large resource base, and

have the capability to extend material, financial as well as **technical** support to disaster-affected sites, In emergencies, their role is laudable as they garner support and resources from **all** over the world and come to the rescue of the affected population almost immediately.

NGOs Related with Development Technology

These are NGOs involved in developing and propagating development technologies, such as Sulabh International, which is renowned for its work in low cost sanitation. These NGOs are active in times of peace. They carry out their **developmental** projects all through the years and could also be called in at the time of emergency arising out of disaster situations. They facilitate the work of infrastructure provision to the affected communities. Even in non- disaster or normal times, their services are important for retrofitting and using latest **building** technology, in order to **minimise** the incidents of death and destruction at the time of disasters such as earthquakes and floods.

Interest Groups

These are also NGOs, which are multi-purpose in nature having varied interests, **such** as the Rotary Club. However, such interest groups are very active, and have come forward to help disaster victims in the times of need. They could play a major role in resource mobilisation for relief aid and rehabilitation purposes.

Associations **of** Local Occupation **Groups**

Such associations are formed on the basis of common **occupational** backgrounds, and could include groups such as doctors' associations, traders' associations and Army wives' **associations** etc. Such groups, just like other interest groups, could play a major role in resource mobilisation, and provision of specialised services to the **victims** in any emergency situation.

Local Residents' Associations

These Residents' Welfare Associations (**RWAs**) are formed by the local residents to look into the interests of those living in their area. These associations are extremely concerned about the welfare of the local **community** and need no external motivation or resource backup to take active part in disaster reduction. Thus, they could act as a very useful tool for getting across the message of **community** participation at the ground level.

Religious Bodies

Religious bodies are one of the most important NGO groups that come to the immediate rescue and relief of the disaster victims, These bodies have a large and dedicated following in their communities. They also have control over the local places of worship, which are usually built on high **and** safe ground, and can serve as ideal shelters for the disaster victims. Besides, they often have infrastructure and resources to feed mass gatherings, which facilitate disaster relief work.

Educational Institutions

The educational institutions such as schools and colleges play an important role in disaster management. Their prime responsibility is to spread awareness on natural disasters, provide preventive action needed to minimise damage due to disasters as well as ensure immediate relief and rescue. Besides, these institutions have large buildings at local levels, which could be used as shelters for the **victim** in the **times** of disaster.

Taking into account all these NGOs and their respective activity areas, it can be stated that the NGOs can facilitate the process of disaster management by contributing towards:

i) Communication with Community

NGOs have a better link with the community and also have a presence in the field of action. This puts them in a better position to assess, decide and implement relief operations at the time of a disaster.

ii) Human Resources

The human help available with NGOs is unlimited, The human resources of NGOs are very prompt and highly motivated, as they basically comprise volunteers who are involved at their own initiative. There are no procedural problems such as those of maintaining rolls and handling related legal issues.

iii) Finances and Materials

NGOs have very flexible means of mobilising resources and a number of them specialise in just and fair resource mobilisation to be able to fund the activities of other NGOs working in the field of disasters.

iv) Professional and Technical Services

A number of specialised technical services can be made available to the community by the NGOs, which would otherwise be too expensive and inaccessible to the common folk, Based on the identified types of NGOs and their capabilities, organised action of NGOs can be very useful in the following activities (given in the Table 3.1 below) that need to be attended to at the different stages of disaster management:

Table 3.1

Stage	Activities
Pre-disaster	Awareness and information campaigns Training of local volunteers Advocacy and planning
During-disaster	Immediate rescue and first-aid including psychological aid, supply of food, water, medicines, and other emergency material Ensuring sanitation and hygiene Damage assessment
Post-disaster	Technical and material aid in reconstruction Assistance in seeking financial aid monitoring

3.5 ROLE OF OTHER AGENCIES IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Indian Red Cross Society

In India, we have Red Cross Society at the national, state and district levels. This is not just an agency, but also a movement for providing relief to the people when they are in dire need

of it. Since this is an offshoot of an international movement, it is a completely non-political organisation. It is the image of the Red Cross that makes it one of the most acceptable institutions in the area of providing relief to the people in distress.

Till 1995, the Red Cross was working primarily as a relief organisation. From 1996 onwards, the International Federation of Red Cross has shifted its focus from 'relief' to 'disaster preparedness' and has started developing community-based disaster preparedness plans. There are many training programmes being organised by the Red Cross. The 5-day training programme of the Red Cross consists of:

- Field visits
- Making the trainees aware of the terminology related to various items as well as technology in use by various agencies
- Familiarising the trainees with the role of Red Cross in disaster management, which includes rescue and relief to meet the challenges related to health hazards

The Red Cross is basically concerned with relief distribution including first-aid and transporting/shifting the victims of disasters to hospitals or other safer places. The other agencies like National Cadet Corps (NCC) and National Social Service (NSS) should also be made aware of the role and potential of the Red Cross in order to ensure adequate coordination.

Media

The role of the electronic media has, during recent times, emerged as a major component of disaster management. This role has been amply demonstrated in the aftermath of disasters be it the Gujarat earthquake of 2001 or the Muzzafarabad Earthquake of 2005. At the same time, the role of the print media, especially regional press needs to be given due recognition, as this continues to be the only medium accessible to a large section of people in many parts of society, which still remains unreachable by the electronic media. Besides, it is also true that the print media has a major role to play in pre-disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness activities through generation of appropriate community awareness. We will discuss the role of the media in more detail in our next Unit.

Fire Services

In a larger context of urbanisation and industrialisation, calamities play a match box role of igniting more dangerous and uncontrollable disasters like fires. During the Kobe Earthquake, a large number of buildings that could resist seismic forces were largely damaged due to post-disaster fires. As per the Constitution of India, 'fire services' is a state subject under Section 243. The 'fire service' thus, provides coverage to only 30 per cent of the community, which is grossly inadequate.

Managing fires is more technical than perceived. It needs comprehensive study in risk evaluation of each and every area, preparation of risk mapping plans for each zone, study of preparedness level in terms of special equipment, training of personnel in foolproof communication system, as well as holding of periodic mock drills. Unlike, what is generally understood, the role of fire services is not just limited to being a fire-fighting service, but it also plays the role of a disaster prevention agency, especially in urban areas. It can provide basic search and rescue service and can also coordinate in the event of a disaster situation with other agencies like the police and health services.

Recent recommendations with regard to 'fire services' focus on:

- Appointment of a National Fire Service Commission to suggest the reorganisation of 'fire services' to cope with the challenges posed by the technological advancements during peace-time and war situations
- Formulation of a National Policy on Fire Preparedness for rural and urban areas
- Provision of a comprehensive legislative backup to the 'fire services' to enforce fire regulations
- Risk Mapping of cities and industrial towns and the norms for fire protection levels in such areas
- Examination of training standards and equipment requirements
- Formulation of fire safety programmes for the public
- Planning for fire prevention and protection in slums and shanty towns
- Review of provisions of the model Fire Service Bill

Police and Para-military Forces

Police is always immediately mobilised to reach the site of disaster with a view to carry out, relief and rescue operations with the coordination agencies. It is also the responsibility of the police to provide security and maintain law and order at disaster locations where chances of chaos or miscreants taking advantage of the situation are higher. Police personnel deployed for such relief operations could prevent commission of cognisable offences including all offences against life, property and public tranquility.

The police communication system is made available for transmission and receipt of messages in connection with disasters. The police also regulate movement of victims, rescue and relief work, medical assistance and supplies. The role of para-military forces is very important, as they may be called upon for additional assistance to the police in situations requiring emergency attention. The Central Industrial Security Force has an important role, particularly in disasters involving industrial units or locations. The role of Border Security Force in the remote and inaccessible areas also cannot be overlooked.

Civil Defence and Home Guards

The Civil Defence Organisation was established with a view to protect interests of the civilian community in the times of war. The Civil Defence Act of 1968 formally established the structure of the organisation. The Centre is only a guiding agency while the states are responsible for raising, training and maintaining the corps. The Civil Defence Organisation is primarily a voluntary organisation, whose resources are mobilised at the time of need through an activation procedure. Civil Defence Organisation requirements are based on the vulnerability analysis by the states themselves and are equipped accordingly. Their primary work areas include: communication, rescue and casualty management, transportation and supply service, sewage and corpse disposal along with basic welfare services.

Civil Defence has been modeled to save lives, minimise damage to property and maintain the continuity of supply of basic services. Although the Civil Defence Act is applicable throughout the country, the organisation is raised only in such areas and zones, which are tactically and strategically considered vulnerable to enemy attack. This is the reason that 24 of the states/UTs in India have not raised Civil Defence in 102 out of 225 categorised towns/cities. Deputy

Collectors, who are mainly responsible for organising the Civil Defence Services, show vacancies of 45 out of the 133 authorised positions. Civil Defence control rooms, which are the nerve centres of all activities, show a deficiency of 127 out of an authorised 299. Causative factors for this state of affairs have been recognised to be lack of immediate utility, inadequate awareness levels, legal infirmities, financial crunch, improper training facilities and absence of proper recognition.

Armed Forces

The catastrophic impact of disasters can be reduced only if there is coordination and cooperation from varied sections of the society. The Indian Armed Forces are one of the most dedicated and professional organisations with a rich tradition of being involved in the socio-developmental roles of nation-building. Their services though should be utilised as a last resort and be called upon to intervene and take on specific tasks only when the situation is beyond the coping capability of civil administration, as it involves high costs.

There is a need for a high degree of cooperation and coordination between the various agencies involved in disaster management at the time of a disaster. Since many a time, the Armed Forces are required to provide assistance in the relief operations, it is essential that they are also involved in disaster planning and preparation. The resources and capabilities at the disposal of the Armed Forces can be extremely useful in a crises situation and therefore, the district and state plans should incorporate the role expected of them so that the procedure for deploying them is smooth and quick. Their role in providing the emergency support functions such as communications, search and rescue operations, health and medical facilities, transportation, power, food and civil supplies, public works and engineering, information dissipation, and planning at the time of disasters is extremely beneficial.

Ex-service Personnel

Every year, nearly 60,000 defence personnel including approximately 3,000 officers join the ranks of ex-service personnel in our country. Majority of them retire at a young age between 32 to 50 years in order to enable a youthful profile of the Armed Forces. Their total number is estimated at about 5.5 million, out of which over 1.5 million are registered. They constitute a national asset - a vast human reserve that is disciplined and trained to exacting standards. This potential force needs to be brought into the national disaster management structure, and assigned an appropriate role in the overall response mechanism.

Public Sector Undertakings and Private Sector

A valuable role is played by various public sector undertakings (PSUs) and corporate groups in the aftermath of the recent major disasters. It has been visible in the Orissa Super Cyclone and the Gujarat Earthquake. PSUs are in a position to extend specialised support in their area of operation expeditiously, and this needs to be built into the disaster response plans, particularly at the state level. The role of the private sector is still an emerging one, and though a major role has been played by a number of corporate organisations in recent disaster situations, not much has been documented or is available in a consolidated form in this area. Thus, efforts could be made to harness this humane side of the corporate sector.

International Agencies

A number of international agencies including those of the United Nations' family have been playing an important role in disaster prevention, mitigation, response, recovery and rehabilitation. In the past couple of decades, international NGOs like Oxfam and Red Cross, as well as bilateral agencies like Department for International Development (DFID), United States Agency

for International Development (USAID), and many others have poured millions of dollars in disaster response and recovery. The Humanitarian Agencies of the UN Family, namely United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organisation (WHO), International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) together form the UN Disaster Management Teams in each country. These teams are engaged in prevention, mitigation, response and recovery activities. The role of UN agencies has been dealt with in detail in our Course (MPA-004) of this Programme. The role of various agencies in disaster management will also be discussed later in Unit 17 of this Course.

3.6 CONCLUSION

Disaster management needs a strong political commitment at the national and societal levels. A structure with clearly defined authority and appropriate budget to maintain an effective disaster plan is needed. Preparedness plans should be operational as well as comprehensive in scale, ideally outlined through a nominated national body. Disaster management planning is a sequential and continuous process. Good planning requires diagnosis, resource evaluation and feedback towards fulfilling the goal of disaster reduction. Since disaster management is wide in scope and numerous actors are involved in it, the need for a framework for coordination becomes essential.

There is a need to manage the situation at all the stages of disaster management. The agencies that play a role in disaster management include the government at the central, state and district levels, the community groups and community-based organisations, NGOs, and other agencies such as the PSUs. The armed forces, police and para-military forces, ex-service personnel, fire services, etc., also play a significant role in disaster management. Their services have to therefore be utilised to the maximum. This Unit highlighted these pertinent issues.

3.7 KEY CONCEPTS

Community Participation

The participation of community in disaster management is very significant, as it is not only the affected party but is also in the know of the problems vis-à-vis the vulnerability conditions and infrastructure facilities. The involvement and participation of the community in the disaster management process makes all target-oriented programmes change-specific and people-centred.

Comprehensive Disaster Management

Disaster management to be effective has to be a holistic exercise. It should start with disaster preparedness and mitigation, and move on to rescue and relief. The final stage in disaster management is rehabilitation and reconstruction, which should ultimately provide a framework that leads to total recovery and development of the disaster-affected area.

Framework for Coordination

There is a systematic structural framework of coordination for disaster management at the central, state and district levels. The organisational structure at these levels facilitates better coordination by removing overlapping and wastage to enable better cooperation for management of disasters.

3.8 REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Carter, W. Nick, 1991, *Disaster Management: A Disaster Manager's Handbook*, Asian Development Bank, Manila.

Gupta, Harsh K, 2003, *Disaster Management*, University Press, Hyderabad.

Sahni, Pardeep, Alka Dhameja and Uma Medury (Eds.), 2001, *Disaster Mitigation: Experiences and Reflections*, Prentice-Hall of India, New Delhi.

Human Development Report, 1999, World Bank, Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Sahni, Pardeep and Madhavi Malalgoda Ariyabandu (Eds.), 2003, *Disaster Risk Reduction in South Asia*, Prentice-Hall of India, New Delhi.

Medury, Uma, 2001, "Coping with Disasters: A Community-based Approach" in Pardeep Sahni et al. (Eds.), *Disaster Mitigation: Experiences and Reflections*, *op.cit.*

Medury, Uma and Alka Dhameja, 2005, "Rehabilitation of Cyclone Affected People" in Amita Singh (Ed.), *Administrative Reforms: Towards Sustainable Practices*, Sage, New Delhi.

3.9 ACTIVITIES

- 1) Try to interview any government official working in the field of disaster management in your area and find out about the government's disaster management plan for your locality/colony/town/city. Ascertain your own role as well as your neighbours' role within the broad plan and prepare an outline of a disaster management strategy based on this information.
- 2) Prepare a list of contacts (names, addresses and role) of as many disaster management agencies as you can in your neighbourhood/ village / city.