

PREFACE

Disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, tornados and hurricanes can happen with little or no warning signs and the damages they cause on human life and property can be devastating.

In these current times we are living in when disasters are becoming more and more frequent all over the world so, everyone has to be prepared and equipped in case a disaster should occur in their home town - so they may be capable enough to help themselves, their families and neighbors if such an event will happen.

India is another most affected by flood. After Bangladesh India is most vulnerable country for flood disaster. On an average, 30 million people are die every year due to Flood. Flood takes place every year in one or other state of country. In recent decade with the increasing of population and fast economic development, the adverse effect of flood is increasingly day by day. It is a well-known fact that Anand is a flood-prone district. As the result of annual floods, significant number of houses in the urban as well as in rural areas are being destroyed annually. In the floods that occurred in the last eight years, there is partial to total destruction, rural houses are destroyed making about thousands of people homeless. To a large extent, the patterns and causes of destruction seem to result from poor knowledge of advanced technology and wrong perceptions. There is no adequate awareness, in the flood-vulnerable communities through development projects undertaken by NGOs and the government, and dwelling houses in rural areas and urban slums are mostly owner-built without proper technical guidance. There is, thus a need of awareness which is appropriate for the Disaster Management Committee which draws up the plans. The Disaster Management Committee consists of elected representatives at the village level, local authorities; Government functionaries including doctors/paramedics of primary health centers located in the village, primary school teachers etc. The plan encompasses prevention, mitigation and preparedness measures. The Village Level Disaster Management committees involve the members of youth organizations like Nehru Yuvak Kendra and other non- governmental organizations as well as volunteers of able bodies from the village. The teams are provided basic training in evacuation, search and rescue, first aid trauma counseling etc. Every year the Disaster

Management Committee will review the disaster management plan. It would also generate awareness among the people in the village about dos' and don'ts for specific hazards depending on the vulnerability of the village. A large number of village level Disaster Management Committees and Disaster Management Teams have already been legislated.

Disaster preparedness is a state of being ready to react promptly and effectively in the event of emergency. Preparedness is key component in Disaster Management. It requires systematic and comprehensive planning. Community as an institution in itself is emerging as the most powerful entity in the entire mechanism of disaster management. In the event of actual disaster, the community, if well aware, damages will be reduced so the emphasis presently is to reach out the community at the grass root levels and hence community based disaster preparedness are being advocated.

There is greater emphasis on Social work intervention before disaster, during disasters and after disasters. Before Disasters social workers have involved in preparedness work and they can arrange awareness programmes for the vulnerable community. During disasters they can be involved in search, rescue, relief and evacuation work. After disasters they have involved in rehabilitation work like physical rehabilitation, psychological rehabilitation and social rehabilitation. Very little researches have been conducted in this area.

Thus, this study focuses on knowledge and preparedness of VDMC Members regarding community based disaster preparedness for flood.