Enhancing Resilience – A means of Disaster Risk Management

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Abstract:

"Resilience, in the context of disaster risk, is the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transfer and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner including, the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures & functions through risk management" (UNISDR Terminology 2017). In accordance with UNISDR-2015 – "Resilience is about anticipating, planning, and reducing disaster risk to effectively protect persons, communities and countries, their livelihoods, health, cultural heritage, socio-economic assets and ecosystem." Resilience can be enhanced by increasing technological capacity, infrastructure development, skills & education levels, knowledge & information etc, and emphasizing on innovation.

Solutions - Methods / Results - Findings

Disasters, natural disaster in particular, cannot be prevented. But its effect can be reduced by enhancing resilience. It is seen that the effects of disaster is less in developed countries in comparison to developing or under developed countries. Let us take the example of effect of earthquake. The developed countries like USA, Japan, New Zealand etc have witnessed very high intensity of earthquake quite frequently. Thanks to the efforts of the engineers in those countries, because of their updated codes & strict adherence to the codes during construction practice, the community is more resilient to earthquake. Contrary to this in case of developing and poor nations, even a moderate earthquake causes a huge human causality. For instance, in case of 1995 Kobe (Japan) earthquake measuring 7.2 in Richter scale about 6,425 people died, whereas in case of 2010 Haiti earthquake measuring 7.0 in Richter scale more than 316,000 people died. Thus, when we talk of resilience as a means of Disaster Risk Management, it involves not only psychological resilience of the community after the disaster, technical knowledge also plays a vital role. A country backed by adequate technical knowhow & infrastructural development will always lead to be more resilient.

Novelty - Value / Relevance to …

The topic will be dealt with certain case studies from India involving earthquake & cyclone. After the 1999 Odisha Super Cyclone & 2001 Gujarat Earthquake, lot of developments have taken place both in the technological & social sectors in India impairing resilience of the community. This yielded exemplary result & leading to drastic reduction of human causality from more than 10,000 in 1999 Odisha Super Cyclone to 43 in 2013 Phaline (another similar cyclone).

Keywords:

Resilience; Disaster; Disaster Risk Management;

Graphics: (please use the gray area below for representative graphics or graphical summary: select the gray area below and paste your graphics)