

# DISASTER AND CRISIS

PREPAREDNESS, MANAGEMENT AND RESILIENCE



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## DISASTER PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

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### Introduction

The term disaster owes its origin to the French word "Desastre" which is a combination of two words 'des' meaning bad and 'aster' meaning star. Thus the term refers to 'Bad or Evil star'. A disaster is a result from the combination of hazard, vulnerability and insufficient capacity or measures to reduce the potential chances of risk. A disaster happens when a hazard impacts on the vulnerable population and causes damage, casualties and disruption. Any hazard – flood, earthquake or cyclone which is a triggering event along with greater vulnerability (inadequate access to resources, sick and old, people, lack of awareness etc) would lead to disaster causing greater loss to life and property. For example; an earthquake in an uninhabited desert cannot be considered a disaster, no matter how strong the intensities produced. An earthquake is disastrous only when it affects people, their properties and activities. Thus, disaster occurs only when hazards and vulnerability meet. But it is also to be noted that with greater capacity of the individual/community and environment to face these disasters, the impact of a hazard reduces. Therefore, we need to understand the three major components namely hazard, vulnerability and capacity with suitable examples to have a basic understanding of disaster management. What is a Hazard? How is it classified? Hazard may be defined as "a dangerous condition or event, that threat or have the potential for causing injury to life or damage to property or the environment." The word 'hazard' owes its origin to the word 'hasard' in old French and 'az-zahr' in Arabic meaning 'chance' or 'luck'. Hazards can be grouped into two broad categories namely natural and manmade. Disasters can take place through deliberate actions of misguided human beings. Terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir are an example of man-made disasters.

### OBJECTIVES

1. To Know types of disasters
2. To find out the ways to minimize disaster management risk
3. To identify the role of Disaster Information Network(DIN)

### HYPOTHESES

- H1. There are five steps involved in disaster management