

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
COMMONWEALTH EXECUTIVE MASTER OF BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION/ PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMME
FINAL EXAMINATION – 2014
MCP2609– DISASTER MANAGEMENT
DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS



DATE: 21.12. 2014

TIME : 1.30 pm - 4.30 pm

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS: .

- **THIS PAPER CONTAINS TWO PARTS**
- **QUESTION NO.I IN PART 1 IS COMPULSORY AND IT CARRIES 34 MARKS .**
- **ANSWER ANY THREE (03) QUESTIONS FROM PART 2**
- **ALL TOGETHER ANSWER FOUR (04) QUESTIONS**

PART I

01. Read the following passage and answer all questions.

Disaster is a very common phenomenon to the human society. It has been experienced by them since time immemorial. Though its form may be varied, it has been a challenge for society across castes, creeds, communities and countries. The latest development which has been discovered in the World Disaster Reports recently is that the disasters have increased in frequency and intensity.

People are becoming more and more vulnerable to disasters of all types, including earthquake, floods, cyclones, landslides, droughts, accidents, plane crash, forests fire, etc.. With the technological advancements and progress, the force of disasters is also changing. When they occur they surpass all preparedness and eagerness of society and pose bigger challenge to them. This is quite true in case of both developed and developing countries. The floods in UK, France and heat wave in Europe, particularly in France in 2003, claimed more than 35000 lives. In the year 2006, America had to face bigger disaster in the form of tornadoes and other cyclones. They caused great loss of lives and property. All these are sufficient to prove that technological mechanisms are inadequate.

There is a direct correlation between higher human development and higher preparedness. The countries which have lesser human development are more vulnerable to risks of disasters and damage. Of all the disasters, floods are the most common followed by wind storms, droughts and earthquakes. But the drought is the deadliest disaster which accounts for 48 per cent of all deaths from natural disasters. The highest numbers of people die from disasters in Asia, India, China and Bangladesh are the worst affected countries by flood. Besides the natural disasters, transport accidents and technological disasters are also faced by the developing countries.

India, due to its geographical locations and geological formations, is a highly disaster prone country. Its long coastline, snow-clad high peaks, high mountain ranges, the perennial rivers in the north, all combine to add to this problem. India, which has only two per cent the total geographical area, has to support 16 per cent of total world population. Naturally, there is a tremendous pressure on the natural resources, which directly or indirectly lead to the occurrence of disasters, namely floods, droughts, landslides, earthquakes, etc.

Among all the disasters, tsunami is the latest phenomena, which was never seen or heard earlier. Due to having no adequate warning system, it devastated a large portion of coastal region of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh besides Andaman & Nicobar Islands and claimed a large number of innocent lives and destroyed property worth crores of rupees.

The direct or indirect impacts of disasters, either natural or technological, are always damage, destruction and death. They cause loss of life of both men and animals and properties as well. At the occurrence of disaster, everything goes haywire in view of the destruction of lifeline support systems, namely communication, power supply, water supply, drainage, etc. In this situation the health care and hospitals are also put under severe stress. Commercial and economic activities are badly affected. Life almost comes to a standstill.

The impact is almost same, in case of man-made disasters like riots. The worst affected group is the poor sections of society, who are daily wage-earners. They are the most vulnerable and they suffer the loss of their livelihood. The psychological traumas caused by the disasters are sometimes so severe that they span the whole of life of the victim. Besides other rehabilitation works, psychological rehabilitation is of great importance.

In some natural disasters like cyclones, tsunami and earthquake, it is the building structure which becomes the cause of destruction and earth. It is due to this fact that in building construction, building codes are not followed properly. In developing countries only 30 per cent of built infrastructures are constructed as per the building codes, while semi-permanent and other buildings do not follow the plan. Besides, the low quality of building material, liberal flouting and lack of master plan are some of the major constraints in this regard.

Rehabilitation is an integral part of disaster management. When disasters occur administrative measures are terribly inadequate and perhaps this is the most difficult period for a victim. The role of administration does not end with end of disasters. In fact its effort and commitment get more complex. It requires proper coordination among various agencies. In this context it is very important to note that disasters are non-routine events that require non-routine response. Government cannot rely on normal procedures to implement appropriate responses- the rescue teams require learning special skills, technologies and attitudes in dealing with disasters.

Disaster Management has assumed great importance in recent times. To handle the situation efficiently, we need to be well-equipped with latest technologies. It cannot avert the situation, but can mitigate its impacts.

- (i) List down major types of disasters mentioned in the paragraph (3 marks)
 - (ii) Identify the reasons why India become highly vulnerable to disasters (5 marks)
 - (iii) "The countries which have lesser development are more vulnerable to risks of disasters and damage" Comment on the above statement in relation to Sri Lanka situation (6 marks)
 - (iv) "The role of administration does not end with end of disasters" Explain with giving reasons. (5 marks)
 - (v) What are the direct impacts and in-direct impacts of disasters? (4 marks)
 - (vi) In the case of rehabilitation why psychological rehabilitation is of great importance? (5 marks)
 - (vii) Identify disaster mitigation activities required to be implemented based on the given paragraph. (6 marks)
- (Total -34 marks)

PART – 2

02.

- (i) Distinguish the terms given below with examples.
 - (a) Hazard and Disaster
 - (b) Preparedness and Mitigation
 - (c) Relief and Recovery
 - (d) Incident and Calamity (8 marks)
- (ii) Explain the pro active approach of disaster management with examples (6 marks)
- (iii) Discuss the importance of modern technology for risk communication. (8 marks)

03.

- (i) Identify major functional roles of following Govt. Units.
 (a) National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM)
 (b) Disaster Management Centre (DMC)
 (c) Divisional Disaster Management Committee (6 marks)
- (ii) Discuss the importance of Hazard Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment(HVCA) in relation to disaster preparedness planning. (8 marks)
- (iii) Community participation is essential in disaster risk reduction.
 Discuss the above with examples giving special reference to Sri Lanka (8 marks)

04.

- (i) What are the functions of an Emergency Operation Centre (EOC)? (6 marks)
- (ii) Explain with examples the important phases of an emergency response planning (8 marks)
- (iii) List the basic functional areas of ICS – Incident Command System and discuss the potentiality of ICS as emergency response mechanism in Sri Lanka. (8 marks)

05

- (i) What is meant by the terms climate, weather and climate change? (6 marks)
- (ii) Identify the climate change adaptation measures needed to be implemented by our country (8 marks)
- (iii) What is a Business Continuity Plan? Explain the purpose of implementing Business Continuity Plan in an organization. (8 marks)

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