

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF NATURAL DISASTERS (FLOODS): AN ANALYSIS OF SOME INDIAN EXPERIENCES

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INTRODUCTION

Analysis of disaster as a development issue, requiring examination of long term policies, emergent community dynamics and identification of correctives; has sought to replace the on-going emphasis on relief; with a developmental perspective and promotive interventions. In order to understand the comprehensive implication of this shift, the disaster management theories are being reexamined through the macro and micro level studies.

The post disaster response requires a lot more professionalism, to manage the forces, that are activated. The convergence of organizations and agencies trying to reach out to the disaster victims, presents another problem. How do these outside initiatives get synchronised and coordinated, among themselves and with the local initiatives? The organic unity in decision making to be achieved through effective overall coordination demands unity of purpose and continuity in action at various levels of operations in post disaster situation.

The frequency and severity of floods is growing faster and accounts for about 30 per cent of world disasters. The

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