

Disaster and Emergency Management: Mythology to Modern Day Practices

Dr. D. Anbugeetha, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Business Administration, Thiagarajar College, Madurai
Ms. B. Nandhini, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Business Administration, Thiagarajar College, Madurai

Abstract

Humanity has long required explaining and understanding why environmental procedures and spectacles contribute to and interfering with development processes, frequently through the terms and concepts of 'vulnerability' and 'resilience'. Many confirmed ideas and methods from development and disaster risk discount works are not fully considered by modern climate change work. This describes the importance of older susceptibility and elasticity research for modern inquiries involving climate change, telling ways forward without corrective covers. Vulnerability and resilience as processes are discovered alongside analyses of the post-disaster 'return to normal' example. The importance of learning from already existing literature and experience is established for ensuring that complete exposure and resilience processes are accounted for by placing climate change within other modern development concerns.

Keywords: *Humanity, Vulnerability, Susceptibility, Modern Development, Post-Disaster*

Introduction

Excessive disasters have always taken place all throughout history causing huge loss of life. Most were natural disasters, although some were caused by human interference or carelessness, as today many floods and landslides are caused by over-cutting of forests high up in the mountains. It is a fact that in ancient times there was more and greater volcanic activity than before the 20th century, so earthquakes, floods and tsunamis were more frequent until then. Sad to say it seems that since the commencement of the last century earthquakes and tsunamis are on the rise again, as well as more human caused disasters produced by human interference, like the recent earthquakes in Sichuan were caused by the construction of the Chinese huge and heavy Three Gorges Dam.

The word “disaster” was originated from the Greek root words “dus=bad” and “aster=star” which means calamity due to position of a planet or a star. Then the word evolved as “disastro” in Italian, “desastre” in French and then finally the word “disaster” evolved. Disasters cannot be prohibited. However, modern technology can be used to be prepared and be alert so as to safeguard one from various disasters and damages. A well-defined plan, when properly prearranged and performed, may help one to challenge or accomplish disasters efficiently.

According to World Health Organization elaborates disaster as an incident that create damage , environmental disturbance, loss of human life, weakening of health & health services on a scale, adequate to permit an extraordinary response from outside the affected community or area. “Also as per American Red Cross (ARC), “A disaster can be defined as an incidence either nature or manmade that causes human suffering & creates human needs that victims cannot improve without help.” Thus it can be said that disaster management deals with either managing the followed disasters or avoiding them. It can be both natural and man-made disasters. Being prepared for it in improvement helps or supports the society in transformation and managing up with the disaster.

Mythology

According to some Oceanographers & Geologists, about 4000 years back, there was a bridge connecting Ireland and England. But now the map doesn't show any traces of such a bridge. It has now believed to be submerged under the waters. One of our greatest holy books “Ramayana” tells us about the bridge between India & Srilanka made by Lord Rama and others to rescue Devi Sita. But now this continental shelf lies under the water. The present continental shelf perhaps defines the advantage of the oceans as they industrialized during the post-flood icy peak. With the ice melt and the draining or evaporation of inland basis, the seas rose, with minor fluctuations, to their present level.

In 1202 AD, an overwhelming huge earthquake hit an area from Egypt to Syria, where the epicenter was. It is said to have caused 1.1 million deaths. This was one of the largest earthquakes recorded in the history. Similarly, the Damghan Earthquake was an earthquake of amount 7.9 that struck a 200-mile (320 km) stretch of Iran on 22 December, 856 A.D. The earthquake's epicenter was said to be straight below the city of Damghan, which was then the capital of Iran. It caused about 200,000 deaths, making it the fifth deadliest earthquake in recorded history. The earthquake was caused by the Alpide earthquake belt, a name for the geologic force that created a elevation range named the Alpide belt, which is among the most seismically active areas on earth. Likewise there were many such examples of earthquakes in the ancient period.

The Epidemic of Justinian was a contagion that distressed the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine Empire), including its capital Constantinople, in the years 541–542 AD. The most normally acknowledged cause of the epidemic is bubonic plague, which later became notorious for either causing, or for causal to, the Black Death of the 14th century. The plagues' social and cultural influence during this period is similar to that of the Black Death. In the views of 6th century Western historians, it was nearly worldwide in possibility, arresting central and south Asia, North Africa and Arabia, and Europe as far north as Denmark and as far west as Ireland. Until about 750, the epidemic would return with each generation throughout the Mediterranean basin. The wave of disaster would also have a major influence on the future course of European history. Contemporary historians named this epidemic event after the Eastern Roman Emperor Justinian I, who was in power at the time. He constricted the disaster, but was one of a limited number of people lived. The death toll from this series of epidemics was an implausible 40 to 100 million.

The 79 AD explosion of Mount Vesuvius, and the following devastation of Pompeii and Herculaneum, repeats us of the awesome power of this active volcano. In fact, Vesuvius may be the most hazardous volcano on Earth. There are more people living in its neighborhood than any other active volcano. Furthermore, it is most positively going to explode again. When Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD, it cautioned the people with an earthquake, which was unnoticed. The earthquake was later followed by the expulsion of volcanic remains and the appearance of a

threatening cloud over the mountain. Pompeii was only 5 miles from the volcano; Herculaneum was even earlier. The people of these towns died as one might expect victims of a volcano to die; they choked, scorched and were next covered in volcanic remains and run off. What makes this antique natural disaster so exciting is the indication we have of it. For more than 1500 years, Pompeii lay suppressed in Italy. It was found when inhabitants were cleaning up after another major explosion, in 1631 AD. It was not totally exposed until the 20th century. Then, people learned all too well the horrifying destiny that had been happen its olden inhabitants. The torture of their deaths has been commemorated in covering. Because their bodies decayed away long ago, while entombed in volcanic rock, holes, like those found in fossils, were left late. These were filled with plaster and what came out were near-perfect sculptures of the people who died in Pompeii, as they had died. There were thousands of victims. Today, there could be millions.

Before this time the Sahara was no desert, but well-watered by much rain, making it a place to increase cattle, even producing heavy corrosion on the limestone Sphinx and pyramids. The Indus valley's Harrapan civilisation, Gonur & Margush in Turkmenistan, many cities in the Sahel, Arabia, Israel, and Mesopotamia used to be very different than today; prosperous, well-watered, looking green and green! But then the rains virtually stopped turning them into the deserts they are today, its cities uncontrolled, isolated, & scattered over. "In a short period of time, the entire world of the Bronze Age crushed," says Israel Finkelstein, an archaeologist at the Institute of Archaeology at Tel Aviv University, who was one of the lead scientists in a pollen subdivisions study. "The Hittite Empire, Egypt of the pharaohs, the Mycenaean culture in Greece, and the copper-producing kingdom located on the island of Cyprus, the great trade emporium of Ugarit on the Syrian coast, and the Canaanite city—states under Egyptian hegemony—all vanished and only after a while were substituted by the regional kingdoms of the Iron Age, including Israel and Judah." Wars, epidemic, and sudden natural disasters have all been assumed as imaginable reasons, but now, thanks to refined pollen-sampling techniques and advances in radiocarbon dating, Finkelstein and his generations believe they know the primary culprit: drought, or rather a series of severe droughts over a 150-year period from 1250 BC to about 1100 BC.

When the actual Ice Age came to an end due to actual climate alteration as the oceans ventilated down to the current day level, the enormous kilometers thick ice caps of the North and on the mountain ranges initiated to melt and the rains narrowed. Results were devastating! Entire low lying land areas were flooded in sea water, and islands like Ireland and England shrunk down to their present size. The entire area between Norway, Denmark, Holland, England, once called Doggerland, was submerged and became the North Sea! Taiwan and China were disconnected while before they were one continent.

And yet another famous flood happened in Western India. A famous city called Dwarka named as the city of Krishna, was 100 KM inland, yet was swallowed by the waves as recorded by Arjuna, one of his disciples, in the Mahabharata, around 1500 BC. Leftovers of the city have been found underwater. The importance of the discovery of Dwaraka lies not just in providing archaeological indication needed for verifying the traditional account of the submergence of Dwaraka but also incidentally protective the date of the Mahabharata. Pottery found at the archaeological site bears similarity to pottery found at another site which dates to around 1500 BC. Furthermore, the discovery may shed light on other cities in ancient India which may have disappeared by submerging, such as Indraprastha and Pataliputra, Kumari Kandam, and Rama's Bridge between Lanka and India! The substance of these modern findings are recognized to S.R. Rao, previously of the Archaeological Survey of India, but severely analyzed by the Indian Far Left.

The 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake happened at 00:58:53 UTC on 26 December with the epicenter off the west coast of Sumatra, Indonesia. The shock had a moment magnitude of 9.1–9.3 and a maximum intensity of IX (Violent). The sea mega was caused when the Indian Plate was sub ducted by the Burma Plate and activated a sequence of overwhelming tsunamis along the coasts of most landmasses bordering the Indian Ocean, killing 230,000–280,000 people in 14 countries, and overwhelming coastal communities with waves up to 30 meters (100 ft) high. It was one of the histories. Countries like Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Indonesia were faced its hardest time in the history.

It is the third-largest earthquake ever recorded on a seismograph and had the longest duration of questioning ever experimental, between 8.3 and 10 minutes. It caused the entire planet to vibrate as much as 1 centimeter (0.4 inches) and triggered other earthquakes in Alaska. Its epicenter was between Simulate and mainland Indonesia. The dilemma of the affected people and countries prompted a worldwide humanitarian response. In all, the worldwide community contributed more than US\$14 billion (2004) in caring aid. The occasion is known by the scientific community as the Sumatra–Andaman earthquake. The subsequent tsunami was given various names, comprising the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, South Asian tsunami, Indonesian tsunami, the Christmas tsunami, and the Boxing Day tsunami.

Managing Disasters

However, disasters can be undertaken and accomplished by resounding out the various stages of disasters efficiently. The various phases of disaster management, namely: disaster preparedness, impact, response, recovery and mitigation.

- Preparedness- It represents the activities previous to a disaster. For e.g. Preparedness plans, emergency exercises, training, warning systems.
- Response- It represents the activities during a disaster. For e.g. Public warning system, emergency operations, search and rescue.
- Recovery- It represents the activities following a disaster. For e.g. temporary housing, claims & grants processing, long-term medical care & counseling.
- Mitigation- It represents the activities that reduce the effects of disasters. For e.g. building codes & zoning, vulnerability analyses, public education.

Disasters or disasters can't be exactly forecast. Modern technologies have made it possible to predict few disasters to some extent. Even though estimates are conceivable,

improving and justifying the disasters are really stimulating. However, if preparations are well made and circumstances are well answered, managing up with it becomes even easier.

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