

A CASE STUDY:

Disaster management in India: An assessment

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SUMMARY

Disasters are events that disrupt the normal functioning of the economy and society on a large scale. Natural, technological, and willful sources of disasters all cause drastic losses of life and property. A variety of terms are used in the fields of emergency and disaster management. Over time, a fairly standard set of definitions has emerged, as reflected in a series of reports from the National Research Council and other groups. Emergencies, disasters, and catastrophes, for example, are distinct events with important differentiating characteristics. This report does not specifically consider “emergencies”—a term that connotes “everyday” events that can be handled within the normal operational limits of public safety agencies—nor does it distinguish between disasters and larger-scale events that might be called catastrophes, even though it is likely that the value of IT capabilities increases as the complexity and scale of communication problems become greater. Throughout this report, the term “disaster” can be read as “disaster and catastrophe.” Disaster management occupies an important place in this country’s policy framework as it is the poor and the under-privileged who are worst affected on account of calamities/disasters. One of the essential characteristics of disasters is their complexity. Although disasters may have relatively discrete origins, their effects propagate and interact in ways that intensify the complexities and uncertainties of dealing with them effectively. One major result is that disasters must be responded to in an environment that can be overwhelming, unfamiliar, and disorienting. Therefore, this paper makes an attempt to assess the Disaster management system in India.

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Flood,
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