CHAPTER- 5
PREPAREDNESS PLAN

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5.1 Introduction

Disaster causes sudden disruption to the normal life of society and causes damage to the properties and lives to such an extent that normal social and economic mechanism available to the society get disturbed. Those who are unaware and unprepared generally get affected more due to their lack of knowledge and physiological pressure. Hitherto, the approach towards coping with the effects of disasters has been post-disaster management, involving many problems related to law and order, evacuation, communications, search and rescue, fire-fighting, medical and psychiatric assistance, provisions of relief and shelters etc. After initial trauma next phase starts with long-term reconstruction planning which takes about 5 to 6 years to normalize the life-style in a particular area.

In view of these problems the district administration, has prepared a comprehensive plan. The plan basically detailed out preparedness strategy under which communities and district authorities would be prepared so that level of destruction and unnecessarily delay in relief and response can be reduced. The preparedness measures include setting up disaster relief machinery, formulation of community preparedness plans, training to the specific groups and earmarking funds for relief operations (UNDRO, 2004).

5.2 Measuring Community Preparedness

Generally community preparedness depends upon following four major components (Cottrell et al- 2001):

- Population characteristics (number of children, squatters settlement etc)
- Building and critical infrastructure such as road, drinking water, communication network, health and sanitation
- Physical environment
- Social environment (social groups)

In view of these components, risk assessment study has been conducted and identified that Central District is densely built and consists of a high number of urban population. Any major earthquake or fire/chemical explosion can affect district very badly. Although many steps have been taken by the district but still a high degree of awareness and training is required to lay down an organization system within communities.
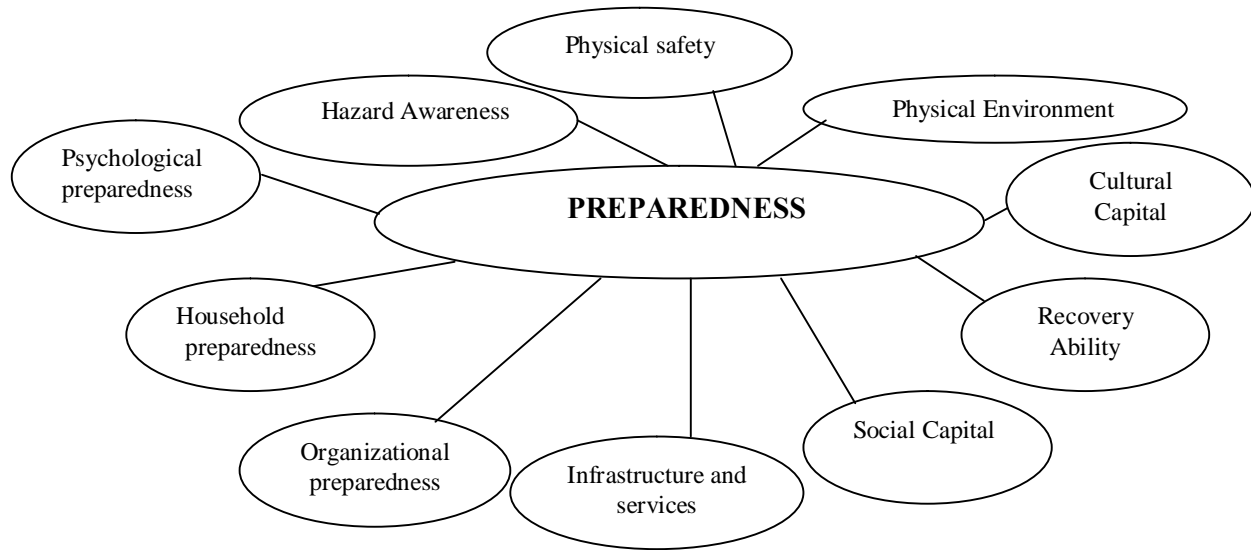
5.3 Components of Preparedness Plan

Looking at the complexity of repose mechanism during disasters two sets of components have been studied to prepare this plan

5.3.1 Components of Community Preparedness Plan

Several previous attempts have been made by researchers to measure community preparedness within various indicators. Some of the important components of measuring preparedness are given below (refer fig. 5.1).

- **Physical Safety** i.e. how safe community members are in view of the physical danger from these hazards? The parameters essentially tries to measure how effective structural mitigation measures are e.g. resistance of building structures for earthquakes, availability of safe shelters and its capacity etc.

- **Hazard awareness i.**e. awareness level about hazards which have a reasonably higher probability of occurrence

- **Organization preparedness** i.e. how far the community is organized to face disaster i.e. existence of committee at community level, task forces, volunteers of civil defence, other local volunteers, trained disaster management teams and community disaster management plan etc

- **Infrastructure and services** which tries to measure current state of these services and how well restoring critical services as and when disruptions occur

- **Recovery ability** i.e. ability of the community members to recover from the impact of the hazard

- **Physical environment** i.e. state of environment to face hazards e.g. Condition of sub-surface aquifers and vegetation etc

- **Social capital** i.e. degree to which social networking and cooperation exists among community members

- **Psychological preparedness** i.e. how safe and prepared community members feel in view of these hazards

- **Cultural capital** i.e. cultural richness such as existence, recognition and use of traditional mechanism to cope with such disasters

- **Household preparedness** i.e. preparedness at a house hold members

Fig 5.1: Components of Community Preparedness

5.3.2 Components of Administrative Preparedness

Administrative preparedness is another very important issue which helps in reducing relief and response time in a disaster situation. Preparedness plan is based on components given below:

1. Operation readiness of facilities, equipments and stores in advance
2. Maintaining response inventory of equipments and materials required for response
3. Assignment of responsibilities to agencies and organizations
4. Management training of crisis group members, desk officers and officers of respective departments likely to be assigned management duties
5. Specialized trainings of district disaster committee members, officials, community organizations through seminars and workshop
6. Training of taskforces
7. Raising community awareness
8. Improving response mechanism through conducting practice drills etc
9. Annual updating of District and community level plans

5.4 Preparedness Plan

Base on above-mentioned components following arrangements needs to be maintained at district level preparedness plan.

5.4.1 Establishment of Emergency Operation Centre (EOC):

To ensure coordination at district headquarter among community organizations, district level organizations and State government during preparedness and response phase, EOC has to play an important role. The Officer-in-charge of the district EOC is invariably the District Project Officer who works under the guidance and supervision of the ADM(Central). Directing the operations at the affected site, the need for coordination at the district headquarter and the need for interaction with the state government to meet the conflicting demand at the time of disaster is the responsibility of the District Magistrate and his team. District EOC helps District Commissioner and his team to meet these conflicting demands. Keeping this in view, District Magistrate has established an EOC at district level. The EOC would be responsible to facilitate following activities.

(a)Activities of EOC

1. To ensure that warning and communication systems are in working conditions
2. Collection and compilation of district level information related to hazards, resources, trained manpower etc.
3. Conducting district, sub-division and community level mock drills
4. Networking and coordination with community, district and state level departments
5. Monitoring and evaluation of community and inter-intra organization level disaster management plans
6. Develop a status report of preparedness and mitigation activities under the plan
7. Allocation of tasks to the different resource organizations and decisions making related to resource management
8. Reviewing and updating response strategy
9. Supply of information to the state government

(b)Facilities with EOC

Presently, the emergency operation centre is operating in 24/7 mode well-equipped with computer, wireless and telephone facilities. In future EOC would include a well-designed control room with workstation, hotlines and intercoms. **Following other facilities shall be made available within the EOC:**

1. A databank of resources, action plans, district disaster management plan, community preparedness plan would be maintained at EOC level
2. Maps indicating vulnerable areas, identified shelters, communication link system with state government and inter and intra district departments would be strengthened
3. Inventory of manpower resources with address, telephone numbers of key contact persons has been maintained
4. EOC has to identity desk arrangements during disaster situations
5. Frequently required important phone numbers would be displayed on the walls so that they can be referred, all other phones and addresses would be kept under a easy-retrieval and cross-referring system

6. Retrofitting of building shall be done so that it can be operational during disaster also.
7. EOC shall be operational 24 hours with the help of police, fire and home guard department

lTransport Facility

A vehicle has been assigned to the EOC (Central) during normal times and additional vehicle may also be hired during the emergency.

(d) EOC Staffing

To make EOC operational during and post disaster situation, there would be a need of keeping adequate staff. There is a need of regular staff, staff-on requirement and staff-on disaster duty. Therefore, trained Civil Defence volunteers are working 24 hours on shift basis for managing the communication and transportation of rescue equipments in EOC during any disaster. More volunteers may also be hired for supporting in rescue and relief operation during emergencies. Staff on disaster duty can be appointed by District Magistrate. This staff can be drawn from the various government departments.

(e) Desk arrangement

In case of emergency, DM and other team members would be present round the clock in the EOC. Therefore, senior officers have been appointed in the capacity of desk officers for the coordination of following emergency response functions:

Table 5.1 List of ESF and desk officers

Nos.	ESFs Function	Nodal Officers
1	Communication	MTNL
2	Evacuation	Delhi Police
3	Search and Rescue	Delhi Fire Service
4	Law & Order	Delhi Police
5	Medical Response and Trauma Counseling	Directorate of Health Services-CDMO
6	Water Supply	Delhi Jal Board
7	Relief (Food and Shelter)	Department of Food and Civil Supplies
8	Equipment Support, debris and road clearance	SDMC, NDMC
9	Help lines, warning dissemination	Department of Revenue
10	Electricity	B.S.E.S.
11	Transport	Transport Department

5.4.2 Reliable Communication Systems

During emergency communication plays a very important role. Although Delhi being a capital city has already registered a phenomenal growth but yet incase of disaster like earthquakes witnessed collapse of general communication system which delays flow of information from the disaster site and consequently resulting delays in relief operations. Therefore, a reliable communication is also one of a very important action. Till now TETRA wireless communication system has been found most suitable to rely upon. But this plan also seeks for installation of satellite phones and HAM equipments in the EOC for strengthened communication system in the district. Plan also advocates training some volunteers of home guards etc in HAM operations.

5.4.3 Preparation of a Response Plan

One of the important tasks during preparedness phase is formulation of a response plan. It basically helps in quick mobilization of manpower, resources and in performing various duties. The response plan explains a hierarchal system of emergency response functions in-term of tasks and assigned responsibilities to different agencies. It also lays down an Incident Response System under the directions of District Magistrate of the district. This whole exercise may help to prevent confusions during the response phase and result in prompt and coordinated response. Activation of trigger mechanism, functioning of EOC and Response of Emergency Support Functions can be tested every year to resolve perplexity occurring during actual scenario. Broad details of response plan as been included in the chapter 8 of the District Disaster Management Plan (Central).

5.4.4 Media Management

Media Management is one of the core issues related to disaster management. Usually, in case of disaster, hundreds of media crew reaches the site even before the outside disaster management agencies and they assess the situation. The reports they broadcast on air are contradicting and often create panic. In order to control the situation certain arrangements shall be made by the District Authority. As a disaster is noticed the Incident Commander shall do the following measures to control the media:

1. Alongwith information dissemination to the vertical and horizontal agencies, press people shall also be called and given preliminary data based on assessment. This shall reduce the guesswork of the media people.
2. Only the state owned electronic, print media should be taken to the site. More people mean more confusion and hazard in disaster management.
3. In every one hour or so the Incident commander shall give press release in order to control false information to the outside world.
4. No media shall be allowed to air or print pictures of dead bodies with worst condition. There is a tendency to do so by the media to make sensitivity of the situation.

In a disaster situation, only the incident commander or his assignee in district level will communicate with the media and provide brief. No other parallel agency or ESF

or voluntary agency involved in the disaster management shall give any sort of press briefings. As per Section 67 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 DDMA (Central), may recommend to the Government to give direction to any authority or person in control of media agency, to carry any warning or advisories regarding threatening disaster situation or disaster, and the said media agency shall comply with such directions.