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Highlights

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Message

Dear Readers,

I wish you a very happy and prosperous new year. Let us welcome this year with resolutions and promises to continue our relentless efforts towards building a disaster resilient country. NIDM forayed into the arena of environmental health in disasters and emergencies by conducting a training workshop on the theme with Department of community medicine, Vardhaman Mahavir Medical College and Safdarjung hospital, New Delhi. Subsequently NIDM marched towards its mandate of building capacity for the States by addressing the demand from the State of Karnataka to build capacity of its functionaries on “Post Disaster Needs Assessment” through Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority. It was followed by another training programme on “Flood and Drought Risk management “in collaboration with National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee. The programme was conducted at Utrakhand. The month ended with a Training of trainer’s course on “Incident response system for Operations section chief and logistics” at New Delhi. Our readers will be happy to know that the construction of our campuses at Rohini and Vijaywada are progressing well. The structural work of Rohini campus is almost complete. This issue of Tidings also carries the thematic views shared by our faculty, Ajinder Walia on “Gender and Disaster Management”. The section on thematic views outlines that gender is not a simple quantitatively measured background characteristic; rather it is a fundamental concept in the centre of disaster analysis. Failure to acknowledge this not only runs the risk of overlooking obvious and more subtle needs and priorities that can make all the difference between life and death but can also diminish the efficiency of disaster responses. The section ends on a note that, disasters can be used as a window of opportunity to empower women in such a way that the process of empowerment can positively impact the lives of women and men even in non disaster times. Conversely, mainstreaming the contributions of women and recognizing their capacities in non disaster times can also help in viewing women as effective contributors to the process of disaster management. I would request our readers to implement this learning in our work and lives by engendering and adopting a gender sensitive approach to the process of managing disasters.



(Sanjeev Kumar Jindal)

Training Programmes & Workshops

National Training Workshop on “Environmental Health in Disasters & Emergencies”

January 15-17, 2019 New Delhi

NIDM conducted a National Training Workshop on “Environmental Health in Disasters & Emergencies” in collaboration with the Department of Community Medicine, Vardhman Mahavir Medical College & Safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi on 15-17 January, 2019. A total number of 42 officials attended this programme. The programme aimed at providing an overview of environmental health priorities in disasters and emergencies. It also focussed on the relevance of environmental health infrastructure preparedness and practices for disaster management and introduced the concepts of Environmental Health Risk Assessment and mitigation strategies in the pre, during and post disaster phases. The programme finally aimed to develop skills amongst the participants to develop disaster preparedness plan.



Training Programme on “Post Disaster Needs Assessment”

January 21-23, 2019 New Delhi

A training programme on “Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)” was conducted by NIDM at the request of Government of Karnataka through Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority (KASDMA). The programme was conducted on January 21-23, 2019 at Hotel Capitol, Bengaluru. About 92 participants from various line departments such as Agriculture, PWD, PHED, Civil Defence, Horticulture and Education attended the programme. The programme was inaugurated by Shri B. H. Anil Kumar, Addl. Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka. The objective of the PDNA tools was to establish a standardized mechanism based on scientific approach for conducting post disaster needs assessment for recovery and reconstruction. The newly developed tools are based on the existing damage assessment system in India and are based on an internationally-accepted methodology which has been used worldwide and adopted by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), the European Union (EU) and the World Bank (WB).



National Level Training Programme on “Flood & Drought Risk Management”

January 21-25, 2019 New Delhi

NIDM conducted a National Level Training Programme on “Flood & Drought Risk Management” in collaboration with National Institute of Hydrology (NIH) Roorkee at Uttarakhand on 21-25 January, 2019. The programme provided an overview of approaches & pathways of climate change scenario in flood & drought in India. It focused on enhancing understanding about the nature, extent of the threats and counter measures to combat the adverse impact of floods and droughts. The programme advocated the implementation of various structural and non-structural measures for preparedness and mitigation during flood & drought. The Programme aimed at developing administrative capabilities to plan and implement disaster resilience for a safe national sustainable development.



Other Activities

The progress of Infrastructure development of new campus of NIDM at Rohini, New Delhi

DDA had allotted 2.87 hect. Land at plot no. 15, Block B, Sector 29 Rohini for setting up the campus of NIDM. MHA had sanctioned Rs. 47.7 crore for setting up the campus of NIDM and conveyed the approval to carry out the work through NBCC (India) Limited. The physical progress of infrastructure development of new campus of NIDM AT Rohini, New Delhi up to 31.01.2019 as follows:



- a) Administrative Block- Structure work completed.
- b) Hostel Block- Structure work completed.
- c) Residence Type II, Type III, Type IV & V, Type VI structure completed.
- d) Finishing work, Sewerage work, Road work and Fire Fighting work etc. is in progress.

The monitoring committee comprising of officials from NIDM and an Independent member is monitoring the physical progress as well as quality of the construction of NIDM campus.



The progress of Infrastructure development of NIDM Southern campus at Andhra Pradesh

Government of Andhra Pradesh (AP) had allotted 10 acre lands at Kondapovalluru Village Gannavaram Mandal Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh for setting up the NIDM Southern Campus. MHA had sanctioned Rs. 36.76 crore for setting up the campus of NIDM and conveyed the approval to carry out the work through NBCC. The Joint Inspection Team comprising officials from NIDM, NBCC and an independent member is monitoring the physical progress as well as quality of the construction of NIDM campus. The physical progress of the work as on 31.01.2019 was as follows:

- a) Administrative Block: RCC of columns completed upto basement slab RCC of retaining wall is completed. Kota stone water proofing on retaining wall face in progress.
- b) Hostel: RCC Work of Ground floor columns upto slab beam bottom is completed. RCC of 50% GF slab is complete and for remaining 50%, Shuttering and reinforcement cutting & bending in progress.
- c) Residents Type- III, Type-IV, Type- V- Shuttering and reinforcement of first floor is in progress.
- d) First Aid Centre & Gym- RCC work of ground floor is completed.
- e) Boundary Wall: Masonry work in progress.



The Joint Inspection Team comprising from NIDM, NBCC and an independent member is monitoring the physical progress as well as quality of construction of the campus.



Thematic Views

GENDER & DISASTER

- by Ajinder Walia

In the recent years, the upsurge of knowledge and research on 'Gender and Disaster', has highlighted the way in which a significant proportion of disaster planning, management and research overlooks gender, despite recognition within the social sciences that there exists a 'gendered dimension' to the responses to any social event. Gender is not a simple quantitatively measured background characteristic; rather it is a fundamental concept in the centre of disaster analysis. Failure to acknowledge this not only runs the risk of overlooking obvious and more subtle needs and priorities that can make all the difference between life and death, but can also diminish the efficiency of disaster responses.

Disasters and their aftermaths mirror the pre existing social inequalities of caste, class, ethnicity, sexualities, disability and age with gender cutting across in all of them. In wake of a disaster, gender relations and issues are generally not considered to be relevant or are treated as something which is not vital. The differential impact of disasters on men/boys and women/girls and transgender community is not taken into account while responding to the disaster. Resource distribution in a post disaster scenario, which are intended for the entire population of a disaster-affected area, rely on the existing structures of distribution that reflect the patriarchal structure of society, and hence women/girls are marginalized in their access to such resources. Meanwhile, the potential contributions that women can offer to disaster risk reduction around the world are often overlooked and their leadership in building community resilience to disasters is hardly highlighted. This is reflected in the lack of a platform for women in formal disaster management organizations for sharing their needs, experiences and priorities. Gender stereotypes also places stress on men to assume greater responsibilities on account of gendered norms and expectations. Hence, the differential needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of men/boys and women/girls need to be taken into account while designing any intervention in the pre as well as post disaster scenario.

For the past one decade, research on gender dimensions of disasters, has pointed out the need for looking into the root causes of gender based vulnerabilities of women and men, especially of women, because they are more disadvantaged due to patriarchal social structures, which affects them adversely in both development and disaster contexts. Research has also pointed out the significant gap in integrating gender perspectives in planning, implementation and evaluation of the disaster management processes. Mainstreaming gender in disaster management allows for a more accurate understanding of the post disaster scenario ensuring that the disaster survivors are acknowledged, their needs and capacities are taken into account, thereby, facilitating the design of more appropriate and effective disaster response and mitigation practices. The attention has also been drawn to the silence on women's capacities and resourcefulness beyond her traditional role in the domestic domain. It is now recognized that the shift from the concept of vulnerability of women,

to the causes which make women vulnerable and focus on their capacities offers opportunities to integrate gender perspectives in disaster management policies and practices at both macro and micro levels.

Disaster management strategies must address gender concerns at all stages; prevention, mitigation and response, and at all levels; international, national, and local. Decision making structures, particularly in times of crisis such as disaster tend to be overwhelmingly male. As such, gender concerns are often overlooked. It is important therefore that women's involvement is institutionalized at all levels, both legal and policy; in national mechanisms for disaster management, through to local disaster management and village committees. This will facilitate the reflection of specific needs of men and women in priority setting, provision of services, planning and resource mobilization. Every policy and its subsequent intervention needs to be relooked from a gender lens. The integration of gender in policy frameworks and strategy at various levels must be prioritized. The gendered impact of such policies and interventions should be assessed on men and women and a genders sensitive approach should be adopted. However, the way that these strategies are put into practice at the local level is the most important, as this will have the greatest impact on engendering the process of disaster management. Moreover, the capacities of women should be recognized and utilized in all phases to mainstream them in the process of management. Disasters can be used as a window of opportunity to empower women in such a way that the process of empowerment can positively impact the lives of women and men even in non disaster times. Conversely, mainstreaming the contributions of women and recognizing their capacities in non disaster times can also help in viewing women as effective contributors to the process of disaster management.

Details of Training Programmes

Training Programme organized in month of January, 2019					
S.N	Name of Program	Venue	Dates	Faculty	No of Participants
1.	Environmental-Health in Disasters and Emergencies	VMMC	15-17 Jan	Anil Kumar Gupta	42
2.	Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)	NIDM Southern Campus (Karnataka)	21-23 Jan	Santosh Kumar Shekher Chaturvedi	92
3.	Flood and Drought Risk Management	NIH	21-25 Jan	A D Kaushik	42
4.	Incident Response System (IRS): Operations Section Chief and Logistic Section Chief	NIDM New Delhi	28 Jan-1 Feb	Santosh Kumar	23



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We welcome comments / responses / articles from readers of our Newsletter

NIDM Newsletter – Vol. XXVII, No 1, January, 2019

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