

REVIEW THE POLITICS OF NATURAL DISASTER: GOVERNMENT'S LEGITIMATE STRATEGY IN THE WAKE OF MAJOR DISASTER

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ABSTRACT

As developing countries become more aware of the need of disaster management systems, more attempts are being made to streamline planning, response, and recovery processes at all levels. Many developing countries, such as India, are fully aware that they are not always well positioned to deal with disasters. When there are no well-developed disaster management techniques, there is a catastrophic loss of human life, animal life, and property; these losses might have been avoided if the necessary precautions were in place. To change the situation, especially as it relates to cattle, much work must be done. In-depth information about how to care for animals during natural disasters is provided in this study, with a focus on India. In this study, numerous preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation measures are reviewed along with various types of natural disasters and their effects. The functions of several organizations, including veterinarians, are also taken into account.

Keywords: Community participation – Disaster management – India – Livestock – Man-made disasters – Natural disasters

INTRODUCTION

Disaster is defined by the World Health Organization as "any event that causes physical damage, economic ruin, human life loss, and deterioration in health and health services on a scale sufficient to demand an exceptional response from outside the afflicted community or territory." It is an event that causes social, economic, cultural, and political destruction and has an impact on both specific individuals and entire communities since it is concentrated in time and location (Biswas, 2019). No two catastrophes are alike, and their consequences and aftereffects varies from one region and community to the next. Natural disasters are becoming more common as a result of India's unique geoclimatic features and high socioeconomic vulnerability to disasters. This has a huge negative impact on the United States. Droughts, earthquakes, landslides, heat waves, cyclones, avalanches, and lightning are all common occurrences in India. (Watson, 2019).

While it is true that the government has introduced inadequate instruments at various levels, the rate at which these measures are having an impact falls short of what is required. Given the destruction that these disasters may wreak in the places where they occur, these measures must be prioritized. As a result, the purpose of this research is to critically examine some of the most essential government strategic disaster management responses and propose acceptable remedies in light of the most current situations after natural disasters.

RESEARCH PROBLEM

In varying degrees, India is vulnerable to a wide spectrum of natural and man-made disasters. Nearly 5,700 km of the 7,516 km long coastline is vulnerable to cyclones and tsunamis; 58.6 percent of the landmass is vulnerable to moderate to very high intensity earthquakes; over 40 million hectares (12 percent) of land is vulnerable to floods and river erosion; 68 percent of cultivable area is vulnerable to drought; and hilly areas are vulnerable to landslides and avalanches (Guha and Checchi, 2018). There is also a possibility of being affected by CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear) crises and catastrophes. Growing populations, urbanization and industrialisation, construction in high-risk locations, population destruction, and climate change can all make individuals more prone to vulnerabilities. When it comes to how sensitive people are to calamities, those who are less well off financially and socially suffer the most.

Because natural disasters are becoming more common, the government must take action. Each disaster has employed all of its resources to mitigate disaster damage and execute successful relief efforts. Most reactions occur after a disaster and are inadequate, therefore we must examine whether the government is prepared (Taylor and Birkland, 2019). India has enhanced its system for tracking natural catastrophes and warning people in advance (Watson, 2019). In 2005, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was set up to give disaster management a set of rules and regulations. It helps cut down on deaths after a disaster. More coordination between agencies that deal with disasters has made it timely to get people out of danger before the disaster starts. In October 2013, cyclone Phalin caused a mass evacuation, which was followed by a warning (Hancock and Cherian, 2019). India's government has signed international agreements to make it easier to deal with disasters (like the Tsunami) that start outside of India's borders.

However, the fact that authorities failed to foresee and warn about the floods in J&K and Uttarakhand on time demonstrated India's lack of preparedness. Even though there have been awareness programs, they have had little impact. As a result, most individuals are still unaware of the precautions they should take in the event of a disaster (Biswas, 2019).

India has a big population and a lot of land, but most of the time there aren't enough people working for disaster agencies. This means that the military has to help with relief operations. India's location makes it more likely to be hit by natural disasters, but no government has ever made this a top priority. This shows how careless the government is and causes a lot of damage to people and property.

RESEARCH SIGNIFICANCE

According to the National Disaster Management Authority, floods threatens around 40 million hectares of land in India. This accounts for around 12% of the overall land area. Droughts, landslides, and avalanches threaten an additional 68 million hectares. Earthquakes threaten 58.6 percent of the continent, and tsunamis and cyclones occur on a regular basis along 5,700 km of the 7,516 km long coastline. Because it has so many vulnerable areas, India is one of the most disaster-prone countries (Watson, 2019). According to the Global Climate Risk Index study for 2019, India is the 14th most vulnerable country in the world based on extreme weather occurrences. According to the data, around 2,736 lives were lost in catastrophes in India in 2017. This was second only to Puerto Rico, which lost 2,978 lives. Furthermore, these calamities cost India's economy around \$13,789 million, ranking fourth in the world (McLean and Ewart, 2020). Between 1970 and 2009, India had 371 natural catastrophes. These calamities killed 1,51,000 persons and impacted 1.86 billion people. Floods are the most prevalent natural catastrophe in India, accounting for 52% of all disasters. Cyclones (30%), landslides (10%), earthquakes (5%), and droughts (2%), respectively, rank second, third, and fourth (Scoones and Stirling, 2020).

Floods are the most expensive, accounting for 63 percent of disaster damage to houses, crops, and people's way of life. Cyclones, earthquakes, and droughts are the second and third most common natural disasters (5 per cent). The earthquake is India's worst natural disaster, accounting for 33% of all deaths, followed by floods (32%), cyclones (32%), and landslides (32%). (2 percent). (Pasch, 2018). Natural disasters not only harm people and property in India, but they also threaten the country's economic progress. Furthermore, recurrent disasters worsen people's social and economic situations and place further financial strain on the federal and state governments. Natural disasters also make farmers unhappy and are a major reason why so many of them commit suicide (Guha and Checchi, 2018). According to the Accidental Fatalities and Suicides in India study, between 1967 and 2016, about 2,61,779 persons perished in natural disasters, with an average of 5,236 deaths each year. Lightning struck 92,224 persons, cold waves struck 44,923, heat stroke struck 36,631, landslides struck 32,213, floods struck 29,897, and cyclones struck 25,891. (Pasch, 2018). In recent years, India and the rest of the globe have focused more on how disasters may be effectively handled rather than merely how to respond to them when they occur. This is because people have realized that disasters are becoming more frequent and more severe. It is also because people recognize that in order to deal with the catastrophic repercussions of disasters, a caring and civilized community requires competent administration.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES**AIM**

To study the response of Indian government towards some major natural disasters and device legitimate strategies.

OBJECTIVES

- To understand the types of natural disasters that India is most vulnerable to

- To understand how India as a country is affected due to such natural disasters
- To study some of the key responses of Indian government towards some of the major natural disasters.
- To provide strategies that are legitimately effective for developing better response towards natural disasters.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Secondary data is material that has already been compiled from primary sources and is easily accessible to researchers for use in their own study. It is a type of data that has already been collected. The research might have collected data for a project and then made it available for use by another researcher. It's also conceivable that the data was gathered for general use rather than for a specialized study endeavor, such as the national census. Data that is considered secondary for one research may be considered primary for another research. When data is reused, it becomes primary data for the first research it is used for and secondary data for the second research. Books, personal sources, journals, newspapers, websites, government records, and other things can be used to get secondary data. When compared to primary data, secondary data are known to be easier to find. To use these sources, you need to do very little research and use people. With the rise of electronic media and the Internet, it is now easier to find secondary data sources.

LITERATURE REVIEW

NATURAL DISASTERS

Disasters can be classified according to their origin. Natural disasters are caused by natural phenomena, whereas man-made disasters are caused by man's acts or inactions. Natural disasters account for almost 80% of all disasters worldwide (Biswas, 2019). Disasters can also be classified according to how far they spread, whether they can be forecast or not, and how predictable they are. Disasters can be classified according to their origin. Natural disasters are caused by natural phenomena, whereas man-made disasters are caused by man's acts or inactions. Natural disasters account for almost 80% of all disasters worldwide (Watson, 2019). Disasters can also be classified according to how far they spread, whether they can be forecast or not, and how predictable they are.

IMPACT OF DISASTERS

A disaster can have three sorts of effects: direct, indirect, and tertiary. Table I displays all of these alternative outcomes. Disasters have significant economic consequences, particularly in underdeveloped nations, such as the spread of illnesses from disasters to consequences and the threat to food supply. Livestock not only provides milk, meat, traction power for farming and transportation, manure, skins, wool, fiber, and so on in these nations, but it is also a reasonably secure method to invest and provides the owner with social standing (McLean and Ewart, 2020). As a result, disasters that harm livestock might have a negative impact.

The impact of disasters on various factors

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Tertiary impact
Human lives	Exports/imports	Health hazards
Livestock and other animals	Agricultural output	Long-term development
Private property	Industry/services output	Overall investment climate
Municipal infrastructure	Remittance income ^(a)	Funds reallocation ^(b)
Power/telecommunications infrastructure	Fall in earning potential (due to disability, trauma etc.)	Community migration/relocation
Health/education assets	Unemployment	

Source: [McLean and Ewart, 2020]

NATURAL DISASTER RISK PRONE AREAS IN INDIA

- India is one of the top four areas on the planet where natural disasters are most likely to occur. India has a large country and a tropical climate. Except for volcanic activity, it has practically every type of natural disaster. Droughts, floods, earthquakes, and cyclones are becoming more common each year. Disasters threaten twenty-two of India's thirty-two states and union territories. Drought threatens 28 percent of cultivable area, and earthquakes threaten 58 percent of cultivable land (Watson, 2019). A country may be classified into five classes based on its disaster to natural disasters:
- “The northern mountain region, including the foothills, is mostly prone to snow storms, which cause landslides, cold waves, heavy rain, and land and soil degradation. In the Himalayas, huge snow avalanches can happen, which can cause a lot of damage (Nomani and Parveen, 2020).
- The Indo-Gangetic plains: floods are a common occurrence here
- The Deccan plateau: this area is prone to drought and has erratic rainfall. Earthquakes of varying intensities have also been reported in this area
- The western desert: this area, known as the Thar Desert, has limited and unreliable rainfall and is prone to drought
- • The coastal areas: Sea erosion, cyclones, and tidal waves can cause damage to the coastal areas. Every year, between five and six tropical cyclones form in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. Two or three of these cyclones are strong enough to hit India's heavily populated coastal areas and cause a lot of damage.”

At the start of the annual conference of state relief commissioners and secretaries, Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba said that India's economy lost about Rs 60,000 crore per year on average from 2005 to 2014 due to different kinds of natural disasters, with floods causing the most damage. Gauba asked all the relevant people in the central and state governments to be better prepared so that natural disasters like floods, cyclones, and earthquakes would cause as little damage as possible (Pasch, 2018).

RESPONSE TO NATURAL DISASTERS IN INDIA

Drought: Drought is defined as a lack of water that impacts plants, animals, and people across a sufficient enough region. Droughts are classified into four types: those caused by weather, those caused by water, those caused by humans, and those caused by both (Guha and Checchi, 2018). Meteorological drought occurs when the weather is extremely dry for an extended period of time, causing a major hydrologic imbalance in the area. A drought in agriculture is a change in the weather that causes a lack of rain that is sufficient enough to hurt crop production or range production. Hydrologic drought is a time when streams, reservoirs, ground-water aquifers, lakes, and soils have less water than usual (Kaneda, 2019). Socio-economic drought happens when there isn't enough water to meet the demand for an economic good because of the weather. It links the elements of drought, agriculture, and water shortages to economic well-being. It is different from the other definitions because it uses the process of supply and demand to define drought (Pathak and Joshi, 2021).

- India is now less vulnerable to the effects of drought because of how it handles drought. Some of the current ways to deal with drought are:
- • Running an early warning system: operation conditions, particularly monsoon rains from June to September, and hydrological conditions, such as reservoir and ground water levels, are regularly monitored. Early notice allows for greater preparedness, making drought-response tactics more successful.
- • Drought readiness methods entail communities planning so that health care and veterinary care institutions, water resources, and disaster relief resources may increase their services during a drought (Pathak and Joshi, 2021).
- Conservation of water: developing additional water supplies for drought-affected areas and those with chronic shortages

The 2014 floods in Jammu and Kashmir: The floods in Jammu and Kashmir in 2014 were by far the worst natural disaster that anyone alive at the time could remember. They directly affected 2 million people. Heavy monsoon rains for five days in a row caused landslides and rising water levels that flooded thousands of villages and large parts of the state capital Srinagar with 15 feet or more of water (Nomani and Parveen, 2020). Hundreds of thousands of people were forced to leave their homes for up to a month because of the floods. When they returned, they often found their homes destroyed and their belongings gone. Floods caused a lot of damage, and there were already a lot of political disagreements and disagreements on the ground. Since India and Pakistan got their independence in 1947, they have had different international claims about Jammu and Kashmir and fought wars over it (Guha and Checchi, 2018). In the Kashmir valley, which is over 95% Muslim and is in the

Indian part of the state, there is open hostility to Indian rule and deep anger toward its security forces.

On the one hand, this comes from the larger, unresolved political problem that has been going on for a long time. This problem is a result of the disputed incorporation of the state into India in 1947. Kashmiris are very aware of their unclear political status and want a final political solution to the dispute (McLean and Ewart, 2020). On the other hand, anger at the Indian state has a sharper, more recent edge that comes from the unhealed scars of the brutal militancy and counter-insurgency period of the early 1990s, when an unknown number of people, thought to be in the tens of thousands, were killed, tortured, or disappeared (Pathak and Joshi, 2021).

Geo-climatic conditions: Lightning kills the most people in terms of the amount of deaths caused by natural catastrophes across time, accounting for 35% of all deaths. Cold waves (17%), heat strokes (14%), landslides (12%), floods (11%), and cyclones (1%) are the next most common natural disasters (10 per cent). In addition, India had six big natural catastrophes per year, killing 65 people every 10 million inhabitants (Trumble, 2019).

Natural disasters have different effects on different Indian states, especially when it comes to the number of deaths. This is because each state has its own climate and socioeconomic situation. For example, between 1969 and 2016, an average of 90 people per 10 million people were killed by lightning in Chhattisgarh, which is the highest number of deaths of any states. Madhya Pradesh and Odisha came after this. Manipur was the place where lightning killed the fewest people. Punjab has the most deaths from heat strokes (20), followed by Tripura (14), Jharkhand (13), Andhra Pradesh (13), and Odisha (12). (Lahsen et al. 2020). Heat stroke kills the fewest people in Uttaranchal. The spike in mortality from lightning and heat waves is being blamed on an increase in temperature and humidity throughout Indian states. Landslides occur more frequently in states with greater hills. Furthermore, northern and central India are more vulnerable to cold wave catastrophes, whilst coastal states such as Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat, and West Bengal are more likely to be hit by cyclones (Guha and Checchi, 2018). Because of the way rainfall is distributed over space and time, the amount of flood-prone places, the level of socioeconomic vulnerability, and the absence of robust infrastructure across states to mitigate flood risk, India has several states that are at danger of flooding.

PREVENTING FATALITIES

- Even though it's important to try to limit disaster losses on all fronts, the way things are going shows that lightning deaths need to be stopped quickly and with strong policy. We suggest a few steps that can help reduce the number of deaths caused by natural disasters across the United States.
- First, in an article called "Environment and Development Economics" by Parida, it is said that fewer people will die in disasters if the per capita income is higher and the Central and State governments work together better. (Pal and Shaw, 2018).

- Second, it is very important for the government to spend more on disaster-resistant infrastructure, such as building dams and drainage systems and protecting river banks and canals.

A recent report from the World Economic Forum said that Bangladesh is planting 5 million palm trees to stop lightning from killing people. India might do something similar to cut down on fatalities caused by lightning storms. To reduce disaster fatalities across States, the Central and State governments must work together well before and after a disaster, and they also need a better disaster management policy (Lahsen et al. 2020).

STRATEGIC RESPONSE TO NATURAL DISASTERS

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is in charge of dealing with both natural and man-made disasters, with a few exceptions like terrorism, counter-insurgency, serial bombings, hijackings, mine disasters, and forest fires (Nomani and Parveen, 2020). These problems are taken care of by the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC), which is led by the Cabinet Secretary. The NCMC tells the Crisis Management Group what to do, but the Crisis Management Group is in charge of all relief activities in the event of a major disaster (Guha and Checchi, 2018).

National level authorities under 2005 Act: The Act established the NDMA and provided for setting up advisory committees and a National Executive Committee to aid the NDMA in performing its functions.

NDMA's functions include:

- laying down the policies, plans and guidelines for disaster management;
- approving the National Plan and the plans of various ministries; and
- laying guidelines for state authorities. It shall also recommend guidelines for the minimum standard of relief to be provided to persons affected by the disaster (relief camps, ex-gratia assistance).

When dealing with natural disasters, there are two different things that need to be done. The first is to be ready for the disaster. The second is to put the plans into action and help with resources after the disaster. This is called disaster management (Scoones and Stirling, 2020). Not only do these two things limit the government, but they also mean that the general public needs to be ready. At the moment, there are a lot of Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) that help with disaster management.

India must be more certain about what natural predictions will occur and how they will occur. Even if the predictions aren't perfect, which is acceptable, they should help us create the infrastructure we need to prevent both the living and the dead from widespread damage. Currently, our predictions do nothing to assist us prevent or prepare for disasters (Pal and Shaw, 2018). Starting with what India did to prepare for the calamity, the answer is nearly nothing. When most people discuss natural disasters, they simply discuss how to cope with them in terms of warnings and rescue operations (Nomani and Parveen, 2020). But public awareness efforts need to receive greater attention from us. The Indian government should train the general populace, who are the first to be able to assist individuals who are harmed,

rather than merely training a select set of professionals to handle calamities. More lives may be saved if awareness campaigns and rescue operations started off right once.

Now comes the work of saving people after the disaster. The way the government handles the disaster zone and situation shows very clearly where they stand on this issue. Plans and programs often go wrong, and the people who need help with food, medicine, money, or any other basic need often don't get it on time. The main problem with having a backlog in our pre-set plans is that corrupt officials and middle-level agents eat up a lot of the money raised to help the people who have been hurt.

FINDINGS

Most people agree that there are four stages to disaster management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The results, according to the Disaster Management Institute, illustrate the major components of these four phases of emergency management (EMI). During a crisis, the same phases are utilized to handle animals, including farm animals and pets. People are more vulnerable to natural catastrophes because of social structures, and calamities are frequently blamed on the government. It's difficult to say if natural disasters and how the media covers them affect social trust, political trust, and government satisfaction. This might explain why political attitudes change. Previous research has indicated that these factors are likely to change, although most of those studies only looked at one example. This dissertation, on the other hand, examines a broader variety of natural disasters. It investigates the social and political consequences of natural disasters by investigating how they change social and political attitudes and how media coverage is a mechanism behind political repercussions.

Natural disasters may have a disproportionately frequent, if minor and brief, influence on social trust, according to the findings. Significant consequences are unlikely. When disasters kill nine or more people, social trust suffers considerably. Political opinions were predicted to shift in the aftermath of natural disasters. Furthermore, the study illustrates that these occurrences have little impact on individuals' political confidence and government satisfaction. Finally, media framing and actors' political claims explained the disparity in political effects following similar-severity disasters. It also illustrates the relevance of the political context of natural disasters, as their occurrence may be skillfully utilized by players in politically heated situations to further criticize the government.

By looking at more cases than typical catastrophe studies, this research contributes to previous disaster research. It also employs a systematic strategy for selecting cases as well as a quantitative method with a unique research design for catastrophe research. As a result, it adds methodological depth to previously conducted studies. A larger examination provides fresh answers and examines assumptions about underlying trends when the severity of catastrophes and the number of cases are considered, as well as the fact that there are more of them. This thesis' key contribution is that it examines how frequently disasters have political and societal consequences. This dissertation also contributes to disaster research by concentrating on contextual and explanatory elements, such as how catastrophes occur and how the political atmosphere influences how the media portrays natural disasters.

CONCLUSION

Every year, tragedies strike developing countries such as India. When a disaster strikes India, the impoverished and underprivileged populations suffer the most. They suffer the greatest loss of terms and property. Not only are they the ones who suffer the most, but the social, economic, and political conditions in which they live make it difficult for them to recover after a disaster. Many developing nations' disaster-response mechanisms are inadequate. This kills many people and animals, some of whom may have been spared to varying degrees if better mechanisms for preparation, response, and recovery were in place. When it comes to disaster preparedness, developing countries lag well behind affluent countries. As a result, the measures indicated in this article for caring for cattle and rehabilitating them are based on what has worked in wealthy countries.

The main goal in disaster relief is to safeguard and save people's lives, and the second priority is to preserve property, which includes animals. As a result, those working in disaster management in India are not trained to deal with animals or to repair animal-related animals. This is something that the National Crisis Management Committee and state CMGs should pay greater attention to, as should animal relief following natural catastrophes. Disaster-prone states in India should develop policies for protecting cattle and dealing with natural calamities. Past occurrences have demonstrated that disaster management has been more reactive than proactive and preventative. Plans for assisting animals should be developed in advance, rather than in the midst of a natural disaster.

Disaster management should be a part of long-term development planning, and a whole-systems approach should be used instead of a segmented one, with the help of local communities. Planning for development and planning for how to deal with disasters should go hand in hand, and development models should include parts for preventing, mitigating, and getting ready for disasters. The findings, interpretations, and conclusions in this paper are all the authors' own, and they should not be credited in any way to the groups to which they belong.

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