

Disasters and Its Management

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INTRODUCTION

Disaster is a hazard that suddenly occurs and disrupts the total functioning by destroying man's activities, material and machinery. Disasters some time occur due to stress in the natural components or often result through inappropriate human acts and deeds. Man in many forms have impacted society and its surroundings. Technological advancement helped the restructuring and reshaping of the world economics, culture and development scenario. But there are technologies that have caused unwanted barriers and disasters from time to time. The occurrence of disasters in recent years has increased rather abruptly even with the advancement in technologies and availability of pre and post disaster management tools. So the question arises as to why the incidences of disasters of many kinds-natural and man-made (Earth Quakes, Cloud Burst, Flood-Fury, Fire, Atomic, Radio-active, Gaseous, Epidemics etc.) are increasing and remain uncontrolled besides the application of latest technological know-how and management practices?

OBJECTIVES

This paper attempts to focus on the following-

- To discuss varying kinds/forms of disasters.
- To highlight the tendency of disasterisation.
- To suggest disaster control measures.

However, the universe has become disaster prone. Every day, there is news related to disaster either natural or man induced. It seems very pertinent to discuss the varying forms of disasters so as to bring awareness among people. Though, the disasters may be classified into various major and subcategories, because the disasters are of many kinds. Broadly all disasters may be clubbed into two major groups- (i) Natural Disasters and (ii) Man-made or Anthropogenic Disasters.

(A) Natural disasters may include-
Severe Climatic Change

Earthquake

Volcanic eruption

Tsunami

Tides/Floods/Cloud Burst/ Cyclone/ Hurricane/
Tornado/Avalanches Natural gas explosion/
Rift/Fold/Asteroid Fall/ Submergence/Natural rift in
land and water/Solar storm/ wildfire/ Drought/ Furry/
Thunderstorm/Hailstorm etc.

(B) Man-made or Anthropogenic Disasters may
Comprises of-

Po-Population/Population Disorder/Imbalance
(Age/Sex)

Technological(Radiation/Nuclear/Atomic(CBRNS)/P
ower outage/Industrial accident)

Social Disaster (Clashes/Arson/Crime/Civil
disorder/Riots/Stampede)

Administrative (Malfunctioning/Law lessness)

Political Disaster (Dethrone/Overpower by
Rebels/Military rule/Political Vacuum /War)

Man Induced Environmental Disaster (Global
Warming/Vanishing of drinking water/Air
pollution/Soil pollution etc.)

Train/Ship/Aeroplane Accident

Economic Disasters (Inflation/Deflation/Economic
Meltdown/Resource Depletion)

Structural Collapse (DAM/Tower/ Building/ Bridge/
Tunnel/Mining)

Satellite Failure/Telecommunication

It would be worth mentioning that the tendency of disasterisation is increasing. The intolerance in nature or man is becoming a major cause of disasters. Undoubtedly, natural disaster has major adverse impact resulting from natural processes of the universe. In the universe all celestial bodies swing and interact with each other under natural processes. Sometimes natural and human interference causes imbalance/disturbance in natural systems especially on the planet earth which causes sudden incidences of

varying forms. Though the nature has its own natural mechanism to get settled in any case of natural disturbance, yet the greedy Man’s interference has become a bane for the peace on the planet earth and resulting in various forms of natural calamities/ hazards and disasters.

According to world watch Institute (2013) in 2012 there were 905 natural catastrophes worldwide, 93% of which were weather related disasters. 45% were meteorological, 36% hydrological (floods), 12% climatological (heat, clouds wave, drought, wildfire), 7% geophysical events (earthquake, volcanic eruption). During 1980 to 2011 alone, about 14% geophysical events occurred out of all natural catastrophes.

DISASTERS CONTROL MEASURES

Disasters control technology management involves techniques and strategies to deal with any kind of hazards and also to avoid occurrence or reoccurrence

of any disaster causing significant destruction or damage to lives/ physical /cultural /economic resources. Besides natural disasters, man-made disasters are also increasing with the application and advancement of technology. The man has become so selfish that he is not caring of nature for future human generations. The greed of man to harness the resources (Natural/Soil/Culture/etc.) has created a hydra-headed problem of disasters, causing infinite destruction of life and resources. Wisner etal (2004) emphasized that human actions before the strike of hazard can prevent it developing into a disaster. Hence, all the disasters are the result of human failure to introduce appropriate disasters management measures. Quarantelli (1998) observed that hazard or any risk leading to hazard is an outcome of a combination of hazard and vulnerability. It is also noted that the hazard that strike in the areas of low vulnerability never becomes disasters, as is the case in uninhabited areas.

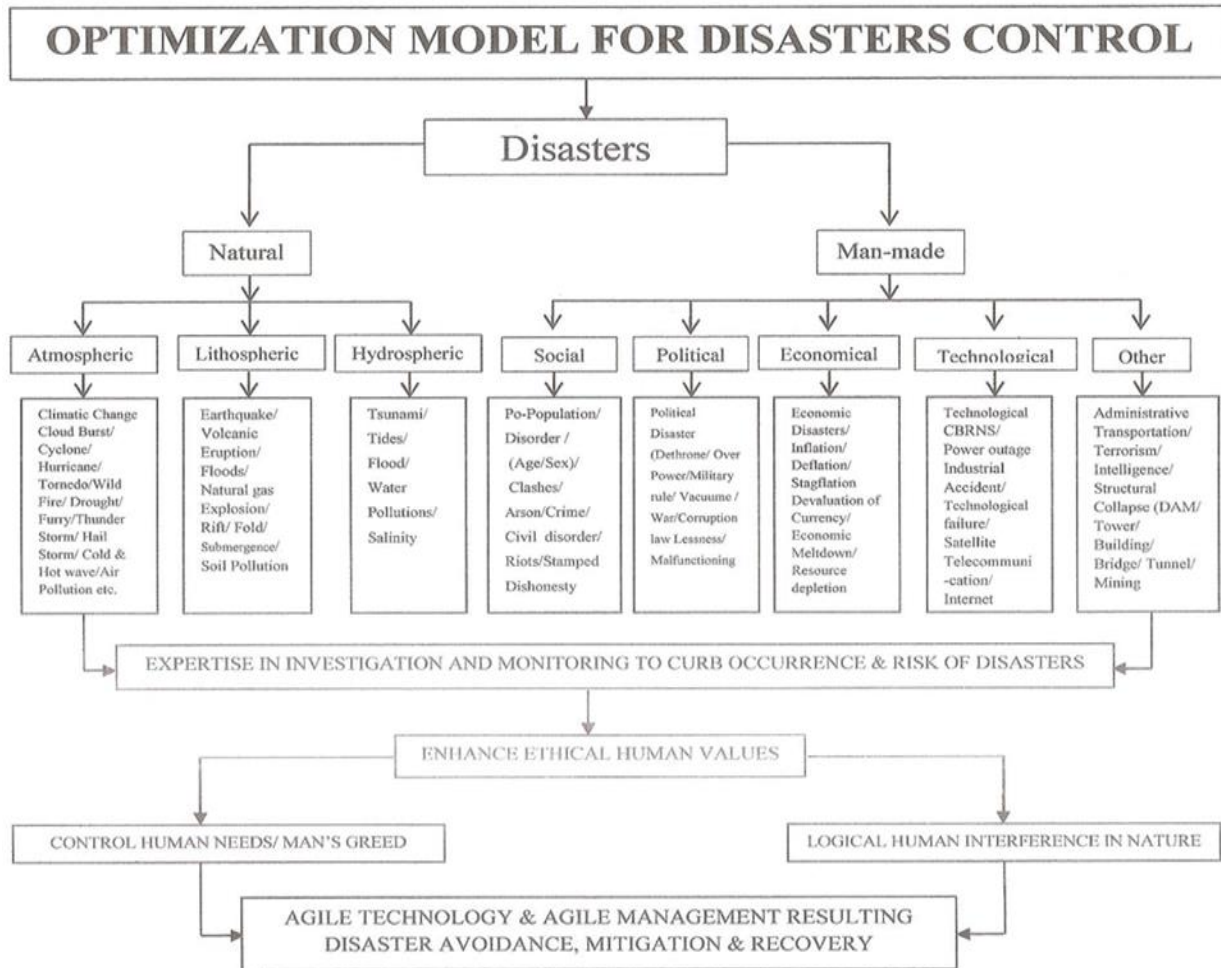


Figure-1

Before suggesting control measures, it is necessary to know the chief cause of increasing disasters. Human interference with nature and also the intent of human negligence/greediness/ failure/ incapacibilities / and intolerance cause disasters. There is a need of investigation and assessment of probable factors of disasters and impact of disaster in its varying magnitudes. Also the identification of areas/sectors of disasters due to natural process or man's activities are necessary and what kind of hazard may occur in times to come. Assessment of the disasters effects and recovery (whether possible or not) is needed. If not, then its result and if possible then, technique and its affordability to recover must be investigated.

Wholesome solution to the hydra-headed problem of disaster and its control may only be an agile technology and agile management that seems most appropriate to avert disaster occurrence and also to mitigate the effects of destruction from disasters. Agile approaches focus on readiness, high mix/quickness, ease and well-coordinated in movement, intangibility and end user result.

Agile ignites the collaboration of technology and management tools for not only quick response to mitigate risk but to reduce the tendency of disaster occurrence, because it is a value-added approach of development and risk management.

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