

A 2-Day Non-Residential Classroom-based Training Program  
on

# **Local Level Risk Management of Village**

03-04 Jan-2023

**Organized by**



**Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management**

## **Background**

Decentralisation and delegation of powers were given to Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI) to enable it to respond quickly to the felt needs of the people through the local people. Once planning done involving and in consultation with the people, local problems confronted could be easily solved through appropriate development. The constitutional 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1993 is a major step in that direction.

Panchayat is the most suitable organization to deal with disasters because it is a small cohesive unit with smaller population, people know one another and in times of disasters they come together and mutually help one another as first responders. As the community bond is stronger, panchayats can plan using the local, human, financial and infrastructural resources against the disasters. Panchayat can provide leadership which is local & reliable. The fact that being known to one another is a great strength and would be sustainable.

This training highlights, the flexibility and innovation required for the role of Talati-cum-Mantri in DRM activities. Further, it underscores the need for greater engagement with people and a better understanding of their disaster risk and resources. This program will assist the local Government officials in decision making and planning activities for preparedness, response and relief phase at the grassroots level through practical components in training.

## **Aims and Objectives**

1. To understand the concept of Disaster Risk Management
2. To discuss the provisions of DRM in Panchayati Raj Act, 1993
3. To prepare Village Disaster Management Plan and its implementation through field visits
4. To introduce them with concepts of fire safety through demonstrations
5. To discuss emergency response and ways to create humanitarian chain management

## **Rationale**

Communities being the first responders and having more contextual familiarity with hazards and available resources are in better position in planning and executing immediate rescue and relief actions. In areas that have experienced repeated disasters, the communities are realizing that they need to work out a plan to prevent losses and at the same time enable faster recovery in the event of an emergency situation. To convert this realization into an effective plan, they need guidelines which will help them to prepare their on Village Disaster Risk Management Plan to safeguard lives, livelihood and property.

The Disaster Management Act, 2005 and National Policy on Disaster Management, 2009 provide the framework for institutional and legal mechanism on disaster management in India. It ensures that the affected communities, relevant responders and other stakeholders including volunteers are well trained in various aspects of disaster management. After the commencement of the Sendai Framework for Action (SFDRR 2015-30), there continues to be not just a lot to be accomplished for DRM but also significantly more to demonstrate and deliver to the inter linkages between DRM, early recovery, development, environmental protection and climate change adaptation. While there is acceleration in the implementation of DRM initiatives across the country and at the State level. In this context, there continues to be a need to build capacities innovatively, increase outreach at the appropriate levels, enhance the impact of action; all of which also require qualified and experienced professionals to assist and support government and non-government actors in coordinated, structured and timely DRR and response actions. DRM being a relatively new domain of knowledge and practice offers a key challenge in find high-quality human resources and capacity development opportunities.

The Gujarat Panchayats Act 1993 clearly mentions the role of Talati-cum-Mantri for DRM and to build a cadre of trained manpower who can complement and supplement the efforts in different phases

of the Disaster Risk Management Cycle. District Emergency Operation Centers (DEOCs) have appointed qualified personnel as staff over the years and coordinate GSDMA activities at district level. They also supervise activities at the taluka and village levels through TDO and Talati. The training is in relevance with the Prime Minister's 10 Point Agenda on DRR w.r.t. imbibing the principles of DRR in development sectors and build on local capacity and initiative to enhance disaster risk reduction (*Point 1 & 8*). The training includes outcomes which are structured around the four Priorities for Action of the Sendai Framework. The outcomes are namely, understanding DRM, strengthening PR system, preparation of VDMP and establishing humanitarian chain management. The training addresses the SDG (Agenda 2030) to work towards reducing inequality, creating sustainable cities and communities; and taking urgent action to combat climate action (*SDG 10, SDG 11 and SDG 13*).

The training also includes practical activities on both days based on previous training experience for greater participation and peer learning. The care has been taken to combine theories and empower the officials to implement in practical sense. The Training Needs Assessment (TNA) has been conducted of Panchayat Raj Institutions & Rural Development on mainstreaming DRR at Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management dated on 17/02/2018 (*GIDM/Trg/AP-1/GIDM-SIRD/01/2017/N/11*). It is a collaboration between GIDM and SIRD to conduct Two Hour Orientation Program on Heat Wave through BISAG. This module gives a brief and detail information on Heatwave Preparedness. Program Development and Review Committee (PDRC) meeting has been conducted for Community based Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation dated on 02/06/2022. (*GIDM/Training/CBDRM&CCA/11/2021/97/C*). It mentioned mainstreaming of risk reduction elements in the development planning at the village level contributing to SDGs. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with State Institute of Rural Development and Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management for Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Disaster Management dated on 03/12/2018. The objective is to organise training programs, workshops, etc. for the personnel of rural development and Panchayati Raj departments and various target groups. (*GIDM/Trg/AP-1/GIDM-SIRD/01/2019/1/C*). The last training program was held on November 10-11, 2022 at GIDM campus on Community based approach on managing Hydro-Meteorological risks. Lastly, a state level multi stakeholder meeting on CBDRM was also organized on December 22, 2022 where various government departments and NGOs took part and shared their valuable experiences.

## **Expected Outcome**

At the end of the program the participants would be able to,

1. Understand the terms and concepts related to disaster risk management.
2. Strengthen the Panchayati Raj System at village level and incorporate women in decision making.
3. Able to prepare a Village Disaster Management Plan and implement it on field.
4. Able to use fire safety equipment's in need and get basic understanding of fire safety.

## **Way Forward**

The impact of disasters on people living in vulnerable areas and losses to their property can be minimized by a proactive role played by local government officials and communities at grassroots levels. DRM needs to be an integral part of development processes for sustainable development. Apart from great organizing skills, it may call for courage and leading from the front, the local government officials and community members can play a role of leadership in Disaster Risk Management at all stages. At the village / grass roots level, the DRM Team will be constituted, which draws up the plan consists of local authorities, government functionaries including doctors/paramedics of primary health centers located in the village, primary school teachers and elected representatives of the village. Eventually each village will have a DRM Plan. In this way the whole purpose of the training program is linking with the development programs and strengthening a decentralized approach.

## References

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- P. Michael Vetha Siromony, I. (2005). *Source Book on District Disaster Management* . Mussoorie: Publication Cell (SOFTRAIN), LBSNAA .
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