

COVID-19, Disaster Risk Management and Our Future –

7 days online course on the unanswered questions of Disaster Management in COVID-19

2nd to 10th June, 2021

From 30th January, 2020, i.e. the day on which India witnessed her first COVID-19 case, till today, the country has seen a lot of ups and downs – series of lockdowns, followed by a series of unlocks and now the second wave. COVID-19 has become of the worst crisis of our times.

'Uncertainty', which has always been a preferred phrase, used in articles and scientific journals to express the unpredictability of future, was experienced by the entire world and India is no exception to that. People realised that we are indeed living in an uncertain world where we fail to predict the occurrences of extremes, we barely manage to understand and predict the systemic consequences of our actions. The pandemic reinforced upon us that we are still stuck in an universe where we habitually rely more on response, rather than on preparation.



While this era of crisis has been intensely traumatic, it has also given us numerous morsels to think over and about.

Some of the prominent questions that needs to be discussed and answered are:

COVID-19 and Disaster Management

- How is this pandemic a disaster?
- Orders are being issued under the DM Act of 2005, but it is the MoHFW, that is leading. How?
- What is the exact DM mechanism in India?
- There have been cases of cyclones, chemical leaks during the pandemic. Is India prepared to handle such double / triple jeopardies?

COVID-19 and the Pillars of Democracy (Risk Governance)

- What has been and should be the role of the executive (bureaucrats) and the legislative (politicians)?
- Why have the judiciary been so prompt on its foot?
- How has the media affected the pandemic?
- In the second wave, social media was used massively to procure help, broadcast SOS messages. What is the potential of such social media platforms as they are also prone to fake news, rumours etc.?
- Democracy derives its existence from the citizens - how have they been affected and how could we have managed this better?
- Volunteerism has come out to be an effective tool of response in this pandemic as has been the case in other past disasters also. What are some of the 'good' examples of volunteerism?

COVID-19 and Science and Tech

- Predictions and modelling have not been very credible. While the use of app based surveillance and monitoring reached its peak in the first wave, it has remained completely under-utilised in the second wave. What was the role of such applications? Could that have been done better?
- COVID-19 enhanced the use of technology in all walks of life and thus, huge progresses were made in terms of innovative applications, processes etc. What are they?
- Reliance on technology increased manifold. But to some, use of technology is also a luxury. Have our response mechanism been partial towards the fortunate?
- The second wave witnessed a surge in the application of citizen science - crowd sourced data. How have this worked (validation, verification etc. and the process thereby)?

COVID-19 and YYPs

- Although volunteerism has surfaced as the best way of participation in the response mechanism, youth and young professionals (YYPs) have the potential to contribute much more. But how?
- What could be the possible modes of contribution of YYPs in such extremes and also in case of other hazards and disasters?
- How can the YYPs be utilised to build a culture of resilience?

COVID-19: Systemic Risk?

- It is being widely said that COVID-19 and its consequences are the manifestation of systemic risk. But, what is systemic risk?
- How have systemic risk triggered the effects and impacts of this pandemic?
- Are there past examples of systemic risk and its manifestations?
- If there are systemic risks, could there be systemic capacities too?

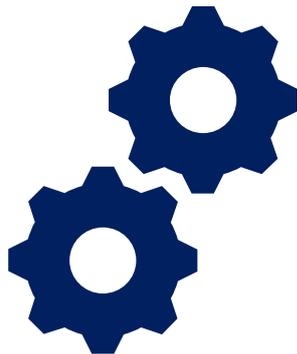
DRR Future Thinking and Our Role

- The pandemic has made this very clear that we are living in a world filled with uncertainties and we need to be risk-savvy and risk literate. But, how do we do that? Can we think ahead?
- Can we plan a better, safer and resilient future for ourselves?

The Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM), as an apex institute of the state has decided to conduct a mini-online course to answer these pertinent questions.

The course is targeted towards:

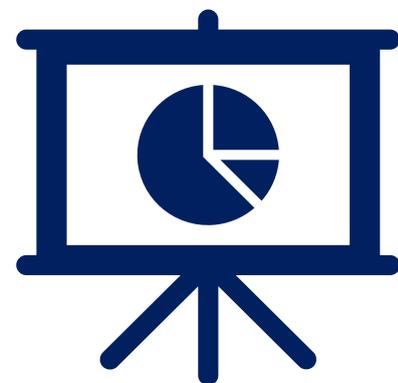
- Individuals pursuing Bachelors
- Individuals pursuing Masters
- Individuals pursuing Ph.D. or other advanced studies / specialisations
- Other interested individuals



- Fill-up the application form (Google Form)
- Get shortlisted
- Join the course online from anywhere

Expected outcomes of the course:

- Procedural capacity building of at least 30 youth
- Documentation of discussions and debates during the program to be published as a report
- An article based on thematic assignments



Each day of the 7 days long program would focus on a particular theme. The schedule, tentatively, is as follows:

Day 1 – Theme: Disaster Management

Topics:

- Terminologies and fundamentals of DM / DRM
- DM Mechanism in India / States

Day 2 – Theme: Disaster Risk Governance - I

Topics:

- Disaster Risk Governance
- Risk Governance in COVID-19

Day 3 – Theme: Disaster Risk Governance - II

Topics:

- Media, Social Media in COVID-19
- Application of Citizen Science

Day 4 – Theme: Science & Technology

Topics:

- Technology in times of COVID-19
- Tech Surge: A boon or a burden?

Day 5 – Theme: Systemic Risk

Topics:

- What is Systemic Risk?
- Examples of manifestation of Systemic Risk – Study in the old city of Ahmedabad
- What are systemic capacities?

Day 6 – Theme: DRR Future Thinking

Topics:

- Resilience: Myth or reality?
- Sustainable Development Goals: Achievable?
- Future and Emergent Risks: Just Climate Change?

Day 7 – Theme: Wraps and Curtains

Topics:

- Debates
- Presentations from participants