

Virtual Classroom-based Training Program
for
Faculty/Staff members (NSS POs/ANOs) and Students (NSS
Volunteers/NCC Cadets) of CVM University

Titled
**Youth and COVID-19: building a
culture of Resilience**

Scheduled on
Saturday, 29th May 2021, 3-5 pm (online)

Organized by

GUJARAT INSTITUTE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT, GANDHINAGAR
&
NSS CELL, CVM UNIVERSITY, VALLABH VIDYANAGAR, ANAND



CVM University



Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management

A. Rationale

Biological hazards pose more threat than any other hazards as more people in these types of hazards are vulnerable and risk is comparatively more. The impact of a biological disaster(s) is *biological, psychological, social*, as well as *economic*. Biological disaster(s), if not attended with proper preparedness, can be an epidemic in countries like India with a huge population endangering the life of the many and putting extra pressure on the resources, finance, and governance.

The COVID-19 global health emergency and its economic, as well as social impacts, have disrupted nearly all aspects of life for all groups in society. People of different ages, however, are experiencing its effects in different ways, while many of its implications, such as confinement-related psychological distress and social distancing measures, affect all of society. Continuing challenges of Covid, i.e. the second wave, health impacts are growing largely due to inadequate measures to reduce the risk. An inclusive response to and recovery from the crisis requires an integrated approach to public governance that anticipates the impact of response and recovery measures across different age cohorts. “Building Back Better” requires decision-makers to acknowledge generational divides and address them decisively to leave no one behind.

To avoid exacerbating integrational inequalities and to involve youth-volunteers in building a culture of resilience, it requires to anticipate the impact of mitigation and recovery measures across different age groups, by applying effective Disaster Risk Governance. As we know that the authorities have called for active participation of youth-volunteer based organizations in COVID mitigation effects with a special focus on vaccination of the vulnerable population, information dissemination and promoting Covid appropriate behavior apart from building capacities in rural as well as urban areas, young people have stepped up to mitigate the impact of Covid crisis. Governments have also promoted youth volunteering at this critical time through dedicated programs. National youth volunteering programs and strategies that allocate clear responsibilities provide capacity-building opportunities, as well as adequate resources that can help in keeping youth-volunteers mobilized for their communities.

The youth and volunteers of the nation are the backbones and the most powerful force within the nation. They are the hope of the future and can shape the destiny of a country. They play a positive role for the cause of a nation and national integration. The youth and volunteers have a leading role in bringing together the people of different states and religions with a view to integrating them socially, culturally and geographically. In order to build this culture of looking at a crisis, such as this, holistically and comprehensively, the youth-volunteers must be explained how the prevalent Understanding of Disaster Risks fits into the present scenario and how the Systemic Nature of Risk would affect every sector.

Youth interventions can involve grass-root contribution, collaboration, and resource mobilization from within the community to promote prompt response and resilience. Keeping in view of greater

engagements of these forums, GIDM, in association with CVM University, has planned to organize a half-day Virtual Classroom-based Training Program on "**Youth and COVID-19: building a culture of Resilience**" targeting Students (NSS Volunteers/NCC Cadets), Faculty (NSS Program Officers/Associated NCC Officers) and Staff members (around 250 nos.) of CVM University. The program is scheduled on Saturday, **29th May 2021** from 1500 to 1800 hrs (reporting time at 1430 hrs, sharp) using its online platform of CVM University NSS Official YouTube *live streaming*.

Objectives

In terms of effectively achieve the culture of resilience and build the capacity of targeted stakeholders, following objectives will be accomplished -

- COVID-19 (focus would be on discussing the basics of what & how of the infection);
- Why is it necessary to view the pandemic from the lens of Disaster Risk Management? Perceiving the pandemic as just a health emergency constrains our preparedness to the present times and few particular sectors, but, viewing it through the lens of DRM, broadens our perspective and we visualize the emergent risks/issues too, like that of the upcoming season of heat-waves/cyclones/floods etc. that would perhaps add on to the already building up pressure on our health infrastructure, or, the lockdown forced economy dip that might hinder the achievement of some of the SDGs;
- The role of youth and volunteers should take-up during this emergency. Although we are in the midst of the second wave and have nothing much to contribute to the betterment of the situation with the exception of frontline / essential service workers, we may find different ways to ease the situation a bit.

B. About the Virtual Classroom-based Training

At the national level, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Ministry of Defense, and Ministry of Home Affairs have volunteer programs designed to engage youths in social welfare. Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), National Service Scheme (NSS), National Cadet Corps (NCC) and Civil Defence volunteers are the main vehicles for promoting youth volunteerism in community services including DRM and environment management.

The **Disaster Management Act, 2005** and **National Policy on Disaster Management 2009** provide the framework for institutional and legal mechanisms on disaster management in India. Whereas the Disaster Management Act, 2005 does not explicitly define the roles of volunteers, it ensures that 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 2015-2030**), there continues to be not just a lot to be accomplished for DRM but also significantly more to demonstrate and deliver on 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.

This **virtual mode of training program** intends to address certain issues related to DRM by partnering with youth-volunteers, to build a cadre of uniform services who can complement and supplement the efforts in different phases of the **Disaster Risk Management Cycle**. This training is intended to target selected NSS Volunteers/NCC Cadets and Program Officers/Associated NCC Officers, who can play a significant role in the management of the disaster risks with its organizational capability, strength and quality of its cadres.

Key Words: Youth & Volunteers, First Responders, Pandemic, Capacity Building, Climate Change, Risk Identification & Assessment, Disaster Risk Management.

C. Course Structure

The program has been designed to be in three segments:

1. The **first segment** would talk about the on-going pandemic, i.e. COVID-19, answering the most obvious and the most frequently asked question to put the queries in one's mind at ease;
2. The **second segment** would show the participants how to view this crisis through the lens of DRM thereby tinkering their preparedness for the near future;
3. The **third segment** would talk about the possible roles of youth and volunteers during these trying times. The objective behind this segment is to inspire the youth and volunteers to contribute even when they are following the rules and regulations imposed!

References: -

1. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
2. GIDM Training Module on "Basics of DRM", (*Gujarati and English*)
3. GIDM Training Module on "Role of Youth and Volunteers in DRM"
4. All presentations
<https://gidm.gujarat.gov.in/>