

A Two-Day Training of Trainers  
on  
**Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in  
Disaster Risk Management (DRM)**

First batch: 27-28-May-2025  
Second batch: 10-11-June-2025



**Organized by**



**Gujarat Institute of  
Disaster Management**

## **A. Background**

Hazards, whether natural or man-made, often result in devastating consequences for communities worldwide. From earthquakes to floods, fire to pandemics, the impact of disasters can be profound, affecting lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure. However, while disasters cannot always be prevented, their impact can be mitigated through effective Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies. Among these strategies, community-based approaches play a crucial role in building resilience at the grassroots level.

This training highlights the significance of Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) and the flexibility and innovation required for local communities in DRM initiatives. Further, it underscores the need for greater engagement with people and a better understanding of their Disaster Risks and resources. This is the specialization course within the comprehensive framework of the Disaster Risk Management program, directed at Community leaders/Elected representatives of civil society and local Government officials.

Keeping the importance of the subject and targeted participants, GIDM has organized Two-Day Training of Trainers on “**Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Disaster Risk Management**” scheduled from **27-28-May-2025 at GIDM**.

This program will assist the Community leaders/Elected representatives of civil society and local Government officials in taking stock of the preparedness measures’ initiatives on DRM, who are directly connected with the grassroots level.

## **B. Aim and Objectives**

To build this culture of looking at a crisis, such as this, holistically and comprehensively, the communities 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. This training program aims to discover and promote various community-based disaster risk mitigation methodologies and how these mitigation methodologies can be streamlined as per Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction to improve their efficacy. Under this, the following specific objectives will be pursued -

1. Understand the concept of Risk Management and associated Terminologies;
2. Discuss existing CBDRM practices and mitigation approaches;

3. Methods to strengthen various Community-based Risk Management techniques as First Responders;
4. Introduce and evaluate various participatory tools in HVCR assessment;
5. Discuss various DRM measures that can be undertaken by the communities, for the communities: Case studies and lessons learned.

### **C. About the Training**

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. 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 2015-2030**), 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 training program intends to address certain issues related to DRM by partnering with grass-root level stakeholders, to build a cadre of trained manpower who can complement and supplement the efforts in different phases of the **Disaster Risk Management Cycle**. The mode of communication would be Gujarati language.

The training includes four expected outcomes structured around the four **Priorities** for Action of the Sendai Framework. The four expected outcomes are namely, assess and update data and knowledge of traditional approaches, dissemination, monitoring and review emerging challenges, and capacity building to highlight the best practices at all levels. The program has been designed to be in four segments:

1. The **first segment** would empower participants to think about and understand disaster risk(s), which is a step towards managing risk(s) rather than managing disasters. Thus, this section has been designed to address *Priority 1: Understanding Disaster Risks*;
2. The **second segment** would stimulate the participants to think about governing such disaster risk(s) at different levels by tinkering their preparedness for the near future through exercises of DRR Future Thinking like Scenario Based Preparedness, Scenathons etc. This segment has been designed to address *Priority 2: Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance to Managing Disaster Risks*;
3. The **third segment** would talk about investing resources of all forms, financial and human, to build Disaster Resilience. This section would underline the importance of traditional/indigenous knowledge and possible roles of communities to tackle the emergent and systemic nature of disaster risk. This section would address *Priority 3: Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience*;
4. By discussing good practices and case studies of Role of PRIs in DRM in the **fourth segment**, *Priority 4: Enhancing disaster Preparedness for effective Response and to "Build Back Better" in Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction* will be emphasized upon.

*Key Words:* First Responders, Pandemic, Capacity Building, Community, Risk Identification & Assessment, Risk Management.

#### **D. Importance of PRIs**

1. Local Knowledge and Capacities: Communities possess invaluable local knowledge about their environment, vulnerabilities, and coping mechanisms. Leveraging this knowledge is essential for developing effective DRR strategies.
2. Resilience Building: DRR focuses on enhancing the resilience of communities to various hazards, enabling them to better withstand and recover from disasters.
3. Sustainability: Empowering communities to take ownership of DRR initiatives ensures sustainability beyond external interventions.
4. Inclusivity: DRR promotes inclusivity by involving all community members, including vulnerable groups, in decision-making processes.
5. Cost-effectiveness: Local-level interventions often prove to be more cost-effective and efficient in reducing disaster risks compared to centralized approaches.

#### **E. Targeted Participants**

The target group for this program is Master Trainers engaged with the Panchayati Raj Talim Kendra, Sadra involved in activities related to planning, design and rural developmental activities. In addition, selected Faculty members from PR training institute will also join the training. The proposed activity may also help in assessing the training needs of the targeted stakeholders.

## **F. Expected Outcome:**

This training reviews various best practices/initiatives taken up on a pilot basis for DRM. It also focuses on lessons and practical guidelines developed for risk management, particularly highlighting community organization, financing, capacity development, gender and social inclusion, risk management, technology transfer and cultural norms and values. At the end of the program, participants would be able to,

- Identify potential Disaster Risks;
- Understand Role of PRIs for Disaster Risk Management;
- Prepare Communities and Practices to implement Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery actions;
- Disaster Resilient Sustainable Development and planning activities.

## **G. Case Study-1:**

Vagda cluster in Palanpur Block of Banaskantha district comprises of 6 villages Lalavada, Jabalpur, Vagda, Fatepur, Kharodiya, Sadarpur, Karjodiya and Sangra. The cluster is prone to accidents as it close to National Highway. A search & rescue training was organized for the village DMT members of these villages at Vagda on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2007. Considering the earlier experience of low participation of women in S & R training, a different mobilization strategy was worked out. Out of 39 total participants, only 8 women were DMT members. Looking at the fewer number of women members in the DMT, District Project Officer, Mr. Mukesh Chavda thought of contacting the local CBO-Seva Nidhi Foundation. After an interaction, Mr. Rameshbhai, the CBO representative suggested contacting Mrs. Bhavnaben Prajapati who runs a tailoring class at Vagda village. Women from surrounding villages learn tailoring under her mentoring. Mr. Chavda met Bhavnaben and explained to her the utility of learning simple life-saving skills by women and told her about the kind of role women could play in case of a small incident either at home or in the livelihood or case of natural disaster. Impressed by the briefing, Bhavnaben asked all her friends to attend the training Programme. The result was- out of a total of 66 participants, 39 women volunteers took part in the training. Mr. Chavda, before visiting the village had made official communication to Talati and Sarpanch, Village Disaster Management Committee Chairman and Secretary. Even adequate advocacy was made for equitable participation of women in capacity-building programs at the village level.

*Participation:* Training was started with a general introduction followed by gender sensitization of participants. Women members themselves practiced different types of tying rescue knots,

preparing stretchers out of bamboo and a piece of cloth for shifting an injured and bandaging and so on. More probing questions came from the women participants.

*Lessons Learnt:* Women's participation would be less in a Search & Rescue training is a mindset of the practitioner. If we would try to articulate the need for greater participation of women in this crucial sector-specific training, we could elicit greater participation. The role of local NGOs and CBO and the women leaders here was vital for mobilizing the women volunteers. Advocacy on the need of involving more women and appreciating their role at the community level helped in containing the initial resistance and breaking the gender stereotype i.e., search and rescue is the job of male members.

## H. Case Study-2:

Jashpar village, 45 kilometers away from Limbadi, the Block headquarter in Surendranagar district is one of the least developed villages without basic facilities such as all-season roads, basic telephony, drinking water and adequate alternative livelihood for people. During the monsoon, the lone approach road to the village gets cut off and people often use the railway track which is slightly on higher ground to approach the village. In case, the rail track gets flooded, Jashpar becomes unapproachable. It has already experienced such a worst scenario during the 2005 and 2006 floods. Vasantben P.Dharajiya of Jaspar village in Surendranagar district is a member of first aid DMT. She is physically challenged and surviving with a ten-year-old daughter alone after being divorced. She has to run the home and fulfill the responsibility of both the parents towards her only daughter. But she accepts these challenges with grace and living a life with dignity. She believes that it is social taboos and customs weighing heavily against women of her village that are responsible for the less participation of women in development.



Being a proactive woman member from Jashpar, she comes forward to take part in the formal Gram Sabha at the village Panchayat. She has received First Aid training under the community capacity building initiative under DRM Programme. When the constitution of other DMT's was taking place at Jashpur during the Gram Sabha, as per her commitment, she had mobilized around 35 women SHG members and Anganwadi workers at the Gram Sabha held during March 2007. Due to her effort, these women too took an active part during the deliberations at Gram Sabha and discussed various issues about women and their concerns particularly during and post-flood scenarios. She also articulated the need among the fellow members to enlist their names in S & R and water and sanitation and relief distribution, teams. With the acquired skills, she has turned into a good helping hand to the local PHC health worker. Presently, Vasantben is being given stock of basic first aid medicines by the local PHC health worker which she uses for treating community members, women and children in case of an accident. When asked, how she is going to utilize the first aid skills and motivate other community women of the village on disaster preparedness and response, she told, there is an urgent need to change the mindset of male members of our society and for that, we need more forward-looking and courageous women to come forward and take the lead. She is quite positive about her effort. She was sure, in due course; she would be able to help the community women, through her Mahila Mandal and would ensure that they have a say in the village affairs. She was also confident that with the help of her group she would educate and train fellow village women on understanding their special needs and making them realize their potential to contribute to general awareness and preparedness of the village community.

## **I. 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 communities at grassroots levels. Apart from great organizing skills, it may call for courage and leading from the front, the local community members can play a role of leadership in Disaster Risk Management at all stages.

## **References**

1. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-30
2. PM's 10 Point Agenda: India's Disaster Risk Management Roadmap to Climate Resilient and Sustainable Development
3. NDMA Guidelines: Community-based Disaster Management, 2024  
<https://gidm.gujarat.gov.in/>