

Saksham Gram Building Disaster Resilience of Panchayati Raj Institutions

For Sarpanch, Dy. Sarpanch, members of the village panchayat

Venue: Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management

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1 BACKGROUND

Gujarat has a diverse multi-hazard risk profile and is exposed to earthquakes, cyclones and storm surges, floods, droughts and other natural and human-induced hazards. The State's experience of major disasters, particularly the 2001 Kachchh earthquake, has demonstrated that effective disaster management cannot depend solely on response capacities at the State and district levels. Preparedness and risk reduction need to reach the community level, where the impacts of disasters are ultimately experienced and where many of the first actions before, during and immediately after a disaster take place

With approximately 2,341 km of coastline, the longest among Indian states, coastal Gujarat has significant exposure to cyclones and storm surges. Flood risk is also widespread; As per Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment of Gujarat (2005), almost all parts of Gujarat have some degree of flood proneness, while the flat lower reaches of major river basins are particularly susceptible. Gujarat is also chronically drought-prone, with substantial parts of the State being arid or semi-arid. In addition, the State faces significant seismic risk, as demonstrated by the devastating 2001 Kachchh earthquake. Therefore, strong likelihood of earthquake, cyclone, storm surge, flood, drought and chemical accident exposure, suggest the diversity of risks that communities and local institutions need to manage.

The challenge is being further intensified by climate change, which is altering existing patterns of hazard, exposure and vulnerability. Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns and an increasing likelihood of climate extremes have implications for the frequency, intensity and impacts of several weather- and climate-related hazards. For Gujarat's rural communities, these changes can translate into greater risks from extreme heat, intense rainfall and flooding, drought and water scarcity, cyclones and coastal hazards, while also affecting agriculture, livestock, water resources, ecosystems, livelihoods and critical local infrastructure.

The scale of rural Gujarat makes this particularly important. As per Census 2011, Gujarat had a population of 6.04 crore, of which approximately 3.47 crore (57.4%) lived in rural areas. The State had 18,225 villages. Rural communities also include significant concentrations of socially and economically vulnerable populations; for instance, approximately 80.22 lakh Scheduled Tribe persons lived in rural Gujarat, accounting for about 23.1% of the State's rural population.

Gujarat's rural population is governed through an extensive network of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1993 provides for a three-tier structure comprising Village Panchayats, Taluka Panchayats and District Panchayats. Recent Government of Gujarat data used for the BharatNet programme indicates a network of 14,654 Gram Panchayats across 249 blocks/talukas and 33 districts. This extensive institutional presence makes PRIs one of the most important mechanisms for taking disaster risk management to the grassroots.

1.1 WHY PRIs?

PRIs are the institutions closest to rural communities and therefore have a critical role across the disaster management cycle. Panchayat representatives possess knowledge of local geography, vulnerable households, community resources, critical infrastructure, water sources, shelters and local capacities. During an emergency,

they can play an important role in risk communication and early-warning dissemination, identification and support of vulnerable persons, evacuation, management of local shelters, coordination of volunteers and community resources, preliminary damage and needs assessment, relief coordination and facilitation of recovery

Their role is equally important before disasters occur. Panchayats can facilitate participatory risk and vulnerability assessments, identify local hazards and vulnerable locations, maintain information on vulnerable populations and resources, promote household and community preparedness, support Village Disaster Management Plans, conduct awareness programmes and drills, and integrate disaster risk reduction and climate resilience considerations into local development planning.

Importantly, PRIs are also well positioned to help bridge disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at the village level. Measures such as water conservation, protection of local water bodies, resilient infrastructure, preparedness for extreme heat, ecosystem-based approaches, livelihood diversification and climate-sensitive local planning can simultaneously reduce disaster risk and strengthen communities' capacity to cope with climate variability and future climate impacts.

Gujarat already has a strong foundation in community-based disaster risk management through initiatives aimed at strengthening communities, local self-governments and administration. However, elected PRI representatives change periodically and may have varying levels of understanding of disaster risks, emerging climate risks and their institutional roles. Capacity building of PRIs therefore needs to be systematic, practical and recurring, rather than treated as a one-time intervention.

1.2 NEED FOR SAKSHAM GRAM

Considering that more than half of Gujarat's population resides in rural areas and that over 14,600 Gram Panchayats constitute the State's grassroots governance network, strengthening PRI capacities provides an opportunity to create a large and decentralised network of local disaster risk management leadership.

Against this backdrop, “**Saksham Gram – Building Disaster Resilience of PRIs**” is proposed as a dedicated capacity-building programme to strengthen the capacities of Panchayati Raj Institutions for disaster risk reduction, climate-informed preparedness and resilience building across Gujarat.

2 OBJECTIVE

The programme has the following objectives:

- 1) Enhance understanding of PRI representatives regarding the disaster risk profile of Gujarat and locally relevant hazards.
- 2) Familiarise PRI representatives with their roles and responsibilities across different phases of disaster management.
- 3) Build capacities for undertaking village-level hazard, vulnerability, capacity and resource assessment.
- 4) Strengthen mechanisms for last-mile dissemination of early warnings and risk communication.
- 5) Develop capacities for community preparedness, evacuation, shelter management and coordination during emergencies.
- 6) Strengthen understanding and application of Village Disaster Management Plans (VDMPs).
- 7) Promote inclusive disaster risk management with particular consideration for women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.
- 8) Encourage integration of disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and Build Back Better principles into Gram Panchayat planning and development activities.

3 PRE-REQUISITE

There are no prerequisites for this training course, but prior knowledge of the basics of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) may be beneficial.

4 EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing the training program, participants will be able to:

- identify major hazards affecting their Gram Panchayat;
- identify vulnerable populations, locations and critical infrastructure;
- understand their roles during different disaster situations;
- disseminate warnings and facilitate early action;
- coordinate community-level preparedness and emergency actions;
- understand and contribute to preparation/updating of the Village Disaster Management Plan; and
- initiate basic disaster preparedness activities within their Panchayat.

5 TARGETED PARTICIPANTS

The programme is primarily targeted for elected representatives and key functionaries of Gram Panchayats, including **Sarpanches and other PRI representatives/functionaries** having responsibilities relevant to disaster preparedness and community mobilisation.

6 TRAINING PEDAGOGY

The training will be held at the Seminar Hall, GIDM, facilitated by Subject Matter Experts (SME). The training will include active learning techniques such as presentations, group discussions, interactive exercises, case studies, simulations, exposure visits and hands on experience which will encourage participants to engage actively with the training content

Further, quizzes, tests and skill demonstration will also be included in the program for monitoring learners' progress, identifying areas for improvement, and reinforcing learning outcomes.

7 TRAINING CERTIFICATE

A certificate of participation will be given to participants who attend all the sessions during the 2-day training program

8 WAY FORWARD

Saksham Gram may initially be implemented on a pilot. Based on lessons from the pilot, the trainings may be scaled across Gujarat through a systematic capacity-building framework.

The initiative can ultimately evolve from a standalone training programme into an institutionalised mechanism for strengthening disaster resilience of PRIs, with periodic refresher training, updated learning resources, mock exercises and linkage with Village Disaster Risk Management Planning.

Saksham Gram thus seeks to transform Panchayati Raj Institutions from stakeholders in disaster management into informed and empowered grassroots leaders of disaster resilience.

9 SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMME

The tentative schedule of the proposed capacity-building programme is mentioned below:

DAY 1	
TIME	Session
8.30-10.00	Breakfast
9.30-10.00	Registration
10.00-10.30	Inauguration & Introduction <i>GIDM I Reliance Foundation</i>
10.30-11.45	Basics of Disaster Risk Management & Climate Change <i>Director (DM), GIDM</i>
11.45-12.00	TEA BREAK
12.00-13.15	Disaster Risk Governance at village level <i>Shri Tapan Patel, Centre for Integrated Development (CFID), Ahmedabad</i>
13.15-14.00	LUNCH BREAK
14.00-15.15	Hazard Vulnerability Risk Assessment (HVRA) Process 1. Macro-level analysis using GIS and other tools 2. Micro-level analysis using participatory tools <i>Ms. Vandana Chauhan, Subject Matter Expert & Shri Gaurav Tripathi, GIDM</i>
15.15-15.30	TEA BREAK
15.30-17.30	Developing a Village Disaster Management Plan (VDMP) <i>Shri Yashwant Parmar, GSDMA, GoG</i>
DAY 2	
8.30-10.00	Breakfast
10.00-11.15	Strengthening Disaster Preparedness at the Village Level <i>Shri Subhash Savaliya, Director of Relief, GoG</i>
11.15- 12.00	TEA BREAK
12.00-13.15	Resource mobilization and stakeholder engagement for Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) <i>Shri Sureshbhai Changga, Sarpanch, Kunariya Gram Panchayat, Kutch</i>
13.15-14.00	LUNCH BREAK
14.00-15.15	GPDP Integration and Risk-Informed Village Development Planning <i>Shri Manish Acharya, SETU, Kutch</i>
15.15-15.30	TEA BREAK
15.30-16.45	Post-Training Engagement Planning & Way Forward <i>GIDM I Reliance Foundation</i>
16.45 -17.15	Valedictory Session <i>GIDM I Reliance Foundation</i>

10 SESSION PLAN

The proposed session plan is mentioned below:

Session	Topics to be covered
Registration	- Online registration of participants - Training kit distribution - Safety briefing - Facility briefing
Inauguration & Introduction	- Inauguration (GIDM, RFs and Guests) - Introduction of participants - Introduction of Facilitators/Coordinators - Pre-Test
Basics of Disaster Risk Management & Climate Change	<i>Understanding 'Disaster Risk' through Hazards, Exposure, Vulnerability and Capacity components</i> <i>Disaster Risk Profile of Gujarat</i> <i>Disaster Management Cycle</i> <i>Climate Change as a Risk Multiplier</i> <i>Understanding Local/Village-Level Risks</i>

Disaster Risk Governance at village level	• Global Policy Frameworks – SFDRR, SDG, • National Policy Frameworks – DM Act-2005, GSDM Act-2003, PM 10-Point Agenda, NDMP-2019 • Sectoral Frameworks – 73rd and 74th Amendment Act of PRI • Local Level Frameworks – GPDP, VDMC
Hazard Vulnerability Risk Assessment (HVRA) Process	• Community Organization & Engagement • Multi Stakeholder Participation – NGOs/CBOs, Community Leaders, Local Authorities, Local industries, educational institutes, financial institutions • Participatory Risk Assessment ○ Participatory Hazard Mapping ○ Transect Walk ○ Vulnerability Mapping ○ Resource & Capacity Mapping ○ Historical / Disaster Timeline ○ Seasonal Calendar
Developing a Village Disaster Management Plan (VDMP)	• Overview of VDRMP • Village profile and Multi-Hazard Risk & Vulnerability Assessment • Local disaster risk governance • Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Mitigation Measures at local level • Disaster Preparedness Planning at village level • Roles and responsibilities for emergency response and relief • Recovery and Build Back Better
Strengthening Disaster Preparedness at the Village Level	• Village-level preparedness measures • Early warning and communication • Evacuation preparedness • Emergency resources and response arrangements • Roles and responsibilities of local stakeholders
Resource mobilization and stakeholder engagement for Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR)	• Participatory and inclusive village Governance • Risk informed infrastructure & Basic services • Technology & innovation in village governance • Livelihood & Social Resilience • Resource Mobilization & Scheme Convergence • Lessons for disaster resilient Gram Panchayat
GPDP Integration and Risk-Informed Village Development Planning	• Understanding risk-informed development • Linkages between disasters, climate risks and village development • Identifying risk-reduction opportunities in development schemes • Integrating DRR Measures across GPDP Sectors • Overview of Government Schemes relevant to Disaster Risk Reduction ○ Water scarcity & drought like MGNREGS, Jal Jeevan Mission etc. ○ Agriculture & climate risk: PMFBY, PMKSY, NMSA etc. ○ Housing & physical vulnerability: PMAY-G, PMGSY etc. ○ Health, water & sanitation vulnerability: Jal Jeevan Mission, SBM-G etc. ○ Socio-economic & livelihood vulnerability: MGNREGS, DAY-NRLM, etc. ○ Climate & environmental vulnerability: Watershed Development, NMSA,
Post-Training Engagement Planning & Way Forward	• Community Awareness & Gram Sabha Engagement • Coordination with Line Departments & Local Stakeholders • Peer Learning & Sharing of Good Practices • Post-Training Mentoring & Technical Support • Progress Tracking, Reporting & Follow-up
Valedictory Session	• Post-test

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feedback• Certificate distribution• Group Photo |
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