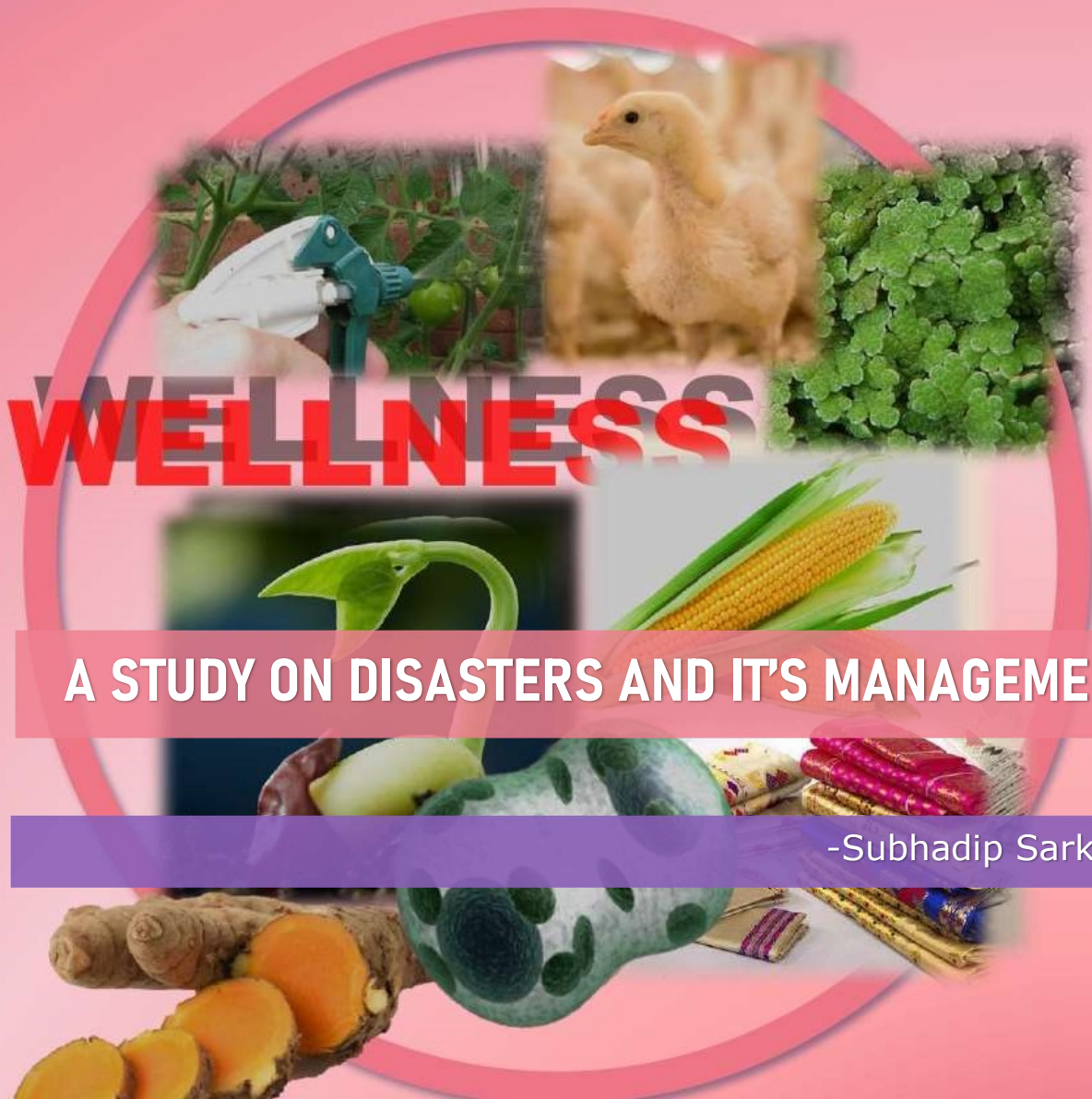


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A STUDY ON DISASTERS AND IT'S MANAGEMENT

-Subhadip Sarkar

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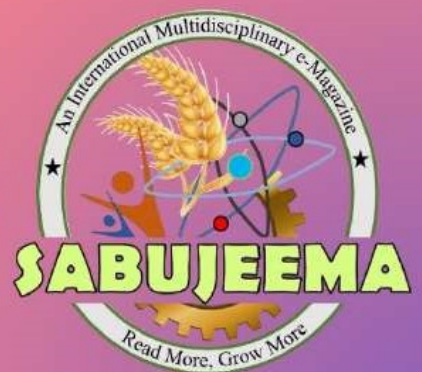
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A STUDY ON DISASTERS AND IT'S MANAGEMENT

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INTRODUCTION

Disasters or often called calamities are a devastating effect for the nature. It is tremendous and have a severe impact for which may be natural or manmade factors are responsible. A disaster can be defined as an occurrence causing widespread destruction and distress.

Disaster management does not avert or eliminate the threats; instead, it focuses on creating plans to decrease the effect of disasters. Failure to create a plan could lead to damage to assets, human mortality, and lost revenue. Events covered by disaster management include acts of terrorism, human caused disaster (like electrical fire, structural issues, industrial sabotage, natural disasters like earthquakes, hurricanes, Tsunami, flood etc.

In order to avoid, or reduce significant losses to a business houses, emergency managers (preferably facility managers) should work to identify and anticipate potential risks, hopefully to reduce

their probability of occurring. In the event that an emergency does occur, managers should have a plan prepared to mitigate the effects of that emergency, as well as to ensure Business Continuity of critical operations post-incident. It is essential for an organization to include procedures for determining whether an emergency situation has occurred and at what point an emergency management plan should be activated.

BODY/TEXT

Disaster study is necessary for everyone like a preliminary study for awareness and to grow the preventive measures among self. Disaster management is a multi-disciplinary field and its success cannot be achieved by a single entity or by working in isolation. Both the public and private sector have a role to play at every stage.

- Disaster = Hazard + Vulnerability - Capacity

Social and economic developments are crucial components of disaster preparedness, however initiatives in development must be undertaken with caution and greater understanding of risks. Development can increase or reduce vulnerability, depending on how programs are designed and run. On the other hand, while natural disaster may seem to counter development goals, they can also offer development opportunities (e.g. rebuilding disaster affected areas in more sustainable manner).

Disaster management is a collective term encompassing all aspects of planning for and responding to emergencies and disasters, including both pre- and post-event



activities. It refers to the management of both the risk and the consequences of an event.

In essence, disaster management is more than just response and relief; it is a systematic process aimed at reducing the negative impact and/or consequences of adverse events.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Before developing a disaster preparedness plan, it is important to do a hazard risk assessment to ensure that there is a clear understanding of the overall environment and circumstances for which the plan will be made.

Risk assessment can be understood as a five-stage process:

- Establish the context of the risks
- Identify potential risks
- Analyze the risks by assessing the likelihood and impact of an event
- Set priorities for addressing the risks (which can include a decision to not address some risks)
- Treat the risks (identify, plan and implement activities)

All risks can't be eliminated but they can be minimized to varying degrees. Technical measures, traditional practices, and public experience can be used to reduce severity of the disasters. Response mechanisms and strategies to create a plan - In developing a plan, a company should:

1. Identify organizational resources
2. Determine roles and responsibilities by location

3. Determine roles and responsibilities by business functions, for example:

- > Strategy > Operations > Finance > Human Resources > Communications

DEVELOP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. Information gathering systems and/or outlets (early warning, needs assessment, post- disaster recovery)
2. Information assessment processes
3. Establishment of assessment teams (including plans for training them)
4. Evacuation procedures (including how to disseminate these procedures to employees)
5. Search and rescue teams (including plans for training them)
6. Inventory of services and products that can be mobilized in event of a disaster
7. Agreement with government agency or NGO to facilitate distribution of services or products
8. Measures for activating distribution systems
9. Measures for activating special installations, such as emergency or mobile hospital facilities
10. Preparations for emergency reception centres and shelters.

CONCLUSION

Disaster study should be monitored and given a scope so that self-awareness and it's importance can be grown in the society more. Disasters cannot be removed but prevented with suitable measures.