"Turning Practice Into Policy"

A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

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Introduction

- 98% of people affected from countries of low /medium human development
- Impact most acutely felt by poor and marginalised people at the local level
- Hazards increasing, but vulnerability is the primary reason
- Main strategy of vulnerability reduction at the household level is to strengthen local capacities and coping mechanisms
- Limited understanding of disaster risk is a major constraint to effective disaster risk reduction both at local, national, international levels.
- Understanding the casual factors of risk and vulnerability are critical in designing effective risk reduction interventions
- Requires an appropriate conceptual framework to understand the relationship between vulnerability and the development process.
- Proposed framework starts from local level (people’s perspectives)
Understanding Integrated Disaster Management:

**Disaster Risk Reduction**

**STEP 1. TRIGGER EVENTS**
- Extreme Hazard (s):
  - Natural
  - Man-made

**STEP 2. DISASTER PROFILE**
- Impact Assessment
- Unmet Needs

**STEP 3. UNSAFE CONDITIONS** (Proximate Causes)
- Policies and Practice (Process)

**STEP 4. DYNAMIC PRESSURES** (Structural Causes)
- Organisations and Actors (Structures)

**STEP 5. ROOT CAUSES**
- Political
- Natural
- Economic
- Social

**The Enhanced Pressure – Release (Disaster Crunch) Model: Progression of Vulnerability**

**STEP 2. DISASTER PROFILE**

**STEP 1. TRIGGER EVENTS**

**STEP 2. DISASTER PROFILE**

**STEP 3. UNSAFE CONDITIONS** (Proximate Causes)

**STEP 4. DYNAMIC PRESSURES** (Structural Causes)

**STEP 5. ROOT CAUSES**

**Appropriate Disaster Management Interventions:-**
- Dev Education/Advocacy
- Advocacy/Development
- Development/Preparedness
- Developmental Relief
- Hazard Reduction
Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment (PDRA):

Step 1. Hazard(s) Assessment

- Identification of past, present and future hazard(s)
- Determine the nature and behaviour of the hazard(s)
Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment

Summary:

Step 2. Disaster Impact Assessment

- Most vulnerable groups
- Elements-at-risk
  - Human
  - Social
  - Natural Resources
  - Physical Infrastructure
  - Economic / Livelihoods
- Priority *unmet* Needs
  - Physical Security
  - Health Care
  - Water / Sanitation
  - Food / Nutrition
  - Shelter / Clothing / Essential Non-Food Items
  - Livelihoods / Employment
  - Education
  - Hope
Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment

Summary:

Step 3. Unsafe Conditions
Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis:

• Vulnerability Assessment:
  Identify the factors that create unsafe conditions making communities susceptible to the impact of a hazard (fragility)

• Capacities Assessment:
  Identify people’s strengths (means, assets and resources) used to counter the unsafe conditions and meet basic needs (resilience)
Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment

Summary:

Disaggregate information into the following categories :-

- Human Factors
- Social Factors
- Natural Factors
- Physical Factors
- Economic Factors

Note: Adapted from Sustainable Livelihoods Framework
Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment

Summary:

**Step 4. Dynamic Pressures**

- Organisations and Actors (State, Civil Society, Private Structures and Institutions)
  - Community / Household level
  - Municipal
  - National
  - Regional
  - International

- Policies and Practices (Formal / Informal Processes)
  - Policies / Frameworks / Strategies
  - Legislation and Laws
  - Culture / Customs
  - Power Relations (I.e. age, gender, caste, class, ethnicity)
  - Vested Interests
Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment

Summary:

Step 5. Underlying Causes

- **Social**: Value and Norms, Customs & Culture, Religious Beliefs, Philosophies, Rights and Responsibilities, Societal divisions linked to issues of inequality, greed, prejudices (e.g. class, caste, creed, ethnicity, gender)

- **Political**: Ideologies, Priorities, Patronage

- **Economic**: Doctrines, Terms of Trade

- **Natural**: Natural environment
Understanding Integrated Disaster Management:

Disaster Risk Reduction

STEP 5. UNDERLYING / ROOT CAUSES

STEP 4. DYNAMIC PRESSURES (Structural Causes)

STEP 3. UNSAFE CONDITIONS (Proximate Causes)

STEP 1. TRIGGER EVENTS

- Political Accountability
- Economic Equity
- Social Justice

Appropriate Disaster Management Interventions:

- Structural Reforms
- Pro-poor Policies and Practice
- Building Local Capacities

The Pressure Release Model: Building Resilience

- Dev Education/Advocacy
- Advocacy/Development
- Preparedness/Mitigation
- Developmental Relief
- Hazard Reduction

Climate Change Initiatives
Conclusions

- The PDRA methodology engages affected communities in a participatory process that helps people to identify and understand disaster risk.

- The awareness of inherent capacities and vulnerabilities forms the basis of informing community action planning to manage risk.

- Local-level actors cannot alone address all the structural and underlying causes of vulnerability.

- Effective community-based disaster risk reduction must be adopted into government structures to **scale up** to address huge numbers “at risk”.

- Requires effective **partnership** between civil society and governmental bodies.