



National Conference on Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR): Pathways for Inclusion and Action for Resilience



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PROCEEDINGS

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT
(Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India)

in collaboration with

DEPT. OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN)
(Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India)



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**National Conference on
Disability-inclusive Disaster
Risk Reduction (DiDRR):
Pathways for Inclusion
and
Action for Resilience**



National Institute of Disaster Management
(Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India)
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National Conference on Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR): Pathways for Inclusion and Action for Resilience

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BACKGROUND

The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India (GoI) and Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disability (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE), Government of India (GoI) are collaborating for facilitating Disability-inclusion in the process of Disaster Risk Reduction. In this context, NIDM organized a National Conference on *Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction: Pathways for Inclusion and Action for Resilience* on 05 February 2020 at the Ambassador Hotel, New Delhi, in collaboration with DEPwD. The National Conference follows from a Consultative Workshop held on 18th October 2019 on the subject, which deliberated on preparing a framework for capacity building in DiDRR. The conference was held with an aim to bring together practitioners and stakeholders from fields of disability and disaster risk reduction to identify actions for inclusive resilience.

Disability is a complex, dynamic and multidimensional issue that encompasses physical barriers, social and economic exclusion and institutional indifference. India, according to Census 2011, has around 2.68 crore people who live with disabilities and constitute around 2.21 percent of the nation's population. Disasters affect the persons with disabilities (PwDs) inordinately by aggravating the existing conditions and vulnerability. The mortality rate of people with disabilities is two times higher than the general population in disasters. Poor planning of disaster response and recovery measures leads to exclusion of disabled victims due to inaccessibility. With increasing number of disasters, there is a need to incorporate inclusivity in the process of disaster risk reduction (DRR).

The need to incorporate disability-inclusivity from the planning to the execution stage of disaster risk reduction process has been realized at the global as well as national level. Disability-inclusion has been a guiding principle in the DRR process as reflected in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR). The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) promote the overarching “*Leave No One Behind*” principle that takes into account the heterogeneity of society including Persons with Disabilities, recognizing them as contributing members of society. With growing global consensus on inclusion and empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for sustainable development, the need for an inclusive DRR process has been felt in India as well. India enacted the **Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act** in 1995 to provide protection and equal opportunities to PwDs. Subsequently, the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016** was enacted in keeping with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006, of which India is a signatory. Both the UNCRPD and RPwD Act have provisions for equal protection and safety for Persons with Disabilities (PwD's) in situations of disasters, conflict and emergencies. The Act further enjoins the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and State Disaster Management Authorities to ensure that PwD's are included in all activities listed in DM Act 2005. The NDMA has also issued



National Disaster Management Guidelines on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) in September 2019 with an aim to implement disability-inclusion in DRR activities of India.

INAUGURAL SESSION



(left to right) Prof. Santosh Kumar, Head of G&IDRR Division, NIDM; Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal, VSM, Executive Director, NIDM; Shri Kamal Kishore, Member, NDMA; Shri S.N. Pradhan, Director General, NDRF and Shri K.V.S. Rao, Director, DEPwD, during Inaugural Session.

The inaugural session was presided over by **Shri Kamal Kishore**, *Member NDMA*, and **Shri S.N. Pradhan**, *Director General, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)*. **Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal**, *VSM, Executive Director, NIDM*, **Shri K.V.S. Rao**, *Director, DEPwD* and **Prof. Santosh Kumar**, *Head of Governance & Inclusive DRR (G&IDRR) Division, NIDM*, graced the occasion.

The inaugural ceremony commenced with a warm welcome to the dignitaries and participants by the coordinator of the conference, **Dr. Chandrani Bandyopadhyay**, *Assistant Professor, NIDM*. She conveyed to the audience the conference agenda of identifying the needs and concerns of Persons with Disabilities (PwD) and addressing the gaps in reducing



risks for PwD. She mentioned that by utilizing their potential and skills, the resilience could be enhanced during all phases of disasters.

Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal, *Executive Director, NIDM*, while delivering the welcome address announced that this conference is the first pre-event of the National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) to be organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India in May 2020. By defining “Disabilities” as an umbrella term, covering all impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions, he focused on enhancing the technology to update the devices used by PwDs and to narrow the communication gaps so that they can walk hand in hand with the



growing competition and technology. He also mentioned that all the prejudices and stereotypes that are often attached with PwD are rooted in our society for all wrong reasons. He narrated the impacts caused to person with disabilities prior, during and after disaster which should be highlighted to the younger generation. He mentioned that the persons with disabilities are equally vulnerable as women, children and old people. He also mentioned that in Japan, the death rate of person with disability was twice as much as the mortality rate. He also highlighted the psychological, mental and social impacts faced by PwDs thus underlining the need for inclusive development. He stressed that policy for Persons with Disabilities should not always be in paper, it should implied in practical life and save lives. He acknowledged that the Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) are a valuable human resource and India is committed to provide equal opportunities to 2.68 crore PwDs through legal and policy instruments to build more inclusive and resilient communities.



Shri KVS Rao, *Director, Department of Persons with Disabilities*, expressed the need for such nationwide discourses on the subject. He mentioned that such meetings and discussions are important, as people are not aware about the various facets of disability that can strike a person with disability. He lauded that the conference was organized in an inclusive manner by ramps for wheelchair accessibility and sign language interpreters and attendants for visually impaired. He stressed that the conference had the objective



to sensitize government, citizens and civil society with guidelines, law and policies for main streaming DiDRR. Strict and effective authority should be maintained and enhanced for PwDs. Another objective was to cover all gaps and challenges as well as the necessary action and plan to make Disaster inclusive for PwDs. He stated the fact that persons with disabilities should not be addressed as mere actors but should be entitled to be principal participants for disaster risk reduction.

Shri S.N Pradhan, *Director General, National Disaster Response Force*, started his keynote address with the point that including PwDs should not be the exception but a rule because there is no going back when there are disasters within disasters. Disasters restrict right to life, property and movement. He said that strategies must be planned and prioritized so that PwDs and other vulnerable people are evacuated safely. He mentioned that participatory inclusiveness, data collection and collaboration among different stakeholders should be included in Disaster Response Mechanism. He further emphasized his point of inclusive participation of stakeholders by citing various examples of the active involvement of community in the management of Fani Cyclone in Odisha. He opined that information and warning to disasters and the knowledge of disaster management plan are the two fundamentals during the rescue and relief operation of any disaster. He also pointed out that there is a gap in information and communication for the PwD's in disaster situations and stressed on the need for maintaining a separate database for the affected disabled



persons. He promised to create such a database in the future search and rescue operations in case of any disaster. He also requested the participants to suggest measures and recommendations to NDRF for better implementation of Disability-inclusive disaster response.



Shri Kamal Kishore, *Member of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)*, during his inaugural address appreciated the initiative of NIDM for organizing a conference on DiDRR. He also agreed with the necessity of implementation of DiDRR according to the NDMA guidelines. He referred to the disability inclusion initiatives at



national and states level especially Kerala. He highlighted five fundamental gaps and needs in disability inclusion: inaccessibility of infrastructure and communication, inadequate participation of PwD's, need for Disability-inclusion in State and District Disaster Management plans, building disability-inclusive resilience and continuous evaluation of guidelines by the PwD stakeholders. He mentioned that it is not physical structure but also the management that has to be taken care of. He said that PwDs are principal actors and their leadership and not merely participation was required. He said that in spite of vulnerabilities of disabled, they have capacities that can be the part of building a resilient society.



(left to right) Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal, VSM, Executive Director NIDM presenting mementos to Shri Kamal Kishore, Member, NDMA; Shri S.N. Pradhan, Director General, NDRF.

The inaugural session concluded with vote of thanks by **Prof. Santosh Kumar**, *Head of Governance & Inclusive DRR (G&IDRR) Division, NIDM*. He thanked the participants from across the country for participating in the Conference.



TECHNICAL SESSION I

Session Title: Disability inclusion in DRR: Need for a Holistic Approach

Chair: Shri S.N Pradhan, Director General, NDRF

Co-Chair: Smt. Sulochana Das, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Govt. of Odisha

Speakers: Shri Mihir Bhat, Founder-Director, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI); Shri KVS Rao, Director, DEPwD; Prof PVM Rao, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D) and Shri Ravinder Kushwaha, Deputy Commandant, 08 Bn, NDRF.



(left to right) Shri Ravinder Kushwaha, Deputy Commandant, 08 Bn, NDRF; Prof PVM Rao, IIT D; Shri KVS Rao, Director, DEPwD; Shri S.N Pradhan, Director General, NDRF; Smt. Sulochana Das, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Govt. of Odisha and Shri Mihir Bhat, Founder-Director, AIDMI

Opening the session, the Chair shared his experiences of Patna flood, Belagavi flood in Karnataka and requested the speakers to share their respective expertise and experiences on the theme of technical session. He pointed out that a holistic approach towards DiDRR can be achieved through understanding the context of disability. He also emphasised on the need to develop strategies for Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction. He emphasized on the need to change the behavioural norms of society. He stressed that the strategies would only be effective if the behavioural change comes. The strategies would



help ensure wide spreading of the disability-inclusive culture.

Shri Mihir R. Bhat, the *Founder-Director of All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)* was the first expert to speak on “**National and Global Perspectives on Disability-inclusion and DRR**”. He began by giving an overview of the vulnerabilities of PwDs as groups more at risk from adverse impacts of disasters. About 15% of the global population comprises of PwDs. The actions taken for social inclusion at the global and national level include the UNCRPD, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Humanitarian Charter on Inclusion of PwDs. At the national and local level, legal and policy initiatives, local actions have a far-reaching impact on inclusion. The way forward therefore includes actions that provide the PwDs a “seat at the table” in other words, equal participation and leadership roles.



The other key points discussed by the speaker are as follows:

- There is need for accurate estimates of PwD's as every 30th person is affected by disasters. Those affected are likely to be poor, socially marginalized, unemployed and beyond social capacities.
- Social exclusion and marginalization increases the vulnerability of PwDs, making them unable to cope with disasters and increasing their casualty.
- The future actions for inclusive DRR should include removal of all barriers viz physical, social and attitudinal to ensure participation of PwDs at all levels in all DRR actions.
- There should be awareness on needs of PwDs among policy makers and stakeholders for designing inclusive developmental programmes and capacity building.
- Development action that supports social enterprises with low carbon footprint that provide employment opportunities to PwDs are a robust way of building back better (BBB) by involvement of private sectors.





Shri KVS Rao, the Director of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), Government of India (GoI), presenting memento to Shri Mihir R. Bhat, the Founder-Director of All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)

Shri KVS Rao, the Director of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), Government of India (GoI), spoke on **“Promoting Inclusion in the DRR Process: A Policy level Approach.”** In his presentation, he conveyed the need for inclusion of PwDs to implement the Incheon Declaration of “Making the Right Real” in all development actions. He informed the august house that empowerment of PwDs in the form of Accessible India Campaign and other programmes are aimed to ensure their participation in the development process. He reiterated that there was a need for inculcating a Culture of Inclusion through participation, empowerment and leadership of PwDs in all spheres of development. There is need for stakeholder involvement, collaboration and awareness about PwDs and their concerns. A sensitization programme of stakeholders is the need of the hour. Persons with Disabilities have equal rights for protection and safety, thus inclusion and sensitizing the Persons with Disabilities of their rights during any disaster situation is a prerequisite.



The other key points discussed by the speaker are as follows:

- There is need for greater collaboration of relevant stakeholders and participation of the community in fostering disability inclusive DRR.
- Disaster management plan should be inclusive and strengthened keeping in view the specific needs of PwDs in the context of the community they reside in, their vulnerability and inherent capacities to cope with disasters.
- The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) is taking various steps to empower PwD in terms of physical and social rehabilitation. Different ways are used to include PwD with respect to education, skill development, sports, culture, equipping them with knowledge, and building their capacity.
- There is need for a holistic approach for mainstreaming PwDs in all phases of disaster management. They should not be viewed only as “victims” but as equal participants and leaders for ensuring the nation’s resilience.
- The coordination between various department at state and local level is imperative. There is need for greater collaboration of relevant stakeholders and participation of the community in fostering disability inclusive DRR.
- There is also need for greater dialogue in this subject at all levels to inform local level policy and practices. State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) can facilitate such dialogue with stakeholders at state and district level.



Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal, VSM, Executive Director NIDM presenting memento to Shri KVS Rao, the Director of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), Government of India (GoI)



Prof PVM Rao, *Mehra Chair Professor and Head of the Department of Design Indian Institute of Technology Delhi* presented a paper on **“Disability Inclusive planning of Spaces and built-form for Reducing Disaster Risks”**. He highlighted the “Invisibility of Disability” during disasters making it very difficult to provide targeted assistance to PwDs. The needs of PwDs are varied and technological interventions can be employed for reducing disaster risks for them. He explained the role of assistive technologies and also emphasized on the collaboration of the academic institutes and policy makers for better implementation of technological interventions in the field of DiDRR.



The other major points discussed are as follows:

- 1 out of 7 persons has some form of disability and 80% of PwDs live in developing countries.
- Dependence on family members or other caregivers hinder PwDs to live and work independently most of the times. This aggravates their poverty and self-esteem while also making them more vulnerable during disaster situations. The technology and innovative systems can help them feel and work differently and independently.
- Independent mobility is the key to disability inclusion during disasters. IIT-Delhi is working on independent mobility techniques to overcome social and behavioral barriers faced by PwDs.
- To address the gap in times of emergency, the team is working on assistive technology. 1 of 10 people in need has access to assistive technology
- There is a need to prioritize the list of Assistive Technologies provided by government and making the technology universal.



- Many technologies used for mitigation and reduction of risks during disaster events are not universal. Thus, design and enforcement of standards and regulation should be inclusive and universal.
- Universal design standards to promote accessibility for PwDs would be important in evacuation and targeted response during disasters and would help in overall DRR.



Shri KVS Rao, the Director of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), Government of India (GoI), presenting memento to Prof PVM Rao, Mehra Chair Professor and Head of the Department of Design Indian Institute of Technology Delhi

Shri Ravinder Kushwaha, Deputy Commandant, 08 Bn, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), highlighted the need of “Ensuring Inclusivity in Disaster Response” by sharing his experiences from the field. He focused on how the NDRF battalions are taking initiative for ensuring safety of PwD’s during disaster response and building community awareness regarding the subject. The NDRF is also taking initiative to mainstream disability-inclusion in community-based disaster risk management. In



this context, he shared experiences acquired from past rescue operations such as Kedarnath flash flood rescue operation, 2013, Jammu& Kashmir flood rescue operation, 2014, Nepal Earthquake, 2015 etc.

The other major points discussed are as follows:

- Role of NDRF in disaster response: Aim is to minimize the loss of life and property and to reduce response time.
- NDRF, constituted in 2006, is the single largest force in world, trained, well equipped and focused on disaster response. Battalions are located in various places across the country for rapid deployment during disasters.
- Major functions of NDRF: Conducted different awareness programmes with lifesaving actions at community level in school and gram panchayat level.
- The different techniques are applied to evacuate in emergency like Rope Rescue Technique and Improvised Floating Device.
- Effects of disasters on lives, structures, infrastructure, livelihood and environment are immense and PwDs form the most vulnerable section of the society.
- Initiatives taken by NDRF for enhancing the capacity of PwDs, viz. Community Awareness Programmes and FAMEX are very useful for awareness and information.

Open House and Interventions from audience:



Shri KVS Rao, the Director of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), Government of India (GoI), presenting memento to Shri Ravinder Kushwaha, Deputy Commandant, 08 Bn, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)



- The basic principle to adopt during DiDRR should be to acknowledge and utilize the inherent strengths and capacities of PwDs rather than victims.
- There are many organizations involved in providing resources for innovations and research in assistive technology. Even after trial and error, the effort to develop new technologies that can be used in betterment of lives of PwD is in continuation.
- There is need for training and capacity building of interpreters other than sign language and audio description during announcements via media or any other means during disasters which can form a part of road map to create awareness in community.
- Care givers and attendants should be trained to build awareness.

Closing Remarks:



- There should be a push to usher in a culture to involve the PwDs in the regular activities for disaster risk reduction to build upon their capacities.
- Strategies for mainstreaming DRR include policies that clearly lay down the roadmap to integrate DRR and inclusion, specific guidelines to include the diversity of disability, and states should prepare a road map for child disability. He also added that ownership and resource allocation is necessary for inclusive DRR.



TECHNICAL SESSION II

Title: Mainstreaming inclusion in Local Level Action

Chair: Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal, Executive Director, NIDM

Speakers: Dr. Asha Hans, Chairperson, President, Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Center, Odisha; Shri Joe John George, State Project Officer, Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA); Shri Pradeep K. Nayak, OAS, Chief General Manager, Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA).



(left to right) Shri Pradeep K. Nayak, OAS, Chief General Manager, Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA); Shri Manoj Kumar Bindal, Executive Director, NIDM, Dr. Asha Hans, President, Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Center (SMRC); Shri Joe John George, State Project Officer, Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA).

In his opening remarks, the chair pointed out the on field challenges and shared personal experiences during the Bhuj Earthquake, where he was the part of response team. He cited another example of Mahalaxmi Express where NDRF saved many lives due to proactive measures, which happened because of well-



executed preparedness and built capacity. There is a difference in documenting and informing people and responding in actual scenario, hence there is a need to address this issue and act accordingly.

Dr. Asha Hans, *President, Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Center (SMRC), Odisha*, shared her views on **“Ensuring Participation of PwDs in DRR Planning”**. She mentioned the evolution of inclusivity of PwDs in disasters and recommended the actions and strategies that need to be executed for ensuring the participation of disabled in DRR planning. She also cited various examples of the initiatives taken by OSDMA to ensure active participation of PwDs in planning and mitigation phase. She shared her experience of working with the community during Supercyclone in 1999, and recounted that accessibility to food and shelter was always a question for PwD.



The other key points in her paper were as follows:

- Even though the NDMA Guidelines on DiDRR have been issued, there is scope for further improvement. During Tsunami in 2004, this problem was addressed and the dialogue with NDMA to include PwDs in policy was also initiated. Article 11, an important component of UNCRPD 2006, has now included the policy of total inclusion in disasters and emergencies. This is one of the best practices where inclusion of PwDs has been highlighted in the policy.
- She also mentioned a drawback that during the formation of SFDRR, disability was not included in initial stage though the Working Group was set up later. So, inclusion of disability in disaster has been a long process.
- OSDMA has experience in practice and have done immense work on disability inclusive DRR. The messages of Early Warning have been made disabled friendly. A cell in SDMA will also be



formed which will be headed by PwD. She stated that strengthening implementation process with appropriate process is one the principle of DiDRR.

- She pointed that housing is still a major problem in Relief and Rehabilitation. One of the 10 point agenda to build back better with access to basic amenities is an important aspect that should be included in guidelines.
- She ended her paper by quoting that, PwDs are the ones who know the best on ground, hence their inclusion in every phase of rehabilitation and technical intervention is imperative.

The chair remarked that Early Warning System needs to be tailor-made, which should include PwD and not technical information that would exclude them. In spite of having guidelines and building codes, the implementation remains inadequate. He emphasized on contribution of PwD that could help to build back better provided we have trust on them.



Lt. Col. Dinesh Chander Vashista, Joint Director, NIDM presenting memento to Dr. Asha Hans, President, Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Center (SMRC), Odisha

Shri Joe John George, State Project Officer, Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA), spoke on the “**Inclusion Initiatives during Disasters: Experience from Kerala**”. He shared the challenges faced while implementing inclusion initiatives. He mentioned the gaps in the current framework and also suggested the way forward to face these challenges. He discussed the best practices followed by KSDMA with respect to Disability inclusion during floods of 2018 and 2019. The data collection by household census conducted by KSDMA in 2015 at panchayat level included 22 types of disabilities (Census 2011) across 940 panchayats. It resulted in enumeration of 2.23% of PwD in Kerala State. Government of Kerala year marked 50 lakhs for this project on Disability inclusion in 2015. With state wide launch in 2016 and series of consultations with disaster managers and PwD resulted publication of a Handbook on Disability DRR.





The following are the key points discussed:

- In 2017, KSDMA developed an ICE material and brochures for DRM in English and Braille which included the hazards to which Kerala is susceptible. These materials have been widely used during trainings for capacity building with PwD. In 2018-19, 3000 individuals with disability were trained across 14 Districts in three levels. This training was categorized in four groups “Physically impaired, visually impaired, intellectually impaired and speech and hearing impaired”. He mentioned that in spite of various challenges in addressing PwD, they showed interest in attending and participating in 56 days of training.
- The ICE materials were made online and video on YouTube during the catastrophe was available which had 8.3k views during 2018 floods. The audio message of 8-10 minutes in DAISY format on the likely hazards in Kerala was also made available. Even KSDMA website has been made disabled friendly along with early warning messages.
- During 2018 floods, over 8600 people living with disability were affected and 40,000 assistive devices were damaged or lost. The relief camps were also not disabled friendly, which was addressed during PDNA and provided with additional assistance.
- However, KSDMA had special organization of PwDs, functioning in Ernakulam district, who rescued 160 PwD and aged persons in 2018-19. The inclusion of PwD in recovery and reconstruction has now been initiated with special financial assistance by government along with UNDP financial support.
- He concluded his speech by enumerating future plans to develop School Safety Plan for Visually Impaired students; Braille Handbook will be provided to local visually impaired schools and geotagging will be incorporated for immediate response.



The chair remarked that such noble ideas like disability friendly website, specialized rescue systems, buddy system and geotagging of PwD formed the part of major takeaways for NIDM and other States to implement them.



Lt. Col. Dinesh Chander Vashista, Joint Director, NIDM presenting memento to Shri. Joe John George, State Project Officer, Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA)

Shri Pradeep K. Nayak, OAS, Chief General Manager, Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) shared his experience and presented on **“Mainstreaming Inclusion in Local level Action: Lessons learnt and initiatives in Odisha”** with highlights on massive capacity building programme with central and state government. He briefed about vulnerability profile of Odisha as two major cyclones Bulbul and Fani affected the development of state. He stated that development and disaster linkage is critical in case of Odisha. He also informed that Odisha has over 12 lakhs PwDs. To combat the effect of such disasters, various measures have been taken by Odisha government which include special training of Aapda Mitra in



respect of PwD along with other community volunteers, constituting special cell to address the PwD in the state, cyclone shelters were made PwD friendly, special aids and equipment for PwD in relief camps has been made available, the involvement of NGOs in making disaster management plan for each village with Village Disaster Management Committee etc.

The following are the key points discussed:

- Responding to persons with disability during disaster is an important issue. But, NGOs in Odisha always worked along with government in response to persons with disability.
- The new disaster that the state is currently focusing on is drowning and snake bites. They are also focusing on lightning and heatwave and robust technology has been used for early warning.
- He ended the discussion by briefing the steps undertaken by the state post cyclone FANI.

The chair remarked that role of Civil Society is vital and we could learn from each state so as to include PwDs in planning, relief distribution and build back process.



Lt. Col. Dinesh Chander Vashista, Joint Director, NIDM presenting memento to Shri. Pradeep K. Nayak, OAS, Chief General Manager, Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA)

Open House and Audience Interventions:

- The chair mentioned that the purpose of the Conference was to bring about a policy for inclusive DRR. The policy will address the situation and state will take responsibility of PwD with respect to their housing and basic necessities. The guideline also has specific sections that state the responsibilities of different departments of state.
- Shri Joe John George informed the hance about the Kerala Social Security Mission which did survey and had Panchayat Level Data. He suggested that this kind of awareness at local level can be done by every state to evacuate and help PwD.



- Maj. Gen. Manoj Kumar Bindal, VSM, informed about the coming programs on capacity building to create awareness.



Closing Remarks:

- The chair appreciated OSDMA for evacuating 2000 pregnant women during the cyclone and out of which more than 600 gave birth safely.
- It was suggested that budget can be allocated to simulated training which can help others understand the adverse situation faced by PwD before, during and post disasters. It was also suggested to add assistive devices in the relief materials and to ensure the assistance in case of document loss during disasters.



TECHNICAL SESSION III

Session Title: Participation of PwDs in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Process

Chair: Prof Santosh Kumar, Head of Governance & Inclusive DRR (G&IDRR) Division, NIDM

Co-Chair: Shri Pradip K Nayak, CGM, OSDMA

Speakers: Dr. Jayakumar C., National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru; Dr. P.T. Baburaj, Director, Inter University Centre for Disability Studies (IUCDS), MG Univeristy, Kottayam; Dr. M.C. Anila, MG Univeristy, Kottayam.



(left to right) Dr. Jayakumar C., NIMHANS; Dr. P.T. Baburaj, Director, IUCDS; Dr. M.C. Anila, IUCDS

In his opening remarks, the chair mentioned that inclusive arrangement have to bring all at one platform and then move towards risk reduction. He urged to speakers from the states to express how they are going ahead in terms of the execution. The co-chair stated that improvement in dissemination of public



information about any extreme events like lightning needs to be taken care of. He further mentioned that certain dos and don'ts are issued in Odisha in an inclusive format.

Dr. Jayakumar C., *National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru*, shared his views on “**Empowering PwDs into DRR Leaders: Approach and Interventions**”. He briefed about the multi-hazard vulnerability profile of India and highlighted the various issues that are being faced while working for disaster mental health and psychosocial care. The issues majorly include the barriers, inadequacies, inaccessibility, attitudinal and perceptual discrimination, etc. He emphasized that the need is to empower the Persons with Disabilities to overcome the barriers and challenges faced.



The following are the key points discussed:

- He explained how the term ‘disability’ was coined and stated that earlier disability used to be perceived as a personal problem. He explained that it should not be accounted as an individual intervention/action but a social action.
- He emphasized that it is no more a medical issue that requires individual adaptation but has a social integration aspect. It is an individual and collective response that depends on the collective attitude of the population to the differently abled population and the right of PwD.
- He emphasized the need for a social change of such population groups and develop a universal model that should be a multi-dimensional model and not a linear progression model.
- The parity needs to be brought in the society by bringing inclusiveness. He pointed out that the inclusiveness is missing as the subject of disaster management and disaster risk reduction when it comes to disabled population.



- He explained in brief about the difference between disaster mental health and psychosocial care. He stated that disaster mental health is a service that focuses on the mental health needs of those directly affected by disaster, relief personnel and those indirectly affected by disasters while psychosocial care is operationally defined as the process that deals with a broad range of psychosocial problems and promotes the restoration of the social cohesion infrastructure as well as the independence and dignity of individual and groups.
- The intervention should not be only adult driven and only restricted to the disaster but for all age groups at all times so that their general quality of life improves.
- He also pointed out on the non-availability of data of the disabled people in a locality citing an example of Car Nicobar Island post The Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004.
- He emphasized the need of psychosocial care post disasters, which cuts across every person who is affected by the disaster. He highlighted that the distribution of distress in human induced disasters are higher than in natural disasters.
- He demonstrated data that 40% of persons with mental health problems are Primary Healthcare seekers and 27% of persons are community healthcare seekers.
- He focused on the need for psychosocial care by mitigating the effect of trauma, alleviating psychosocial distress, strengthening resilience, re-establishing normalcy and building back better. He also flagged some activities for psychosocial services that included helping them to overcome trauma and distress, developing trust in others and themselves and developing hope in the future.
- He identified some of the community level actors that included Teachers, Anganwadi workers, NGO workers, SHG workers, CBO workers, Civil Defense personnel, College Students, PRI members, Youth Club, Mahila Mandal and PHC Workers who would help in enabling the victims to deal with the emotional distress.
- He highlighted three main role of a community level helper that will help in overcoming any emotional distress during a disaster:
 - ⊙ To help the people in understanding the changes that they experience in their body and mind by ventilation, active listening and showing empathy.
 - ⊙ To decrease the physical and emotional effects by relaxation, externalization of interests, explaining about various lifestyle choices, providing social support, healthcare support and spirituality.
 - ⊙ To support and rebuild their shattered lives by helping with housing, assisting for compensation, providing paralegal aid, educational help and employment.



- He concluded by stating that a paradigm shift is needed from individual centric to population centric for disability-inclusion.



Lt. Col. Dinesh Chander Vashista, Joint Director, NIDM presenting memento to Dr. Jayakumar C., National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru

Dr. P.T. Baburaj, Director, Inter University Centre for Disability Studies (IUCDS), Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, shared “**Strengthening emergency response capabilities of the differently abled in Kerala - experience from the field**”.

The following are the major points discussed during the session:

- He pointed out the findings of a project titled “Strengthening emergency response capabilities of the differently abled in Kerala” which is first of its kind in India and has been appreciated by the United Nations. He informed that this project is recognised as a model project by the National Disaster Management Authority.



- Around 140 trainers were trained under this project, who then trained 2667 Persons with Disabilities in Inclusive DRR in 14 districts of Kerala.
- He mentioned the objectives of the Project :
 - ⊙ To empanel a cadre of experts as resource persons in the field of disability inclusive disaster risk management.
 - ⊙ To create awareness among the teachers, parents/caregivers about disability inclusive disaster risk management across the state.
 - ⊙ To empower the persons with disabilities to prepare for disasters/emergencies.
 - ⊙ To strengthen the emergency response capabilities of persons with disabilities across the state.
 - ⊙ To develop sustainable plans to strengthen the capacities of the differently abled in DRR
- The interesting findings of this project were as follows:
 - ⊙ In terms of inclusive disaster risk reduction, most of the participants had very less awareness. Learning about inclusive DRR was new to them.
 - ⊙ It was found that at the beginning of the training the participants were not interacting with each other. However, through group discussion and group work, they learned to work together and interact. This was useful to help both resource persons and participants to understand each other better.
 - ⊙ The resource persons used various training strategies to help the participants to understand the concept better.
 - ⊙ The sessions were made accessible to all. Training participants mentioned that the sessions were informative and helpful to prepare well for disasters.
- In conclusion, he mentioned that organizing and conducting a state level training programme on “Capacity building in emergency response capabilities of children with disabilities in Kerala” is being done in an experimental mode for the very first time in Kerala.
- He suggested a training module should be developed based on the experiences gathered and learned from this training course so that it could be replicated and reach to more people with disabilities.
- He also suggested preparing a Refresher’s course for the participants.





Lt. Col. Dinesh Chander Vashista, Joint Director, NIDM presenting memento to Dr. P.T. Baburaj, Director, Inter University Centre for Disability Studies (IUCDS), Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam

Dr. M.C. Anila, *Inter University Centre for Disability Studies (IUCDS), Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam*, shared her project experience on “**Management of post flood phobia among person with disabilities of Kerala**” in 14 districts of Kerala which was initially organised only in the 4 districts.

The key findings of her projects are as follows:

- She pointed out the need to hear the experience from the disabled victims post disaster situation for effective disability-inclusion on field.



- She shared some of the findings from the feedback of the disabled people that has been collected as a part of the project.



- The IUCDS department of MG University collected the feedback of PwDs, using some scientific tools and converted into a generalised conclusion.
- The procedure of the project has been described below in detail:
 - ⊙ First, they identified the PwDs with post flood phobia and explored their level of flood Phobia before and after conducting training programme.
 - ⊙ They prepared an inventory for measuring their level of flood phobia. Then this inventory was administered among the PwDs with post flood phobia based on gender and in different areas of phobia. The nature of this study was survey technique initially but experimental in later sessions.
 - ⊙ They administered this study mostly in Allapuzha district based on which they prepared the package to manage the phobia.
- The findings showed that the impacts of disasters in terms of phobia significantly vary with gender. There is a need to train the caregivers then only we can empower the PwDs.
- In conclusion, she mentioned that the post flood phobia could be minimized with the help of effective management training among PwDs without gender bias but based on different aspects of phobia.



Lt. Col. Dinesh Chander Vashista, Joint Director, NIDM presenting memento to Dr. M.C. Anila, Inter University Centre for Disability Studies (IUCDS), Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam

Open House and Interventions from Audience:

- It was suggested that the best practices taken by different agencies should be documented so that they can be adopted by other states as well.
- It was suggested to initiate profiling, mapping and geo-tagging the PwDs in synchronization with DPID scheme to make evacuation easier wherever they are present.



- To conduct mock drills for the PwDs to make them prepared for any kind of emergencies/disasters.
- The awareness material should be accessible to all disabled people and should consider the use of sign language and Braille for deaf and blind people respectively.



Closing Remarks:

- Psycho social care is one way in the process of empowering the PwDs.
- Data base management of the PwDs is urgently required.
- It should not be an adult driven but holistic approach should be considered for inclusive DRR.
- We should have a policy and strategies for taking the agenda forward for DiDRR.
- Training programmes for all kinds of disasters should be conducted.
- The Research orientated solution can be through involvement of universities in training the PwDs so that the Phobia can be removed.
- Representative of PwDs should be included in any committee for the empowerment and in the enforcement, agencies and advice must be taken from PwDs.



VALEDICTORY SESSION

The valedictory session was graced by **Smt. Shakuntala D. Gamlin, IAS**, *Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Government of India (GoI)* as the Chief Guest and **Shri G.V.V. Sarma, IAS**, *Member Secretary of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)* as the Guest of Honour. **Maj. Gen. Manoj Kumar Bindal, Executive Director, NIDM**; **Shri Mihir Bhat, Director, AIDMI**, **Prof. Santosh Kumar, NIDM** and **Lt. Col. Dinesh Chander Vashista, Joint Director, NIDM** also addressed the session.



(left to right) **Prof. Santosh Kumar**, Head of G&IDRR Division, NIDM; **Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal, VSM**, Executive Director, NIDM; **Smt. Shakuntala D. Gamlin**, Secretary, DEPwD, MoSJE, GoI; **Shri G.V.V. Sarma**, Member Secretary, NDMA; **Shri Mihir R. Bhat**, Founder-Director, AIDMI and **Lt. Col. Dinesh Chander Vashista**, Joint Director, NIDM.

Prof. Santosh Kumar, NIDM, while welcoming the dignitaries on dais mentioned that NIDM has taken this initiative as a pre event for the National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction scheduled to be held in May 2020. He welcomed all dignitaries to the concluding session and thanked them for attending the session despite their busy schedules. The dignitaries were presented with mementos by the Executive Director, NIDM.





(left to right) Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal, Executive Director, NIDM presenting mementoes to Smt. Shakuntala D. Gamlin, Secretary, DEPwD and Shri G.V.V. Sarma, Member Secretary, NDMA.



Shri Mihir Bhat, *Founder-Director, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)* presented a brief about the deliberations and the recommendations that may be taken up for the future. The major recommendations included policy advocacy, accessibility, creation of database and participation of PwDs and mainstreaming DiDRR in all phases of disaster management. There is also need for customising early warning system for disabled persons and development of PwD training module. There is need of resource pooling to build on existing framework.

Maj. Gen. Manoj Kumar Bindal, *VSM, Executive Director, NIDM*, acknowledged the contributions from eminent experts/academicians for sharing their work during the technical sessions. He conveyed that NIDM will promote specific research on gaps and outcomes discussed in every session to find out technical ways to combat the solution of differently able persons. He further assured that the vital information shared during the conference will be documented to formulate a road map for future plan and action. He also pointed out that NIDM will conduct regional workshops to ensure that more stakeholders are connected to the cause. NIDM will plan to develop capacity building module for PwDs, first responders and policy makers and awareness module for the stakeholders.



Shri G.V.V. Sarma, *Member Secretary NDMA, the Guest of Honour* highlighted the importance of the United National Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), to which India is a signatory and the RPwD Act (2016). He emphasised on Disability inclusion with DRR and enhancement of capacity building, EWS, mock drills and mitigation plan for disabled persons before the disaster phase and adoption of Build Back Better approach post disaster in accordance with SFDRR. Apart from disaster response, adequate funds will be there in new provision to address special requirement, to develop an index of DRR and to assess multi hazard prone space.



Smt Shakuntala D. Gamlin, IAS, Secretary and Chief Guest, in her Valedictory Address, congratulated NIDM for bringing the subject of disability-inclusion during disasters to the fore and organizing the National Conference. She responded to some of the constraints and issues that came up during the conference. She mentioned that proper platform should be developed for disabled persons to help them articulate their views and concerns. She said that it was up to the society in general to look inwards



and think of preventive measures to take care of special groups. She emphasized on sharing the knowledge, strategies with the vulnerable groups so that they can act suitably during disaster phases. She also suggested that all stakeholders from different streams dealing with disasters should collaborate under one umbrella to enhance each others capacity by sharing their experiences and wisdom. She emphasized the role of communities and volunteers in times of disasters for all disabled groups. She mentioned that technology, planning, constructing activities, accessibility and connecting requires collective effort. In the context of PwD database, she also

mentioned that the DEPwD has undertaken a drive for providing Unique Identification Card to every PwD to collect data on various types of disability at the state level. This database would help in targeting need-based assistance to PwDs and would be very useful during disasters. Disaster Management Plan at State Level can be prepared by including the data available through this programme.





Secretary DEPwD also asked the participants to recommend actions required for disability inclusion. The following broad recommendations were given for future action:

- Schemes like Deen Dayal Rehabilitation Scheme could be dovetailed with provisions of disaster management. In terms of capacity building, she suggested that the Ministry of HRD, RCI and NIDM could frame the curriculum for various stakeholders in DiDRR. There is need for sensitizing rehabilitation professionals through focused training courses has also been pointed out.
- The participation of PwDs in committees at State level for Disaster Rescue Plan for disabled persons should be essential. It should also be percolated down to district authority. Moreover, framework of standardising the caregivers course and to build attributes in personality of care givers so as to inculcate the tenacity, emotional resilience, language and communication ability to response to emergency situations should be organized.



- There is need for information dissemination related to DRR among differently abled persons. Role of interpreters for disabled persons is very vital for communication during the disasters.

Lt. Col. Dinesh Chander Vashista, *Joint Director, NIDM*, while proposing the vote of thanks reiterated NIDM's commitment to take the subject forward so that no one is left behind in a disaster resilient India. He conveyed his heartiest thanks to **Shri Kamal Kishore**, *Member, NDMA*, **Shri S N Pradhan**, *Director General, NDRF*, **Smt. Shakuntala D. Gamlin**, *Secretary, DEPwD*, **Shri G.V.V. Sarma**, *Member Secretary, NDMA*, and all the esteemed guests, dignitaries, speakers, discussants, Disaster Management Division Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), NDMA, knowledge partners, media, delegates, and staff of NIDM for making the conference successful.



KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR STAKEHOLDER ACTION ON DIDRR

The Conference was successful in bringing to the fore the critical issues pertaining to social inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The urgent need for mainstreaming PwDs in all activities of disaster risk reduction was underscored in all sessions. In the light of the RPwD Act and the NDMA Guidelines, there is need to ensure a participatory framework of DRR where all sections of society are integrated through plans, programmes and actions. A two-fold approach for Disability-inclusion in DRR is required to be adopted viz inclusion of needs and concerns of PwDs on the one hand and leadership of PwDs in DRR actions on the other.

The Brainstorming Workshop on 18th October 2019 and the National Conference in February 2020, as a follow-up of the National Guidelines, have identified critical issues and gaps in social inclusion and have suggested specific actions to ensure inclusive DRR. The key takeaways from both the events and suggested stakeholder actions are summarized as follows:

S.N.	General Recommendations	Action Points	Stakeholder/Responsible Agency		
			Primary	Secondary	Others
1.	Collection, Maintenance and easy access of database on PwDs	A national database of disaggregated data on PwDs, based on the type of disability, specific needs and assistive devices.	DEPwD	State Commissionerates for PwDs State Welfare Departments/ CRCs	National Institutes under DEPwD
		Maintenance of database for recording the death and injuries of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) caused by disasters.	State Revenue Departments/ Disaster Management Departments, DEPwD	NDRF, SDRFs	
		Development of geo-spatial database to facilitate immediate response and rescue	DEPwD	State Commissionerate for PwDs	
2.	Ensuring Accessibility to PwDs	Incorporation of universal design measures to enhance accessibility of infrastructure for PwDs.	CPWD/ Public Works Departments/ Municipal Bodies/ Local Governments	MoHUA, MoRD	BIS/ DEPwD (harmonised guidelines)
		Need for prioritizing assistive technologies through artificial intelligence for enhancing inclusivity and mobility.	DEPwD	State Commissionerates for PwDs	National Institutes under DEPwD



3.	Guidelines, Plans and Action Framework	Disaster management plans at all levels should be inclusive and strengthened keeping in view the specific needs of PwDs in the context of the community they reside in, their vulnerability and inherent capacities to cope with disasters.	NDMA, DEPwD, NIDM, UN/NGOs working with PwDs	SDMAs, State Relief Commissioners, NGOs	DDMAs, District Administration
		Road map of disability-inclusion in DRR with specific guidelines for diverse disability, ownership and resource allocation needs to be prepared which must undergo continuous evaluation by PwDs.	NDMA, NIDM, DEPwD nominated PwDs	SDMAs, State Commissionerates for PwDs	State Social Welfare Departments
		Preparation of School Safety Plan for Visually Impaired students	MHRD, NIDM, NIVH	State Departments for Education	ULBs, Panchayats, etc.
		Provision of Braille Handbook to local visually impaired schools	DEPwD, NIVH	State Departments for Education	NGOs
		Assembling document of best practices in pre, during and post disasters for PwDs	NIDM, DEPwD	SDMAs, State Commissionerates for PwDs/ State Social Welfare Departments	NGO Partners
		Development of relief standards for DiDRR	NDMA, NIDM	DEPwD	SPHERE India
4.	Customisation of Early Warning	Design of disabled-friendly Early Warning dissemination systems for quick evacuation			
		Dissemination of emergency information and early warning signals to cater the needs of all the 21 disabilities	NDMA, MHA	State Relief Commissioners/ SDMAs/ District Administration	



5.	Rescue and Relief	Provision of customized relief aids to PwDs	NDRF	SDRF	Civil Defence
		Designing of universally accessible relief centres and shelters	BIS, MoHUA, MoRD	PWD, State relief Commissioners, SDMAAs	IITs/ design schools
		Availability of facilities to cater the needs of disabled victims in rescue shelters	NDMA, NDRF, DEPwD	State Revenue/ Disaster Management Departments, State Relief Commissioners, SDMAAs, DDMAAs	SDRF
		Need for ensuring PwDs get facilities even in case of document loss during disasters.	State Government/ DEPwD	ULBs, Panchayats and other Local authorities	State Commissionerates for PwDs
		Psycho-social rehabilitation and therapy post disasters	NIMHANS		
6.	Participation and Empowerment of PwDs	Representation of PwDs at each nodal departments and ministries for better policy formulation and implementation	MHA, DEPwD	State Revenue/ Disaster Management Departments, SDMAAs	
		Providing Technical Support, funds for empowering PwDs and Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs) in DRR	DEPwD, NDMA, Multilateral Organisations	State Commissionerates for PwDs/ State Social Welfare Departments	NGO partners
		Conduct of Training for representatives of 8 National Institutes and CRCs under DEPwD	NIDM, RCI, NDRF	DEPwD	
7.	Sensitization and building awareness	Conducting Workshops and Sensitization Programme	NDMA, NIDM & DEPwD	SDMAAs	District Authorities, NGOs
		Awareness campaigns in local languages	NDMA, DEPwD	State Governments	



8.	Training and Capacity Building	Preparation of Training modules for PwDs on disasters, understanding early warning signals, evacuation and coping actions.	NIDM, RCI	National Institutes for PwDs	
		Preparation of Standardised Training Module for Master Trainers and Reponders.	NIDM, RCI	National Institutes for PwDs	
		Conducting Training Programmes and Workshops	NIDM	State ATIs / SDMA	DDMA
		Training of response forces for special assistance to PwDs should be taken up by agencies like NDRF towards zero loss.	MHA, NDRF, NDMA	SDRF, SDMA, State Department for PwDs, State Relief Commissioners	DDMA, Fire Brigade/Civil Defence
9	Inclusion of DiDRR in Institutional and Academic Curriculum	Designing of academic curriculum for DiDRR	MHRD, RCI	Department of School Education	
		Inclusion of Universal Design aspects in all engineering, architectural and design courses	MHRD, AICTE, UGC	Department of Technical Education	
10.	Knowledge Enhancement	Creating knowledge forums and platforms of researchers, academics, legal practitioners, policy makers and DRR professionals	DEPwD, NIDM	RCI and National Institutes under DEPwD	
		Collaboration with technological institutes for research-oriented solutions	UGC, MHRD, NIDM	RCI and National Institutes under PwDs	





Conference Team





Annexure - I

National Conference on Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction: Pathways for Inclusion and Action for Resilience

Organized by
National Institute of Disaster Management
(Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India)
&
Dept of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt of India)

5 February 2020

Schedule

Time	Theme	Speaker
09.00 – 10.00	Registration	
10.00 – 10.45	Inauguration - Welcome Address - Address - Special Address - Inaugural Address - Vote of Thanks	Dr Chandrani B, NIDM Maj Gen Manoj K Bindal, ED, NIDM Shri KVS Rao, Director, DEPwD Shri S.N Pradhan, DG, NDRF Shri Kamal Kishore, Member NDMA Prof Santosh K, NIDM
10.45 – 11.15	Tea/Coffee Break	
11.15 – 13.00	Technical Session I: Disability inclusion in DRR: Need for a Holistic Approach	Chair: Kamal Kishore, Member, NDMA Co-Chair: Shri S.N Pradhan, DG, NDRF



11.15 – 11.30	Disability-inclusion and DRR: National and Global Perspectives	Shri Mihir Bhat, Director AIDMI
11.30 – 11.45	Promoting Inclusion in the DRR process: A Policy level Approach	Shri KVS Rao, DEPwD
11.45 – 12.00	Disability Inclusive planning of Spaces and Built-form for Reducing Disaster Risks	Prof PVM Rao, IIT-D
12.00 – 12.15	Ensuring Inclusivity in Disaster Response: Experiences from the field	Shri RavinderKushwaha, DC, 08 Bn, NDRF
12.15 – 13.00	Open House/ Discussion	
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch	
14.00 – 15.00	Technical Session II: Mainstreaming Inclusion in Local Level Action	Chair: ED, NIDM Co-Chair: Shri KVS Rao, DEPwD
14.00 – 14.15	Ensuring Participation of PwDs in DRR Planning	Dr Asha Hans, Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre, Odisha
14.15 – 14.30	Inclusion Initiatives during Disasters: Experiences from Kerala	Shri Joe John George, Kerala SDMA
14.30 – 14.45	Mainstreaming Inclusion in Local level Action: Lessons Learnt & Initiatives in Odisha	Shri Pradeep K Nayak, OAS, Chief General Manager, Odisha SDMA
14.45 – 15.00	Open House/Discussion	
15.00 – 15.30	Tea	
15.30 – 16.30	Technical Session III: Participation of PwD's in Disaster Risk Reduction Process	Chair: Shri Pradip Nayak, CGM, OSDMA Co-Chair: Prof Santosh K, NIDM
15.30 – 15.45	Empowering PwDs into DRR Leaders: Approach and Interventions	Dr Jayakumar, C, NIMHANS, Bengaluru
15.45 – 16.00	Capacity Building of PwDs for DRR	Kerala State Handicapped Persons welfare Corp'n Ltd
16.00 – 16.30	Open House	
16.30 – 17.30	Valediction & Closing - Welcome of Dignitaries - Conference Proceedings & Takeaways - Address - Valedictory Address - Vote of Thanks	Prof Santosh Kumar Shri Mihir Bhat Maj Gen Manoj K Bindal, ED, NIDM Smt Shakuntala D. Gamlin, Secretary, DEPwD Lt Col D.C Vashista, JD, NIDM



Annexure - II

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Annexure - III

MEDIA COVERAGE



**Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs**

**05-February-2020 19:NIDM organizes Conference On Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk
Reduction: Pathways For Inclusion and Action
for Resilience**

National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), organized “National Conference on Disability-inclusive Disaster Reduction: Pathways for Inclusion and Action for Resilience” here today. The one-day conference was organized collaboration with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice Empowerment (MoSJE), as a run up to National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) in May 2020. The event focused to bring together the stakeholders from Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and disability inclusion to deliberate on actions strategies for mainstreaming disability-inclusion in DRR process.

Presiding over the function, Shri Kamal Kishore, the Member of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), highlighted the need for development of a holistic approach for disability-inclusion in DRR. He emphasized on empowerment of the persons with disabilities for inclusion in disaster risk reduction. He also emphasized on mainstreaming disability inclusion in local level actions.

Presenting the Special Address, Shri S.N. Pradhan, Director General, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) emphasized the need of training of the first responders of disaster management to achieve disability-inclusion. He explained challenges faced in rescuing disabled victims during disaster scenarios.

Delivering the welcome address, Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal, Executive Director, National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), highlighted the present gaps in disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and he also prioritized of capacity building programs for mainstreaming disability inclusion at all levels.

Addressing the inaugural session, Dr. K.V.S. Rao, Director, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), Government of India (GoI), also emphasized on the involvement the stakeholders in the decision-making process. He highlighted the scope of development of assistive devices technologies with an aim to empower the persons with disabilities.

Inaugural session was followed by three technical sessions: “Disability inclusion in DRR: Need for a Holistic Approach”; Mainstreaming Action in Local level Action” and “Participation of PwD’s in Disaster Risk Reduction Process”. Several eminent speakers from the field of DRR and disability-inclusion like Shri Mihir Bhat and Dr. Asha Hans among others shared views and experience to pave the way forward for building disability-inclusive resilient development. Senior officials representatives from various departments of various states and NGOs participated the conference. The valedictory for conference was addressed by Smt. Shakuntala Gamlin, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), and Shri Sarma, the Member Secretary, NDMA.



Annexure - IV

REPORT OF CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON CAPACITY BUILDING FOR DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE DRR (DiDRR): A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

BACKGROUND

The need of disability-inclusive development has been realized at the global level. The Sendai Framework also promotes empowerment of persons with disabilities (PwDs) to promote universally accessible response, recovery rehabilitation and reconstruction. In this context, the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) and the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Govt. of India, are collaborating to empower the 2.68 crore people who live with disabilities in India and to include them in DRR process through capacity building, research and advocacy. As the first step of the collaborative process, the Consultative Meeting was held on 18th October 2019 at YMCA, New Delhi.

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

The consultative meeting on “**Capacity Building for Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR)**” deliberated on the issues of disability-inclusion in disaster risk management. The meeting was held with an aim to consult the various stakeholders involved and to come up with implementable measures and strategies for capacity building to include persons with disability in the process of disaster risk reduction. The meeting was presided by Dr. K.V.S. Rao, Director, Department of Empowerment Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Major General M.K. Bindal, Executive Director, NIDM, Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura, Vice President, Assistive Technology Development Organization (ATDO), Japan and Dr. G.N. Karna, Faculty, Jwahrallal National University (JNU).



(left to right) Dr. K.V.S. Rao, Director, Department of Empowerment Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Major General M.K. Bindal, Executive Director, NIDM, Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura, Vice President, Assistive Technology Development Organization (ATDO), Japan and Dr. G.N. Karna, Faculty, Jwahrallal National University (JNU)



WELCOME SESSION

Dr. Chandrani Bandyopadhyay Neogi, Assistant Professor, NIDM, set the session in motion by explaining the need of disability inclusion in disaster risk reduction in India. She emphasized on how the global framework and the development goals are mainstreaming the inclusion of disabled persons in disaster risk reduction.

Addressing the session, **Dr. K.V.S. Rao** emphasized on the involvement of all the stakeholders in the decision-making process. He highlighted the scope of development of assistive devices and technologies with an aim to empower the persons with disabilities as well as inclusion of them in disaster risk reduction.



Dr. Chandrani Bandyopadhyay Neogi, Assistant Professor, NIDM



(left to right) **Dr. K.V.S. Rao**, Director, Department of Empowerment Persons with Disabilities

Major General M.K. Bindal highlighted the present gaps in disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and emphasized on the need of training of the first responders of disaster management to achieve disability inclusion.

Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura started his presentation with 2011 Japan Earthquake/Tsunami example.

In this example he shared the evacuation of school students with psycho-social disability. The school conducts the evacuation drills often and this has helped them in timely evacuation. The evacuation should be timely and they evacuated within four minutes after the earthquake. This has also triggered the entire community to evacuate.



With the learning from 2011 Japan earthquake and Tsunami, once in every year evacuation drill use to take place. He said that we should learn from the disable children which has helped the entire community to evacuated. He mentioned about the importance of Sendai Framework. The third world congress recognized the importance of disability in DRR. India has good practices and we need to disseminate the knowledge of the best practices. He mentioned about the universal design which includes all types of disability. He emphasized on the learning of lessons from the disable who survive and evacuated post-earthquake.



Dr. Surya Prakash, Associate Professor, NIDM



Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura, Vice President, Assistive Technology Development Organization (ATDO), Japan

In the concluding remarks, **Dr. Surya Prakash** emphasized upon the learning from the disable, which was pointed out by Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura and to build resilience for the disable people. He put forward that inclusions will make a resilient society. He also mentioned about the integration of various department participants who came forward for consultative meeting for the inclusiveness in DRR. He rightly points out that instead of saying disabled we should refer as “differently abled” because they equally have the same capacity like the normal population. They just need guidance and support for the same.

THEMATIC SESSION 1: ASSESSING THE NEED FOR DiDRR, IDENTIFYING GAPS AND FIELD EXPERIENCES

The first roundtable session was initiated by **Dr G.N. Karna**, Faculty, Jwahalral National University (JNU), who gave a thematic presentation on Disability Inclusive DRR. He emphasised on the disable population in the country and the issues related to them in terms of disasters events. He mentioned about the acts and articles where disability inclusion in

disaster management has been clearly stated. He further highlighted the lacunas in the government buildings itself where ramps are made for disable people but vehicles are usually parked in that area. The lack of sensitization is a major concern, as the attitude of people needs to be changed for disable population. This need for sensitization should be addressed at all levels, all the secretaries and other



officers of Govt of India need to be sensitized on the disability issue.

Roundtable Discussion 1: Dr. Surya Prakash, Associate Professor, NIDM and Dr. Chandrani Bandyopadhyay Neogi, Associate Professor, NIDM moderated the roundtable discussion. The discussion was held with an objective of gap identification and needs assessment in DiDRR. The key gaps and needs identified during the session are as follows:

- Communication and information dissemination to the disabled persons during the onset of disaster is a major issue that needs to be addressed. Suggestions on specialised warning and alert dissemination has been stressed upon in all forms required to cater to the needs of the 21 disabilities mentioned in Right of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016. Introduction of the assistive technologies and development of early warning signs for disabled victims have been suggested.
- Accessibility to relief aids and shelters by the persons with disabilities is another major concern. Design of universally accessible and disability need-specific shelters has been emphasized. of training in disaster risk reduction of the local and community stakeholders, which further increase the
- vulnerabilities of disabled people, has also been noted.
- Need for maintaining database stating the records of all persons with disabilities in a particular unit. Suggestion for development of geo-spatial database has been made which will ensure faster rescue of the disabled victims by directing the locations of the disabled persons to the first responders in case of a disaster outbreak.
- Need for development of manuals and disaster management plans that ensure disability-inclusion. Stress was given on adding disability-inclusion sub-modules in every training module of disaster risk reduction and other allied fields.
- Stressed on the factor that PwDs are needs to be empowered and considered as a contributor in decision-making. Need for amendment in the DM Act and other State policies and framework to mainstream disability-inclusion in decision making process of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).
- Lack of post-disaster psycho-social rehabilitation and therapy has been highlighted.
- Inclusion of DiDRR in institutional and school curriculum has also been suggested for wide spreading awareness.



THE MATIC SESSION 2: CAPACITY BUILDING FRAMEWORK FOR DIDRR

The second thematic session begun with the presentation of Dr Jayakumar from National Institute of mental Health Neuro Science. He focused on the psycho- social care of the disaster situation. He stressed that India has seen a paradigm shift in disaster management and country is focussing on risk reduction. NIMHANS has been working in this field and providing psycho-social support to survivors as well responders. While discussing about the instruction as such he said that NIMHANS has setup a centre which focuses on government agencies exclusively. He also said that special attention in terms of disabled people for providing mental health services is need of the hour and NIMHANS gearing up to address this. Dr Jaya Kumar Stressed upon collaboration of different stakeholders for inclusive DRR in a holistic manner that is inclusion of PwD in DRR related activities.

Roundtable Discussion 2: Dr. K.V.S. Rao, Director, Department of Empowerment Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD) along with Dr. Chandrani Bandyopadhyay Neogi, Associate Professor, NIDM moderated the roundtable discussion. This discussion was focused on the capacity building measures and strategies for DiDRR. The key recommendations of this session are as follows:

- Training for Rescuers, Rescue Teams and organisation of Rescuer such as National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Police, Army, etc. for special handling of disabled persons during search and rescue operations.
- Representation of PwDs at each nodal departments and ministries for better policy formulation and implementation.
- Collaborations of institution for PwDs with DRR institutions at every level has been suggested. Rehabilitation Council of India proposes collaboration with NIDM for conducting short-term training program with an aim to integrated DRR with the empowerment of PwDs. Suggestion on running specialised professional courses on DiDRR has also been floated.
- Provision of customised relief aids in case of a disaster outbreak needs to be looked upon. Aids like walking sticks, and other assistive devices should be included in the relief aids to cater the needs of disabled persons.
- Lack of specific standards for DiDRR has been noted. Development of such standards has been recommended.

Dr. K.V.S Rao concludes this session by recommending the Institutions for PwDs to prepare a list that clearly denotes the symptoms and needs of all the 21 disabilities mentioned in the RPwD Act, 2016 for better catering of the needs of the disabled persons. He also suggested recording the number of the PwDs fatalities and casualties post every disaster. He further adds that inclusion of all sections of societies is necessary in DRR.





CLOSING SESSION

Major General M.K. Bindal, Executive Director, NIDM, concludes the meeting by announcing the following forthcoming actions for disability-inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction.

- Specific Training Modules for DiDRR of 6 to 7 categories would be developed for creating awareness, sensitization and empowering all 21 categories of PwDs in Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Conduction of Workshops and Sensitization Programs about DiDRR for Secretaries and Ministries at National and State Level.
- Establishment of a new cell for Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) at NIDM.
- Collaboration with University Grants Commission (UGC), Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) and other technical institutes for integration of DiDRR in academic Curriculums.
- A standardised module for DiDRR at national level would be developed by NIDM.





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