



National Webinar

COMMUNITY BASED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF VILLAGE DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN



ZONE4SOULTIONS

#DisasterFreeIndia

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Disasters like earthquakes, floods, cyclone, landslides, cloud bursts, flash floods, forest fires etc have killed or injured millions of people and have caused homelessness and misery in the small pockets of India all around the year. This requires localised actions for disaster to minimise its impact on life, environment, and property response to any disaster in the absence of a well-defined plan would lead to overutilization of resources and absence of critical actions. Therefore, the most critical aspect of community-based disaster management is the development of a village-level disaster management plan. It not only defines the roles and responsibilities during the disaster but also provide information about village hazard profile, vulnerabilities and capacities that can help the village community during the emergency. It is important to note that all the operations mentioned in village disaster management are planned, prepared, rehearsed with the community and local governing body participation in the guidance of and DM expert.

At the outset, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the honourable Chief guest Sh. Anchit Dogra, *District Panchayat Officer-cum-Secretary, Zila Parishad) Department of Panchayati Raj, District Sirmaur (H.P)*. I also thank the eminent speakers, Mr. Rajan Kumar, *Training and Capacity Building Coordinator, DDMA, District Sirmaur (H.P)*, Dr. Manju Panwar, *Director Women Studies BPS, Women University Sonapat, Haryana* and Er. Awdhesh Kumar, *Asst. Professor, Invertis University, India* for enriching technical sessions.

It gives me immense pleasure in acknowledging the cooperation and I extend my gratitude to Ms. Tanushree Verma, *Head (Training and Research), Zone4Solutions* who immensely moderated the webinar and developed the report of the webinar. I would also like to thank the supporting staff of Zone4Solutions and the audience as without them it would not have been possible to organize the webinar.



Mr. Nakul Kumar Tarun
Director, Zone4Solutions



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1 INTRODUCTION

India is one of the most affected countries from climate change-induced disasters such as floods, droughts, cyclones, urban floods, etc affected agriculture and food security. Cyclone Amphan hit the Sundarbans (May 2020) displacing approx. 2.4 million people in India. As a result, a significant number of people are becoming homeless due to partial or total destruction of houses, especially in suburban and rural India. States like Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh are a few of the vulnerable states due to extreme climatic events (Climate Vulnerability Index, 2020). To a large extent, the reason is lack of awareness about disaster management, lack of infrastructural planning, unsustainable landscape, ineffective Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), lack of Coordination, Poor Warning and Relief Systems and human-induced microclimatic change. Therefore, the Government of India has adopted a multi-dimensional approach to reducing the vulnerabilities in multi-hazard prone regions. This acknowledges disaster-resilient development through cost-effective investments in the preparedness and mitigation phase than relief and rehabilitation expenditure.

Table 1: Salient Feature of few International and National DRR interventions for community participation

International	
Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015 (HFA)	Priority action 1: Encourage community engagement in disaster risk reduction by establishing policies, encouraging networking, resources and providing the appropriate authority.
	Priority Action 2: Establish national and subnational disaster risk indicators which will allow decision-makers to analyze disasters' effects on social, economic, and environmental conditions.
	Priority Action 3: Promote community-based training initiatives and integration of the traditional and indigenous knowledge and culture heritage in community preparedness.
	Priority Action 5: Develop specific mechanisms for community participation and ownership through encouraging volunteerism.
Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (SFDRR)	Priority action 1: Integrate indigenous knowledge and practises into catastrophe risk assessments, as well as the development and implementation of sector policies, strategies, plans, and programmes, to complement scientific information.
	Priority action 2: Empower the local authorities by developing legal framework with clear roles (regulatory and financial).
	Priority action 4: Empowering women and persons with disabilities along with developing disaster preparedness and contingency policies, plans and programmes.
	Invest in strengthening people-centred multi-hazard, multisectoral preparedness and response strategies to build back better.
Sustainable Development Goals 2015–2030 (SDGs)	SDG1.5: Build resilience of the vulnerable poor people to reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-induced extreme events and disaster.
	SDG 2.4: Ensure sustainable food production and implement resilient agricultural practices.

	SDG 3.3: Local level capacity building for early warning, risk reduction and management of health risks. SDG 5: Gender equality and empower all women and girls Goal 6.4: The participation of communities in improving water and sanitation Goal 11: Promotes civil society participation in urban planning and city management Goal 9.1& 9.4: Enable sustainable and resilient infrastructure development SDG13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptation to climate-related hazards and natural disasters Goal 17: Strengthen means of implementation, i.e., finance, technology and capacity-building and revive partnership for the goals
National	
Disaster Management Act, 2005	Provides the institutional, legal, financial and coordination mechanisms for Disaster Management (DM) at the national, state, district and local levels.
National Policy on Disaster Management, 2009	Provides roadmap for handling disasters in a holistic manner and addresses the concerns of all the sections of the society; Provide provisions for grant for rehabilitation.
PM 10-point agenda (Point 8)	Build on local capacity and initiative to enhance disaster risk reduction
73rd and 74th Amendments	Empowering local governments for enabling community resilience

1.1 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION FOR VILLAGE DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

During disasters, the government is unable to reach out to each home or hamlet. All levels of government, from homes to local governments to state and national governments, must be prepared to reduce the direct and indirect effects of disasters. The primary goal of Community-Based Disaster Preparedness is to lower the community's vulnerability to disasters and to improve the community's inherent disaster-resilience capacities so that the challenges may be addressed collaboratively. It is vital to empower the community and community-based facilities through awareness, information broadcasting, collaboration, and ownership for a community to be resilient. To put this understanding into action, the community will require aid and advice in developing unique community-based disaster management strategies.

This approach strategy strives to actively include communities in disaster risk identification, analysis, assessment, monitoring, implementation so that they can understand their vulnerabilities and risks as well as strengthen capacity. Village-level disaster management plans (VDMP) must be produced to generate preparedness and response within the community. The VDMP provides a set of tasks that a community does to avoid massive loss and devastation. It highlights the steps and obligations that community members must do ahead of time. It also allows for community training to raise awareness of the hazards and vulnerabilities in the area and to increase their preparedness for pre-, during, and post-disaster activities.

1.2 PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS (PRIs) AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

In nations like India, local government entities such as panchayats and municipalities have a constitutional mandate under the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments act. Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti, and Zila Parishad are three levels of self-governance that operate at the village, block, and district levels, respectively. Because of their proximity to the local community, widespread coverage, and institutionalised engagement, Panchayats (local self-governing entities) play a vital role. Apart from ensuring the correct execution of various current development programmes and schemes, the panchayat system must also play a critical role in disaster management, both natural and man-made.

However, increased dependency on the government has warned the local capacities of these institutions. Moreover, the lack of institutional strengthening at these levels causes considerable problems during and post-disaster. It is to note that, certain problems in rural regions can only be handled effectively by the people who live there. More than 80% of Indians live in villages, and the overall well-being of the community is considered as an improvement in the Indian remote village as they are considered to be the last mile. Panchayats are the only grass-roots institutions that engage directly with locals, and panchayat members are the first to respond to a crisis in the neighbourhood. They are among the first to begin rescue and relief efforts.

Significance of PRIs in Disaster Management

Handling Disasters at Grassroot Level: In the event of natural disasters, the decentralization of authority and responsibility to panchayats would result in a flexible and dedicated response at the grassroots level. Early warning systems will be used by effective and strong PRIs, which will act in unison with the state government to combat the disaster.

Better Relief Operations: Because local government bodies are closer to the people, they are better equipped to carry out relief efforts because they are more familiar with their needs. As in any emergency event, this assures complete transparency in the working and funds. They may also be counted on to manage day-to-day municipal services, such as giving shelter and medical help to those who have been afflicted, and so on.

Spreading Awareness and Obtaining Cooperation: Because local government institutions have direct contact with the public, they can successfully assist in raising awareness and ensuring people's participation in the crisis's resolution. NGOs and other agencies can also benefit from their participation in a rescue or relief operation.

In many Indian villages, there may be a complete lack of participation by people's representatives. As a result, proper support from representatives in conjunction with higher authorities should be advised on disaster-resilient development issues. It is important for PRIs in the pre-and post-disaster strategies to operate as a leading force in delivering the best for the community's improvement.

2 WEBINAR SUMMARY

2.1 CONTEXT

Disasters can occur anywhere in India due to the high vulnerability however only a few states in the country are fully sensitisation equipped to deal with them effectively. Himachal Pradesh is vulnerable to a variety of natural, environmental, and man-made threats such as earthquakes, landslides, flash floods, snowstorms, avalanches, Glacier Lake Outburst Floods, droughts, dam failures, fires, road accidents, forest fires, and lightning. This results in massive economic and human losses each year, especially in rural areas. Sirmaur, the most south-eastern district of the state is highly vulnerable to disasters like earthquakes, forest fires, landslides, floods in monsoon season, high winds due to its topography. This affects the agriculture sector largely which is the main source of income for the rural population (89.2% as per census 2011) of the district. The reason can be a lack of local-level awareness on disaster, disaster risks and local capacities. Therefore, it is important to understand local governance risks and strengthen them to tackle emergencies through hazard, vulnerability and capacity assessment, sensitizing the affected populations and enlisting their help in implementing the various components of disaster management plans, especially when a village-based disaster management plan needs to be developed.

This webinar focuses on recognising the community as an important stakeholder strengthening their involvement and reinforcing the bond between the district holidays and PRIs making the community more effective and self-reliant.

2.2 SESSION OBJECTIVES

The key themes that the webinar discussed are as follows:

- Providing insights about Village Disaster Management Plan
- Launch the manual on VDMP “A Guide for Village Disaster Management Plan: Community Resilience’ designed by Zone4Solutions
- Understanding the importance of community participation village disaster management interventions
- Importance of capacity building of communities in disaster management by providing training at ground level
- Understanding the role of PRIs in disaster risk reduction initiatives at village level
- Promoting a productive and proactive integration of community media in disaster management
- Providing insights on community radio as an effective tool for community empowerment

2.3 SESSION PROCEEDINGS

2.3.1 INAUGRAUL SESSION

2.3.1.1 Welcome Address

Mr. Nakul Kumar Tarun, Director, Zone4solutions



Figure 1: Mr. Tarun launching the A Guide for Village Disaster Management Plan: Community Resilience

Mr Nakul Kumar Tarun, Director of Zone4Solutions, opened the event by welcoming the distinguished speakers, guests, and audience. In his address, he mentioned that we have a wide variety of disaster-resilient development policies and programmes but issues like misinterpretation and lack of resources resist the effective implementation of the initiatives. Thus, it can be essential to have a bottom-top approach, where a village disaster management plan needs to be prioritized making the first responder disaster resilient.

With this, Mr Nakul Kumar Tarun along with dignitaries like Sh. Anchit Dogra, District Panchayat Officer-cum-Secretary, Zila Parishad, Department of Panchayati Raj, District Sirmaur (H.P) and Mr Rajan Kumar, Training and Capacity Building Coordinator, DDMA, District Sirmaur (H.P) launched 'A Guide for Village Disaster Management Plan: Community Resilience' designed by Zone4Solutions. He ended on the note that community inclusive disaster preparedness is the key to effective disaster management and this tool will help the users to understand the need and steps for VDMP under the guidance of a DM expert.

Investing in community preparedness is beneficial to mainstream disaster management in India.

2.3.1.2 Inaugural Address

Sh. Anchit Dogra, District Panchayat Officer-cum-Secretary, Zila Parishad) Department of Panchayati Raj, District Sirmaur (H.P)

Mr Dogra shed light on the disaster vulnerabilities of the districts of Himachal Pradesh, such as landslides (Sirmaur), Cloud bursts (Kullu), Glacier Lake Outburst Floods, Landslide Lake Outburst Floods, Avalanches (Lahul), earthquakes that affect the villages most along with COVID-19.

He also highlighted the cohesiveness of the villages which can be witnessed during emergencies. The Gram Panchayat leading the first responders tackles the emergency before the news reaches the upper administration. This makes the community self-reliant. However, if the community is not able to respond to emergencies, they will become the ultimate sufferer.

Lastly, he urged that a resilient community will be able to deal with the emergencies when they have insights about the potential risks and know about the disaster response. In this sense, a village disaster management plan can work as an adaptive and flexible action plan to lead an appropriate response.



Figure 2: Mr. Dogra addressing the audience

India resides in the villages. It is important to utilize social cohesion, trust, social inclusion, and relationship to make community disaster resilient.

2.3.2 TECHNICAL SESSION

Session 1: Village Disaster Management Plan as an integral part of CBDRR

Presenter: Mr. Nakul Kumar Tarun, Director, Zone4Solutions

Key Takeaways

- Mr Tarun commenced the session by highlighting the fact that the disaster impact varies from place to place, village to village, thus the village disaster management plan (VDMP) should be customized according to the community's needs, risks, vulnerabilities and capacities under the guidance of a DM manager/expert with community participation.
- Mr. Tarun mentioned that the Zone4Solutions have designed approx. 4500 school disaster management plan and two model village disaster management plans together in collaboration with SRMIST University, Chennai for two villages of Chengalpattu district, Tamilnadu viz; Pattaravakkam and Thenmelpakkam.
- He shared his experience and explained the process of designing VDMP:
 - Mr Tarun initiated with the step of **Rapid Visual Screening (RVS)** in which the DM expert team interacts with the locals to understand the village profile such as past hazards, the damage and loss, existing demographic units, etc.
 - The second step is **Hazard hunting**, in which the experts look for the potential hazards, the risks with the intensity in and around the village with community participation. This helps the team to understand the hazard risks which will be useful in planning mitigation measures.



Figure 3: Mr Tarun addressing the audience

- Thirdly, he explained the **formation of the task forces** (in accordance with the risks, impact and area to be affected) such as search and rescue, etc determining the roles and responsibilities, the number of members required in each team. This also includes the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The next step he explained was the capacity building of these task forces/teams which is done by the DM expert team so that the task forces can work together during the event.
- This all is documented as the **Village Disaster Management Plan** which is now tested to understand its effectiveness and limitations such as its operationalization of different task forces, the inclusion of Incident Command System (ICS), etc through **hazard stimulation**. For instance, if the village is situated on a hill (high slope), then landslides might be the most common hazard, a village located near a river might be highly prone to flood, a village in seismic zone V will be affected by an earthquake the most, in the village of dry area, fire stimulation would be effective.

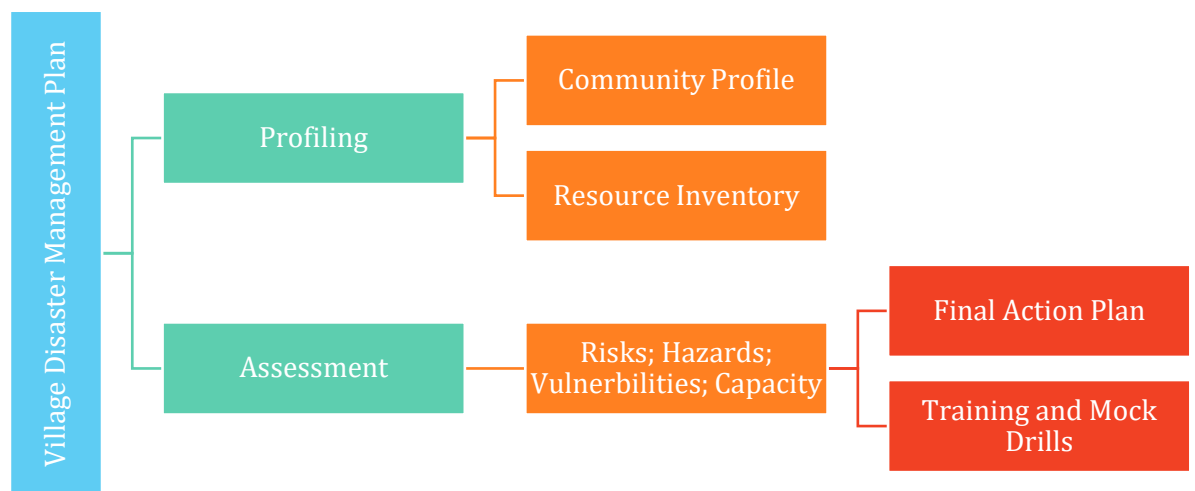


Figure 4: Steps for constructing VDMP

- He highlighted that the testing process (stimulation- redrafting SOP-stimulation) is one of the essential elements of the VDMP as it is important to increase the capacity of the community to a satisfactory level through regular mock drills. He emphasised that due to increased population, inappropriate development and increased frequency of disasters, the intensity and magnitude of the disasters will increase. Increasing the resilience of communities in the face of disasters is only possible with effective capacity building and community ownership of disaster management initiatives.
- Mr Tarun stated that disaster risk reduction (DRR) is a shared responsibility. State and community need to work collectively to create successful models and programs that can achieve disaster resilience.

Session 2: Discussion on Hazard Profile of Himanchal Pradesh in view of DRR

Presenter: Mr. Rajan Kumar, Training and Capacity Building Coordinator, DDMA, District Sirmaur (H.P)

Key Takeaways

- Mr. Kumar highlighted that Himachal Pradesh is vulnerable to many natural and anthropogenic hazards. Every year thousands of lives are lost and crores of expenditure is utilized in disaster relief, recovery and rehabilitation. Additionally, the COVID-19 (considered as Public Health Emergency) has also affected the state shifting its priorities.
- While discussing the hazard vulnerability profile of Himachal Pradesh, he stated that there are lofty snow-clad mountains, deep gorges, thickly forested valleys, terraced fields, cold deserts and cascading streams which makes it vulnerable to heatwave (Una, Hamirpur, Kangra, Sirmaur), cloud burst, Avalanches (Kinnaur, Kullu, Lahaul & Spiti, Mandi, Chamba), earthquake (Kangra) etc.
- Recalling the incidents of the last year during heavy rainfall, Mr. Kumar explained that bridge collapse, highway destruction, overflow in the dam during heavy precipitation along with increased occurrence of landslides also affects the districts. Similarly, during winters and heavy snow, the remote villages lost communication and infrastructural connectivity with the nearby areas influencing the availability of medical facilities etc. These incidents have cascading effects such as insufficient electricity, water supplies, vulnerable roads and long-lasting damage to land and loss of natural resources also affect the communities adversely.
- Mr. Kumar emphasizes that recalling past hazards is pointless if it does not lead to lessons being learned. Whether the villages have disaster-resilient infrastructures, well-placed evacuation plans etc need to be checked regularly through mock drills. This also includes working at the district level where DDMP needs to be revised in accordance with the new potential hazard, changes in task forces, village profile, vulnerabilities and capacities.
- Recalling incidents like bus accidents due to landslides where the community as first responders have saved the lives of people (referring to Golden Hour), Mr Kumar emphasized that disaster preparedness will not be effective without community participation. As a community prepares for an emergency, it defines its needs, solves problems, and supplements those needs with available resources. In this sense, he also highlighted the efforts done by the district disaster management authority such as 3-days workshop/training of village leaders, volunteers, home guards on first aid, search and rescue, etc. For instance, in flood-prone villages, the community will understand the risks and will be trained to evacuate, whom to notify, required resource inventory, etc.



Figure 5: Mr. Kumar highlighting the status of disaster management at village level in HP

- While referring to the Odisha model of Community participation in Cyclone risk mitigation, Mr. Kumar emphasises that webinars and awareness sessions like today help the community to understand the need for their participation in preparedness and management.
- However, community ownership is as important as community participation. The effectiveness of initiatives, resilient building, training programs, adoption of action points by the community is the ultimate goal of the state interventions. Therefore, an effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism at block levels is also required.
- He also stated that involvement of the community as a part of rural appraisal in the preparation of a disaster management plan will strengthen the community/individual assets and community response during disasters resulting in the continuum of development.

Community participation should be viewed as a social process where the community build their capacities as well as confidence paving the way for a self-reliant community. A resilient community makes a resilient and developed state.

Session 3: Role of Panchayati Raj Institution in building Community Resilience

Presenter: Dr. Manju Panwar, Director Women Studies BPS, Women University Sonipat, Haryana

Key Takeaways

- Dr. Panwar discussed how the college students of the social work department of B.P.S. Women's University, Khanpur Kalan, Haryana assist the adopted 5 nearby villages in understanding their vulnerabilities and making them aware of the relevant policies and programmes for their disaster resilient development. She emphasized a key feature of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, i.e., the interface between universities and communities that gives universities an opportunity to interact with communities, be aware of their needs and train them successfully.
- While discussing the vulnerability profile of India and the recent public health emergency COVID-19, she highlighted the significant role of NGOs, student groups, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and urban local institutions (UBIs) in both disaster risk reduction and post-disaster management.
- Dr. Panwar viewed Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and urban local institutions (UBIs) in rural development (73rd and 74th amendments) as a valuable partner in DRR interventions in accordance with Article 243D which emphasises on the constitution of the District Planning Committee (DPC, which are usually cut-off during emergencies such as COVID-19) in consultation with Panchayat. Though panchayats are constitutionally mandated to delegate responsibilities and resources, the process has not been systematic.
- She provided insights on why panchayats/communities need to be involved in disaster management. These are as follows:
 - Nearest to the first responders: Sarpanch and other local leaders have familiarity with the village geographical profile, demographic profile and resource profile. This helps

them to understand their own vulnerabilities and pooled resources to take action as convenient.

- **Accountability to the affected population and thus transparency of actions:** The meetings with PRI members also encourage them to be accountable and transparent of their actions, budget.
- **Encourage social inclusion:** While conducting training workshops of the villages, the students help the community to understand the advantages and importance of social inclusion highlighting the weaker sections that need to be taken care of, especially during disasters.
- **Self-reliance through community participation including women:** Dr. Panwar stated that the preliminary student-community meets helped in rapport building and highlighted general and gender development issues, needs, awareness about PRI.
- **Awareness generation:** Rural awareness generation about the developmental policies, their participation in decision making and implementation is what is important to build the community capacities. Students with the help of NGOs/SHGs try to build capacities through informal ways such as street play, storytelling for community participatory appraisal etc.
- **Identify local partners:** The students -community forums help the PRIs to identify the local organizations such as NGOs/CBOs/SHGs for aid during emergencies such as COVID-19 along with helping the members to be more accountable to the community.
- In the view of VDMP, the panchayat plays an important pre, during and post-disaster.
 - Pre-disaster: Developing preparedness plan through community involvement; identifying and managing the resources (such as Tan Man Dhan initiative by community resource centre lead by the college students and PRI providing suggestions for improvements in the delivery of any public scheme); connecting with local agencies; establishing convergence with local institutional structures for various capacity building interventions of committee/task force. In this sense, she emphasised Attitude, Skill and Knowledge (ASK) where a positive attitude of PRI members and shared knowledge can ultimately help in skill development.
 - During Disaster: Arranging emergency communication through available resources; evacuating everyone to temporary shelters; coordination with agencies like DRDA, NGOs, block-level administration; monitoring relief distribution and other arrangements in the relief camps.
 - Post-Disaster: Mobilizing funds for disaster-resilient construction (integration of CSR by corporates, student forums to engaging aid as per Unnat Bharat Abhiyan); Damage assessment (identifying victims, required compensation and its distribution); overseeing rehabilitation and reconstruction projects.
- In addition, Dr. Panwar stressed the challenges facing panchayats when dealing with emergencies such as lack of awareness regarding the roles and responsibilities (lack of women participation, knowledge about their roles during emergencies, agenda, documentation of best practices); incorrect hazard, risk, vulnerability and capacity assessment; tracking of the relief material; lack of community participation, ignoring indigenous knowledge in development interventions (Centre for Society – University Interface and Research helps the community to reconstruct their existing knowledge); lack of coordination at all levels; over-dependency on government and lack of available funds and resources (Centre for Society – University Interface and Research work as

intermediate between Panchayats and corporates assisting them to replenish Panchayats funds).

- In this view, she provided a few strategies that the Centre for Society – University Interface and Research use to strengthen the Panchayats such as knowledge about their roles according to 73rd Amendment. This also includes encouraging other social groups to discuss their issues with gram panchayats during their regular meet. The student forum also assists the community leaders (retried officials, PRI members, community influencers, youth groups, volunteers) to have need-based decision-making avoiding the blame game. This also encourages gender equality, social service and optimizing their own resource pool providing them with confidence to build a self-reliant community.
- Lastly, Dr. Panwar concluded the discussion with the thought that strengthening panchayats and local urban bodies is essential to deal with disasters, development issues with a sustainable mindset. This requires panchayats to be empowered financially, functionally and administratively. To ensure effective government, citizens. PRIs must be mandated, equipped, and held accountable.
- Dr. Panwar lastly, appreciated the interventions done by Zone4Solutions and showed interest to collaborate with Zone4Solutions to develop VDMPs for the adopted villages on the basis of their perceived needs and capacity building. This was also welcomed by Mr. Nakul Kumar Tarun.

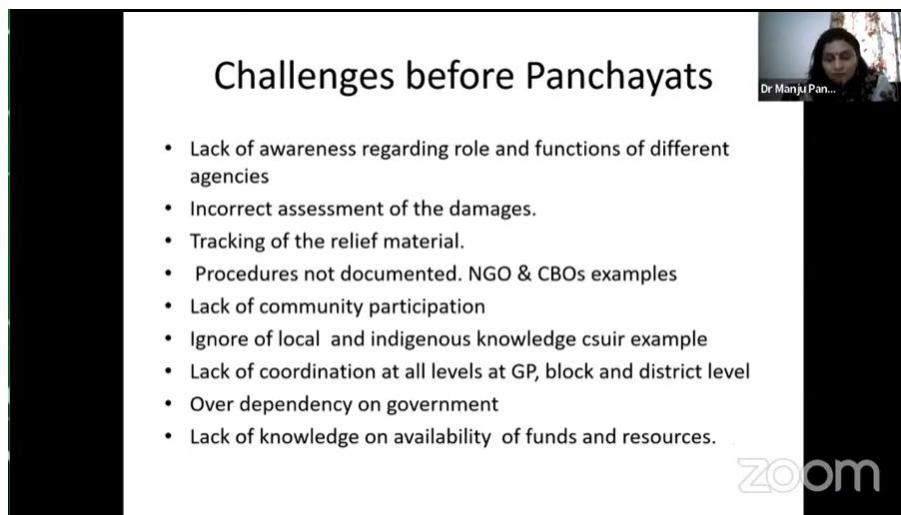



Figure 6: Dr. Panwar highlighting the challenges of PRIs

In a democracy, villages are the fundamental unit that gets affected adversely due to unrecognized capabilities. Therefore, the PRIs must be redesigned to be more accountable and disaster-resilient.

Session 4: Role of community radio in Community based Disaster Risk Reduction

Presenter: Er. Awdhesh Kumar, Asst. Professor, Invertis University, India

Key Takeaways

- Mr. Kumar commenced the discussion with the thought that Community radio is an effective tool for reaching out to communities and providing information relevant to the local environment. Community radio has played a critical role in emergency response, including early warning and information exchange concerning relief and recovery requirements.
- 
- Figure 7: Mr. Kumar addressing the audience*
- While referring to the international Disaster risk reduction (DRR) forum such as Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015), Sendai Framework (2015-2030), 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Mr. Kumar emphasised the global shift from 'proactive approach,' to 'people-centred approach' making the community capacity development as its core objective. In this sense, the PM-10 Point Agenda for DRR (Point 5, 6, 8) and High-Powered Committee on Disaster Management recommendation (2001), National Disaster Management policy (2019) also includes mainstreaming and integrating DRR and institutional strengthening, community capacity development with an investment in technology for communication and monitoring.
 - He highlighted that effective communication is an integral part of effective disaster preparedness. During disasters, the normal communication system gets disrupted, damaged affects adversely the at-risk population. In these situations, the community radio help communities to respond effectively during emergencies. Being the non-profit making, people-owned and community management through community participation, community radio becomes a popular and efficient way to provide information to the public and amplify their voices before the administration and government.
 - He also discussed that community radio within its limited reach using low power transmission make people aware of their educational, developmental and cultural needs, encouraging community cohesiveness (territorial bond and socio-economic interests).
 - He expressed concern about the lack of popularity of community radios, noting that according to Economic Times, 2002, All India Radio has 133 FM stations covering only 31% of the country's population. Additionally, according to International Amateur Radio Union, there are just 10,679 amateur radios are there in India.
 - At this stage of discussion, Mr. Kumar introduced the term 'Community Media' to the audiences, stating that it is characterized by their accountability to the community they serve without any political and commercial interferences. In other words, community media is one that is operated in the community, for the community, about the community by the community. He also introduces the DOLPHIN characteristics of community media:
 - Direct: Community-based direct rapport
 - Ownership with community

- Local Media: Translates global and local concepts in local language
- Participatory media and personal
- Horizontal Form: Two-way communication
- Immediate, Intimate and Impact: More impact with less interference
- Not for profit and no threat to cultural integrity
- While referencing different disasters, Mr. Kumar highlighted the role of community radio in disaster management:
 - Uttarakhand Disaster (2013), India: Three community radios running-Kumaon Vani (Mukteshwar), Henavalvani (Chamba Valley), Mandakini Ki Awaz (Rudraprayag) broadcasted the live programmes that inform and sensitize communities and tried to reach all the flood-affected villages.
 - Mahasen (2013), Bangladesh: Six community radio stations operating in the coastal region of Bangladesh address issues related to the cyclone Mahasen providing information regarding preparedness, livestock safety with 435 staff and volunteers reaching approx. 24,102 listeners.
 - Nepal Earthquake (2015), Nepal: The community radios assisted in need assessment and broadcasted special programs for relief and rehabilitation to help people after the earthquake.
- On the basis of the above discussion, Mr. Kumar highlighted the interventions done by Zon4Solutions focusing on the role of Community Radio in Disaster Management and DRR, with 3 regional webinar series; initiatives for Diwali Safety; E-Competition for National School Safety mentioning the drawn recommendation:
 - Using Blended Approach,
 - Organizing the community to plan, implement and monitor disaster management strategies through community radio
 - Building community capacity: Facilitating relief, rehabilitation and restoration initiatives through Community radio,
 - Need to develop a handbook/manual to discuss different aspects of disaster management through community radio,
 - Establishing linkages with relevant government offices and NGOs and creating a disaster management network.
- Lastly, he concluded that mainstreaming community radios in development planning via PRI, SHGs etc can pave the way for the integration of community radio in Disaster

management as disaster management and development are recognized as two sides of the same coin.



Figure 8: Presentation slide discussing about the Zone4Solutions interventions

Community Radio works like magic during emergencies as it not only provides information but also encourages victims to survive. They are the best tool for empowering communities.

2.3.3 PLATFORM OPEN TO ALL

The participants appreciated the theme of the webinar and the discussion held. One of the participants asked about the difference between misinformation and disinformation. On this Mr. Awdhesh Kumar answered that misinformation is false information that is spread, regardless of intent to mislead and creates fear in the community whereas disinformation is associated with the set propaganda, deliberately misleading or biased information; manipulated narrative or facts. He added that disinformation is very powerful, destructive, and divisive.



Figure 9: Mr. Kumar addressing the question

2.3.4 CONCLUSION AND VOTE OF THANKS

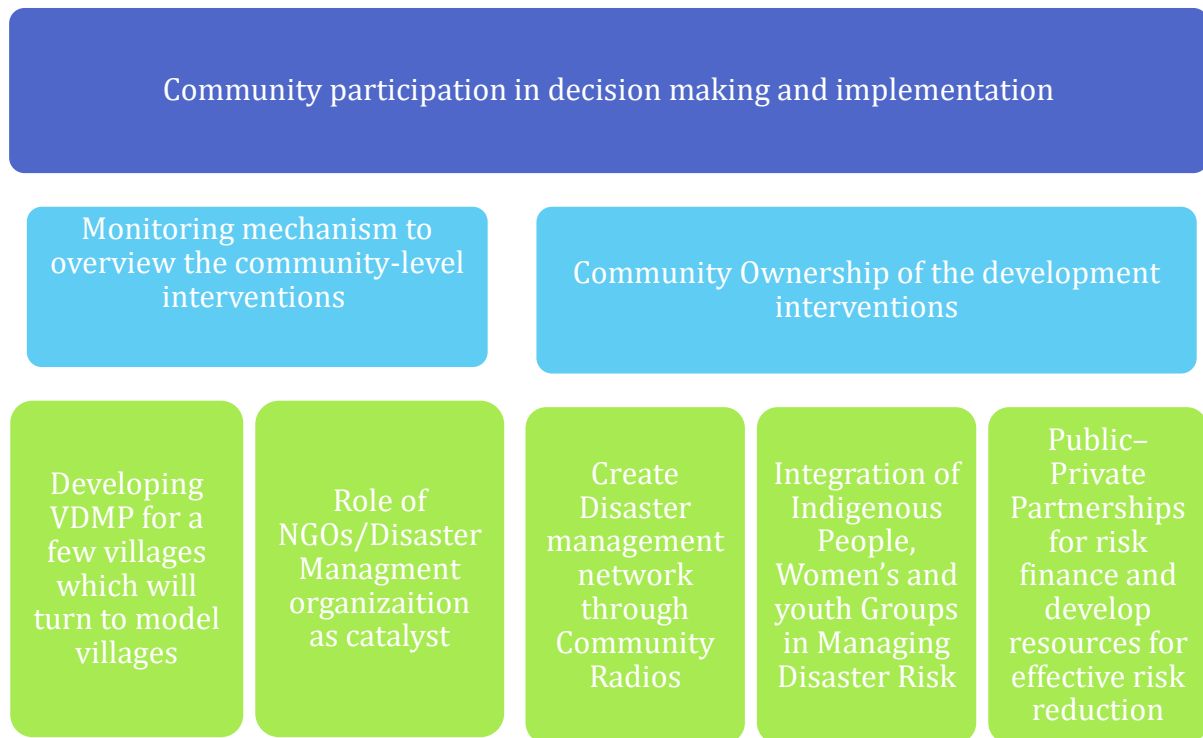
Mr. Nakul Kumar Tarun, Director, Zone4Solutions, extended his gratitude to the organizers, guests, and audience for their valuable contribution highlighting that we must make our



Figure 10: Mr. Tarun submitting Vote of Thanks

community resilient because the intensity and magnitude of the disaster will increase. Therefore, it is essential for the communities at risk to get engaged in all of its phases: prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. He thanked the presenters for their valuable perceptions and knowledge. The program was insightful.

2.4 RECOMMENDATIONS



3 ANNEXURE

3.1 WEBINAR FLYER

NATIONAL WEBINAR ON

Community based Disaster Risk Reduction and Development of Village Disaster Management Plan

Panelists

CHIEF GUEST
Sh. Anchit Dogra
Dist. Panchayat Officer-cum-Secretary
Zila Parishad, Department of Panchayati Raj,
District Simaur (H.P)

SPECIAL GUEST
Dr. Santosh Kumar
Professor NIDM

CONVENOR
Mr. Nakul Kumar Tarun
Director, Zone4solutions

DATE
03RD MARCH 2022

TIME (IST)
10.30 AM-12.30 PM

zoom
MEETING ID: 878 1023 1690
PASSWORD: ZONE4S

SPEAKER
Mr Rajan Kumar
Training and Capacity
Building Coordinator, DDMA,
District Simaur (H.P)

SPEAKER
Dr. Manju Pawar
Director Women Studies
Center, Haryana

MODERATOR
Ms. Tanushree Verma
Head Training and
Research, Zone4solution

SPEAKER
Er. Awadesh Kumar
Asst. Professor
(Civil Engineering)
Invertis University, UP

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3.2 PROGRAMME SCEDULE



National Webinar on

COMMUNITY BASED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF VILLAGE DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Time: 3rd March 2022, 10.30 AM -12.30 PM

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/lCb7dIKS2jw>

Time	Topic	Speaker
10:30-10:40	Welcome Address and Introduction	Mr. Nakul Kumar Tarun, Director, Zone4solutions
Technical session		
10:40- 10:50	Special Address	Dr. Anil Kumar Gupta, NIDM (Special Guest)
10:50-11:00	Inaugural Address	Sh. Anchit Dogra, District Panchayat Officer-cum-Secretary, Zila Parishad) Department of Panchayati Raj, District Sirmaur (H.P) (Chief Guest)
11:00-11:15	Village Disaster Management Plan as an integral part of CBDRR	Mr. Nakul Kumar Tarun, Director, Zone4solutions
11:15-11:30	Discussion on hazard profile of Himanchal Pradesh in view of DRR	Mr Rajan Kumar, Training and Capacity Building Coordinator, DDMA, District Sirmaur (H.P)
11:30-11:45	Role of Panchayati Raj Institution in building community resilience	Dr. Manju Panwar, Director Women Studies BPS, Women University Sonipat, Haryana
11:45-12:00	Role of community radio in Community based Disaster Risk Reduction	Er. Awdhesh Kumar, Asst. Professor, Invertis University, India
12:00-12:30	Open house discussion and moderation Summarization and Vote of thanks	To be moderated by Ms. Tanushree Verma, Head (Training and Research), Z4S

4 REFERENCES

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