CHAPTER - VII

ACTION PLAN

The research on this topic undertaken in two coastal districts of Tamil Nadu with a focus on tsunami exposed certain interesting findings dealing with community preparedness in disaster management in coastal areas. Since, the research takes the over tone of action research, the implication is the preparation of a comprehensive frame work for action plan covering the foretasted dimensions. The frame work for the action plan is sketched based upon the major findings of this research and the same was thoroughly discussed with the cross section of the stakeholders. The Brainstorming exercises on the action plan were carried out among the stakeholders namely coastal community NGOs, CBOs, Consumers, Business men, Service providers etc. In addition this action plan was also presented to the government officials particularly at the State and District levels for its validation. The action plan based upon this research findings and the validated framework of the action plan covering the community preparedness in, disaster management is presented here under.
**COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS**

**Role of Family in Disaster Preparedness**
- Imparting & Imbibing knowledge of disaster proneness.
- Moving with movable properties.
- Safe deposit in bank.
- Children and old age persons' evacuations arrangement.
- Information communication through receiver.
- Information dissemination to neighborhood.

**Community Dimension of Preparedness**
- Connectivity between coast and shelter through concrete slab.
- Public address system.
- Church/ Temple.
  - Symbolic Indications flag Hoisting.
- Early warning system
- Information dissemination through Temple/Church.
- Tom Tom
- Bell

**Religion**
- Mission/Relief & Rehabilitation
- Counseling & guidance.
- Mitigation
- Reversion to normality.
- Congregation sermons'.
- Conventions.
- Tap funds for relief and rehab. Activities
- Victims’ families.

**Academic Institutions**
- Design courses on disaster preparedness and management
- Shelter.
- Guidance & Counseling.
- Survey on nature and extent of devastation
- Monitoring and evaluation of relief and rehabilitation activities
- Disaster mitigation and development planning.

**NGOs**
- Education.
- Awareness
- Disaster proneness & preparedness/Relief and Rehabilitation.
- Construction of shelters.
- Disaster Asylum.
- Guidance & Counseling
- Community radio.

**PRIs**
- Installation EWS.
- Tax for disaster preparedness & mitigation.
- Planning disaster preparedness.
- Distribution of Relief materials
- Arrange Co-ordination for Rehabilitation
- Evacuation strategies.
Community Preparedness

In the community preparedness dimension of the framework for Disaster Management identified as Family, Community, Caste, Religion, Academic Institutions, CBOs/SHGs, NGOs, PRIs, Government, Mass media and Meteorological Station. The logic behind is community is to be prepared by imparting the necessary information and awareness creation about the risks and dangerous involved in coastal community like and there by the community is fully prepare to face any eventuality as disasters proneness is frequent in the coastal region.

Accordingly under this dimension a linkage with various institutions and agencies who are the stakeholders in protecting life,
institute of family has got a greater role to play in imparting, disseminating, ensuring knowledge, information of safety and security respectively to the members of the family.

To the community level preparedness in the coastal region presupposes connectivity’s usage of public address system. EWSs and other symbolic indications by hoisting cyclone related flag upon temples, churches etc. in addition to conventional methods of information dissemination like Tom-Tom and striking of church bell. By doing this the communities in the coastal region is made self confident to face any danger to their life, property etc. in the event of natural havoc.

**Religion**

The religious dimension of community preparedness involves the community in congregation, convention, mission based activities of the denomination religious people and leaders towards relief, rehabilitation, guidance and counseling activities among the disaster prone coastal community. Taping of fund for undertaking relief and rehabilitation activities in advance are another significant aspect of community preparedness.

**Academic Institution**

The academic institutions aspect of community preparedness ambitiously involves research and extension activities in terms of designing courses on disaster preparedness and magnitude, guidance and counseling services, disaster mitigation and development planning and monitoring and evaluation of relief and rehabilitation activities.
In a welfare state it is the bounden duty and responsibility of the government to provide all types of prevention and preparedness in respect of disaster prevention, management and preparedness. However programme alone unable to fulfill the loss of life property etc since the task is voluminous. Under these circumstances the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are inducted to supplement the Governmental activities. The NGOs provide yeomen services to the affected community as well as educate them about the risks involved in coastal life. The NGOs are supposed to concentrate on awareness creation, counseling, preparedness activities as well as relief, rehabilitation in the event of occurrence of disasters. Reconstruction of community life through provision of Boat, Net, Hut are the major part of NGO intervention.

**Panchayath Raj Institutions (PRIs)**

Being the local governments the Panchayath Raj Institution are locally responsible to ensure protection, preparedness and mitigation activities as well as distribution of relief and rehabilitation programme to the victims of natural disasters. Installation of EWS gadgets in the premises of PRI, arrangement of coordination in mitigation activities and planning preparedness, levy of tax for disaster preparedness, relief and rehabilitation are the major concerns of the PRIs.

**Government**

As stated elsewhere in this chapter that the welfare state is committed for ensuring the social wellbeing of the people in the society. In the event of natural disasters particularly those occurring in coastal
and abrupt development. Tsunami is one such natural disasters on which the community was ignorant about its strike. Naturally the community falls as an innocent victim of this natural disaster emerging from the underwater currents due to earthquake. Therefore the government is duty bound to ensure appropriate preparedness to face such unexpected natural havoc. The community preparedness from government side includes EWS, construction of Asylum structure, transport, communication, relief and rehabilitation distribution etc. This necessitates creation of a Department of Disaster Mitigation at State, District with Taluk and Village level administrative arrangement. By doing this the community is made fully prepared to face any eventuality and challenges moreover the relief and rehabilitation are also routed through this proposed.

**Mass Media**

The mass media have got a larger role to play in disaster prevention, education preparedness, mitigation activities etc. the Visual. Print and Audio visual media have the social responsibility in this regard. Satellite assisted receivers shall facilitate quick dissemination of information towards prevention, evacuation, preparedness and other mitigation activities.

**Meteorological Station**

The meteorological station, though a government center, has to play the role of social watch by releasing periodical weather bulletins, educating the coastal communities about tidal waves, depressions, cyclone, tsunami etc. The meteorological station should act as EWS.
in coastal districts effectively serves the purpose of disaster management and mitigation. Establishment of meteorological substation in every coastal district would go a long way in fast dissemination of information about the possible strike of natural disaster and ensure protection of life, property in the coastal region by enduring all the measures we could expect and promote disaster risk free coastal life.