PREFACE

“The purpose of any organization is to identify demand and ensure satisfaction of customers consistently” was the classic mantra coined by the management gurus all across the globe. This has brought about a paradigm shift in the way in which Governments have become result oriented and subject centric.

In the past, social welfare was merely a concept refined in the books, classrooms and academic gatherings. The citizens were only a mere statistic to who adhered to anything offered to him at a given quality. But today, the citizens are at the core of any Government setup and they are trying all possible measures to woo him by providing services that would suit his needs and expectations. Many developed nations, even in developing countries like India have started implementing the necessary actions now to provide citizens with what they deserve. Thus, developing and managing harmonious relationships with citizens has become increasingly important in the current era of intense national and international awareness. The social system is a segment where the people would always remain the undisputed important element.

Disasters are understood as events in which mass scale destruction occurs in terms of people and infrastructure resources. These are dealt with mechanisms of short-term relief and of long-term development. Government, States, Utilities and similar Infrastructure Development Authorities as well as the Corporate sector play a role in this. This is the avenue where the Community Based Disaster Preparedness Programs (CBDP) are put to use and act as a saviour in events of disasters. Without CBDP programs, these organizations would find it more difficult to benefit and would fail to be vibrant as in mature economies.

CBDP programs have registered significant growth in recent years. Their role in mobilizing resources and providing relief is also well appreciated by all concerned organizations. Their growth has been fuelled by policy changes in the social welfare segment.

All these factors, coupled with the rapid development and the international interest in the disaster relief segment have propelled a structural level and operational level changes in
the entire nation. The occurrence of disasters well as the growing awareness of the same in the current scenario is viewed with much anticipation. It is also been argued that disaster management capacities are not a driving force in the economic front, at the same time development of various capitalist sectors would provide sustainable development in terms of economic growth.

In addition to that, the state of Gujarat is facing huge problems in terms of its identity, managerial resources, infrastructure facility, institutional image and social responsibility. In these prevailing circumstances and the way the trends indicate, one must surely inquire that the competency in disaster preparedness. Besides, evaluating that the role of these programs is not just restricted to the pushing up of the image of the system is equally necessary. To evaluate and analyze these aspects, the topic of Community based disaster preparedness in Gujarat has been undertaken for a detail study.

Finally, the researcher’s own experience at a responsible position with various NGOs in addition to being actively involved in such programs and an academic background of social welfare calls for selecting the social welfare segment, the most attention catching and urgent need in recent era.

The researcher expects that this study on Community Based Disaster Preparedness would be of use to the Government, captains of the industry, social organizations and academicians as well as research scholars.

Ms. Dhruvi Bharwad