



# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

## “AN OVERVIEW OF NATURAL DISASTER AND THEIR IMPACT”

**Nandeesh CM**

Assistant Professor in Geography,  
Vidyavardhaka First Grade College,  
ShehadriIyer Road, Mysuru.  
Karnataka,India-570001

### Abstract

India is one of the hazard prone countries in South Asia. Floods, droughts, landslides, snowstorms, hurricanes and cyclones occur regularly. Among these earthquakes, floods and drought risk are extremely high. These hazards threaten millions of lives and cause large scale financial, infrastructure, agriculture and productivity losses that seriously hinder India's overall development. In India, as in the United States, the primary responsibility for responding to disaster lies at the state and the central level. The Government of India have a national emergency plan for disaster management, some of the state also has a disaster management plan. It can be, and is called upon to assist when necessary, but there is a lack of awareness in the public. Many Indian States have limited resources and lack their own disaster management plans. Considering these problems, this paper attempts to throw light on a more integrated and responsive disaster management system in India.

**Keywords:** Disaster, Earthquake, Floods, Avalanche, Safety management.

### Introduction

Disaster is a sudden, calamitous event bringing great damage, loss, and destruction and devastation to life and property. The damage caused by disasters is immeasurable and varies with the geographical location, climate and the type of earth surface/degree of vulnerability.

Generally, disasters have the following effects in the concerned areas i) It completely disrupts the normal day-to-day life. ii) It negatively influences the emergency systems. iii) Normal needs and processes like food, shelter, health, etc. are affected and deteriorate depending on the intensity and severity of the disaster.

**Major natural disasters.**

- 1.Floods6. Earthquake
- 2.Drought7. Tsunami
3. Cyclone 8.Volcanoes
- 4.Landslides9. Avalanche
5. Cloud burst

**Objectives of the study:**

1. To study the concept of natural disaster.
2. To analyse the management of natural disasters.
3. To know the basic understanding over disaster management.

**Research Methodology:**This article is conceptual in its nature and is an outcome of references and information collected via secondary sources such as websites,internet sources such as websites, internet sources, newspaper and articles.

**Floods**

Flood is the rise of water levels which are abnormally high and inundated neighbouring areas. This could be because of heavy precipitation in the river basin, dam failure, rapid snow melts, cloud bursts, glacial lake outbursts, storm surges etc.

**Impact of floods**

- (i)Floods cause immediate loss of life, property, and infrastructure, such as homes, roads, and bridges.
- (ii)They lead to long-term economic disruption, widespread health crises from contaminated water and increased disease risk, and severe environmental damage to habitats, farmland, and ecosystems.
- (iii)People also suffer significant psychosocial impacts, including trauma and displacement, from the devastating consequences of a flood event.

**Drought**

According to meteorologists the rainfall deficiency during a long period over a large area is called a drought. IMD defines Drought as a situation occurring in any area when mean annual rainfall is less than 75% of the normal rainfall.

## Impact of Drought

Droughts cause scarcity of food and water.

- (i) People die of hunger, malnutrition and epidemics.
- (ii) Crops fail due to scarcity of water.
- (iii) Cattle are either small nourished or die due to shortage of fodder and water.
- (iv) Farmers are deprived of their employment.
- (v) People are forced to migrate out of their villages in search of livelihood.

## Cyclones

Cyclones are the centre of low atmospheric pressure. The air pressure increases from the centre to the outer areas. Consequently winds blow from outside to the centre. In cyclones, winds blow in an anticlockwise direction in the northern hemisphere and clockwise in the southern hemisphere. On the basis of their location and physical properties cyclones are of two types; temperate cyclones and tropical cyclones.

### Impacts of cyclones

- (i) Damage to build up structures: The violent winds of a cyclone destroy whatever comes in their way from; thatched huts to the palaces, houses, forts, lines of electricity and communication.
- (ii) Natural Habitat: High speed winds cause damage to vegetation. Trees are uprooted. Salt water intrudes in coastal areas leaving the soil infertile.
- (iii) Floods: Torrential rain causes floods. Floods wreak havoc all around.

## Landslides

. Landslides take place in the form of earth flows, debris flows and rock falls. The slipping of masses of rocks, earth or debris downwards on the mountain slopes or banks of the rivers is called a landslide.

### Impact of landslides

- (i) Landslides are degrading the environment and natural beauty of mountains.
- (ii) Sources of water are drying up.
- (iii) Flooding in rivers is increasing due to debris flow from deposits brought by landslides.
- (iv) Roads get blocked; power and communication lines get disrupted
- (v) Life and structural property loss.

## Earthquake

Earthquake is sudden shaking or trembling of the earth surface caused by passage of seismic waves. Most earthquakes are minor tremors. Larger earthquakes usually begin with slight tremors but suddenly they turn into violent shocks and after that they diminish.

### Impact of Earthquakes

- (i) **Damage of Property:** When an earthquake occurs, buildings from cottages to palaces and skyscrapers are subject to damage. Underground pipelines and railway lines are damaged or broken. Dams on river collapse, resultant floods cause havoc. The earthquake in 1967 in Koyna damaged the Dam.
- (ii) **Human Loss -** Normally the duration of earthquake tremors is only a few seconds, but thousands of people may die in this short period. The Bihar earthquake of 1934 killed 10,000 people and the Kangra earthquake of 1905 caused 20,000 people dead. Numerous people lost their shelter and many became orphans. The earthquake that occurred in Gujarat on 26 January 2001 was devastating. More than 25,000 people died due to the impact of this earthquake. The destruction of property was tremendous.
- (iii) **Changes in River Courses:** Sometimes river channels are blocked or their courses are changed due to the impact of an earthquake.
- (iv) **Tsunamis:** are caused by underwater earthquakes which trigger very high sea waves over the coastal areas. It wreaks havoc on settlements of coastal areas. It sinks large ships. Tsunami that occurred on 26-12-2004 near the coast of Sumatra (Indonesia) damaged property worth billions of rupees. More than two lakh people lost their lives in Southeast Asia, India and Sri Lanka.
- (v) **Accumulation of Mud:** Due to the intense impact of the earthquake, water and mud appear on the surface and take the form of fountains. It leads to spreading sand on agricultural land and making it infertile.

### Conclusion

Natural disasters are part of our human environment. Natural disasters do not discriminate between people of a society and other communities. In general, no crisis is solely dependent on natural factors. The effects of natural disaster can linger for years, impacting recovery and development efforts. Addressing the challenges posed by natural disasters requires international cooperation and support. By understanding the impact of natural disasters and taking proactive steps, we can reduce their effects and build a more resilient future.

**References:**

- 1) Lee Davis-(2008) Natural Disaster.
- 2) R.B.Singh–January 2006 Natural Hazards and disaster Management.
- 3) B.S Raman, Ravi Singh -Disaster management.
- 4) Dawn Brancati-The impact of Earthquakes on Intrastate conflict.
- 5) Philip Nel and MarjoleinRighharts, -National Disaster and the risk of violent civil conflict.
- 6) [http://www.biologydiscussion.com/natural and man -made disaster and their impact on environment](http://www.biologydiscussion.com/natural-and-man-made-disaster-and-their-impact-on-environment).
- 7) Prakash Vishnoi - Natural Hazards and disaster management.
- 8) K.K. Singh &A.K.Singh-Natural and Man Made Disaster.

