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THE KEY ICT'S USED IN CLASS ROOM FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT EDUCATION

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Abstract

Disaster is a sudden calamitous event bringing great damage, loss, or destruction of life and property. Every day world experiences a number of disasters. Most of the people in the world are vulnerable to disasters that may natural or manmade. To reduce the impact of disaster, education can be used as an effective tool. Disaster management education is recognised by The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as an essential element in sustainable development since it hastens the progress of societies towards disaster resilience. By providing disaster management education we can improve the disaster management awareness of pupil in order to make them resilient in confronting disaster situations. They can be educated through diverse means, providing learning experience through traditional methods and methods incorporating ICT. So far as concerned learning experiences through digital technologies are inevitable for granting rich and vicarious experiences in classroom settings. This paper describes the importICT's used in class room for disaster management education and its relevance in developing a resilient community.

***Keywords**: ICT, Disaster Management, Disaster Management Education.*

Introduction

ICTs stand for information and communication technologies and are defined as a "diverse set of technological tools and resources used to communicate, and to create, disseminate, store, and manage information." Schools use a diverse set of ICT tools to communicate, create, disseminate, store, and manage information. Communication is very important to deal with any disastrous situation. An efficient information and communication systems can reduce the adverse impact of any disaster. 'Disaster is a crisis situation that far exceeds our capabilities to cope' (Quarentelly, 1985). The World Health Organization (WHO, 2007) defines a disaster as 'a sudden ecological phenomenon of sufficient magnitude to require external assistance'.

Disaster management is the discipline dealing with the organization and management of resources and responsibilities to cater with all humanitarian aspects of emergencies and

disasters- both natural and man-made. Natural disasters are caused because of natural phenomena. Manmade disaster is resulting from human intent, negligence, or error. The results are usually wide scale destruction and high cost.

Classification of disasters

Hydro-meteorological: Under this category, the disasters, like floods, hailstorm, lightning, cloudbursts, droughts, extreme heat or cold, cyclones, tornadoes etc.

Geological: Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunami, landslides, avalanches, soil erosion, mudflows, etc., can be put together under this category.

Industrial, nuclear and chemical: Under this category, disasters due to leakage of poisonous and harmful industrial gases, nuclear radiation, etc., can be put together.

Accident related: This category includes disasters, like urban fire, forest fire or bush fire, sudden flooding of mine, oil spills, air, road, rail, boat accidents, collapse of buildings, bridges and dams, extra planetary hazards from asteroids or comets hitting the earth

Biological: In this category, human epidemic like HIV/AIDS, H1N1, kala-azar, malaria, cattle epidemic including bird flu and pest attacks can be put together.

Social: Ethnic religious, caste and other forms of social conflict can be put under this category.

The negative impact of disaster is not just limited to the affected community; it affects the region, the nation and, sometimes, the international community as whole. Thus, the management of disaster is a pre-requisite. There are four stages in disaster management cycle. **Mitigation** is the first phase in which minimizing the effects of disaster occur. Examples: building codes, zoning; vulnerability analysis, public education. **Preparedness** is the second phase in which planning for how to respond for a disaster occurs. Examples: preparedness plans; emergency exercise, or training; warning systems. **Response** is the third phase in which occur efforts to minimize the hazard created by a disaster. Examples: search and rescue; emergency relief. **Recovery** is the fourth phase in which occur returning the community to normal. Examples: temporary housing, grants, medical care.

Disaster Management Education

Education is the key to development. Disaster Management Education is effective not only for you to save your own life, but also for you and your community to live safely and comfortably. The goal of educational effort is to change people's behavior. Disaster Management Education attempts to increase protective actions by people by presenting

information about the hazard and the risks it poses. If planned effectively and well implemented, it will make, in long run, people habituate safety practice in all forms of their action similar to the common public health matters, citizen should be able to practice basic precautionary and remedy measures by themselves leaving only specific and more details and professionals. However, the desired changes in behavior may take long time. Considering the education as an excellent opportunity for building awareness about disaster management and for implementing a variety of activities that can minimize the negative impact of disasters in all sectors, efforts are made to integrate disaster risk reduction in education system in many countries recently.

ICTs used in class room for disaster management Education

Information and Communication Technology in disaster management must have reach to the common people for a proper disaster management. The process will start from school itself. There are different types of Information and Communication Technologies that can be used in a classroom include:

Print media: newspaper, magazine and journals.

New papers are the traditional one and the oldest means of reliable communication medium. Newspapers serve as a medium for disseminating early warning and aids in response and recovery. Print media like magazines and journals are also effective means for spreading disaster related information to the pupils.

The **electronic media** includes radio, television, internet, E-mail, etc.

Radio: Radio is the most traditionally accepted media used for disaster warning. It can quickly and easily transmit disaster related information to the public through documentaries, commercials designed to build awareness. By using the information available through Radio a teacher can improve the disaster management awareness of pupil.

Television: Television is a powerful audio-visual tool in broadcasting disaster related information and is widely used in countries across the Globe. Television creates a visual impact and thus provides a remarkable chance for spreading messages with a greater impact on the public. It can show the real suffering and helps to generate fear and awe. They can serve as effective channels for disseminating disaster risk information and generate awareness about what are the activities undergone in a disaster affected area.

By using television a teacher can provide the visual experience of the activities undergone in a disaster affected area.

Internet / E-mail: The internet/ e mail can play a major role in disaster management. It is the means through which we can get all the information about disaster warning, preparedness, response and recovery details of all types of disaster happened in any part of the world. So a teacher can use all these information in class room for disaster management education**.**

The Information and Communication Technology in disaster management have a significant role in teaching disaster management cycle. For example, disaster management cycle of a natural disaster like 'earthquake' is taught by using print media, radio, television, internet etc. earthquake 'mitigation' phase is taught by using print media like newspaper, journals etc. The information about 'preparedness' phase is provided through Radio. 'Response' information can be taught using Television. Information about 'Recovery' phase of an earthquake we can get through the internet or E-mail. Likewise all these kinds of ICT's can be used by the teacher in the class room to teach a variety of disasters.

Conclusion

Education promotes and enables Disaster Risk Reduction and it has already been made out by policy makers and researchers. The role and responsibility of teacher is critical in the disaster preparedness, prevention and its management. One of the major responsibilities of teachers is to give training, practice of mock drill and counselling to students is the basic action plan of the teachers followed in their schools. ICT provides assistance for teachers in all aspects of their disaster management activities.Hence Information and Communication Technology can be used as an effective tool in accomplishing disaster management Education.

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