Need of Disaster Management in Indian Libraries:
An Important issue

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Abstract   A disaster may strike at any place, in any situation without any warning, this is one of the concerns that hamper the safety of library resources, buildings, and mankind, so to avoid any such situation at any time, libraries   need   to be well- The paper discusses the meaning and different types of disaster situations which damage the librarys ystem and its services. Here main focus is given on the different phases of disaster management system in the libraries. In these phases, different measures described shows the salvage of material and human life. List of necessary equipment required in emergencies are given here which can be included in emergency kit. In case if libraries are unaffected then it plays a different role for   the salvage of society. equipped to combat the catastrophic situations.

Key words   disaster managements Disaster, Preparedness, Mitigation, Emergency Kit

1. Introduction

Our society is an agrarian society and majority of our literate population who are into research and academics are overly dependent on libraries for accumulation of knowledge. Thus the significance and need of library and information services are widely realized and recognized. Library users always appreciate if the relevant and accurate information is quickly and timely made available. Now libraries of India transforming themselves from traditional library to modern library or we may say that they are automated, electronic, digital, virtual or hybrid libraries.

With the change in developmental technology, the development of adversity also increased. Adversity or disaster may be natural an artificial also. Disaster and itsmanagement (Disaster Management) now becomes the burning issue in many field due to natural disaster as cyclone, tornado, earthquake, fire due to heavy rain, water flood etc. and artificial disaster as power grid failure, network failure, fire, server fail, short -circuit etc. In libraries, authorities and libraries are not giving their attention for management of any kind of disaster. In India except some advance libraries, most of libraries have no prearrangement for disaster. Libraries have our history. Civilization and culture in books and in electronic form, if any disaster occurred they will lose valuable history, Civilization and culture.

2. Disaster

Disaster is an unexpected, disastrous happening carrying excessive mutilation, damage, and destruction and devastation to life and property. The mutilation caused by disasters is incalculable and differs with the topographicallocation, climate and the type of the

earth surface/degree of susceptibility. These effects may be mental, socio-economic, political and cultural state of the affected area. Disaster may be men made (Artificial) and natural. Some definitions of disaster are as follow:

An occurrence causing widespread destruction and distress; a catastrophe. Emergency. "A serious situation or occurrence that happens unexpectedly anddemands immediate action." (American Heritage Dictionary. 3 rd. ed., 1996) In contemporary academia, disasters are seen as the effect of hazards on vulnerable areas. Hazards that occur in areas with low vulnerability do not result in a disaster;as is the case in uninhabited regions. (Quarantelli 1998)

There is two types of disaster one is a natural and other one is man-made (or technological) hazard resulting in an event of substantial extent causing significant physical damage or destruction, loss of life, or drastic change to the environment. A disaster can be extensively defined as any tragic event stemming from events such as earthquakes, floods, The present paper highlights the disaster and its management in general and in libraries in electronic age particularly. The paper also suggests the management methods of disaster in libraries.

The safeguard against disaster for the libraries is very important. Safeguard should be in such planned ways that save the resources of library without anydamage. In India libraries are not concentrating on disaster management due to unawareness and paucity of funds. Libraries and reputed Information Centers should organize program on disaster management in libraries. There should be training and workshop program for library personnel as well as for library users. Library and managing authority should make necessary arrangement for the effective program of disaster management in libraries. Disaster management program should be implemented from the initial stage (from the construction of building for any organisation). It is called Disaster, Disaster Management, Natural Disaster, Man- Made Disaster, Disaster Management ─ Libraries, Artificial Disaster catastrophic accidents, fires, or explosions.

Natural Disaster

Natural disaster is an implication when a natural danger touches creatures and/orthe built atmosphere. The resulting damage is governed by on the capacity of the population to support or fight the disaster and their resilience. This understanding is concentrated in the formulation: "disasters occur when hazards meet defencelessness". A natural danger will hereafter never result in a natural disaster in areas without exposure. Numerous singularities like, landslides, earthquakes, eruptions, volcanic, cyclones and floods are all natural hazards that kill thousands of people and destroy money of territory and goods every time. Followings are the mainnatural disasters:

- Earthquakes
- Floods
- Volcanic eruptions

- Cyclones
- Biological agents (micro-organisms, insect or vermin infestation)
- Fires (wildfires)
- Rain

2.2. Artificial (Men Made) Disaster

Day by day the technological developments are growing . Artificial disasters also can be caused by humans. Dangerous materials emergencies include chemical tumbles and groundwater pollution. Workplace fires (caused by short-circuit etc.) are more common and can originate substantial property mutilation and loss of life. Communities are also defenceless to these threats posed by fanatical groups who use ferocity against both people and property. In Artificial disaster, targets mayinclude military and civilian government facilities, international airports, high-profile landmarks and large cities. Cyber-terrorism involves attacks against computers (server down, virus attack, hacking and unauthorised access etc.) and networksdone to intimidate or pressurise a government or its people for political or social objectives.

3. Disaster management

It is a discipline that includes making, holdup, and rebuilding society when natural or man-made disasters occur. In general, any Crisis management is the unceasing process by which all individuals, groups, and communities manage hazards in an effort to avoid or perfect the impact of disasters resulting from the hazards. „Disaster management can be defined as the organization and management of resources and responsibilities for dealing with all humanitarian aspects of emergencies, in particular preparedness, response and recovery in order to lessen the impact of disasters.

4. Disaster in Libraries

Disaster either natural or manmade may occur in any organisation and at any place of the world. Its seriousness may be distinguished on preventive, pre- arrangement and other security methods. Now, libraries have entered in the age of electronic age but with the advent of technology in libraries, the technological (Artificial) disaster has also been generated. Natural disaster like flooding, earthquake, cyclones, rain and Volcanic eruptions etc. are identical and not changed but going toward uncertainty due to global warming.

Day to day man-made disaster as power cuts, network failure, cooling- heating, theft of books, network tower failure, conflict, noise, and violence may occur in libraries. Besides these, fire, sever failure, crashing of computer also are major disaster in libraries. Sometimes some misshaping may convert in major disaster in libraries.

5. Disaster Management in Libraries

Plan for the Disaster management must be incorporated at the initial stage of planning at the time of establishment of a library and information centre. Several smaller pointers for a comprehensive disaster management plan, which are independent of each other but are interlinked, as parts of whole plan are set forth. The disaster and its control mechanism normally go through three stages — before, during and after. All these three stages are to be kept in mind while planning to minimise the impact and recover out of potential emergencies. Each disaster plan must cover whole of the library and information centre including staff, readers, sources of information, equipment and infrastructure and it must be a team efforts.

As far as Indian scenario is concerned, enacting Disaster Management Act in 2005 (www.rajyasabha.nic.in/bills-ls/2005/LV_2005.pdf), the Government of India established National Disaster Management Authority (ndma.gov.in). Earthquakes, floods, river erosion, cyclones, tsunamis, landslides, avalanches and forest fires are included under natural disasters and nuclear & chemical destructions, mine disasters, biological disasters, cyber terrorism and environmental disasters are covered under reasons because of human activities or interventions. 20 guidelines have been issued from time to time since 29.6.2009 by NDMA covering natural & man- made disasters.

Another institution National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) functions as nodal centre for human resource development in the area of disaster mitigation and response. Capacity development, with other institutions is one of the major concerns of NIDM. Besides this training, research, documentation and development of a national level information base also comes under NIDM. It is to network other knowledge based institutions and closely work with them.

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), in Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 has suggested a plan for building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters with challenges posed by disasters and the Yokohama Strategy, 2004 : Lessons Learned and Gaps Identified as the preambles. National Library of Medicine (NLM), USA, has instituted Disaster Information Management Research Center (DIMRC) for preparing a long range plan, 2006-2016 to help the National emergency preparedness, response and recovery efforts.

The Specialised Information Services (SIS) perform the task of collecting, organising and disseminating the health information resources and information related to disaster of natural, accidental or deliberate origin. Many educative programmes like seminars, symposia are organised for the librarians from time to time and many links to related databases, disaster related organisations, emergency response tools have been provide on the website of DIMRC (www.nlm.nih.gov).Libraries are our guardian or custodian of our history, culture and civilization. They are keeping the records in printed and non-printed document. Students, scholar expectation are also linked with libraries. So maintenance and security of libraries are essential from disaster etc. In this concern Indian libraries (especially government and public

libraries) frustrated us. Libraries are not so secured in this concern. Most of the libraries have not installed fire alarm system in their libraries. If installed, the maintenance of these systems is zero, only they became show peace. Libraries are also faces many day to day disaster like power-cuts (No having generators), no heating-cooling system etc. Libraries and information centre areorganising many workshop, conference and seminar of ICT but neglected the topic like disaster management in libraries. This is ill-fated of Libraries as they are providing reading material (books, journals and encyclopaedias etc.) on disaster management to their users for research but for them, there is no such perpetual program in this concern.

Funds are also a barrier in this concern as libraries not getting adequate funds for purchasing books etc. and these disasters are the secondary phase for the libraries. I personally observed in many libraries that there was no such preventive equipment and measurement for this disaster (natural and man-made). Disaster controlling plan must be assimilated in preliminary planning of founding a library and information centre. Numerous minor pointers for a complete disaster management plan, which are independent of each other but are interwoven. Libraries either academic or public and authority (Government- Non-Government) should make the following provision in their libraries against disaster management:

- **Fruitful Plan:** There should be fruitful plan for disaster management. Disaster plan must cover complete of the library and information centre including staff, readers, sources of information, equipment and infrastructure and it must be a cooperative team effort.

- **Mirror Server/ Backup:** There should be arrangement of mirror server and daily backup of work should be taken on regular basis by the competentlibrary staff. Data backup should not be kept in library and be placed atminimum two places. A responsible staff may take this backup with them. AMC of library server and UPS may be an alternative security measure for this.

- **Power Supply:** There should be one main switch of light system of libraryand place to place MCV- Light controller should be installed in the library to avoid short-circuit in light system.

- **Responsibility:** There should be fixation of responsibilities on staff and suitable person should be identified and succession should be fixed in written and verbally. Suitable senior and junior staff should be incorporated in disaster planning.

- **Power-Cuts:** Installation of Solar Power System, Inverters and UPS to cater the uninterrupted power supply. Sound proof power generator may be installed for this system.

- **Fire:** Library should identify imperative parts of the building, collections, allocating rescue primacies, recognizing substitute storage sites, providing satisfactory fire protection. Fire alarm system and smoke detector should be installed in library on each level so that any type of smoke and fire is detected.The staff training is essential to handle such system and should openings for staff to be alert of what is expected of them in the event of disaster.

- **Additional Funds Arrangement:** There should be an additional fund arrangement to procure the preventive equipment and for making such disaster arrangement in libraries.
- **Rain- Floods:** There should be arrangement of water security out system around the library. The access of water should go in directly down to earth. Itis impartial and important to determine from where the water is coming and should be stoped as it causes to cover up the books.
- **User Awareness Program:** User awareness program regarding the disaster management must be organised. This program may be included in user education/ orientation program of the library. Time to time library and information centers should organize training and workshop program on disaster management in libraries.
- **Disaster Management Agency:** Library and information centers may hire Disaster Management Agency for disaster management. Library may contract with such type of agency (Government and Private). There are many such types of agencies are available (online ─ offline) for disaster management.

6. Conclusion

Now the range of disaster has increased, natural disaster is increasing due to global warming and artificial disasters (man-made). These are increasing with the advent of Information Communication Technology. Pre-planning for disaster is very important as this management is inter-linked to each other. This planning should be implemented from the initial stage (from the point of construction of building of any organization like libraries). Time to time mock drill should also be implemented for testing of the program. Maintenance of such procedure is also very important. Government, non-government and managing authorities should also pay more attention on this issue. Government should also make such positive policies for libraries and information regarding the implementation of disaster management.

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