

**DISASTER MANAGEMENT AS A MEANS OF
CORRUPTION: COOPERATIVE SYSTEM AS AN
ALTERNATIVE WAY**

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Abstract

In this writing it will be tried to show the relation between Disaster Management and Corruption and it will be tried to discover an alternative way for the disaster management. The word disaster is derived from Middle French désastre and that from Old Italian disastro, which in turn comes from the Greek pejorative prefix δυσ-, (dus-) "bad" + ἀστήρ (aster), "star". The root of the word disaster ("bad star" in Greek) comes from an astrological sense of a calamity blamed on an unfavorable position of a planet. Disaster management (or emergency management) is a management which is a plan for and coordinates all the personnel and materials required to either mitigate the effects of, or recover from, natural or man-made disasters. Disaster management is not the eliminatory medium of disaster its study is an important part of the field. On the other hand, in philosophical, theological, or moral discussions, corruption is spiritual or moral impurity or deviation from an ideal. For the relation between corruption and disaster management, the main goal of disaster management is being hampered. After all these here we have to need to find an alternative way. In the recent past Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) including cooperative agencies under the banner of Third Sector Initiatives have been vocally involved in preparing themselves to help vulnerable communities in the disaster occurred regions (Rajendran, 2006) in the domain of building social capital. Cooperative institutions with different entities and other CSOs have rich experience across the globe and have made considerable metamorphose among the societies

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(Morrissey, 1997). The cooperative organizations of local, regional and national stature have been either independently or in association with other CSOs are working on disaster mitigation and rehabilitation.

Key Words: Disaster, Disaster Management, Corruption, Cooperative System.

1. Introduction:-

In this writing it will be tried to show the relation between Disaster Management and Corruption and it will be tried to discover an alternative way for the disaster management. But before discussing on the relation between disaster management and corruption and also find an alternative way, we have to know about the definitions of disaster, disaster management and corruption then it will be tried to find an alternative way. The word *disaster* is derived from Middle French *désastre* and that from Old Italian *disastro*, which in turn comes from the Greek pejorative prefix *δυσ-*, (*dus-*) "bad" + *ἀστήρ* (*aster*), "star". The root of the word *disaster* ("bad star" in Greek) comes from an astrological sense of a calamity blamed on an unfavorable position of a planet. Research on disasters has been done by the researcher for more than a century and this type of research shows us that all disasters can be made by human because if human wants then the actions of human before the strike of the hazard can prevent it developing into a disaster. A specific disaster may spawn a secondary disaster that increases the impact. A classic example is an earthquake that causes a tsunami, resulting in coastal flooding.

Disaster management (or emergency management) is a management which is a plan for and coordinates all the personnel and materials required to either mitigate the effects of, or recover from, natural or man-made disasters. Disaster management is not the eliminatory medium of disaster its study is an important part of the field. Disaster management covers different types of events like fire, natural disasters (such as earthquakes, hurricanes, etc.), public disorder, industrial accidents, communication failures, acts of terrorism, industrial sabotage etc. Disaster management should develop a good action plan to prevent the results and effects of any emergency time of disaster.

One of the most disaster prone countries of the world is India. India facing different types of disaster like cyclones, earthquakes, droughts, famines, chemical disasters, mid-air head-on air

collisions, rail accidents, and road accidents. India is also one of the most terrorist prone countries. Though India recently responds to disasters and provided relief from calamity and this is being happened by disaster management system but here has also a big problem which is corruption.

In philosophical, theological, ideal, ethical or moral discussions, corruption is spiritual or moral impurity or deviation from an ideal. Corruption may include many activities including bribery and embezzlement. Government, or 'political', corruption occurs when an office-holder or other governmental employee acts in an official capacity for personal gain.

2. Methodology:-

The research project includes the study with the help of both secondary data and primary data. The secondary data have been collected from Statements Relating to The Disaster Management and Cooperative Society. These data would be used to highlight the trends of the role of cooperative societies or PACS in Disaster Management. The primary data on the performance and role of cooperative societies or PACS plays in the Disaster Management. Apart from that various books, journals, Internet data etc. have been consulted for this research work. Most importantly the archives of these institutions would also be consulted to highlight the governmental and political contradictions that are inherent in its origin and development from its very inception.

3. Objective:-

The objectives of the study are to examine the needs of cooperative societies or PACS in the Disaster Management, to measure the management of the disaster made by the cooperative societies or Primary Agricultural Credit Societies in India and in West Bengal with special reference to Purba Medinipur district.

4. Corruption and Disaster Management:-

For the relation between corruption and disaster management, the main goal of disaster management is being hampered. Now here it will be tried to discuss the relation between disaster management and corruption or the corrupted politicians or politics. With some examples it will

be tried to explain. The natural disaster in Uttarakhand which is very recent incident is the best example to understand the relation between disaster management and corruption. Many cities of Uttarakhand stand devastated. With homes gone and connectivity snapped, most of the towns and villages in affected areas wear a deserted, ghost-town like look. But, at the same time, the developments in the aftermath of the man-made disaster have also reaffirmed the strengthening perception of the masses about the callousness of politicians and politicians-controlled bureaucratic apparatus in dealing with the concerns of the common men, the proclaimed basic entity of the masses in a democratic (read pseudo-democratic) set-up like India. As usual, in the aftermath of a man-made disaster, the blame game got uglier each passing day with more skeletons tumbling out.

Experts say Uttarakhand has witnessed a boom of unplanned development in recent years. Fragile ecology of the state has been manipulated beyond a point of reconciliation with the nature. Riverbeds and riverfronts are encroached heavily. Dozens of hydroelectric power projects (45 operational and over 100 under development) and hundreds of big and small dams crisscross the state. Environmentalists, activists and scientists have been regularly raising voices against sanctioning so many hydroelectric power projects and dams without the necessary scientific studies. But politicians always slept on the reports; always killed the warnings. In fact, they vehemently pleaded with the central government to denotify the preserved areas and not to notify more areas as sensitive ecological zones that prohibit any activity detrimental to the ecological balance.

In order to earn quick tourism money, the relatively inaccessible areas like Kedarnath, which are under snow for half of the year, were made accessible with poorly laid roads while the hills of Uttarakhand needed roads built with specialized technology. These bad roads aided to the calamity monumentally. A report by the Indian Institute of Technology (Roorkee) and the Bureau of the Bureau of Indian Standards blames bad roads in contributing significantly to the landslides.

Almost every party was busy taking credits and shifting blames while thousands had died, many were dying and thousands were imminent danger of losing lives. Choppers were busy ferrying

politicians while the people stranded were crying for help. Also, it remains a mystery that why very limited number of choppers were put in rescue efforts in the initial days by a country that claims to be one of the major powers in the globalized world. The Uttarakhand disaster was a calamity where the ordinary Indian became victim of the nature's fury due to the human greed of political corruption when he faced simultaneous ferocious attacks from the parties, the nature and the politicians, at the same time.

Whatever be the inside story into the bad play by the weather, it was certainly worsened by the administrative apathy that ignored the pre-disaster warnings and by the political debauchery that aggravated the post-disaster misery.

Politicians and administration controlled by them were first in denial mode about the scale of the disaster. Politicians then crossed all the limits of decency by putting an audacious front to deny that there were preceding warnings and finally did away with whatever little inhibition that they had to put their brazen shameless vote bank maneuvering in full throttle.

In the time of disaster in Uttarakhand lots of headlines have been come in print media and in electronic media through which it was proved that disaster management is hampered all time by the corruption or corrupted politicians. In the time of disaster in Uttarakhand a minister of the state got the relief material unloaded and used the rescue chopper for his personal need. To draw the political mileage the son of a top politician of the state with political ambitions got a chopper diverted in his personal service. Unhappy with Vijay Bahuguna's efforts, other Congress CMs had to come into damage control mode to contain the political crisis by coming to the aid of the state. After hitting disaster in Uttarakhand, the Government of Uttarakhand refused aid from Gujarat as the government there was of the political opposition. The imposed code of conduct not allowing any further VVIP visits to the state to facilitate the relief and rescue efforts was subverted for a top politician of the ruling party that caused further delays. That time it was found that there was corruption in distribution of the relief material. State government's claims on the progress of the relief efforts that were found to be unsatisfactory.

Another example, though it was not as popular as the disaster of Uttarakhand, which is a flood at Bhgawanpur Block I & II, Patashpur etc under the district of Purba Medinipur. On 19th June

2008, these Blocks were affected by a devastating flood. Many people were homeless, many students were without books, many people were without clothes and many more incidents happened there. It was totally man made disaster. From the public of local area it has been heard that for political gain this man made disaster happened there. Before this disaster they didn't face any type of disaster like this. Dam has been broken at Keleghai River and Bhgawanpur Block I & II, Patashpur etc. under district of Purba Medinipur were affected by a devastating flood. After this man made disaster local area's public got help from Ramkrishna Mission, different NGOs and cooperative society or PACS but not from the local political leaders. At Kolaberia under Purba Medinipur district relief activities which were conducted by the Ramkrishna Mission have been prevented by the local political leaders because they didn't want to lose their political gain.

5. An Alternative Way:-

After all these here we have to need to find an alternative way. In the recent past Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) including cooperative agencies under the banner of Third Sector Initiatives have been vocally involved in preparing themselves to help vulnerable communities in the disaster occurred regions (Rajendran, 2006) in the domain of building social capital. Cooperative institutions with different entities and other CSOs have rich experience across the globe and have made considerable metamorphose among the societies (Morrissey, 1997). The cooperative organizations of local, regional and national stature have been either independently or in association with other CSOs are working on disaster mitigation and rehabilitation. With some examples this can be explained. The committed involvement of the cooperative initiatives during the December 2004 tsunami rehabilitation has been widely acclaimed in many countries and more particularly in India. Tsunami made devastating impact on the coastal State of Tamil Nadu and the epitome is still green on the minds of the affected community and the CSOs have extended both short-term and long-term rehabilitation tasks and still it continues, as the magnitude is quite large and the situation was deplorable. The cooperative organizations of local, regional and national stature have been either independently or in association with other CSOs are working on disaster mitigation and rehabilitation in a South Indian State – Tamil Nadu, where more than 13 lakh people affected and about 8,000 people lost their lives. Another example which is a flood at Bhgawanpur Block I & II, Patashpur etc. under district of Purba

Medinipur. After this disaster the cooperative society or PACS through the loan waver scheme, wave the loan of the loanee members not only that but also PACS have given short term crop loan to the farmers though it is their regular work but after the disaster total loan amount was higher than the previous time.

6. Conclusion:-

“Vina Sahakara, Nahim Uddhar” – Without Cooperation, No Rehabilitation. Society cannot allow its weaklings to perish, just as a parent cannot permit his crippled offspring to perish. Protection of the weak and not the survival of the fittest is the motto of cooperative. It is cooperation that tries to achieve this end – the protection of the weak – not indeed by allowing them to remain weak, but by enabling them to get the necessary strength. Cooperative agencies under the banner of Third Sector Initiatives have been vocally involved in preparing themselves to help vulnerable communities in the disaster occurred regions (Rajendran, 2006) in the domain of building social capital. Cooperative institutions with different entities and other CSOs have rich experience across the globe and have made considerable metamorphose among the societies (Morrissey, 1997). The cooperative organizations of local, regional and national stature have been either independently or in association with other CSOs are working on disaster mitigation and rehabilitation. It is essential that the cooperatives should communicate in a better way with the members and outside world so that it can be differentiated itself with other economic models. Better communication will help to know the spirit and objectives, activities undertaken by the cooperatives and to create an intimate relation through continued loyalty and commitment. Government should not only use the cooperatives as a means of political mileage but proper missions and visions have to be adopted in order to develop the frail conditions of the cooperatives in general.

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