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‘Action’ - A Training Module on Disaster Management for Capacity Building Among Pre-Service Teachers of Colleges of Education

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ABSTRACT

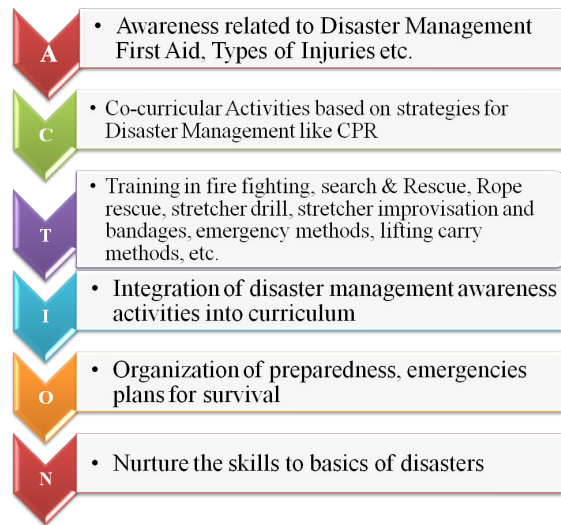
Disasters (Natural and Man-made) have been experienced by our country many a times. Disasters have hampered our progress and development of the nation. They cause astronomical loss to human life and property. Are we really prepared to face disasters in the near future? Have we educated our citizens with disaster management skills? Is there public awareness of disaster management? So there are many questions which do not have satisfactory answers and need to be seriously looked into. To make disaster management more effective, it has to be addressed at grass root level. Since teachers are the main link to propagate and promote disaster management skills to future generations, Pre-service teachers in Colleges of Education need to be trained in disaster management. Pre-service teachers trained in disaster management skills can play a pivotal role in developing those skills among the students. Hence there is an urgent need to address this issue. This paper attempts to gain an insight in developing a **‘Action’ - A Training Module On Disaster Management** for the pre-service teachers of Colleges of Education to enhance their awareness of disasters (natural and man-made) and to train them in disaster management strategies so that they are well equipped to combat such situations as well as prepare the teaching, non-teaching staff, students and stakeholders to handle such situation in near future.

Keywords: ‘ACTION’, Pre-service teachers, Colleges of Education, Disaster management.

1. INTRODUCTION

Disasters (Natural and Man-made) have been experienced by our country many a times. Disasters have hampered our progress and development of the nation. They cause astronomical loss to human life and property. Are we really prepared to face disasters in the near future? Have we educated our citizens with disaster management skills? Is there public awareness of disaster management? So there are many questions

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'Action' - A Training Module on Disaster Management

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Ganpatrao (2014) made a study to find the relation between the knowledge of disaster management and their practices among secondary school teachers of Pune city. From this study it was concluded that there is need for Capability building among teachers as their knowledge level and practices were found to be unsatisfactory. Das and Malviya (2014) made a study of the School teachers for capacity Building of in Disaster Preparedness and Prevention. Shashikala (2013) carried out a Study on Preparing Student Teachers of Dakshina Kannada District to Develop Disaster Management Awareness and Skills. Majority of student teachers were found to have average level of Disaster Management-Awareness. Specially designed Instructional Package was effective in developing Disaster Management Awareness among Student teachers at secondary level. Specially designed Instructional Package was effective in developing Disaster Management awareness among science and arts student teachers at secondary level. However, the material is found to be more effective in relation to arts student teachers than science student teachers. Dasgupta (2012) found that the basic knowledge of first aid among the general public in Mumbai was very low. National Disaster Management Division (2008) also emphasized enhancing the awareness and skills related to disaster management amongst school teachers and students so that their impact may be reduced and schools become more safe.

Shiwaku (2014) made a “Comparative study on teacher training for school disaster management in Armenia and Japan” and gave suggestions for improvement of teacher training programs with respect to disaster management for both the countries. Petal (2009) in her article emphasized on importance of “ShakeOut” earthquake drills “School Disaster Management: Lessons from Community-wide Drills”. She emphasized on experiential learning rather than on imagination for developing disaster management skills. Shiwaku, et. al. (2006) discussed in their paper “Promotion of Disaster Education in Nepal: The Role of Teachers as Change Agents”. They felt the need for training in disaster management for pre-service teachers to improve disaster education in Nepal. Ozmen (2006) in her study “The level of preparedness of the schools for disasters from the aspect of the school principals” found that the Principals were not prepared for prospective disasters.

Research Gap

Thus from the above studies we can conclude that there are very few studies in training of Pre-service teachers in disaster management. In Indian context, disaster management training among teachers is still in a nascent stage. Hence there is an urgent need to include Disaster management training programmes in Colleges of Education. Thus the trained pre-service teachers can sensitize students, school community and stakeholders with disaster management and build a resilient community. Since it has been observed that there are very few studies taken up to train pre-service teachers in disaster management, using **'Action' - A Training Module on Disaster Management** would help in fostering disaster management awareness and practical skills to combat disasters to great extent.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study seeks to realize the following objectives:

- To get the conceptual idea of **'Action' - A Training Module on Disaster Management**.
- To explain the role of **'Action' - A Training Module on Disaster Management** in enhancing disaster (natural and man-made) awareness and developing strategies of disaster management.
- To examine if **'Action' - A Training Module on Disaster Management** is appropriate for capacity building to combat disasters among pre-service teachers of Colleges of Education.

Methodology and Data Analyzing of the Study

This study encompassed the data of the government bodies, books, journals, related websites from the period of 1999 to 2017. Data used in this study are secondary in nature. For the present study the **'Action' - A Training Module on Disaster Management** was developed after going thoroughly through review of related literature, since it was found that there was no MODULE in existence to enhance awareness of disasters and strategies for disaster management among pre-service teachers of Colleges of Education.

Significance of 'Action' - A Training Module on Disaster Management

Capacity building is one of the World Health Organization (WHO) strategy for improving disaster preparedness, hence Pre-service teacher's need to develop capacity building to combat disasters.

This module would help in capacity building of Pre-service teachers.

Teacher plays a crucial role in safe guarding the student in school and this module would equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to act as Leader, Crisis Manager and Counselor in case of a disaster (during & after).

‘Action’ - A Training Module on Disaster Management would help in fostering awareness related to disaster management, nurturing the skills to basics of disasters, help in conducting co-curricular activities related to disaster management, provide training in fire fighting, search & Rescue, Integration of disaster management activities into curriculum, aid in disaster preparedness & emergency plans for survival. Thus this module would develop practical skills to combat disasters and build a safe haven for our children and our nation in the long run.

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