

Report
Emergency Preparedness Mock Drill
Tezpur University, Napaam, Sonitpur, Assam
27 November, 2015

THE CONTEXT

Disaster management is a multidisciplinary subject, which needs integrated coordination mechanism amongst government ministries and line departments, disaster management agencies, technical and academic institutions, corporate sectors, and vulnerable communities. Complete disaster management mechanism involves three different phases of activities,

PRE DISASTER RISK MITIGATION to avoid a disaster like situation by taking appropriate structural and non-structural measures relevant to probable threats (natural or man-made) and prevailing vulnerability factors (unsafe conditions, dynamic pressures and root causes) of the system. This needs class room education, field study, risk assessment, planning for risk mitigation and execution of plan.

DURING DISASTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE involving rescue of victims, evacuation and safe shelter of victims, relief operation and temporary selvage of essential facilities. It requires skilled and equipped response forces, equipment, tools etc.

POST DISASTER NEEDS ASSESSMENT; based on damage, loss and impact of disaster; for recovery of normal situation and sustainable development.

For a country like India having geographical area of 3,287,263 square kilometers, more than 1.25 billion population, complex Community-Hazard profiles, and limited counter disaster resources; it is not possible for government disaster management agencies to deal with all aspects of disaster management.

Members of vulnerable communities have also specific roles and responsibilities in making their own systems resilient to external threats. Disaster management agencies play the role of facilitators.

Considering the needs for a paradigm shift in the approach of disaster management, ***Government of India had enacted an Act called “Disaster Management Act, 2005”*** for effective management of disasters in India. The main objective of the Act is to define institutional, legal, financial and coordination mechanisms for effective disaster management at national, state, district and local levels.

Subsequently, Union Cabinet of India approved the ***National Policy on Disaster Management (NPDM) in 2009***. The NPDM was prepared in pursuance of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 with a vision to make India safe and disaster resilient by incorporating ***proactive, holistic technology driven and multi disaster oriented strategies***.

Considering the objectives of national disaster management Act and Policy, ***Union Ministry of Human Resource Development and University Grants Commission of India*** directed all the higher educational institutions to incorporate disaster management in their academic programmes by credit based optional/elective papers, practical training on safety and disaster response, mock drill, awareness programmes etc.

Abiding the directives of MHRD and UGC, Tezpur University has already started CBCT/optional elective courses on disaster management at UG and PG levels under Centre for Disaster Management. This Centre is also assigned to conduct training and awareness programmes on disaster risk mitigation for different target groups. Considering the limitations of Centre for Disaster Management in terms of resources and strength, University has decided to conduct practical trainings and mock drills on safety and emergency response in coordination with district, state or national disaster management agencies.

THE EVENT: Emergency Preparedness Mock Drill (Earthquake Disaster)

Mock drill on emergency response is essential for assessment of ability of the response forces, operational integrity among all stakeholders, response times of individual agencies; estimation of gaps/needs for better response operation; improvement of skills of response forces; and also let the vulnerable community know about their disaster risk and responsibilities towards risk mitigation.

Emergency response in disaster situation is the most difficult and complex phase of Disaster Management mechanism mainly because of its short response time and needs for

- ✓ *first response group from vulnerable community*
- ✓ *conducting rapid assessment of the situation and timely action according to the situation*
- ✓ *understanding the status of victims (trapped, injured, critically injured, dead etc.) and rescue of the victims with all care on priority basis*
- ✓ *dealing with the secondary threats*
- ✓ *skilled man-power, equipment, tools for rescue operation*
- ✓ *timely mobilization of recourses*
- ✓ *providing first-aid to victims*
- ✓ *evacuation and safe shelter of victims*
- ✓ *providing basic amenities to victims for survival*
- ✓ *management of crowd, traffic, law & order in the disaster affected area etc.*

To aware the university community about different aspects of emergency response in disaster situation and also motivate them towards active participation in such activities; Tezpur University organised a mock drill on Earthquake Disaster Response and Fire Fighting in its campus on 27 November, 2015.

Coordinated by the Centre for Disaster Management of Tezpur University, the mock drill was conducted by District Disaster Management Authority (Sonitpur, Assam) in collaboration with Civil Defence (Tezpur), State Disaster Response Force (Assam), Fire & Emergency Services (Tezpur), and 108 Mritunjoy service.

Technical staff of concerned agencies and trained Civil Defence Volunteers (***mostly students of different institutions and community members***) gave demonstrations on different techniques for safe rescue of victims (*ground and upper rescue*) using locally available and low-cost materials/devices; evacuation of victims, first-aid to victims, resource mobilization, fire-fighting methods for both small and big fire etc.

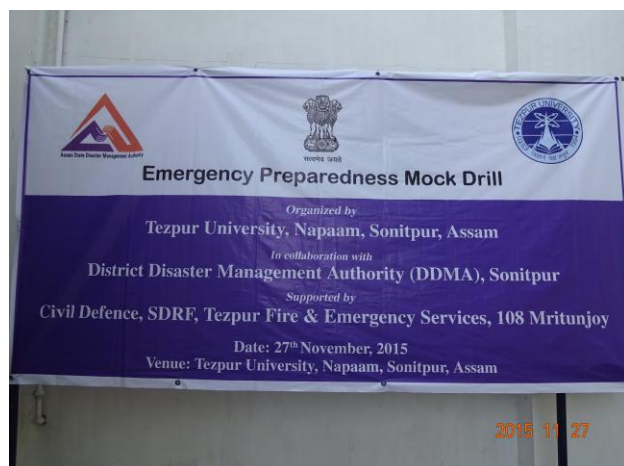
The mock drill was followed by an interaction cum hands-on training programme for select groups of participants nominated by different departments, sections, cells and private establishments of the University. This session was conducted by the technical staff of Civil Defence and Fire & Emergency Services of Tezpur.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor of Tezpur University, Deputy Commissioner of Sonitpur District, faculty members and administrative staff of the University also joined the crowd to witness the event.

FEEDBACKS

- ✓ University may conduct short-term hands-on training programmes on safety and disaster response (preliminary) for the students, staff and other stakeholders of the University to generate skilled volunteers for disaster response.
- ✓ University may appoint one trained instructor (*regular or on contract basis*) and procure basic equipment/tools for conducting hands-on trainings on safety and emergency response.
- ✓ At least one mock drill per year may be conducted with the participation of university volunteers under the guidance of technical staff of Civil Defence/SDRF/NDRF.
- ✓ University may approach the state government for establishment of a Fire Service Station in or around the University campus to minimize the response time of operation.

FLASHBACKS



Deputy Commissioner & Chairperson, DDMA, Sonitpur graced the occasion



Upper rescue of seriously injured victims by ladder slide method using stretcher



Upper rescue of seriously injured victims by ladder hinge method using stretcher



Rescue of victims from second floor by using single rope chair technique (left) and double rope slide method using stretcher (right)



High Jump Safety Cushion (left) and Hands-on training session (right)



Hands-on training for selected participants of the University



Training session (left) and section of crowd (right)



Interaction cum training session



Casualty point (left) and Emergency medical response (right)



Fire in demo-hut



Fire and emergency service personnel are in action



Technical staff, volunteers and University officials after the programme

Acknowledgement

Tezpur University is extremely thankful to the Deputy Commissioner and Chairperson of DDMA, Sonitpur for engaging available counter disaster resources of the district to conduct the mock drill in the University campus. University expresses its heartfelt thanks to all the technical staff, officials, and volunteers involved in mock drill and interaction sessions for their unstinted support. Sincere thanks to Ms. Ruby Gogoi, DPO, DDMA, Sonitpur and Mr. Dipankar Bordoloi, DEOC Assistant, DDMA Sonitpur for their active role in conducting the drill at Tezpur University.

Prepared by

Dr. Dipak Nath

***Head (i/c), Centre for Disaster Management, Tezpur University &
Coordinator, Emergency Preparedness Mock Drill***

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