

## CHAPTER- 31

# Disaster - Management

Today the teacher in class V started discussion on flood and asked "Have you heard about flood, earthquake etc.? You must have read about them in the newspaper."

**Flood** - Have you ever seen a flood affected area? Think what all happens when there is flood. When this is flood all the nearby areas are filled with water. Water enters inside the house. Due to the force of water cracks develop on the walls and the buildings fall. Our crops are destroyed or we can say there is great loss of life and property. Our whole life is disturbed.

Accumulation of water at places for days creates puddles of dirty water which breed diseases as malaria dengue etc.

### **Why does flood occur?**

There are many reasons for flood -

Floods at different places have different reasons. If there are heavy rains in an area then it will cause the amount of water in river to rise and then water of the river overflows to the nearby areas.

Sometimes due to heavy rains the dams break which can also cause flood?

In the costal areas there is always a change in atmospheric pressure, which causes storms in the sea and the costal area have flood.

**Does flood always cause losses or does flood give any benefits too.**

Along with the floods a lot of mud also arrives and gets distributed over the plains making it more fertile

**Can we control flood? Can you tell of any way to stop floods?**

You know that roots of the plant hold the soil together and stop the mud from flowing away. So trees can help in the control of floods.



You must have seen or heard of small dams or check dams which are built on rivers and big canals to control the flow of water. By the check dams the speed and force of the flowing water is lessened. What are the benefits of check dams?

### **If there is flood how can it help in checking its effects?**

Some solutions are given below. Informing the people soon about the dangers.

Shifting the people to safer areas. Arranging food, shelter and medicines in these places for the people.

### **Earthquake -**

Get information about the earthquake which occurred in Bhuj area of Gujarat from your elders, teacher or internet.

This earthquake on 26 January 2001 made thousands homeless at one instance. There was much loss of life.

### **Why does earthquake happen?**

Earthquake happens due to the heat deep inside the earth. The core of the earth is about 30 Kilometres deep. There are many layers in it which are made of hard and soft rocks.

When the heat increases in the earth's crust, weaker layers and the neighbouring rocks shift their places due to which the surface of the earth have shaken or

tremors. These tremors can be mild or violent. We can feel the violent ones but the mild ones cannot be felt by anyone.

Do you know that we can measure the magnitude or intensity of earthquake? You can measure the intensity of an earthquake on a seismograph. The magnitude of an earthquake is measured on the Richter scale.

The tremors of an earthquake are quite brief but their effects are destructive and injurious to life.

By the tremors of the earthquake the building starts shaking. Sometimes this happens so suddenly that people doesn't get the time to came out of the building. And people get crushed under the debris. Even big trees and electric poles are damaged due to the earthquake. Sometimes there is fire due to breaking of electric wires.



In places where earthquake usefully happen the houses are made of wood why?

What must we do if an earthquake happens.

We must move to an open area.

We must sit under a table etc.

We must not stand under a tree or near an electric pole.

**Think and discuss with each other -**

Heavy rains can cause flood, what will happen if there is scarcity of rains?

If there is no rainfall for a long period of time in any area then these won't be any crop grown there. The water level in rivers, ponds and wells will go down. In this state we say that there is a drought.

### **What are the causes of a drought -**

Mostly droughts occur in places where there is no natural source of water supply.

If the area is far from sea (source of water), then the intensity of the moisture is very low in these areas. So in these areas there is less or no rainfall.

Which are places in the states of our country where droughts happen?

Farmers are the most affected due to drought. They are not able to do farming. In this drought areas there is shortage of grains, fruits and vegetable. There is even shortage of drinking water. Due to which people have to face many difficulties.

### **Discuss -**

Can we lessen the possibility of a drought?

If we plant more trees there will be more greenery, which will increase and so there will be rainfall. If we conserve the rainwater, we can increase the ground water level.

Earthquake, flood, droughts and such events occur suddenly and man has no control over it. Such events are called natural calamities or disasters.

If anyone has to face natural disasters then what must one do?

- Inform about the natural disaster to maximum people.
- Help people to move to safer places.
- Obey the instructions given by the police, doctor or army men doing the rescue work.
- Don't encourage rumours and half truths.
- During natural disaster the whole world helps in one or the other ways. Some examples are -

Red Cross Society - This is a voluntary organization. It provides medical help and money for rehabilitation.

WHO (World Health Organisation) - This organization provides facilities related to health in those areas.

The role of doctors, police, information broadcasting system, fire bridge department are very important.

It is necessary for doctors to reach these places immediately to provide medical help in time.

Police must reach these places to maintain law and order.

Army men help in removing people from these accident areas. They also provide food packets through airplanes.

Broadcasting system - Radio, Television and Newspapers provide correct information to the public.

### What have we learnt?

#### Oral

1. Why is it said that we must sit under something strong as a table during earthquakes?
2. What are the problems faced during floods.
3. What must we do to avoid drought?

#### Written

1. What will happen if in some places-
  - a. there is no rains for a long period.
  - b. there is an earthquake
  - c. there is no fresh drinking water.
2. How can we help persons stranded in a flood?

3. During natural disaster or any other accidents we may need the help of these groups. To contact them in emergency write their phone/mobile numbers in your copy. You can add other names to this list.

S.N.	Name	Address	Phone Number
1	Fire brigade		
2	Nearest Hospital		
3	Ambulance		
4	Police Station		
5			
6			
7			
8			

### Find Around You

Many a time people have to face such problems that there may be a great loss of life. Many people become homeless. Write about such a disaster from a newspaper report on the following points –

- Cause of the disaster
- Time and date
- Type of losses

Who and which organisation helped for this? You can take the help of Newspaper, T.V. , Internet etc.

