

**Introduction:**

This synopsis investigates the ‘Family Disaster Risk Management Plan’ an innovative Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Initiative in building resilience in family.

Family Disaster Risk Management Plan (FDRMP) is a novel, simple and personalized plan for the family, to enhance its preparedness and capacity to anticipate and respond to emergencies. DRR is an upcoming field. The shift from risk reduction to resilience is the most recent one. This work reflects my experience in the implementation of DRR activities in communities and schools. I have gained skills in DRR by undergoing a number of ‘Training of Trainers’.

The driving forces for me to write thesis on FDRMP to build resilience in the family are:

- Disasters occur frequently
- The Family is the first responder in a crisis
- People believe the myth that ‘It will not happen to me’
- Basic services are cut off
- Normal life is disrupted
- It is not so much “the plan” as the “planning process” that is the key cultural change needed.

Disasters can strike at any time without warning. The vulnerability of the family is high because of risks posed by a multiplicity of natural and man-made disasters like earthquakes, fire, floods, etc, where loss of life and assets is at unacceptable levels. Family is the first responder in the crisis. Too often, families make mistake of waiting until a crisis occurs to react. ‘It will not happen to me’ is a myth that prevents most families from planning their responses to disasters.

The idea of the FDRMP is conceived as a result of recognizing that citizens themselves are first responders needing education about the steps to be taken in times of emergency. FDRMP is unique for each family and for the use of their own safety before as well as at the time of the crisis. It is a personalized action plan with allocated responsibilities for each member of the household. A functional FDRMP can help to alleviate fears about potential disasters, reduce the level of stress and save
precious time during an emergency, thus enabling the family to become more disaster resilient.

India has a high level of vulnerability to natural disasters due to its unique geophysical and climatic conditions. Floods, droughts, cyclones, earthquakes and landslides are recurring phenomena. Hazard profile of India revels that:
- 54% of landmass is prone to earthquakes
- 40 million hectares land is prone to floods
- 8% of area is prone to cyclone
- 68% of the area is susceptible to drought
- 30 million people affected by disaster every year.

The growing incidence of disasters correlates strongly with the increasing vulnerability of households and communities in developing countries. Recent experience confirms that investment in mitigation and a strong commitment to the implementation of a participatory mitigation strategy can lower the risks and vulnerabilities of poor households.

Preparing a disaster management plan reduces the potential anxiety and fear during a disaster as well as any physical losses that may occur. A relatively small investment in disaster preparedness saves thousands of lives as well as vital economic assets. It also reduces the cost and period of the overall relief assistance. There is growing evidence to show that most top down disaster management and response programs fail to address the specific needs of vulnerable families and ignore the potential to use the prepared families in particular and the society at large.

To address the need for a first responder to be educated in the steps to take in the aftermath of an emergency, the FDRMP was conceived. A FDRMP is a personalized action plan that prepares each member of the family to take key decisions that directly improve their safety and security in a disaster scenario. By preparing a plan a family can bring down the level of risk as well as minimize losses as much as possible.

It is assumed that a prepared family is a safer family. With this plan the family can reduce risks and minimize losses. The initiative addresses key issues related to risks faced by a family during crisis. The FDRMP can help to prevent injuries and loss of assets in the target families through disaster risk reduction initiatives.
This important aspect I believe has great potential of being explored and the outcome would be having interest and helps many.

In my view the best way to try out the importance of the proposed research work, as planned, to understand the expected results and possible policy implications as an outcome of the research work.

It is expected that the below mentioned supports will be available

- Support of the family, community / society leaders and volunteers in training, initiation, propagation and monitoring and follow up of the intervention.
- Documents on ‘do’s and don’ts of disasters’, first aid and details of local hazards and emergency contact detail.
- Traditionally monetary reason was considered as the key aspect that retains / motivates human resources. It is expected that this notion will stand negated.
- The aspects of ethics and integrity within the community / society volunteers in rendering support to family to complete their plans.

The above expected results would be of great value today as most of the community / family would be able to better invest their time to get the best to secure their lives and livelihoods.

Development research tells us that the success and the sustainability of interventions at the community / family level depend, among a number of factors, on the availability of relevant local culture, knowledge and indigenous practices that can combine with new ideas to generate innovation. The participation and integration of these communities / families in all disaster-related processes as a necessary means for pursuing the importance of their DRR knowledge in assisting to mainstream disaster risk reduction practices.

Good practices and lessons learned from experiences in the DRR aims to build resilience in the community /family as an effective tool for reducing risk from natural disasters. By improving the understanding of DRR knowledge and providing concrete plan of how it can be successfully used, I hope this study will inspire all practitioners and policy makers to consider the knowledge held by local communities / families and act to integrate this practices into future disaster-related work.