Literature Review:

Being the member of the Inter Agency Group – IAG of the government and a number of national and international NGOs of the great reputation, I have accessed to the latest journals, research articles and books in DRR. Though there are very few references are available in the area of my research work, but my exposure to DRR initiative in the targeted community and participation and presentation of the papers at the national and international levels are of great asset in the endeavors.

I have completed literature review in detail. The research documents, articles and papers listed under Bibliography were reviewed. Some interesting findings are summarized below:

Valerie Almos (2011) in his Summary Annual Report elaborates an overview of the activities of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Haiti earthquake. He stated that the new challenges of today’s shifting humanitarian landscape, they need to embrace and use new technologies, more imaginative in their choice of partners, make more collaboration offered by non-traditional humanitarian actors.

United Nations University and Institute for Environment and Human Security (2011) in its World Risk Report examines the risk at the global level and draws conclusions for future actions in assistance, policy and reporting with focuses on the governance and society.

Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (2010) in its Interim Guide to HAP Standard in Accountability and Quality Management describes how this guide can be used by senior managers, programme staff, facilitators and trainers to build the awareness and understanding of, and strengthen the implementation of quality and accountability in relief and development work.

Craig Fugate (2011), in his book ‘A Whole Community Approach to Emergency Management, Principles, Themes and Pathways for Action’ describes a foundation for increasing individual preparedness and engaging with members of the community as vital partners in enhancing the resiliency and security of the Nation through a Whole Community approach.
Proudlock, Ramalingam and Sandison (2009), members of the Study Advisory group of the ‘Active Learning Network for Accountably and Performance in Humanitarian Action, describes in their book, ‘Improving Humanitarian Impact Assessment: Bridging Theory & Practice’, how the trust is shifted towards analysis of the impact of the humanitarian assistance based on the evidence-based way, and how the aid ultimately affects the lives and livelihoods of the recipients.

Mark Pelling and Others (2004), in his ‘A Global Report’ on ‘Reducing Disaster Risk, A Challenge for Development’, premised on the belief that in many countries the process of development itself has a huge impact; both positive and negative, on disaster risk. He explains how countries that faces similar patterns of natural hazards; from floods to droughts, often experience widely differing impacts when disasters occur.

Margie, Buchanan-Smith and Kim Scriven (2011), in their report on ‘Leading Effectively in Humanitarian Operations’ states that the leadership has long been an important topic in the commercial, political and military areas. There is a widespread concern that the international humanitarian action is underperforming due to lack of effective leadership, described as a leadership void.

Disaster Management Division, Government of India (2010), in its book on ‘Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)’ published by the Disaster Management Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India describes how to respond to natural disasters, in a concise and convenient form, a list of major executive actions involved in responding to natural disasters and necessary measures for preparedness, response and relief required to be taken.

Mark Shriver (2010), the Chairman, National Commission on Children and Disasters, in his report identifies gaps in the nation's disaster preparedness, response, and recovery for children and make recommendations to close the gaps.

Eric and Thomas (2008), in their article ‘Gendered Nature of Natural Disasters: The Impact of Catastrophic Events on the Gender Gap in Life Expectancy, 1981 -2002, describes the impact of catastrophic events on the gender gap in life expectancy. In a sample of up to 141 countries the authors analyze the effect of disaster strength and its interaction with the socioeconomic status of women on the change in the gender gap in life expectancy.

Oxfam (2012), in its report on the ‘Crisis in a New World Order, narrates the latest thinking of Oxfam on the future of the humanitarian system. The report states that the role of UN and INGOs will be vital in but their contribution will increasingly be
measured by how well they complement and support the efforts of each others, and encourage every humanitarian actor to uphold humanitarian principles, people affected by crises need peace, security and justice, development, and good governance.

Mark Goldstein (2012), Director, United States GAOEC, narrates in his report published by the United States Government Accountability Office, that despite the interoperability limitations, traditional Land Mobile Radio (LMR) systems have provided public safety agencies with mission critical voice capabilities that commercial broadband systems cannot provide. These LMR systems will continue to be essential for public safety communications until broadband systems are able to meet public safety requirements, particularly for mission critical voice.

Anthony Lake (2012), Executive Director, UNICEF reflects in his report on ‘State of the World’s Children’ published by the United Nations publication, that the millions of children in cities and towns all over the world are also at risk of being left behind. Hundreds of millions of children today live in urban slums, many without access to basic services. They are vulnerable to dangers ranging from violence and exploitation to the injuries, illnesses and death that result from living in crowded settlements atop hazardous rubbish dumps or alongside railroad tracks.

Claudio Amaral and Luc Verna (2010), state in their article in ‘Establishing Community Based Early Warning System, that the hazards do not affect everyone uniformly. It is the poorest that suffer the most as they live in fragile topography, poor structured houses with limited resources and their extremely low capacity for resilience.

Claude, Juan and Francois (2010), in their ‘Health Response to Haiti in Earthquake’ describe the lessons learned for the next massive sudden-onset disaster for improving the health response. The “lessons learned tend to focus on resolving what did not work so well. The ministry of health must be provided with the basic information about the capacity of foreign medical teams and field hospitals prior to the occurrence of a disaster. There are many considerable achievements of the humanitarian community. In Haiti, many lives were saved, people were fed and sheltered, and they received much better care than before. The disaster brought significant positive changes in mentality, behavior, and attitude in future sudden-onset disasters, if massive earthquakes will occur again and some will devastate metropolitan areas or even the capital city, as was the case in Haiti.

Zahra Aga Khan (2008), in her speech at the launch of the ‘United Nations World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2008-2009’, revels that the success of a disaster preparedness effort depends on the ability to ensure that health facilities can perform three vital functions: to protect the lives of patients and health workers by ensuring the structural resilience of health facilities; to ensure that health facilities and services are able to function in the aftermath of emergencies and disasters; and to improve the ability of health workers and institutions to react to and manage emergency situations.

Aga Khan (2006), in his speech at Evora University Symposium, "Cosmopolitan Society, Human Safety and Rights in Plural and Peaceful Societies" describes that the challenge of democratic renewal has been vastly compounded by another development which is also the cosmopolitan society; human safety and rights in plural and peaceful societies. His Highness Aga Khan referred to the rapid proliferation of cosmopolitan populations. The world is becoming more pluralist in fact—but it is not keeping pace in spirit. “Cosmopolitan” social patterns have not yet been matched by what he would call “a cosmopolitan ethic.”

Anil Gupta and Others (2009), in the proceedings of the international workshop on Risk to Resilience, Strategic Tools for Disaster Risk Reduction, highlighted the different methodologies presented for evaluating DRR strategies for hydro-meteorological hazards, including those likely to emerge as a consequence of climate change, and to mainstream these in the policy process and the formworks on other hazards were also highlighted.

Ton Zutphen and John Demerol (2011), in their ‘Sphere Handbook’ highlights the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response, shares the principles and a set of universal minimum standards in core areas of humanitarian response which describes core principles that govern humanitarian action, and asserts the right of populations to life with dignity, protection and assistance.

National Institute of Disaster Management (2005), in its Disaster Management Act 2005, published by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India, states that the MHA is the nodal ministry for handling management of natural disasters. It has undertaken several initiatives for building disaster resilient communities in India.
Ministry of Home Affairs (2011), in its ‘State Level Programmes for Strengthening Disaster Management in India describes the initiative taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs to achieve sustainable reduction in disaster risk. These encompass multi-hazard planning, use of technology for disaster mitigation, and empowerment of various stakeholders by enhancing their capacities to prepare, respond and mitigate hazards.

Kaushik and Megha Kohli (2011), in their Directory of Institutions and Resource Persons in Disaster Management, published by the National Institute of Disaster Management describes some important parameters for building a robust and sound information database based on knowledge sharing, information dissemination and public awareness aspects. Information is in fact a vital parameter for facilitating the quick action for saving the lives and livelihoods during disasters. It contains relevant contact details for immense use during an emergent solution for a nation.

Rajib Shaw, Noralene Uy, Jennifer Baumwoll and Others (2008), in their ‘Indigenous Knowledge for Disaster Risk Reduction – Good Practices and Lessons Learned from Experiences in the Asia Specific Region’, describes that the success and the sustainability of interventions at the community 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. He further states that the importance of indigenous knowledge contributes not only to the success of intervention, but more importantly to its sustainability in the longer term.

National Institute of Disaster Management (2009), in its proceedings of 2nd India Disaster Management Congress, narrates that the capacities of the community and government to understand the risk causes, prevention, mitigation and emergency response helps by reducing vulnerability and occurrence of hazards or containing them from realisation as disasters. There is need to develop integration of disaster management infusion along the training and education network for environment and development programmes, especially in the regions. School safety is a very important subject. A disaster management training policy must be formulated to guide the training need analysis, design, module development and human resource planning and different levels.

Margaret Whalstrom (2009), in her ‘Family Safety Plan’ published by the Foundation of Public Safety Professionals, describes that the risk reduction begins at home, in schools, in places of work and worship and throughout the life of the local
communities. The authors emphasized on the importance of the safety plan to save lives.

Arya (2011), in his report on the ‘Rapid Structural & Non-structural Assessment of School and Hospital Building in SAARK Countries’, published by the SAARK Disaster Management Center, New Delhi describes that the South Asia is one of the most earthquake prone regions in the world. Six out of the eight SAARK countries are located in high seismic zones.

Grasso and Ashbindu Singh (2009), in their draft report which is the joint effort of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Early Warning Systems: State-of-Art Analysis and Future Directions, Early warning (EW), states that the nation’s should have the provision of timely and effective information, through identified institutions, that allows individuals exposed to hazard to take action to avoid or reduce their risk and prepare for effective response.

Jan Kellett & Dan Sparks (2012), in their report on ‘Disaster Risk Reduction – Spending where it should count’ published by the Global Humanitarian Assistance Development Initiative, examines the top 40 humanitarian recipient countries in the context of natural disasters and especially with regard to financing to reduce risk, and they examine the current state of funding for disaster risk reduction and, in the context of those countries most at risk of natural disaster.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation SAARC (2011), in the report published by the SAARC Disaster Management Center New Delhi in collaboration with UNICEF and Save the Children describes the proceedings of a five-day workshop in Hyderabad, India on 7-11 February 2011. The workshop deliberated at length on every aspect of the needs of children in disasters and developed the SAARC Framework for Care, Protection and Participation of Children in Disasters.