

Concept Note

In India, a spate of catastrophic disasters in recent past impacting millions of lives, have exposed the need for prevention and mitigation measures against such events. At the same time, a number of community led initiatives on preparedness, response and mitigation have reduced to some extent the impact of natural hazards.

Instruments such as Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) and other policies and processes emphasize the need to build on successful local risk reduction practices. Yet, linkages with community based initiatives that build resilience to future disasters are still tenuous. Such good practices need to be strengthened and scaled up. There is a need for forums that allow community experts and innovators to engage the policy makers (local and national, elected and administrative) in a more realistic manner.

In India, there have been institutional and structural changes at national and state level. The passage of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and the formation of Disaster Management Authorities at national and in many States have set the stage for a paradigm shift from a relief centered strategy to that prevention and preparedness.

Meanwhile, mainstream disaster management continues to be focused largely on preparing for emergency response and development planning fails to safeguard investments or people against disasters. In this framework, policy makers and planners, international agencies and NGOs could turn a blind eye to “good practices” of “at-risk communities” that build peoples' resilience to hazards.

The need of the hour is to ensure that stakeholder mechanisms are established for direct participation and community based initiatives are consolidated and inform national policy making efforts.

With a mission to link people's efforts with policy and create positive synergies, it is proposed to form a National Alliance on Disaster Risk Reduction (NADRR). The NADRR would be an initiative of concerned individuals and agencies committed to integration of disaster risk reduction (DRR) concerns into the mainstream development planning and action on the ground.

The NADRR can learn, share, guide and advocate for programmes, policies and institutions than can help reducing the vulnerabilities of the communities while protecting their basic human rights and dignity. You have been an active participant of the DRR process in the country. We invite you to become a part of this effort.

The NADRR is proposed to be formally launched on the 4th Nov' 07 during the concluding session of the workshop on “People, Policy and Partnerships for Disaster Resilient Development.”

We look forward to hearing you soon.

The NADRR Founding Team

Note: A planning meeting for the National Alliance is being held on 16th October'07 at New Delhi. Please let us know, if you would be able to attend this meeting. We do hope that you would actively contribute to the formation and activities of the NADRR. Please confirm your willingness to join the alliance.

Kindly send us your confirmation by email to: nadrr@gmail.com

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