

# Humanity Bounces Back the Disasters Impacts

By

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**Abstract:** Risk avoidance is the hall mark of Disaster Management discipline which continuously coerces with the pre-disaster mitigation and preparation as well as emergency management during the disaster and post disaster response and recovery activities in such a way to expedite not only the re-connectivity of human life but also a full fledged Re-Development of the societies. This process is incessant and perpetual initiated by the individual human beings, societies, communities and the nations with an aim to revolutionize the disaster impacts annihilated by the hazards and the risks associated with them.

At this point in time; perception of risk is very important for those who are exposed because they have to take action. Affected and the responders both are the same species i.e. human beings. Their collective; but a reciprocal human behaviour will speak off the multidisciplinary approach towards the emergency response management at governmental as well as non-governmental levels, thus presenting agreeable solutions. The paper in question presents the solutions on the similar issues using statistical techniques of research on a case study.

**Keywords:** Human beings, Humanity, Disaster Impacts, Preparedness, Prevention and Response.

## 1. Introduction

Human role play will define the activities at each and every tier of preparedness and response thus raising the effective inundation and a barricade to bounce back the lethal and devastating impacts of disasters upon human life, health, property, economy and the environment. Crux of the matter lies in; what is there in the esteemed principles of human values while making us; the human beings as a formidable defence against the negative consequences of hazards thus building the internal resilience and capacitance. Strengthening the intangible building codes of human moral fibre and land use planning of human social element will ensure the tangible effects depicted by the re-development duly under taken.

It is a fact that the best of preparedness may not be sufficient to endure a substantial hazard. It wouldn't be easy in doing many things back as these were. Prevalent destruction and the massive death toll will always deny the routes of return. House and the livelihood lost would be ardent to bear. There would be human physical

and the emotional displacement; the recovery of which would be tangent upon the "Will to Do" in both the physical and the psychosocial parameters. This paper is intended to deal with similar issues thus presenting viable solutions.

### 1.2. Problem Statement

In the occurrence of disasters, humans play significant role in becoming a vital component in destabilizing the natural environment leading to global warming thus further resulting into floods, landslides, tsunamis, industrial hazards, chemical / hazardous oil spills, biological / communicable diseases, nuclear outbursts, terrorism and other destruction caused by conventional war fighting. To mitigate all this, to prepare for and to antagonizing response; what if the human element is subjugated in pre-event planning / preparation for post event response /rebuilding (PEPPER) ; Spangle (1987) to preclude the impacts of disasters.

### 1.3. Objectives of the Study

This study focuses at:-

- i. Identification of most vulnerable groups in disasters.

- ii. Highlighting the pivotal human elements in bouncing back the disasters.
- iii. Developing awareness among individuals, societies and the communities.
- iv. Increasing societal capacitance through building human moral and social potential.

#### 1.4. Significance of the Study

For the efficient management and administration of natural disasters, there is a dire need to design certain policies based on certain considerations and distinctions. Greater integration is paramount for the economic and social welding of the community post disaster which can be achieved through a deliberate assessment and planning of human response before, during and after the disasters. An emplaced functional and an effective strategy is likely to produce definite results of pure human will; Naveed and J.M Razzaq et al (2004).

While exploring gaps of such details, the paper touches upon the Social Risk Management scaffold; how principles of humanity compliment their role in response formation within the confines of social protection to the most vulnerable groups of the society especially the poorest, women, children and the disabled.

## 2. Literature Review

In the decade of 2000s, disasters average frequency per year had been 384 which has increased twice than in 1980s; UNESCO (2014). World population has increased from 4.5 Billion (in late 1970s) to 7.2 billion today (expected to rise by 9.7 billion in 2050) out of which more than one billion (15%) are disabled, extreme poverty living is more than one billion, average birth rate is 4.5 per second and death rate is 1.8 per second; [1]. Maternal mortality rate is 210 deaths per 100,000 live births; [2]. At the same time, environmental degradation is growing at a very fast pace. Carbon emission world over has increased by about 50 % (more than 10,000 Million Tons) as compared with 1990s (less than 6000 Million Tons); [3]. What this all has contributed to? Off course, it has

contributed to a massive risk of hazards causing the natural disasters. People have been forced to live on marginal locations i.e. deltas of rivers, coastal marginal lands, flood plain settlements, zones of seismic risks, hill slopes and dry lands.

Socio economic costs of the disasters have substantially been increased. Impact size is getting greater than the size of national economy causing sharp decreases in GDP; Charvati et al (2000). Risk of exposure has also been changed proportionately to the size of impact e.g. Pakistan's vulnerability to floods has not been decreased for the reason, she has not increased her resilience through rain fed summer crops; Habib Rauf (1997) and Doroshet al (2004).

Poverty is another major contributor to disasters as the poor urban have limited or no access to risk management instruments. They are forced because their house hold are more susceptible to cope with than the non poor; Vakiset al (2004). They generate very harmful coping options instead i.e. cutting costs on their food, health and education to increase saving / income while also falling prey to social evils e.g. child labor, bribery and prostitution etc thus also seriously degrading the humanity levels; virtually affecting the disaster management.

Disabled class is also among the most vulnerable affecting the natural disasters. Their identification and management becomes too crucial during and after the disasters. Therefore, it is pertinent to address this issue in the planning phase. Integration of disability in the planning stage will perk up and augment the response mechanism in dealing with disasters; [4].

Histories of the disaster statistics tell us that half the population among the sufferers worldwide are the children and the grand children. Millions of them can't go to school because of being the worst affected due to displacement e.g. In Sichuan Earthquake; China (2008), six thousand five hundred school buildings were destroyed taking away the lives of ten thousand children; Evan Schneider (2008).

## 3. Study Design and Methodology

Study was designed on a quantitative research module with primary data sources. A questionnaire was designed on the Linkers Scale i.e. strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree and strongly disagree for data collection, analysis and conclusions. Humanity factor was tested through various questions related to the community preparation to face the disasters, whether they possess any necessary equipment and tools for early warning, their knowledge, education, awareness and training about the disasters, role play of governmental / nongovernmental sectors including military, GOs / NGOs / INGOs as well as social welfare department.

There were one hundred fifty addresses belonging to academia i.e. Northern University Nowshera, F.G. Degree College Nowshera, various schools, students, teachers, businessmen, police department, DHQ hospital Nowshera, various Executive District Officers, Judges and all concerned from army, especially CMH Nowshera. All of them were related to Nowshera floods 2010; one how or the other. Out of all the addressees, only 145 responded, so the response rate was 96 %. Each item of the questionnaire was analyzed and then translated into pie chart for a meaningful data analysis.

#### 4. Discussion on Findings & Summary of Results

4.1. **Data Analysis:** A set of questionnaire was adopted containing twenty questions. Following areas were targeted in the said questionnaire:-

- i. Are we ready to face the future floods?  
Mapping facility should be there in each district.
- ii. Should the training be made mandatory at all tiers?
- iii. Were the outside volunteer people helpful in floods?
- iv. Was the community ready to respond to early warning?
- v. Was there in any human abuse in the disaster management here?

- vi. We the human beings are responsible to cause the disasters.
- vii. We are sufficiently equipped to handle all the disasters.
- viii. There were much social crimes in the disasters.
- ix. First Aid training is essential for common people.
- x. NGOs are helpful and possess greater human values.
- xi. Government is improving the Disaster Management System in Pakistan.
- xii. Common people volunteered for relief of victims in the disasters.
- xiii. There was a leadership crisis in Disaster Management in Pakistan.
- xiv. There was mismanagement in the distribution of relief supplies.
- xii. Are you satisfied about the role of media is spreading the awareness about the disaster response?
- xiii. Women and the children are among the worst affected in disasters.
- xiv. Disaster victims in Pakistan are now fully rehabilitated.
- xv. Disaster displaced population in Pakistan is now fully rehabilitated.

Disabled were evacuated with great difficulty in disasters.

4.2. **Findings & Summary of Results:** Following picture has emerged out of the questionnaire interpretation which reflects reality in the shape of people's mouth. Pie Chart of agreement, disagreement and / or neutrality factors are given at the Annexure "A" attached:-

There had been 63 % disagreement that the community was ready to face the future floods / disasters. 70 % agreed that the mapping facility should be available at each district level. 90 % agreed that the disaster management training should be made mandatory at all tiers. 88 % agreed

that outside volunteer support was very helpful during the floods. However, 54 % did not agree about the community's readiness to respond to early warning. 39 % believed that we the human beings were responsible to cause the disasters while remaining believed in other natural causes. 42 % of the community disagreed about the human abuse in disaster management. 56 % people say that the community should be technically but sufficiently equipped to handle the disaster satiation. In the Islamic community like Pakistan, a strong disagreement (72 %) exists about the occurrence of social crimes. 84 % of the community desired that the First aid traing should be imparted to common people. 97 % people are of the view that NGOs are of much help and possess greater human values. 61 % of the community agreed that the government was improving the Disaster Management system in Pakistan. 80 % people of the community believed in the volunteering support for relief of victims. 84 % of the people believed that that there was a clear leadership crises instead to be more forthcoming in the downed trodden disaster relief. 79 % people were of the view that there was no mismanagement of in the distribution of relief supplies. 61 % believed in the role of media in proffering awareness about the disaster response. 57 % people believed that the women and the children were among the worst effected in disasters situation. There is about 46 % disagreement concerning the disaster victims' rehabilitation. 84 % believed in the strength of disaster displaced people; who are fully rehabilitated in Pakistan.

#### 4.3. Important Conclusions

Following conclusions are drawn out of the summary of results:-

Community's will for readiness to face the future floods / disasters is evident. Its' now the government's responsibility to arrange for the necessary traing at various levels.

Hazard mapping facility should be made available at each district for appropriate disaster risk reduction and ensuring early warning for timely response and readiness by the community.

Volunteers support has a significant role in the disaster management activities. This resource is admitted positively by the community.

Human beings are responsible to cause the disasters but they at the same time are responsible to prepare for, mitigate with, response to and recover from disasters once these happen while keeping all the motivation, morality and the values of humanity.

Stepping over and beyond the rituals of best of humanity is inhumanity. Being inhumane is itself big disaster i.e. human beings become the enemies of themselves causing wars, deaths, and losses in both the conventional and non-conventional disasters.

Human abuse is usually common in disaster management but found least common for disasters in Pakistan depicting satisfactory standards of humanity level in the region with less crime rate.

Basing on the hazard mapping and the types of prevailing hazard risks, the community needs to be adequately equipped technically to handle the disaster satiation.

First aid traing is a social need and basic criteria to human health and should form part of school / college curriculum. Common citizens should also be involved in First Aid (including triage) training at each village, street and union council level. Truly speaking, its' need of the hour.

Since NGOs are of much help and possess greater human values. So, NGOs support must be formalized more vigorously at the national as well as sub-national level whereby the community has already agreed that the government was improving the Disaster Management system in Pakistan.

Re-appropriation of disaster relief is highly needed to address the issues of over/under resource. Laws should be made reflecting the social norms to protect from the misappropriation.

Clear leadership crises has been pointed out by the community which is an unbearable irritant in the Disaster Management System of Pakistan, therefore "Political Will" is needed at all levels

more vigorously to arrest leadership crises because it is as bad as a disaster within a disaster.

Media support is very important in the "Risk Communication" whereby each individual and an every community has fallen prey to this need. Responsible media role needs to be formalized and documented in proffering awareness about the disaster response.

Sine women and the children are among the worst affected in disasters situation. Therefore, mainstreaming gender into disaster risk reduction is likely to resolve this issue. Woman empowerment is needed at all the stakeholders' level.

Disabled class is left at the least priority. Legislation is needed for their registration, handling and rehabilitation at each district, community and village level.

Though the disaster displaced population has been satisfactorily handled and rehabilitated in Pakistan but their resettlement issues still need to be addressed at the provincial level, especially the Internally Displaced Population of Federally / Provincially Administrated Areas (FATA/PATA) of Swat and Waziristan respectively (K.P).

### Conclusion

Depending upon the type and the nature of disasters, conditions may vary from one region to another but it might be very beneficial to perceive disasters as the disease for which the physicians usually say, "Prevention is better than Cure". For disasters, prevention would be much cheaper and less agonizing than bitter consequences during and post disaster. Prevention and preparedness mechanisms don't look working pre-disaster but these are profitable investments which seem functioning well post disaster. Energy spent in reducing risks would never go wasted. What is that energy? That energy is the bond of indemnity and an underlying code of "Honesty with ourselves, everywhere, anywhere, every time, anytime and at all times". Honesty gives a moral strength and a huge resource to the character of humanity through which we can bounce back and

fight back any disaster(s), coming across our way ; to the Allah's will, The sole Creator.

### Recommendations

In the backdrop of this research / study as a whole and the discussion above, few of the following pertinent recommendations with inbuilt suggestions are proffered:-

It is every individual's sole responsibility to keep him/her self-informed all the time as a 1st precaution. No laxity in this regard.

Make "Risk Communication" interactive between individuals, community and the government.

Acquire adequate first aid skills with a swift access to medical supplies in the emergency. Do not get injured when undertaking "search and rescue" or "debris removal".

Prepare "Shelter in Place Plan", "House Hold / Neighbour Hood Plan", "Communication Plan" and practice twice a year and specially before high probability disaster situation.

Keep high moral / humanity standards when in community shelters. Take care of the adolescent girls, women and the children.

Remember that the recovery is a long term, gradual and pains taking process. So, always be cool, patient and persistent in your dealings and activities.

Always accept that dealing with disasters is a difficult affair at difficult times, so always give yourself time to heal and grieve in order to get relieved from post disaster stress.

Help children and the women of your family and the neighbourhood to recover from disaster. Talk to them, mix with them and provide them the true picture. Their emotional recovery will be your best support and a new energy and enthusiasm to take up on the new life with a new rhythm.

Motivate yourself and those closer by to rebuild together, more safer and most resilient.

### References

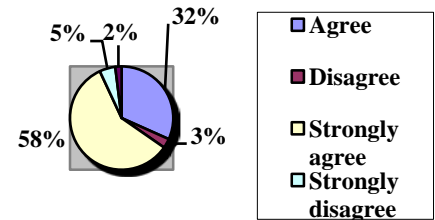
[1] Carl Haub and Toshiko Kaneda, 2014  
World Population Data Sheet (Washington,  
DC: Population Reference Bureau, 2014).

[2] Trends in Maternal Mortality, WHO,  
Geneva (2014)

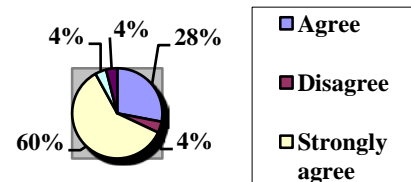
[3] T.A. Boden, G.Marland, R.J.Andres ;  
“Global, Regional, national Fossil Fuel CO2  
Emissions” ; (2013)

[4] “Natural Disasters 1974 [CRED]”: The  
Disaster Numbers; Center for Research on the  
Epidemiology of Disasters (2003)

**Q-3 : Should the training made mendatory at all tiers ?**

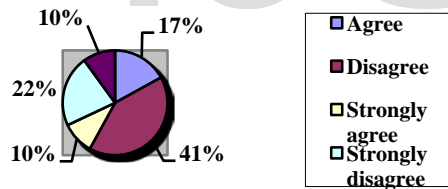


**Q-4 : Were the outside volunteer people helpful in the floods ? ;**

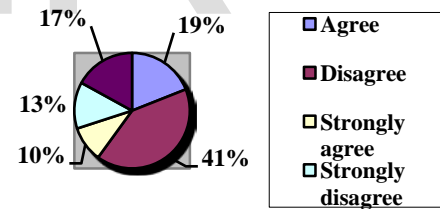


Annexure A

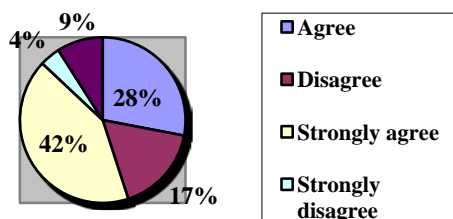
**Q - 1 Are we ready to face the future flood / disaster ?**



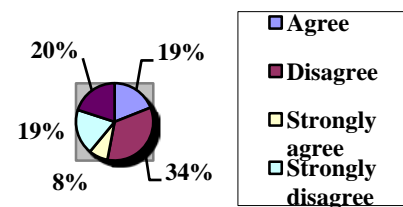
**Q-5 : Was the community ready to respond to early warning ?/**



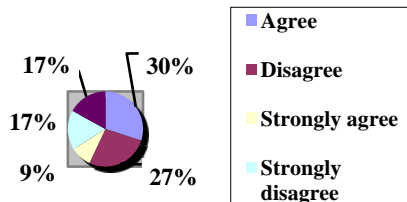
**Q-2 : Mapping facility should be there in each district .**



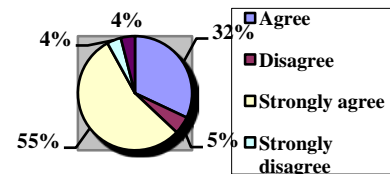
**Q-6 : Was there any human abuse in the disaster management here ?**



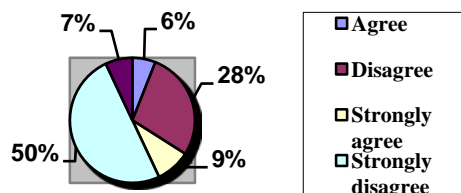
**Q-7 : We the humanbeings are responsible to cause the disasters ?**



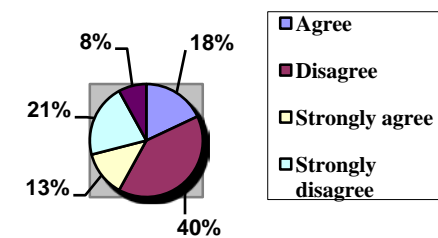
**Q-11 : NGOs are helpful and possess greater human values ?**



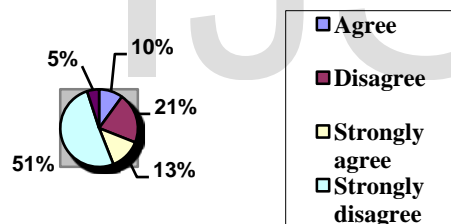
**Q-8 : We are sufficiently equipped to handle all the disasters?**



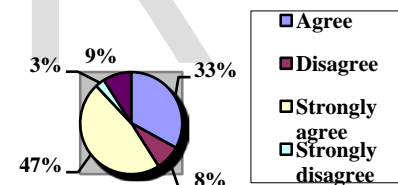
**Q-12 Govt is improving the DM System in Pakistan ?:**



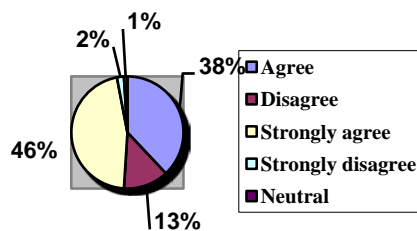
**Q-9 : There were much social crimes in the disast**



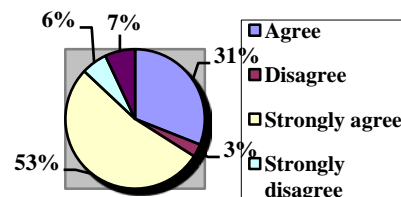
**Q-13 : Common people volunteered for relief of victims in the disasters ?**



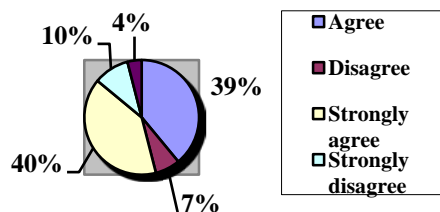
**Q-10 ; First aid training is essential for cc people ?**



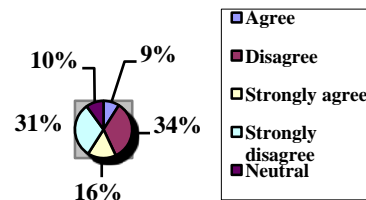
**Q-14 : There was leadership crises in DM in Pakistan ?**



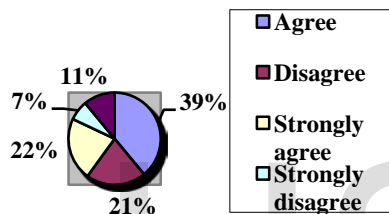
**Q-15 : There was mismanagement in the distribution of relief supplies ?**



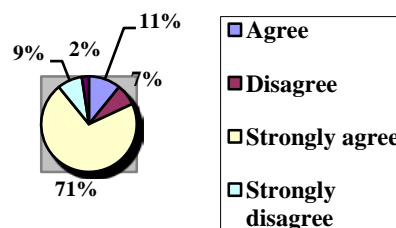
**Q-19 : Disaster displaced population in Pakistan is fully rehabilitated.**



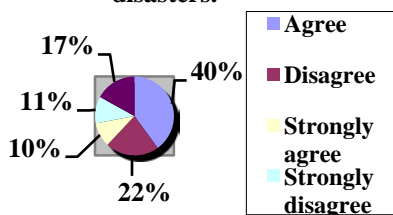
**Q-16 : Are you satisfied about the role of media in spreading awareness about the disaster response ?**



**Q-20. Disabled were evacuated with great difficulty during the disasters.**



**Q-17 : Women and the children are among the worst affected in the disasters.**



**Q-18 : Disaster victims in Pakistan are now fully rehabilitated.**

