

Disaster Management in University Libraries of India and Pakistan

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Natural disasters can strike without warning anytime anywhere anyone. There are different types of disasters. The economic losses caused by these disasters are mainly more expensive for developing countries that are vulnerable to the disasters like India and Pakistan in this case. Different types of libraries including university libraries and museums are priceless storehouses of knowledge, which once lost could be lost forever. Disaster planning needs to be done in university libraries to save the knowledge for future generations. This is true for all types of libraries everywhere. To study the situation of disaster management in university libraries of India and Pakistan literature review will be done. Information from various websites of both the countries will be collected. Regarding information on university libraries in Pakistan emails will be sent to select university librarians to find out whether they have any disaster management plans and similar studies be searched in professional literature. Initial review of literature shows a nearly similar infrastructural planning in both the countries at central and state government level. Disaster management is an ignored subject in Pakistan as stated by leading newspaper Dawn. Very few papers on this subject are available from Pakistan and intensive and exhaustive review of literature can lead to valid conclusion. In India this was an ignored area but after tsunami there has been awareness at all levels. Majority of the university libraries are ignorant about this important aspect of library planning but there are a few where this is being practiced. This study will highlight similarities and gaps between the approaches to disaster management in university libraries

of these two neighbouring countries with nearly similar disaster conditions.

Keywords Disaster planning, University libraries, National Disaster Management Commission (Pakistan), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Floods, National Disaster Management System, Centre for Disaster Preparedness and Management, University of Peshawar

Disasters in India

Natural disasters can strike without warning anytime anywhere anyone. There are different types of disasters. The economic losses caused by these disasters are mainly more expensive for developing countries that are vulnerable to the disasters like India and Pakistan in this case. Different types of libraries including university libraries and museums are priceless storehouses of knowledge, which once lost could be lost forever. Disaster planning needs to be done in university libraries to save the knowledge for future generations. This is true for all types of libraries everywhere. India is the seventh largest country in the world by geographical area of 32, 62, 263 sq.km and is the second largest populated country with 1.2 billion populations. India, which supports just on 2 percent landmass, one-sixth of the world's population suffers heavily from natural disasters. "Of the 35 states and union territories as many as 27 are disaster prone. And if the perceived threats due to other disasters such as chemical and terrorist attacks are added, every square inch of India is vulnerable, calling for immediate attention and sustained effort". India takes pride in being one of the pioneers in higher education, and can boast of having about 700 universities. Many university libraries have valuable collection like manuscripts and other rare documents besides

books, journals, theses, reports, etc. Disasters can strike anywhere any time without a warning and cause immense permanent loss especially in the absence of a disaster management policy.

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A comprehensive legal and institutional framework for Disaster Management was established through the Disaster Management Act that was passed by the Indian Parliament in 2005 and the National policy on Disaster Management was approved in 2009. This Act does not mention anything about disaster planning of libraries, museums, or archives. These are for managing disasters in a place by the state, district, local authorities.

Disaster Management in University Libraries of India

Continuous efforts have been made to find out about the state of disaster planning in the university libraries in India by a few library and information science professionals. But Zaveri has done a most concerted effort by taking this critical aspect as doctorate thesis with the title "Disaster management in libraries in India". It is a pioneer work in this neglected area and the Conclusion states, "The present study showed

that the attitude of Indian librarians was by and large quite fatalistic, perhaps caused by lack of awareness. This approach needs to change to be more in tune with the changes in attitude towards disaster management, observed globally. An initial step in such a shift is the creation of awareness. The present study has been a step, perhaps the first, in this direction (2012)".

After going through the professional literature and websites of university libraries of India, there is lack of awareness and majority have no idea about components and contents of a disaster plan. Unlike developed countries, where the web page of a university library shows disaster plan. There is no well-designed disaster management plan of university libraries in India. Most of the university libraries have fire extinguishers and alarms installed but whether in working condition is not a guarantee. Library staff is usually given training at the time of installation and not on continuous basis. No mock drills are ever carried out on regular basis to train the library users and library staff for any emergency. The university librarians sounded nonchalant about disaster planning for university libraries. Some of the university libraries were without smoke and fire alarm and felt there was no need as nothing had ever happened. Taking things for granted makes the attitude apathetic. The university librarians proudly informed that different departments of their universities were conducting workshops, training for disaster management. "Based on the information available in the library and information science (LIS) literature, web sites, informal sources and responses during the interviews conducted for both the university library staff members it was found that the university libraries in India are not giving due importance to disaster planning in their respective libraries. Buildings are equipped with firefighting equipment but they have neither been used nor have mock drills ever been undertaken. Training in this regard does not exist and it is at the end of the priority list. Unfortunately, terms such as disaster

management, disaster (emergency) planning, disaster control plan, risk assessment and management are not heard of by the custodians of knowledge. This area is also not given adequate importance in the library and information science (LIS) curriculum in India resulting in lack of awareness about disaster management among students and staff of LIS" (Kaur 2009).

After tsunami the Government of India has been active in gearing up the states and district departments to take measures and many states have their own disaster plans. But university libraries do not figure in them as this is the responsibility of the university administration. Many universities and institutes are imparting education on Disaster Management. "National Disaster Knowledge Network (NANADISK) was planned as a "Network of Networks" linking important libraries, institutions engaged in disaster risk reduction, and Indian and global data bases. The Network aimed to create public awareness through knowledge, establish knowledge based enterprises and facilitate training programmes through cyber space (the Network, which promises great potential, has not yet been established)." (National Disaster Management Guidelines-National Disaster Management Information and Communication System (NDMICS, 2011). Unfortunately, not much information is available about this network as it has not been established yet.

Pakistan: Disaster Prone Country

Pakistan is situated within a hazard-prone region and is exposed to a variety of natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, earthquakes, landslides and droughts. Rapid population growth, uncontrolled development and unmanaged expansion of infrastructure are the most common factors that result in more people being vulnerable to natural hazards than ever before (Cardona et al. 2003). The burden of natural disasters in Pakistan can be underlined by the fact that they have been responsible for the deaths of 6037 people in the period from 1993 to 2002, with a further 8.9 million people also

affected (World Disasters Report 2003). More than 80 000 people died and 3.5 million lost their homes in a single event: the earthquake of 8 October 2005. A consistent major problem for Pakistan's authorities is that natural hazards occur more or less regularly at all scales. Furthermore, disaster management in Pakistan, particularly with regard to natural hazards, focuses mainly on rescue and relief processes. There is a dearth of information and little understanding of the processes involved in hazard identification, risk assessment and management, and the relationship between people's livelihoods and disaster preparedness (WCDR 2005). Disaster management policy in Pakistan does not make adequate use of recent developments in scientific methodologies, methods and tools for cost-effective and sustainable interventions. Recent occurrence of the 2005 and 2013 earthquakes, and the 2010-2013 Pakistan floods have broken all disaster records of Pakistan in terms of loss of lives and damage to property that occurred in total so far in Pakistan. Pakistan ranks amongst 9th in top 10 countries in terms of disaster mortality in 2011 and distributed by disaster type being meteorological. (Annual Disaster Statistical Review 2011 The numbers and trends Debby Guha-Sapir Femke Vos Regina Below with Sylvain Ponserre (UNISDR) file:///C:/Users/df/Downloads/2012.07.05.ADSR_2011.pdf)

Pakistan's largest metropolis and economic hub, Karachi, surrounded by numerous tectonically active faults, is ill-equipped to cope with seismic hazards. The city is vulnerable mainly due to inadequate construction techniques, lack of awareness, political will and scant historical seismic data. The existing disaster management policies often remain ineffective or unimplemented due to technical or financial constraints, shortage of trained personnel and weak information-sharing mechanisms (Malik & Cruickshank) Disaster management cell has recently been established in collaboration with Pakistan army to provide voluntary services at the time of any disaster in the country. The aim is to prove it an international standard disaster

management cell with all the facilities available at the time of any disaster. Volunteer students and staff will be given special training on disaster management to make it a world class disaster management Centre. Presently this disaster management cell is working for the flood victims of Pakistan and providing voluntary services to fulfil their basic needs in the first phase and rehabilitation of the flood affected areas in the second phase. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was given the responsibilities of establishing the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) which was a statutory requirement under National Disaster Management Ordinance 2009. There is National Disaster Reduction Policy.

Disasters have an enormous and significant negative impact on development of key sectors of economy like agriculture, infrastructure, housing, health, and education and above all the environment, they result in a serious social and economic set-back to the sustainable development. Disasters also pose threat to increasing poverty and resultantly backslide the national development targets set to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Climate change induced disasters pose even greater threat to sustainable development in developing country like Pakistan, which is ranked quite amongst the most vulnerable countries. Continuous floods of 2010, 2011 and 2012 are seen as an indication of more intense and frequent extreme events in the future. Disaster risk reduction interventions were being carried out in the country till date by different departments / agencies in isolation at national, province and district levels. There was a strong need to give them directions and sound guidelines to align their activities in line with the true spirit of National Disaster Management Act, 2010 to counter the threats of disasters faced by the country. NDMA, being the lead focal agency for disaster preparedness and management, has therefore, embarked upon formulation of a comprehensive National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy through wider consultations with all stakeholders including all provinces, state of AJ&K and regions. This policy covers disasters

risk reduction in a more holistic way and introduces a proactive and anticipatory approach by laying special emphasis on risk assessment, prevention, mitigation and preparedness. The approval of the policy by the National Disaster Management Commission on 21st February 2013, headed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, is a landmark achievement and milestone of institutional strengthening of NDMA toward creation of a vibrant disaster management structure across all the public governance tiers. Effective implementation of the policy would in fact mean beginning of new era where the nation could feel resilient from the shocks of frequent disasters (<http://www.ndma.gov.pk/Documents/drrpolic y2013.pdf>)

Pakistan: National Disaster Management Act 2010

This act declares the establishment of Pakistan's multi-tiered system for disaster management. The act is divided into eleven sections: (i) section one defines the terms used in the act, such as 'disaster' and 'disaster management'; (ii) section two declares the establishment of the National Disaster Management Commission, and explains its structure and responsibilities; (iii) section three declares the establishment of a Provincial Disaster Management Commission for each province, and explains its structure and responsibilities; (iv) section four declares the establishment of a District Disaster Management Authority for each district, and explains its structure and responsibilities; (v) section five explains the various measure that the government is prepared to take for the purpose of disaster management; (vi) section six explains the functions of local authorities in terms of disaster management; (vii) section seven declares the establishment of the National Institute of Disaster Management, and explains the Institute's responsibilities in research and training; (viii) section eight declares the establishment of a National Disaster Response Force for more specialized management of disaster events; (ix) section nine explains how the sources of funding the government use

finance the new disaster management projects; (x) section ten warns of the punishments for those who abuse the disaster management system; (xi) section eleven discusses other important factors of the disaster management projects, such as a policy against discrimination and a plan for developing an annual disaster management report.

There is Pakistan Disaster Knowledge Network (<http://www.saarc-sadkn.org/countries/pakistan/institution.aspx>) Under the auspices of National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), a number of DRM capacity building activities have been organized for government officials, civil society organizations, hazard-prone communities, media, teachers and school / university students.

- Specialized training courses were organized on Flood Mitigation, Earthquake Mitigation, Drought Mitigation, Coastal Hazards Mitigation, DRR Mainstreaming, and Disaster Risk Communication.
- Total number of beneficiaries of the capacity building activities goes well beyond 8000.
- Trainings for professionals for EQ resistant housing conducted.
- In addition to training courses and orientation workshops, following knowledge products / training manuals have been developed and disseminated by NDMA since its establishment:

National Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Policy

The National Disaster Management Commission, which is an apex body for strategic decision making under the National Disaster Management Act 2010, met in Islamabad on 21st February, 2013 under the Chairmanship of the then Prime Minister of Pakistan. The Commission, which comprises of the Chief Ministers of all provinces, Prime Minister of AJ&K, Governor KP (for FATA), Ministers of the relevant Federal Ministries, Chairman, Joint Chief of Staff Committee and the Leaders of

Opposition in Senate and National Assembly, approved the National Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Policy of Pakistan formulated by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The approval of the policy is a landmark achievement and milestone of institutional strengthening of NDMA toward creation of a vibrant disaster management structure particularly across all the public governance tiers. Effective implementation of the policy would in fact mean beginning of new era where the nation could feel resilient from the shocks of frequent disasters.

National Disaster Management Plan (2012-22)

The National Disaster Management Commission in its meeting held on 21st February, 2013 under the Chairmanship of the then Prime Minister of Pakistan approved a prospective ten years' National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) for the country. The plan which covers the complete spectrum of disasters including: pre, during & post disaster phases, would steer the institutional and technical direction of disaster risk management in Pakistan. It comprises of the following four components:

1. National Disaster Management Plan;
2. Human Resource Development Plan on Disaster Management;
3. National Multi-Hazard Early Warning Plan;
4. Instructors' Guidelines on Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRM)

It would eventually lead to achieving the overall objective of making Pakistan a disaster-resilient country in consonance with international guidelines and frameworks of the United Nations concerning sustainable development and disaster risk management.

Disaster Management in University Libraries of Pakistan

Pakistan had 127 universities recognized by Higher Education Commission in 2009. In India its counterpart is University Grants Commission. Author tried to get information from web sites of various university libraries but could not. Limited professional literature was available and what

could be gathered was that the situation was pretty much similar to India and no well-developed disaster plan was available on the web sites of university libraries. University libraries have very well designed and well equipped libraries with fire extinguishers and other basic preventive measures being taken. But there is lack of awareness among LIS professionals regarding disaster management. "Disaster Risk Management Society" is established in GC University, Lahore under the supervision of Department of Geography.

Riphah University is offering 1.5-year duration MS in Disaster Management "Need based programs in Disaster Management are the dire need of Pakistan since this country is suffering from extreme social, economic, political, strategic and natural disasters. Pakistan is included among the top ten food dependent countries; a great chunk of population is living below the poverty line. The political and economic instability is worsened by the war against terror, which has caused more than 50,000 lives in the last decade as well as more, then USD 80 Billion economic damage. On the natural disasters side Pakistan has faced two mega natural disasters in the history of the mankind i.e. earthquake of 2005 and the flash floods of 2010. Need oriented programs with similar substance have not been offered by other universities and capacity building organizations in Pakistan. The programs currently prevailing in Pakistan regarding "Disaster Management" are lacking in ideological, applied and theoretical depth, since such programs are developed normally by copying the content from the leading universities of the world, therefore, they are of no or little practical value for the public sector as well as social/development sector. On the contrary, the newly conceived programs will be developed in the light of field observations, action research, and practice through liaisoning with ministries and reputed organizations, who are the relatively ignored but very important stakeholders."

(<https://www.riphah.edu.pk/facilities/managem>

ent-sciences/programs offered/ms-disaster-management)

Disaster management is an ignored subject in Pakistan as stated by leading newspaper Dawn. Very few papers on this subject are available from Pakistan and intensive and exhaustive review of literature can lead to valid conclusion. Ansari (2008) cited following "Problems in alleviation of the damage in Pakistan

1. Lack of awareness among the staff and patrons to response the emergency.
2. Shortage of unity spirit among the staff of libraries, archives and museums.
3. Non-existence of coordination among the library staff and institutions responsible for recovery.
4. Communication gap with the organizations.
5. Negligence of priorities set for emergency response.
6. Inability to predict the nature of disaster due to its unique nature.
7. Delayed determination of causes of disaster.
8. Absence of training to face the risks among staff, patrons and general public.
9. End of sense of loss in the responsible officials."

Rehman (2014) Author researched about the disaster management plan for the central library of international Islamic university, Islamabad.

In Gujrat University, Pakistan a Disaster Management cell has been established in collaboration with Pakistan army to provide voluntary services at the time of any disaster. Conducting workshop on disaster management is a regular affair. Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (SZABIST) Islamabad Campus and Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (Erra) have jointly launched an academic programme to equip professionals as well as students with expertise of disaster management.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-6-132217-Erra-SZABIST-to-produce-disaster-management-experts#sthash.420kgrAb.dpuf>

Centre for Disaster Preparedness and Management at University of Peshawar (<http://www.uop.edu.pk/departments/?q=Centre-of-Disaster-Preparedness-and-Management>).

Although Pakistan has started institutionalized training and education at national level by establishing disaster management centres but no MS program in Disaster Management could be launched by any of the institution of the country. NUST a leading university of the country once again took initiative and launched vertically tiered Post Graduate (PG) programs in Disaster Management in MCE (a constituent college of NUST located at Risalpur) from August 2012. NUST has recently signed a MoU with AIT Thailand for collaboration in Disaster Management which will help in making the program more useful and acceptable at international level. (<http://www.nust.edu.pk/INSTITUTIONS/Colleges/MCE/ap/pg/MS-DM/Pages/default.aspx>)

Conclusion

Initial review of literature shows a nearly similar infrastructural planning in both the countries at central and state government and upto district level. But in case of university libraries the situation is apathetic and a lot needs to be done to prepare our library staff and users for any kind of eventuality. University Grants Commission gives funding for the construction of university libraries. It can lay down a condition for constructing the building and being well equipped for fire, flood and earthquakes depending on the seismic zones and other geographical features. Library associations can play an active role in making Library and information professionals aware of the importance of disaster planning in libraries. LIS curriculum should also include a full-fledged paper on disaster management and how to prepare a disaster plan for library. Training of library staff at regular basis is very essential for successfully managing disasters. The

responsibility of authorities does not finish at having an administrative framework but also in practically implementing it in libraries also. Library associations of both the countries should take initiatives in first of all making LIS professionals aware of this ignored area. Secondly, regular seminar training programmes should be organised for knowledge, training of LIS professionals on regular basis. Risk prone areas should have regular mock drills for the benefit of users and professionals. The university libraries should formulate their disaster management programme to be prepared to face any emergency and save the knowledge for future generations.

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