INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING REVIEW
ISSN:1474-6743 | E-ISSN:1478-3401

A NEW NOTE ON THE ROLE OF LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT AND KERALA STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Ms. Anulakshmi M
Ph.D. Research Scholar, ICSSR Fellow,Department of History, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar-608002

Dr. P Rajan (Ret.d)
Professor & Research Supervisor , Department of History, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar-608002

Abstract
To Improve Kerala's overall resilience on disasters, the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) collaborates with Local Self-Governments. The local bodies are often in close proximity to communities and have a thorough understanding of local conditions, their involvement is crucial. For the most up-to-date details on the role and function of Local Self-Government in disaster management, it's crucial to consult the most recent records and reports from Kerala's Disaster Management Authorities. In Kerala, the state's strategy for enhancing resilience and effectively handling both natural and mankind. This paper focus on the role of Local Self-Government which plays a major role on Disaster Management . in Kerala through State Disaster Management Authority.

Key words: SDMA, Local Self Government

The frequent of natural disasters such as floods, cyclone, drought, and earthquakes are rising in both India and global as a result of , global warming, deforestation air pollution, and environmental degradation. present need in lessen the occurrences of disasters to save people's lives, residences, property, and the environment is another global concern. Because in this connection widespread reach, institutionalized participation, and close ties to the community, particularly local self-Government bodies speedy recovery against natural disaster and preventive measures. Which play a crucial role in this concern. Through the Gram Sabha institution, transparency and accountability can be guaranteed. Involving the panchayats in disaster management and raising among local communities' awareness of regarding` the need to prepare for and mitigate disasters in order to reduce their destructive effects are unavoidable.

The Importance of Local Autonomy

In one form or another, local self-government institutions have existed in India since ancient times. The origins of urban local government as it exists today can be traced to British rule. Samuel Laing, a Viceroy's Council member, proposed in the Budget Speech (1861 62) that local resources should be the foundation for local services, which marked the beginning of the initiative. In 1870, Lord Mayo's Resolution established the idea of elected representatives for municipalities. Since he introduced the idea of municipal authorities as autonomous entities, Lord Ripon is regarded as the

originator of urban local government. His resolution on local self-government, dated May 18, 1882, addressed local body constitution.

As the level of government closest to the people and best suited to involve them in decision-making to improve their living conditions as well as to utilize their skills and knowledge to further all-around development, local government is an essential component of the national government system. Urban and rural local governments are the two different forms of local governance. Urban local administration took the form of Notified Area Committees, Town Area Committees, Municipal Corporations, and Municipal Councils until recently. In transitional areas, however, the 1992 Seventy-Fourth Constitution Amendment Act suggests creating a unified framework of Municipal Councils, Municipal Corporations, and Nagar Panchayats. Zilla Panchayats (Parishads), Taluka Panchayats, and other rural local government units. Rural Local Self Government of India is a three-tier system which looks after the necessities of the villages and encourages the development of activity in the villages. In rural areas there are certain local problems which can be solved efficiently only by the local people. More than eighty percent of the Indian people live in villages and the welfare of the people implies an all-round improvement of the Indian villages. With this end in view three types of self-governing institutions were created to look after the affairs of rural areas (Rural Local Self Government- Informative Article, 2010).

Duties and Responsibilities of Local Self Governments with respect to Disaster Management Plan.

1. Disaster Management Plan shall be integrated with the Annual Plan of the local body.
2. Ensuring the formation and empowerment of local self-government level Incident Response System and
Emergency Response Team.
3. Improving the infrastructure and facilities of those transferred institutions which could be transformed as
relief camps.
4. Making arrangements in association with Revenue authority and state-district disaster management
authority for the safe sheltering and rehabilitation of the victims of disasters.
5. Arranging drinking water, toilet facilities and lighting in relief camps and rehabilitation centres.
6. Creating awareness regarding the rehabilitation activities and welfare measures implemented by the Government and other agencies.
7. Formation of Local Resource Group (LRG)

A Local Resource Group (LRG), comprising 20 members, shall be formed in each local self-government institution for garnering data and status report for the preparation of disaster management plan. Training will be imparted to the LRGs jointly by KILA and State Disaster Management Authority. Besides, in each ward a 20-member team shall be formed by inducting volunteers from social organizations, NGOs, youth organizations and other volunteer groups.

8. Preparation of Disaster Management Plan: Procedure

The Plans and its components:

1. General information (profile) pertaining to the local self-government institution.
2. Hazard and vulnerability profile.
3.Capacity and resources.
4. Response plan.
5.Preparedness, mitigation and community resilience plan.

The following procedure shall be followed for the preparation of the Disaster Management Plan and for its integration to the Annual Plan.

1. Trained Local Resource Group shall collect locally available statistics and data and conduct transect walk for a proper status study.
2. Draft Disaster Management Plan may be prepared on the basis of statistics and status study.
3. The Draft Disaster Management Plan shall be discussed in Grama Sabha meeting.
4. After incorporating the recommendations and suggestions put forward by the Grama Sabha, the draft disaster management plan shall be placed in the meeting of the Pnachayat Committee for discussion.
5. A special Development Seminar shall be conducted prior to the Annual Plan Development Seminar to discuss the final version of the Disaster Management Plan.
6. Thereafter the Disaster Management Plan shall be approved by the local self-government concerned.
8. Responsibilities of the Working Group on Bio-diversity Management, Climate Change and Disaster Management. It is the Working Group on Disaster Management that ensures the co-ordination of activities for the preparation of Disaster Management Plan. Recommendations and involvement of sectors like Production, Welfare and Infrastructure have strong bearing on preparedness, resistance and mitigation related activities to be planned and made operational to face disasters. Hence the working groups concerned shall prepare projects for mitigating the impact of disasters. For this, the Working Group on Disaster Management shall hand over notes on disaster management schemes to the working group concerned once the Disaster Management Plan is finalized. Besides, the Working Group on Disaster Management shall prepare projects for awareness building, formation of Emergency Response Team and its training.
9. Approval of Disaster Management Plan and its Integration with Annual Plan District Planning Committee.

The entire procedure prescribed for the preparation of Annual Plan shall be adopted for the preparation of Local Self-Government level Disaster Management Plan. Projects pertaining to disaster management shall be included in the draft annual plans of local self-governments and submitted for the approval of District Planning Committee. The disaster management plan so submitted in prescribed template shall be included and approved as a part of the annual plan of the LSG concerned. District Planning Committee will approve the Disaster Management Plans of LSGs after the scrutiny of the district level Technical Committee. The disaster management plans so approved shall be handed over to the District Disaster Management Authority for final approval

and keeping. District Planning Committees shall conduct planning workshops, involving experts from fields like soil conservation, climate change, water conservation and disaster management at the initial phase of the planning process itself. The ideas evolved from such workshops shall be shared with LSGs for the preparation of disaster management plans. Considering the availability of resources, the disaster resistance and mitigation projects proposed in disaster management plans shall be included in annual plans. Draft disaster management plans of panchayats and lists of disaster management related projects included in annual plans shall be made available to block/district panchayats. From the above, those projects which can be taken up shall be included in the annual plan of block/district panchayats.

MEASURES TO BE LEARN

Dispersed Planning:

It is the duty of local self-government organizations to create and carry out decentralized disaster management plans.

Participation: They determine regional vulnerabilities, evaluate risks, and customize disaster management plans to meet local requirements.

Being Ready and Increasing Capacity:

Training and Drills: To improve community readiness, local authorities host awareness campaigns, training sessions, and simulated drills.

Resource Identification: They pinpoint the capabilities and resources in the area that can be called upon in an emergency.

Participation in the Community:

Awareness Programs: Local organizations interact with communities to raise knowledge of possible risks, safety precautions, and evacuation protocols.

Localized Communication: They make sure that information about disasters is efficiently shared with locals via a variety of media and in their native tongues. Initial Reaction and Assisting Activities:

Quick Reaction: Local self-governments frequently act as the first responders in the event of a disaster, bringing in supplies, organizing search and rescue efforts, and offering immediate relief.

Coordination with KSDMA: In order to guarantee a coordinated and efficient response, they work in concert with the KSDMA and other pertinent authorities.

Building Infrastructure and Reducing Risk:

Infrastructure that is more resilient to disasters is developed by local governments. Examples of this include building structures that meet safety codes and enhancing drainage systems.

Land-Use Planning: To reduce vulnerabilities in locations susceptible to particular hazards, they take part in land-use planning.

Collaboration and Coordination:

Regular Meetings: In coordination meetings with the KSDMA and other stakeholders, local self-governments actively take part.

Information Exchange: They exchange details about the circumstances and resources on the ground.

Formation of Emergency Response Team.

An Emergency Response Team shall be formed as per the stipulations in the National Disaster Management Act 2005, comprising local level volunteers who are trained on the basis of the disaster management plan and have good understanding of the regional landscape and contour. These volunteers should have basic awareness in disaster management-resistance activities and they shall be ready to reach the disaster spots immediately and involve in disaster resistance and mitigation activities. In each ward there shall be an Emergency Response Team, consisting of 8 volunteers at the least.

Natural calamities like flood, drought, landslide and sea rage are becoming serious challenges to the people, resultantly to the aggravating climate change occurring in Kerala. In these circumstances, the Government vide the reference cited 1st had issued orders for the formulation of local specific and community-based disaster management activities at every local self-government institution to mitigate the brunt and impact of such episodes. In the above circumstances, disaster resistance and mitigation activities have to be implemented with increased people s participation. For this, every local self-government institution shall prepare its own disaster management plan, incorporating preparation steps and mitigation measures.

To sum up, the concluding part states that Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) and local self-government work together to promote a resilient and community-focused approach to disaster management in the state. Local self-government organizations play a variety of roles in reducing the effects of man-made and natural disasters, including proactive community engagement, decentralized planning, and preparedness initiatives. Their involvement in every stage of disaster management is crucial, as evidenced by the fact that their contributions span from the local level to the immediate response and recovery operations. Panchayats, Municipalities, and Corporations possess specific knowledge and comprehension of vulnerabilities that allows them to design customized disaster management plans that cater to the particular needs of various regions in Kerala. Local government authorities empower communities through planning training programs, carrying out drills, and spreading awareness.

REFERENCES

1. Aswin j Kumar, “Kerala local bodies to prepare disaster management plan”, Times of India,2020 Jan 22,P.1
2. Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA),Official Website: https://sdma.kerala.gov.in/
3. KSDMA (project Report), Govt. of Kerala, 2018-2019, pp.6 -10
4. KSDMA,Local Self Government Institutions of Kerala Prepared Disaster Management Plans, Document, 2018, PP.1 -8

5. Government Order (Rt.) No.499/2019/P&EA Dpt. Dtd. 26/11/2019 , Department of Planning and Economic Affairs, pp.10-12
6.Government order (GO), (MS)NO.156/2019/LSGD dtd.Tvpm, Department of Local Self Government, Trivandrum,4/12/2019,P.10
7.Government order, GO.(MS)NO.157/2019/LSGD , Department of Local Self Government Thirteenth Five Year Plan (2017-22) ,Trivandrum,dtd.5/12/2019, P.14
7. GO. (MS)NO.9/2020/LSGD Trivandrum, Department of Local Self Government , dtd.6/1/2020, P.18-19
8. G.O (MS) No.14/2020/LSGD Dtd. Thiruvananthapuram , Local self-government Department. Govt of Kerala, 14/01/2020, p.16
9. Prof.(Dr.) Mini S,Vineetha M,Amrutha Satheesh ,Albin Anto, Role of Local Self-Governments in Kerala in Ensuring the Socio-Economic Rights of Citizens During Pandemic, The National University of Advanced Legal Studies & Kerala Institute of Local Administration , 2023, pp. 55 to 64
10. GO, Sec. 6, Disaster Management Act, 2005, P.1
11. Elamon, Kerala model: How the State fought the deadly Coronavirus, Policy Circle 13, 04,2020) ,P.20
12. Administrative Reforms Commission, First Report of the Administrative Reforms Committee, Government of Kerala (1957)
13. Administrative Reforms Commission, Report of the Kerala Administrative Reforms Committee, Government of Kerala (2000), P.1-5
14. Kerala Institute of Local Administration, https://www.kila.ac.in/about-us/
15.M. Jayarajan,50, Secretary of Local Self-Government in Nanminda Panchayath, 15.08.2021