

SANJIV LEWIN

Health and Psychosocial Consequences of Disasters

- A Bangalore Response

"Missed opportunities and misplaced priorities have been the highlight of Disaster response." – Rajya Sabha '98

"Disasters are a shared reality...and have to be responded to with a multi-pronged approach."

– Unnikrishnan and Parasuraman 2000.

St. John's has had the unique opportunity to serve on Disaster Relief teams during numerous disasters in the sub-continent. Our first was when teams were sent to the 1971 Bangladesh War when millions crossed the border and were housed in makeshift refugee camps in West Bengal. The Bhopal Gas tragedy was yet another devastating experience for teams from Bangalore. 'The Bangalore Response' sent teams to coastal Andhra Pradesh following the 1977 cyclone. When Bangladesh reeled under a cyclone in 1991, St. John's along with the Community Health Cell and Service Civil International assisted in relief work in the areas of Kutubdia, Chittagong, Char Mothar and Bhola alongside young Bangladeshi

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Disaster
Management
A Reader



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Sridhar K. Chari



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2003

Published by
National Institute of Advanced Studies
Indian Institute of Science Campus
Bangalore 560 012

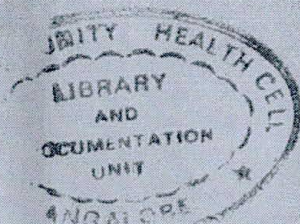
Price : Rs. 300/-

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The Controller
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Indian Institute of Science Campus
Bangalore 560 012
Phone : 080-360 4351
Email : mgp@nias.iisc.ernet.in

ISBN 81-87663-53-7

Typeset & Printed by
Focus Communications
139, Cozy Apts., 8th Main, 12th Cross
Malleswaram, Bangalore 560 003
Tel: 334 6692



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Preface

The following is a collection of papers presented by eminent experts during the annual course on disaster management conducted over the last few years by the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, for senior IAS officers from across the country.

We place this selection before the general reader, administrators, politicians, academics and future participants of the NIAS course, in the hope that it will be found useful and interesting. We believe that the collective experience of the contributors can serve to generate new insights and methodologies in tackling disasters in the country. A key lesson is while it is easy to glibly blame our large population, it is administrative, regulatory and policy gaps which need to be addressed urgently.

We would like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of Ms Gayathri Lokhande both in conducting the courses and in preparing this volume.

S Rajagopal
Sridhar K Chari
Course-Coordinators