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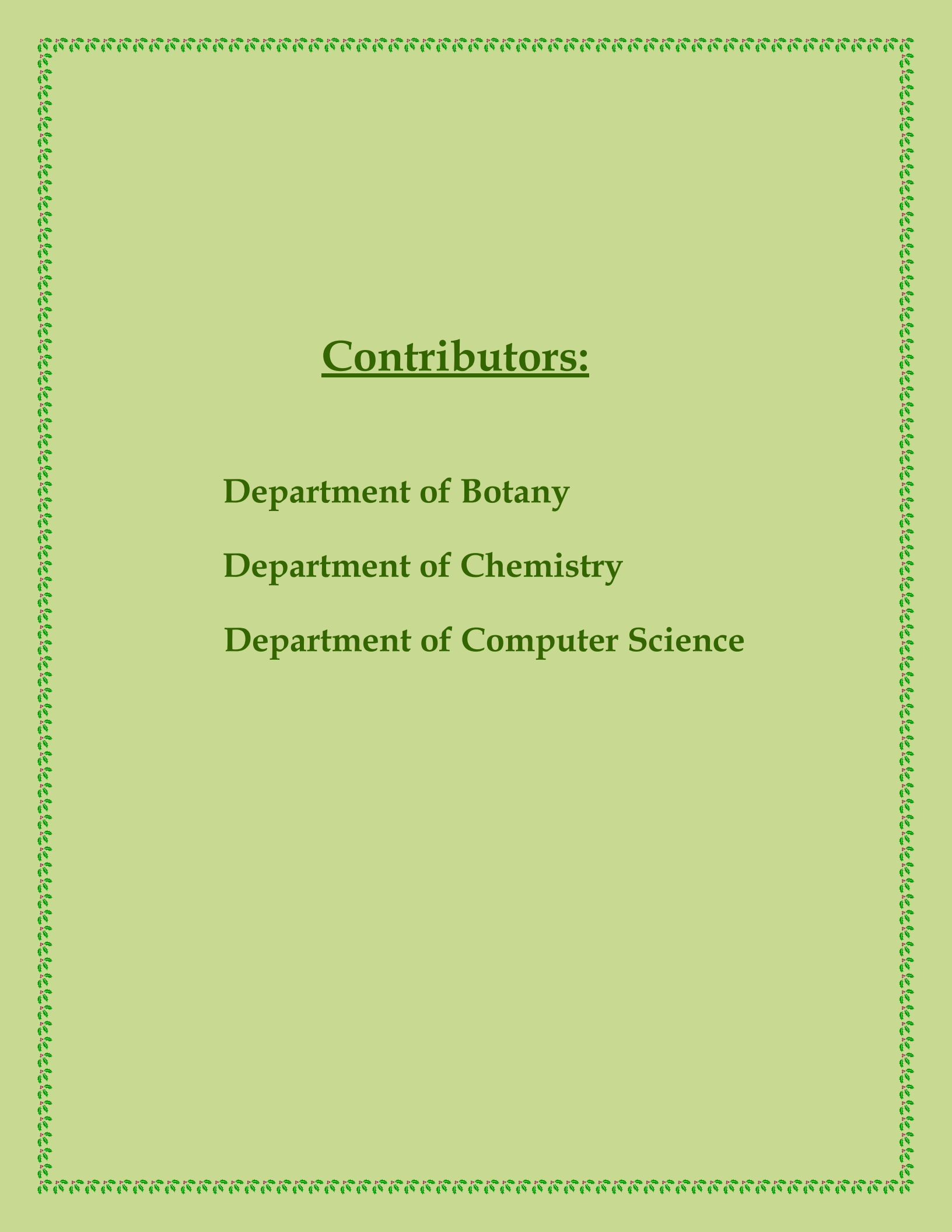
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Natural Calamities and Human Rights

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Natural Resources and Human Rights

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The lives of individuals and communities can be drastically affected by natural disasters including earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, and wildfires. These catastrophes can affect how basic human rights are exercised in addition to causing loss of life and property. As Nelson Mandela famously put it, "To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity." This article will discuss the value of human rights and how they may be impacted by natural disasters. Human rights are a set of values that safeguard each person's worth and dignity. All people are entitled to these rights, regardless of their race, gender, religion, or nationality, because they are regarded as universal and unalienable. Without the idea of human rights, people are deprived of their dignity and worth as human beings. Human rights are essential to the creation of a just and equitable society.

Natural disasters can have a substantial impact on the enjoyment of human rights. Access to basic services such as food, water, and healthcare may be hampered because of these calamities. In addition, they may result in a person or community being uprooted, and losing their residence, belongings, and source of income. The right to adequate housing, the right to employment, and the right to an education are just a few of the human rights that may be violated because of this.

The loss of life is one of the most significant consequences of natural disasters. Because of the considerable infrastructure damage that earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods can inflict, it can be challenging to provide emergency services to those who need them. This could cause delays in rescue and relief operations, which would result in additional fatalities. Furthermore, people who are exposed to contaminated water, air, or soil after a natural disaster may experience long-term health effects. Natural disasters can also have a serious effect on people's mental health, both individually and collectively. Depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder can be brought on by the tragedy of losing loved ones, houses, and things. This can have long-term consequences for the well-being and productivity of individuals and communities.

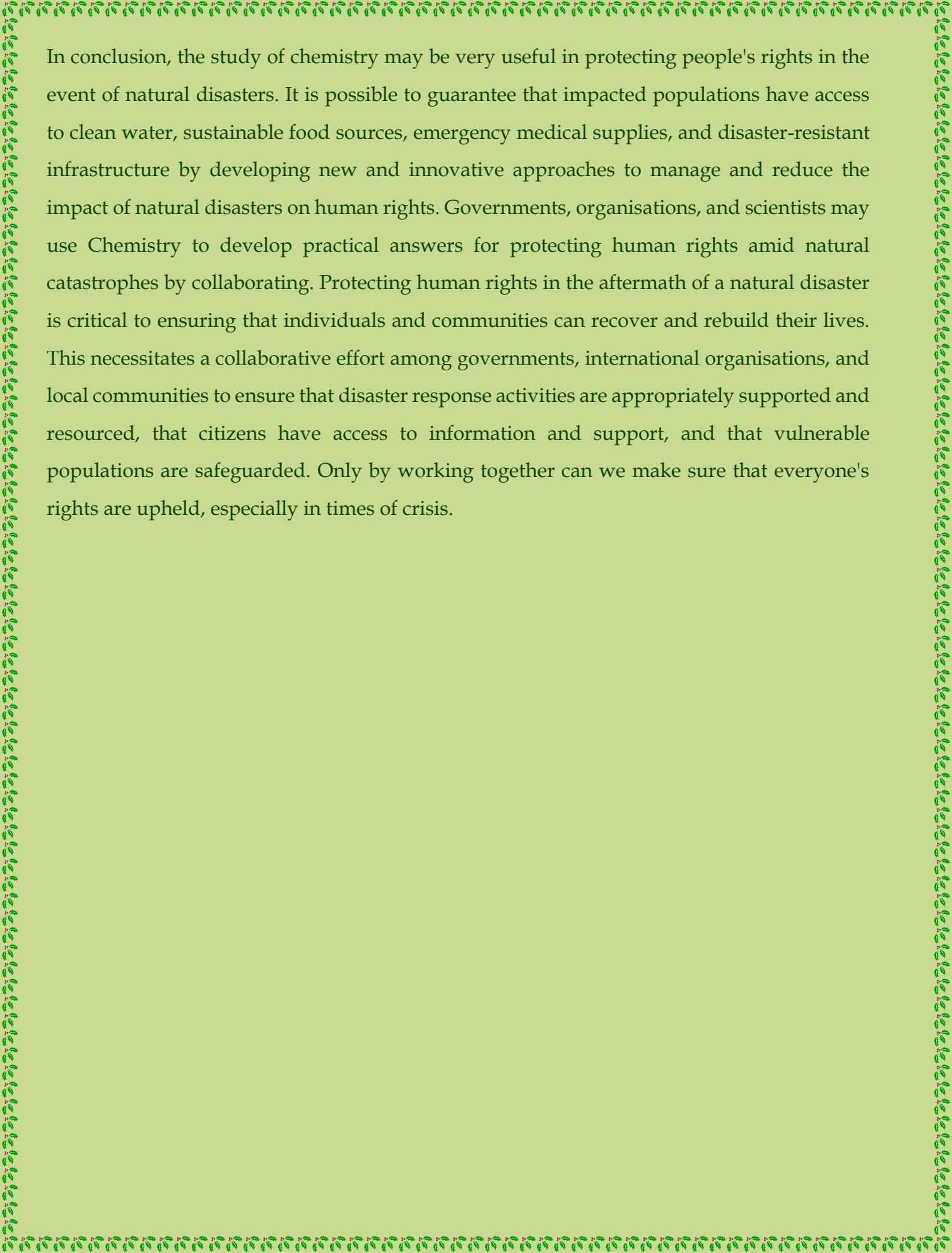
Natural disasters can worsen already-existing inequities and discrimination in addition to causing loss of life and property. Natural catastrophes frequently leave those who are already marginalised, such as women, children, and persons with impairments, especially vulnerable. They might encounter more obstacles in their way of receiving aid and assistance with recovery, and they might also be more vulnerable to assault, exploitation, and abuse. Natural disasters have had terrible effects in many places of the world. When Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico in 2017, it seriously damaged the island's infrastructure and cut off many residents from access to essential services. The hurricane had a long-term effect on people affected, causing severe loss of life and property as well as harm to their physical and mental health. Similar to this, a big earthquake that struck Nepal in 2015 left thousands of people homeless and seriously damaged the country's infrastructure. People in the nation struggled to get essential services like food, water, and healthcare because of the earthquake, which had a big influence on how well people could exercise their human rights.

One strategy to preserve human rights in the aftermath of a natural disaster is to guarantee that emergency response activities are sufficiently funded and resourced. This might involve offering individuals who are impacted food, drink, shelter, and medical assistance. Governments and international organizations may collaborate to ensure that these resources reach individuals in need in a timely and effective manner. Ensuring that people and communities have access to information about the catastrophe and the available resources is one more strategy to defend human rights in the case of a natural disaster. This might involve giving updates on how rescue and recovery activities are going as well as details on how to contact emergency services and receive assistance. Governments and international organizations may collaborate to ensure that this information is clear and easily available.

It is critical to ensure that individuals and communities receive the assistance they require to recover and reconstruct their lives in the aftermath of a natural disaster. This might entail giving people access to financial aid, healthcare, and assistance with reconstructing infrastructure and housing. Governments and international organizations can collaborate to ensure that these resources are supplied in a timely and effective way.

In times of natural disaster, the science of chemistry may be extremely useful in protecting human rights. It may aid in the creation of fresh, creative ideas for controlling and reducing the harm that natural catastrophes do to human rights. The following are some ways that chemistry may be useful:

1. Developing water purification systems: Access to clean and safe drinking water becomes a key barrier during natural disasters. A shortage of potable water can result in waterborne infections, which can cause serious health concerns. Chemistry can offer creative answers for water filtration systems that may eliminate impurities and make the water safe to consume under such circumstances.
2. Establishing sustainable food sources: Natural disasters can seriously harm agricultural areas and disrupt the food supply chain. The study of chemistry can aid in the creation of nutrient-dense, sustainable food supplies for those impacted by natural catastrophes. For instance, growing food in constrained locations and with low resources is possible using sustainable agricultural techniques like hydroponics and aeroponics.
3. Creating chemical sensors: Chemical sensors may be used to track and identify contaminants in the environment that could be dangerous to human health. There is a considerable likelihood that harmful pollutants and poisonous substances will be discharged into the environment during natural disasters. Humans who are exposed to these pollutants run the risk of suffering from serious health issues, such as skin irritation and respiratory issues. Chemical sensors can assist in finding pollution and giving the impacted communities early warnings.
4. Construction of disaster-resistant infrastructure: Construction of disaster-resistant infrastructure that can endure the effects of natural disasters can be accomplished using the science of chemistry. The harm brought on by natural disasters, for instance, can be lessened using strong, long-lasting materials in buildings and bridges.
5. Producing emergency medical supplies: Access to medical resources during natural disasters may be restricted. Chemistry may be utilised to manufacture emergency medical supplies that can be used to treat wounds and stop infections, such as bandages, disinfectants, and wound dressings.



In conclusion, the study of chemistry may be very useful in protecting people's rights in the event of natural disasters. It is possible to guarantee that impacted populations have access to clean water, sustainable food sources, emergency medical supplies, and disaster-resistant infrastructure by developing new and innovative approaches to manage and reduce the impact of natural disasters on human rights. Governments, organisations, and scientists may use Chemistry to develop practical answers for protecting human rights amid natural catastrophes by collaborating. Protecting human rights in the aftermath of a natural disaster is critical to ensuring that individuals and communities can recover and rebuild their lives. This necessitates a collaborative effort among governments, international organisations, and local communities to ensure that disaster response activities are appropriately supported and resourced, that citizens have access to information and support, and that vulnerable populations are safeguarded. Only by working together can we make sure that everyone's rights are upheld, especially in times of crisis.

Natural Calamities and Human Rights

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Responding to natural disasters has traditionally been seen as a compassionate response to people in need. While compassion remains at the core of humanitarian action, relief agencies are increasingly conscious of the fact that assistance is rarely neutral and that their actions can have long-term consequences, as evidenced by the 2004 tsunamis in Asia, Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the earthquake this year in Haiti. In this presentation, I'd like to explore some of the connections between sudden-onset natural disasters, conflicts, and human rights. In particular, I argue that incorporating a human rights perspective into natural disaster response is important not only because it affirms the rights and dignity of vulnerable people, but also because it can prevent conflicts in the aftermath of disasters.

Natural disasters exacerbate existing gender inequalities and pre-existing vulnerabilities. The majority of those who die in natural disasters are women. Women also tend to have less access to essential resources for preparedness, mitigation, and rehabilitation. Assistance can often be discriminatory in impact even if not intended to be so. Government policies can reinforce social divisions. There are cases where natural disasters occur in places where conflict has already disrupted the lives of people, for example, the Philippines, Iraq, Somalia, Kenya, Colombia, and Haiti. Because the definition of a natural disaster is linked to the society's response capacity, state and social structures which are weakened by conflicts are less likely to be able to respond to the effects of a natural hazard, making it more likely that a natural disaster will result. For example, the Somali government is extremely weak (controlling only a few blocks of the capital city) as a result of long-standing conflict and thus unable to respond to either the drought or flooding which has occurred in its country. If there were no conflict in Somalia, it is more likely that both the state and community institutions would be better able to cope with the natural hazards, perhaps avoiding disasters all together. The problems that are often encountered by persons affected by natural disasters include: unequal access to assistance; discrimination in aid provision; enforced relocation; sexual and gender-based violence; loss of documentation; recruitment of children into fighting forces; unsafe or involuntary return or resettlement; and

issues of property restitution. These are similar to the problems experienced by those displaced or otherwise affected by conflicts.

Although there is considerable discussion within the human rights community about prioritizing certain rights, it is generally accepted that the first priority is to protect life, personal security, and the physical integrity and dignity of affected populations by:

- Carrying out evacuations and relocations, when necessary, in order to protect life
- Protecting populations against the negative impacts of natural hazards
- Protecting populations against violence, including gender-based violence
- Providing security in camps when these are necessary
- Protecting people against anti-personnel landmines and other explosive devices

A second category of rights are those related to basic necessities of life, including:

- Access to goods and services and humanitarian assistance
- Provision of adequate food, and sanitation, shelter, clothing and essential health services.

Protection of other economic, social and cultural rights, including

- Education
- Property and possessions
- Housing
- Livelihood and work
- Finally, other civil and political rights need to be protected:
- Documentation
- Freedom of movement and right to return
- Family life and missing or dead relatives
- Expression, assembly and association, and religion
- Electoral rights

This offers concrete guidance to those responding to natural disasters – whether governments, international organizations, or non-governmental organizations. For example, in the immediate aftermath of a flood, governments are often not able to provide necessary educational facilities for affected children. This can (and must) come later, once the children are protected against

violence and have access to the basic necessities of life. Similarly, the right to documentation is a crucial issue for many affected by emergencies, but affected communities have a more urgent need for sufficient food and water.

Even with the best of intentions by all concerned, it is sometimes not possible to ensure that the rights of all those affected by an emergency are fully and immediately respected. For example, access to affected populations is often difficult, those responsible for responding to disasters may themselves be affected, groups who are already socially vulnerable are usually the most affected by disasters and the logistical demands of ensuring that needed assistance items are in the right place and are delivered may be significant. Resources are almost always limited in the initial phase of disaster response. However, in preparing for disasters, governments and relief agencies can and should carry out their planning in such a way as to ensure that human rights are respected. And with the passage of time, it is usually more feasible for disaster response to incorporate an explicitly human rights focus.

More than treaties and checklists, planning for emergency response requires adoption of a human rights perspective or mindset. This means that responders should constantly be asking themselves questions such as: “who are the vulnerable groups in this community and how do our plans ensure that they are protected and assisted?” “Even as we’re working to supply water to this community, is someone else working on the next phase of providing education and protecting the property of those who have left?” “How will our actions affect the rights of those who are not living in camps?” Developing a human rights mindset requires not only an understanding of international and national standards, but also a commitment to ensuring that the inherent dignity and basic human rights of all people are upheld. Adopting a human rights-based response to those affected by natural disasters is a concrete way to ensure that natural disasters do not exacerbate existing or provoke new conflicts.

CLIMATE CHANGE & EXTREME HEAT



CAUSES MORE DEATHS
each year than hurricanes, lightning
tornadoes, earthquakes and floods



WHO'S AT RISK?



WHAT CAN YOU DO?



* STAY COOL

- ▶ Find an air-conditioned shelter.
- ▶ Avoid direct sunlight.
- ▶ Take cool showers or baths.
- ▶ Wear Lightweight, Light-colored clothing.



STAY INFORMED

- Check Local news for extreme heat alerts and safety tips.
- Learn the symptoms of heat illness.



STAY HYDRATED

- ▶ Drink more water than usual.
- ▶ Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink more fluids.
- ▶ Avoid liquids containing high amounts of sugar.
- ▶ Remind others to drink enough water.



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Human rights is never a subject to overlook even in natural calamities

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We are the first generation to feel the sting of climate change, and we are the last generation that can do something about it.

-Jay Insleour

Our surrounding environment is drastically changing which is affecting the availability and accessibility of food resources. While some people have enough money to buy these food resources and fulfil their appetite, others spend their days with hunger. They don't get sufficient food and suffer from malnutrition. Instead of overeating and wasting food, we should feed the needy people as much as we can. In addition, we should take small initiative to restore the healthy environment around us.

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Natural Calamities and Human Rights

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At its simplest, a natural disaster is any sort of naturally occurring adverse event. Now, that might sound like a bunch of technical jargon. But, the moral of the story here is that we can classify any negative event caused by natural processes (such as the weather or geologic activity) as a natural disaster. We should mention, however, that while natural disasters are (usually) naturally caused, we would only consider them a disaster if they result in negative impacts on human life. In other words, if an earthquake takes place on an uninhabited island and no one is affected, it is not a natural disaster. In order to be a disaster, people must be affected. Similarly, if flooding takes place in an area where there is adequate preparation, it probably isn't a natural disaster. If a similar level of flooding, however, takes place in an area where there isn't preparation and crops are ruined and people are forced to abandon their homes, it then can be a natural disaster.

Natural disasters take place in and around the world ever so often; either from our mother earth's inherent reasons or because of her inhabitants' deeds. People die daily from floods, drought, bomb explosions, road carnage and violent conflicts, among many more hazards. Livelihoods are destroyed and many more people permanently affected by disaster. The grim reality is that on a daily basis, far much more lives are lost globally than are recorded - the exact figures of unreported disaster losses are way beyond our imagination. The sad picture painted by past statistics and daily media reports of disaster losses begs answers to a few critical questions: if people lose their lives and livelihoods on a daily basis, how far does one's right to life, liberty and security go? Article 3 of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (an international agreement) that is the backbone of international human rights law, adopted and proclaimed on 10th December, 1948 by the United Nations General Assembly, states that 'Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person'. If life, liberty and security of a person are human rights, what can be done to ensure they are respected, protected, facilitated, and fulfilled? And who must do it?

It is often assumed that all members of a population experience the impact of disasters in the same way. However, natural disasters are not neutral in meting out consequences.

Natural disasters affect women, men, girls, and boys differently due to gender inequalities caused by socioeconomic conditions, cultural beliefs, and traditional practices which have repeatedly put females at a disadvantage. Women and girls are disproportionately impacted with some evidence suggesting that violence against women and girls (VAWG) increases in disaster settings. For example, in the aftermath of 2010 flooding in Pakistan, many women lacked mobility due to financial and familial restrictions, which limited or prevented their access to conventionally delivered aid, whether in the form of food assistance, medical services (especially reproductive health services), and even access to toilets. Many women also lacked

national identification cards (NICs), which limited their ability to receive assistance from relief schemes that were predicated on the possession of a NIC.

During natural emergency responses and situations, deaf people are one of the more vulnerable groups to the effects of natural disasters in developing countries. They have communicational and cultural barriers due to lack of accessible information. They are often overlooked, neglected and forgotten in disaster relief and humanitarian response by the governmental and/or humanitarian relief organizations.

The risk of human rights violations, violence and displacement to children in humanitarian emergencies is extreme. On top of it all, water and sanitation systems are often vulnerable to attack during conflict. With no potable water or adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities, children – especially those already suffering from malnutrition and weakened immune systems – become even more susceptible to water-borne diseases. On the other end of the age spectrum, it was found that elderly people were 2.11 times more likely to experience PTSD symptoms and 1.73 times more likely to develop adjustment disorder when exposed to natural disasters as compared to younger adults.

Because of poverty, language barriers or discrimination, migrants often struggle to access resources and means of protection that are available to locals before, during and after disasters. Illegal migrants cannot even claim such access to protection.

People identified as sexual minorities within a community (largely associated with the Global North definition of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or intersex persons) will often find increased hostility from others in the community. This can be compounded by the specific medical needs of some (HIV medication, hormone replacement therapy for transgendered people).

If we do a case study on the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, we shall find that the death toll due to the gargantuan natural disaster is over 46,000 and is still climbing. Hundreds of thousands have been left homeless and without shelter, food, potable water, and medical care. Thousands remain missing till date. But the Syrian government continues to prevent or restrict aid from entering areas with populations perceived to be opposed to the government or areas outside its control. At least four million people living in northwest Syria under the control of opposition groups were already living in appalling conditions, entirely dependent on humanitarian aid due to the Syrian government's denial and obstruction of access to aid and essential services. They had no capacity to cope with additional destruction and damage inflicted by the earthquakes. Human rights are being denied to them. The State is firmly obligated to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the right to freedom of expression of its people. Any restrictions on this right must be provided by law and be necessary and proportionate. In Turkey, people trapped under the earthquake debris had been communicating via social media regarding their whereabouts in order to facilitate their own rescues. The Turkish government's apparent banning of Twitter and TikTok on 8 February was a blow to such rescue efforts. Although access without requiring VPN (Virtual Private Network) has been restored, any such ban was neither necessary nor proportionate to meet a legitimate state objective, which should

have been to facilitate lifesaving technologies, not cut them off because authorities were offended by criticism about their handling of the crisis.

In times of severe crises, human rights should not be suspended in the aforementioned ways. Human rights must be at the heart of crisis response. George Kent, in a paper titled “The Human Right to Disaster Mitigation and Relief”, begins his discourse by making important statements:

“International human rights law does not explicitly address the right to protection and relief from disasters, but this objective is clearly implied... Disasters are conditions under which an individual may face “circumstances beyond his control”. The right to an adequate standard of living is not suspended in disasters... It is fully understood that national governments may have limited capacity in relation to such rights. Nevertheless, no matter how meagre their resources may be, all governments have an obligation to take positive action to protect lives, and to assure an adequate standard of living, not only in normal times but also in conditions of acute crisis. There are many things that can be done at low cost.”

In regards to this, there must be concerted efforts towards the promotion and protection of the human rights of everyone. These include:

- the right to life
- protection against arbitrary detention
- security of person
- freedom from torture and other ill-treatment
- freedom of expression and association
- protection for refugees and asylum seekers and protecting migrants’ rights
- economic, social, and cultural rights – including access to housing, adequate nutrition, potable water, sanitation, healthcare, and aid without discrimination.

When governments are unwilling or unable to fulfil these responsibilities, the international community needs to support and supplement the efforts of the government and local authorities. And these organizations as well – UN agencies, international and national non-governmental organizations, civil society, and IDP (Internally displaced persons) communities themselves – have a responsibility to ensure that their approaches and programs incorporate a human rights focus. Linking humanitarian and development work is an important part of how we help maintain peace in conflict-prone settings.



Natural Calamities and Human Rights



- As policies and programmes are formulated, the main objective should be to fulfil human rights.
- Persons affected by natural disasters, displaced or not, should be protected against the dangers of potential secondary hazards and other disaster risks.
- During and after the emergency phase, law enforcement personnel and local authorities should be encouraged to take effective measures to ensure the security of populations affected by the natural disaster.
- Humanitarian action should be based on assessed need and provided to all persons affected by the natural disaster without adverse distinction of any kind other than that of differing needs.

"All earthquakes and disasters are warnings ; there's too much corruption in the world ."
- Aristotle



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Natural Calamities and Human Rights

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“Sometimes it takes a natural disaster to reveal a social disaster”

-Jim Wallis

Natural Calamities are the consequences of events triggered by natural hazards that overwhelm local response capacity and seriously affect the social and economic development of a region. They are processes that serve as triggers for natural disasters. Natural Hazards can be classified into six categories-Geophysical that includes earthquake, volcanic activities and dry mass movements, Hydrological that is created by hazards like floods, landslides etc, Meteorological Calamities are short lived and depends on atmospheric conditions like fog, Climatological hazard is so much connected with climate changes, Biological hazards are that originating from biological substances that is what COVID-19, plague, malaria, dengue is all about and lastly Extra-terrestrial hazards which is originating outside the Earth's atmosphere that may be caused by residues of asteroids, meteorites, comets etc.

Natural calamities take place very often nowadays such as flooding and man-made disasters. As human being is also the part of the nature, so it is obvious for human to be the part and also the reasons for natural calamities. But nowadays natural calamities are taking place only because of human activities which is bad, just for this larger involvement of human beings in natural activities, “NATURAL CALAMITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS” is now an important as well as burning topic to discuss. Natural disasters and human rights are so much correlated to each other but sometimes people forget and show less importance about human rights and equality factors in order to control natural disasters which is not appropriate. That's why human rights awareness is so much important also in case of a natural disasters.

Criticism of the humanitarian framework, especially after the Indian ocean tsunami in 2004, directed attention to human rights. In disaster situations many violations of human rights may occur. Humanitarian professionals should not only be the saviours but also protectors. The right to life to be neglected, as well as the rights to shelter, livelihood, and health. In addition, both populations and individuals can be discriminated against. Governments can neglect their duty to protect citizens. Although many earlier calls have made to draft an international treaty on human rights to disaster assistance, after 2004 there was a rapid development of normative instruments related to disasters (for example, Operational Guidelines on Human Rights and Natural Disasters adopted by the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee in 2006; Hurst 2010). United Nations agencies started to connect disaster management.

In January 2010, the Human Rights Council organized by for the first time a session on the human rights approach to disaster management, recovery and reconstruction (Abebe 2011).

Denial of human rights makes individuals and populations more vulnerable to devastation. In disaster conditions individuals have no control; but they have rights that are not suspended in such situations. On the other hand, Governments have obligations to prepare and to protect. The emphasis on human rights was furthermore reinforced by the growing interest in the right to health. Many countries have raised the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. This multilateral treaty is in force since 1976 and includes rights to health. States must ensure that everyone within their jurisdiction has access to underlying preconditions of health, such as water, sanitation, food, housing. These are essential determinants of health; they are fulfilling basic needs especially in abnormal condition of disaster (Carmalt 2014). The appeal to the right to health is under threat when natural hazards result in disasters. Human rights protections must be integrated in disaster prevention and planning, humanitarian assistance and rebuilding efforts. Human rights therefore provide another, or at least a complementary ethical framework for disaster bioethics.

Redefining humanitarian aid in terms of rights has several advantages. It is grounded on International human rights law that is not only a moral discourse but is also based international institutions. It implies global obligations and responsibilities. Actors and stakeholders can be held accountable to the international community. Human rights furthermore dignify rather than victimize. Helping people who are suffering from disaster is not merely a matter of compassion and victimize; they have rights because they are fellow human beings, regardless of who and where they are. Humanitarian aid is a duty and an issue of global justice. However, both ethical frameworks of human rights have been criticized as inefficient. The first is a major driving force for global solidarity but often unpredictable and incidental while human rights commit and are permanent obligations. On the other hand, human rights must be implemented by governments. Yet whilst, in disaster conditions governments are sometimes unwilling to discharge Their human rights associated obligations, more, more often they too overwhelm to do so. From the perspective of global bioethics, however there is no contradiction or opposition between the two ethical frameworks. In fact, both humanitarianism and human rights are based on the same underlying idea: the notion of vulnerability that constitutes a Global moral community or shared humanity.

The human rights perspectives in disasters management programme implementations include certain elements like fixing up benchmarks, targets and indicators in disaster risk mitigation and Disaster risk reduction that can capture the real dimensions of human rights-oriented issues.

The promoting of human rights, especially the protection of the fundamental ones as the non-discriminatory principle, in front-line agencies mandates as well as in national disaster mitigation and disaster risk reduction policies can make the legal framework more efficient and effective. The existing legislation, codes and guidelines must be expanded in order to include a human right perspective in disaster risk mitigation and disaster risk reduction measures.

Strategies that disaster management professionals implement towards the promotion and protection of the human rights of everyone. These includes:

- Raising awareness about potential hazards and how to address them
- Educating the public about how to properly prepare themselves
- Installing and strengthening prediction and warning system
- Buying flood insurance to protect belongings
- Protection against the arbitrary detention
- Security of a person
- Freedom from torture and other ill – treatment
- Freedom of expression and association

Show importance towards economic, social and cultural rights etc.

In regards to this subject philanthropist Petra Nemcova said that,

“We cannot stop natural disasters
But we can arm ourselves with
Knowledge: so many lives wouldn’t have
to be lost if there was enough
disaster preparedness”.

The disaster management programmes typically focus on relief distribution and rehabilitation in a time bound projectivized manner rather than with a long-term sustainable development approach embedded within a boarder human rights perspective. The reasons for such lacunae range from sheer ignorance to lack of knowledge and skills working with a human rights framework. A comprehensive disaster management programme must reflect sensitivity to the complex human and cultural contexts, international relations, technological developments, environmental vulnerability and interdependency and tensions and shifts in the fundamental concepts are articulated and understood in a programmatic framework. This is done because all humanitarian assistance is oriented to sustainable development; to protect the rights of vulnerable groups must inform all stages of the rehabilitation process from early recovery through to long- term reconstruction and development. The key objective of such assistance is to transform the status of the surviving communities from extreme vulnerability and dependency to delf sufficiency and wellbeing. During natural emergency responses and situations, deaf people are one of the more vulnerable groups to the effects of natural disaster in developing countries. They have communicational and cultural barriers due to lack of accessible information. They are often overlooked, neglected and forgotten in disaster relief and humanitarian response by the government and humanitarian relief organization.

Because of poverty, language barriers or discrimination migrants often struggle to access resources and means of protections that are available. Illegal migrants cannot even claim such

access to protection. Therefore, it is concluded that the need of the hour is to promote a people centred Human Rights based disaster risk reduction strategies. The vulnerability analysis in disaster management shall consider human rights issues among their social, economic and cultural criteria. Disaster management fundamentally deals with a response to human misery and losses of people livelihoods and assets, while disaster risk management is concerned with mitigating or preventing such losses; both processes tend to be rather anthropocentric. The response towards disaster management must arise from all the slides with a humanitarian approach so as to attain the objectives of human rights-based perspective during times of disaster. Experiences has shown while patterns of discrimination emerge during the initial emergency response phase, the longer that displacement lasts, the greater the risk of human rights violations.

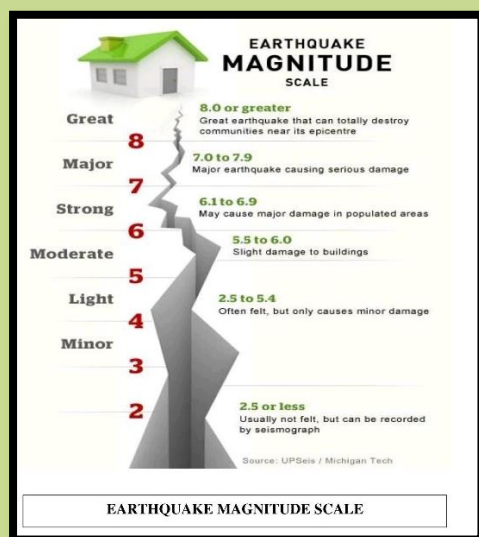
Human Rights and Natural Disasters

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INTRODUCTION

Disasters are serious disruptions to the functioning of a community that exceed its capacity to cope using its own resources. Disasters can be caused by natural, man-made and technological hazards, as well as various factors that influence the exposure and vulnerability of a community. Examples of natural hazards include: avalanche, coastal flooding, cold wave, drought, earthquake, hail, heat wave, hurricane (tropical cyclone), ice storm, landslide, lightning, riverine flooding, strong wind, tornado, typhoon, tsunami, volcanic activity, wildfire, winter weather.

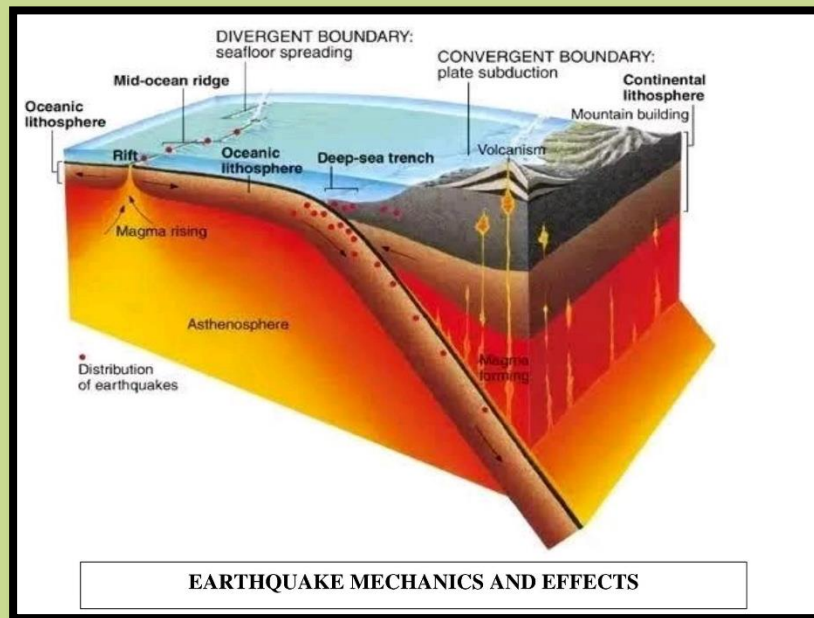


HUMAN RIGHTS IN NATURAL DISASTERS (EARTHQUAKE)

An earthquake (also known as a quake, tremor or temblor) is the shaking of the surface of the Earth resulting from a sudden release of energy in the Earth's lithosphere that creates seismic waves. At the Earth's surface, earthquakes manifest themselves by shaking and displacing or disrupting the ground. When the epicentre of a large earthquake is located offshore, the seabed may be displaced sufficiently to cause a tsunami. Earthquakes can also trigger landslides. Volcanoes can only be triggered into eruption by nearby tectonic earthquakes if they are already poised to erupt.

CAUSE

The tectonic plates that make up the earth's crust are moving constantly. As the edges of these plates slide against each other in fault zones, friction can slow them down, leading to the build-up of pressure over long periods of time. When the force of movement finally overcomes the friction, sections of the crust suddenly break or become displaced, releasing the pent-up pressure in the form of seismic waves. This is a naturally occurring earthquake, sometimes referred to as a tectonic earthquake.



GUIDELINES ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND NATURAL DISASTERS:

- I. Persons affected by natural disasters should enjoy the same rights and freedoms under human rights law as others in their country and not be discriminated against.
- II. States have the primary duty and responsibility to provide assistance to persons affected by natural disasters and to protect their human rights.
- III. Organisations providing protection and assistance to persons affected by natural disasters accept that human rights underpin all humanitarian action. In situations of natural disaster, they should therefore respect the human rights of persons affected by disasters at all times and advocate for the promotion and protection of those rights to the fullest extent.
- IV. Organisations providing protection and assistance in situations of natural disasters should be guided by these Operational Guidelines in all of their activities.

Exploitation of Human Rights in Natural Disasters----

Victims of natural disasters face various human rights challenges such as -

1. Unequal access to assistance
2. Discrimination in aids provision
3. Unsafe Resettlement
4. Property Restitution
5. Displacement issues.



DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTIES

Evacuation and other life saving measures--

1. If an imminent natural disaster creates a serious risk for the life, physical integrity or health of affected individuals and communities, all appropriate measures necessary to protect those in danger, including in particular vulnerable groups, should be taken to the maximum extent possible (e.g., emergency shelter arrangements).
2. If such measures would be insufficient, endangered persons should be allowed, and assisted to leave the danger zone. To the extent that they cannot do so on their own, endangered persons should be evacuated from the danger zone by using all available means.
3. These evacuations should be carried out in a manner that fully respects the right to life, dignity, liberty and security of all those affected, in particular members of vulnerable groups. Measures should be taken to safeguard homes and common assets left behind. Evacuated persons should be registered and their evacuation monitored.
4. When the natural disaster has occurred, persons affected by it should be allowed to move to other parts of the country and to settle.
5. Food: Ensure that all sectors of affected communities, especially women and children, have access to sufficient food and relief so that they are not forced to exchange sex or other services for assistance.
6. Water and sanitation: Provide clean drinking water, adequate sanitation and garbage disposal facilities to affected communities, whether displaced or not. Identify areas especially endangered in cases of natural disasters; plan and implement measures such as protective shelters that may be sufficient to protect (potential) victims of natural disasters short of evacuations. Ensure that evacuation plans are prepared and that local or international actors who could carry out the necessary evacuations are identified. To prevent further damage and to protect persons already affected by the natural disaster, national authorities should be prepared for potential secondary hazards and other disaster risks.

Protection against violation--

1. During and after the emergency phase, law enforcement personnel and local authorities should be encouraged to take effective measures to ensure the security of populations affected by the natural disaster.
2. Mechanisms which are appropriate to address instances of violence and other violations of human rights, as well as of relevant guarantees under international humanitarian law, should be established without delay. In particular, the deployment of law enforcement personnel to areas at risk of or with a breakdown of law and order including sexual and gender-based violence, robberies, or looting should be requested.
3. Appropriate measures should be taken as early and as quickly as possible to protect affected populations, in particular women and boy and girl children, against forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking or other contemporary forms of slavery such as sale into marriage, forced prostitution, and sexual exploitation.
4. Should the natural disaster occur in a country with an armed conflict, appropriate measures should be taken as soon as possible to ensure that children affected by the natural disaster are protected against being recruited or associated with armed forces or groups.

CONCLUSION

The World Bank said on 6th February that Syria sustained an estimated USD 5.1 billion in damages in last month's massive earthquake that struck southeast Turkey and northern parts of the war-torn country. The quake killed at least 50,000 people, including about 6,000 in Syria, according to the United Nations. Tens of thousands are still missing and hundreds of thousands were left homeless. An earthquake of magnitude 4.3 occurred at around 5.35 am Wednesday (12/04/23) in Bihar's Araria and 140 kilometres southwest of Siliguri, India's National Centre for Seismology (NCS) reported. Include the reconstruction and upgrading of schools and other educational and training facilities in medium- to long-term disaster recovery and rehabilitation programmes. Establish, in close coordination with camp residents, including women, guard or buddy system among the camp population. To avoid potential abuses, put in place mechanisms to monitor the activities of the police and military in situations where they are responsible for camp security.



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Natural Calamities and Human Rights

What are Natural Calamities? It refers to abnormal intensity of natural agent as earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, landslides that overwhelm local response capacity. Such disasters seriously disrupt the functioning of a community or a society causing widespread human, material and economy of environmental losses.

Traditionally, natural disasters have been seen as Situations that create challenges and problems mainly of a humanitarian nature. Human rights are the rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, religion.

Human rights have to be the legal underpinning of all humanitarian work pertaining to natural disasters. In order to provide guidance on how to protect the rights of individuals affected by natural calamities, in June 2006, the UN Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) adopted operational guidelines on Human Rights and Natural disasters. "Internally displaced persons" (IDPS) or, "persons displaced by the disaster" means persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their habitual residence in order to avoid the effects of natural disasters and who remained within, the borders of their country. Poverty and marginalization make things worse for victims of natural calamities. In poorer countries it has higher casualties than disasters of similar magnitude in wealthier countries. Within countries, it is often the marginalized groups who suffer, disproportionately, for example, it is usually poorer, marginalized groups who live on the slopes of volcanoes in Colombia and the Philippines. People with more resources choose to live anywhere. When the volcanoes erupt, it is the poor who suffer disproportionately. In Brazil, Central America, poor ones live in sanely towns on the hills surrounding major cities without prediction of such hazardous calamities hills which are susceptible to mudslides at times of heavy rain.

Nature is a blessing in disguise for all living beings living on Earth which enhances the beauty of our environment. Just like a flower cannot blossom without sunshine, the same way a man cannot live without nature. Still human actions frequently turn natural weather events into disaster by causing harm to our earth through deforestation, pollution, erosion.

Due to these invulnerable events, nature expresses her anguish in the form of disaster. We can also see through report those women, children, elderly, the disabled and sick are more likely to suffer than men.

The only solution to this is the need to ensure non- discriminatory disaster relief. Discrimination includes both intentional discrimination and policies that have a discriminatory impact. Avoiding and preventing inequities and discrimination between people directly affected by disaster and those only indirectly affected by it, as well as between different groups among the victims, is one of the most complex challenges in disaster relief. Lack of safety and security, Gender based violence, discrimination in aid provision, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children, family separation particularly for children leads to stress which may cause physical and emotional health problems. For this awareness-raising is very important.

To increase awareness among local populations the Guiding principles should be translated into all relevant languages and dialects and should be distributed. During a natural disaster it is imperative to develop public information.

Strategy to raise awareness for human rights issues for IDPs, as well as go to the affected areas to meet with IDPs, international and national NGOS and the government to determine the effects of the disaster. There are many different long-term projects that NHRIS can take part in to increase awareness including, providing ongoing coverage of human rights issues caused by natural disasters, integrating the human rights implications of internal displacement into training, participating in international conferences, workshops and seminars, and stressing the need for a rights-based approach to humanitarian assistance.

During floods or tides in oceans, people become homeless and cities are converted into heaps of dirt and filth. Scarcity in rain cause famines fields, lands and gardens look barren which reminds me of barren woman who are devoid from the phase of motherhood. Sudden and violent shaking of a part of the earth's upper crust causes earthquakes, the loss of human and animal's lives are mind-boggling. Besides all this who suffers the most? The poor, middle class society, very few persons are there who think about those people. Suppose in a place if an earthquake has taken place, the richer one, the one who has the power, wealth-they are rescued first while on the other hand is the lower-class people has to wait for days, weeks to get help from the NDRF-National Disaster Response force. They have to wait for their turn to come, if they remain alive till that time. The children, pregnant ladies are devoid of the basic facilities like food, lodgings, clothes, medicines. In this case, there is a situation of 'SURVIVAL FOR THE FITTEST'. Those who will be capable to survive in that drastic ambience will remain alive and will get aid from the Government if possible.

For example, recently an earthquake took place in Turkey where the news was reported as a 3-4 yrs. old infant was found stuck under a place where the rescue team had found him after one week prior to the incident, he was still alive and fit without having any food, without the presence of his parents which clearly states that poorer ones have to wait for hours, days to come out from that situation, to get better medical facilities. In the same way an aged man was rescued by the NDRF team after many days, still his condition, was moderate by the grace of God. If that child, that old man would have belonged to a renowned, rich family then the case would have been different. At utmost attention, by the help of Government they would have been found and rescued as soon as possible.

The primary duty and responsibility to provide such protection and assistance lies with the national authorities of the affected countries. Those affected by natural disasters have the right to request and receive protection and assistance from their governments. The main duty bearers thus are the national and local authorities of the countries concerned. Protection is not limited to securing the survival and physical security of those affected by natural disasters. Protection encompasses all relevant guarantees - civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural rights- attributed to them by international human rights and, where applicable, international humanitarian law. Although all human rights are fundamentally unrelated, for practical reasons, these rights can be divided into four groups- namely (A) rights related to physical

security integrity (e.g., protection of the right to life and the right to be free from assault, rape, Kidnapping and threats concerning the above) (B) rights related to the basic necessities of life (e.g. the rights to food, drinking water, shelter, adequate clothing, adequate health services and sanitation); (C) rights related to Other economic, social & cultural protection needs (e.g. the rights to have access to education and work as well as to receive restitution or compensation for lost property); and (D) rights related to other civil and political protection needs (e.g. the rights to religious freedom and freedom of speech, personal documentation, political participation, access to courts, and freedom from discrimination). The first two groups of rights are most relevant during the emergency, life-saving phase. Only the full respect of all categories of rights, however, can ensure adequate protection of the human rights of those affected by natural disasters, including the displaced.

Adopting a human rights-based response to those affected by natural disasters is a concrete way: to ensure that natural disasters do not exacerbate existing or provoke new conflicts.

At last, I would end this conversation with the examples from our Bollywood movies. I think we all watch movies..... and we get to know many things through it.

The reference which I would like to give from, is the movie "KEDARNATH".

Here, we are not talking about

NEPOTISM, SECULARISM,

COMMUNISM

OR SOCIALISM

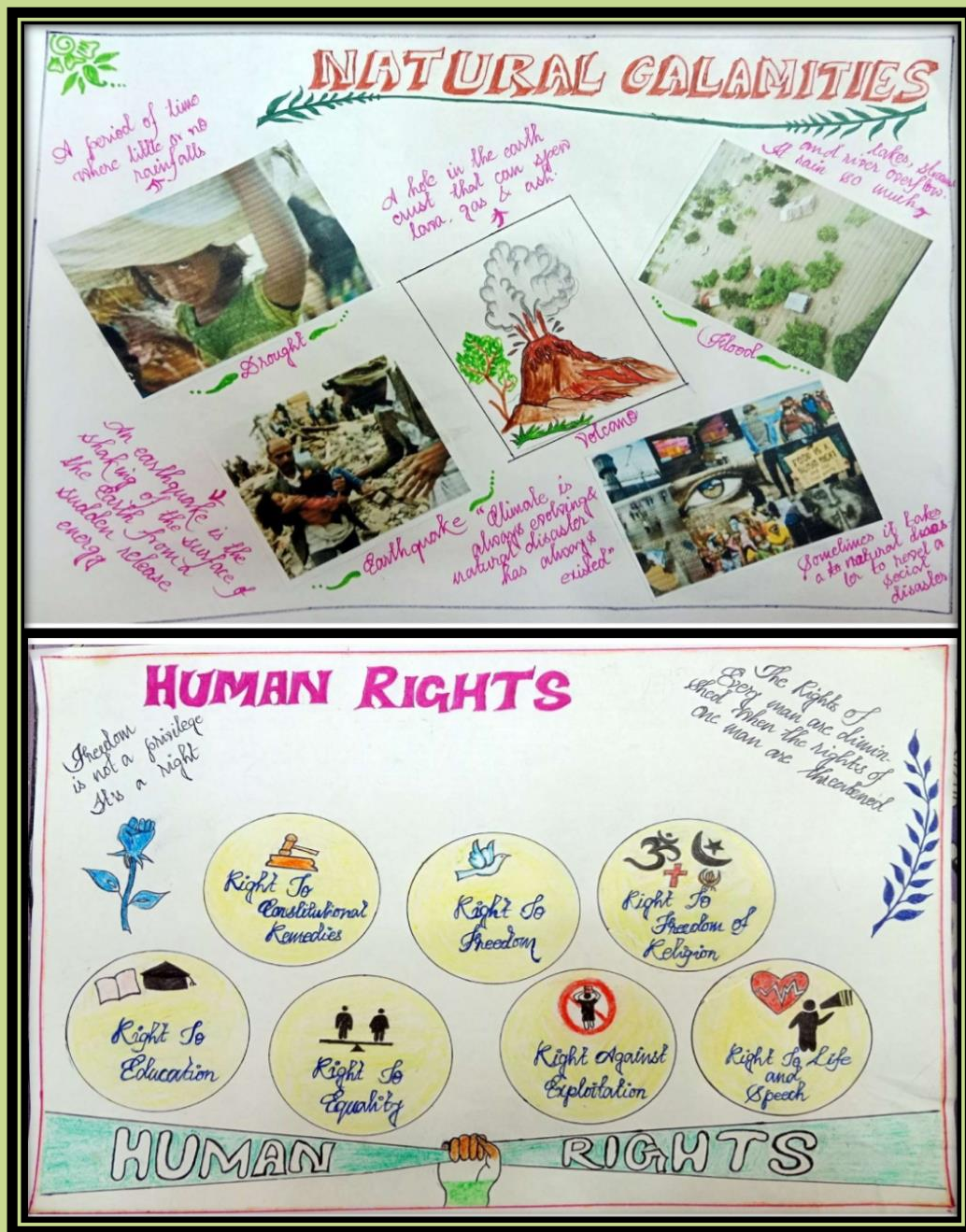
But, DEMOCRACY.

This movie is the perfect example of how democracy which is "power of the people" or "a way of governing which depends on the will of the people" is violated.

At the climax scene when the NDRF team came up to help the refugees, who were totally shattered and stuck in the disaster, the team had limited resources which was only one helicopter for so many people, for which the lead actor was compelled to 'Choose' his family first and happily ended up his life after seeing his family's safety. Where did the tag "we the people, for the people and with the people" get vanished.

At crisis like this common man is always left with one choice which is - To Die.

Because of the so-called society which is divided into rich and poor. The disaster is not being blamed for his death but the resources which he didn't had to save his life.



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