

Effectiveness of a Disaster Preparedness Programme For Pre-Service Teachers

ABSTRACT

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Introduction

India is one of the most disaster prone countries in the world. Its unique geo-physical characteristics make different areas vulnerable to various disasters. Around 59% of the land area lies in the seismic zone III, IV and V, 68% of the cultivate land is prone to drought, 12% to floods and 8% to cyclones. Disaster is defined as a crisis situation causing wide spread damage which far exceeds our ability to recover. Disaster management is an integral part of education. It makes the students aware of various disasters that India is vulnerable to. It not only brings out the various causes of disasters but also suggests the means of do's and don'ts during disasters. At the same time, it also makes students aware of environmental issues at global level. Thus there is need for disaster preparedness. The disaster preparedness makes students understand the concept of types of disaster, and they will be prepared for disaster which is a need today. This will develop the survival skills among students. Students start viewing different man-made activities that cause man-made disaster and natural disaster. In India, there is need for disaster preparedness. The diverse geographical features of India make it prone to a variety of disasters. This compels the young generation of India to comprehend the need of living in harmony with nature. The research aims at creating awareness in the minds of the young learners about the disaster in a concentric and orderly manner starting from the individual and going up to the community. It will encourage the learners to understand the importance of a healthy environment and their roles in protecting it. It will help learner to function effectively as a member of different social group i.e. the family and community. It will help to develop in the learner the skills, attitudes, values for improving the quality of life of self and that of community. Disaster Preparedness Programme is important to acquaint pre service teachers about various disasters that India is vulnerable to. It is important to introduce a few key concepts in disaster management, in simple terms, to orient them to those words that are used in media, discussions, analysis, etc, when a disaster strikes. The programme is important to introduce the concept of being prepared for disasters through simple do's and don'ts that pre service teachers can imbibe and spread to families and community. It is necessary to develop an interest in the subject through interactive activities so that pre service teachers seek more information on disasters. The programme will give hands on experience to the pre service teachers on various survival skills which would save precious lives in an

emergency. Disasters can happen to anybody, for that preparedness is necessary. As we all know that disasters bring along with them heavy loss of life, property and livelihood. If there will be no preparedness then number of casualties and damages will be more. So it is the time to make disaster management a way of life and an essential life skill. We should be prepared for the safety of our near and dear ones than to be a victim of it and repent it. Keeping all above perspective in mind, researcher strongly feels that there is need for disaster preparedness. This is mainly because occurrence and frequency of disaster is increasing day by day. It is very important to train young minds, for that teacher needs to train first. Disaster management is been offered in colleges but it focuses on theoretical aspects or various types of disaster rather preparing for disaster. Keeping this in mind, the researcher strongly feels that there is need to prepare teachers and trainee teachers for disaster. Through this experiment researcher has made an attempt to consciously train pre service teachers to face disasters. This will percolate to their students in future.

Statement of the Problem

Effectiveness of a Disaster Preparedness Programme For Pre-Service Teachers

Objectives of the Study

The research objectives of the study are mentioned below.

1. To prepare a Disaster Preparedness Programme for pre-service teachers.
2. To implement the prepared Disaster Preparedness Programme on pre-service teachers.
3. To evaluate the effectiveness of the prepared Disaster Preparedness Programme.

Hypothesis

The researcher formulated a null hypothesis.

There will be no significant difference between the mean achievement scores of the pre test and post test of the pre-service teachers.

Research Method

The present study is experimental in nature.

Research Type

The research design type is one group pre test and post test design.

Tools and Techniques Used for the Study

The following tools and techniques were used to collect the data from the sample.

- **Questionnaire:** It was prepared to know the level of awareness of pre service teachers with regard to the concept of disaster and disaster preparedness. It also enabled the researcher to understand the exposure that the students have vis-à-vis disasters.
- **Reaction scale:** It was prepared to know the reaction of the pre service teachers towards the prepared disaster preparedness module.
- **Achievement test:** It was prepared to evaluate the effectiveness of the Disaster Preparedness Programme.

Population

The population of the study comprised of the pre service teachers of the Waymade College of Education of academic year 2012-13.

Sample

Convenient sampling technique was used to select the sample. The sample comprised student teachers (Total number of student teachers - 37) of Waymade College of education (academic year 2012-13).

Major Findings of the Study

The findings of the study are indicated below.

- The student teachers could state the basic theoretical terminologies of a disaster and related aspects like its outcomes.

- Majority of students had not consciously thought of disaster preparedness but later accept the significance of the concept.
- Practical sessions and mock drills made students feel prepared to face a disaster.
- The tasks based on analysis and interpretation, practical solution oriented tasks helped students gain insights into disaster emergencies and situations.
- A formal training in Disaster Preparedness does make a person for clear and vigilant about disasters.
- The mock drills and tasks also enhanced the collaborative working abilities of students. This is indeed a major significant feature of Disaster preparedness Programme and emergency situations.
- The theory of disasters needs to be linked with the concepts of Disaster management vis-à-vis all its stages. Teaching the concepts and types of disasters in isolation does not prepare students for real life situations.
- Almost 50% of the students expressed that they developed great insights into the do's and don'ts of a disaster. In addition, 40% students expressed that activities given by the researcher was useful in developing practical skills vis-à-vis Disaster Preparedness.
- 52% students mentioned that they felt confident to share Disaster Preparedness activities and teach and train their students for disaster preparedness.
- Authentic materials based on disasters are a potential source of information and enable students to develop insights.
- Disaster preparedness Programmes needs to be knit into the school education and also related habits needs to develop right from the primary stages to higher secondary stages.
- Disaster preparedness training enables students to develop their safety skills.
- Pre-service teachers expressed that the Disaster Preparedness Programme was practical and enable them to face disasters in schools.
- The researcher during the study has also found that no concrete material for Disaster Preparedness is prepared for student teachers.
- Disaster Preparedness can reduce the number of man-made disasters. It makes the people more conscious and careful vis-à-vis disaster precaution.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that the present study was a fruitful endeavor and helped the researcher develop a course for pre-service students.

The researcher would like to suggest the following topics for future studies.

- A survey on disaster management courses offered at various colleges can be studied.
- Course for PTC, B.Ed. can be developed with additional components of disaster management and disaster preparedness in real settings.

Thus the researcher would like to state that the study was a learning experience for the researcher and gave insights into the procedure of disaster management and disaster preparedness to numerous student teachers.