WEBINAR REPORT

National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

In Collaboration with

International Justice Mission
Children, who are the most valuable asset of a nation, are the most vulnerable during pandemics and natural disasters. In our anxiety to curb crime and prevent diseases, we tend to think that children are safe if they are somewhere in our vicinity. However, in reality, they become the main targets in various crimes, planned strategically, in times like these.

It was my greatest privilege and honour to speak at the first of a nine-part webinar series, organised by the National Institute of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, in collaboration with International Justice Mission. Creating safe communities for women and children, especially, during disasters, is extremely important. Children are, generally, vulnerable and trusting. This trust they have in adults is often misused by predators and by those known to them. Their dependency on adults is taken advantage of by criminals looking to exploit such defenceless and easy targets. For this reason, educating caregivers and guardians of children, on such lurking perils, would save them from being exploited. This will ensure that children and parents alike are aware of the dangers that children could come across in their lives from the predators and the defences that are to be made available to them to save themselves from the disastrous consequences.

With the onset of lockdowns and shutting down of educational institutions, as a preventive measure, by the government, children, both from privileged and destitute backgrounds, have been forced to stay at home. During the lockdowns, while they are within the four walls of their homes, children are presumed to be in a safe environment. On the contrary, they are prone to fall a prey to cyber criminals, domestic violence and sexual abuse by the deprived members of their families. As the empowered lot, it is our duty to create awareness and to devise best practices and implement the laws available, to tackle such crimes against children, alongside the law keepers and enforcement officials.

I express my heartfelt appreciation to the National Institute of Disaster Management, for their mission and their incessant efforts toward achieving a disaster-free India, striving to educate many thousands of participants, who had the privilege of benefitting from the nine-part webinar series. It is truly a pleasure to work for the safety and security of our future generations, along with organisations like the International Justice Mission, whose mission and desire to create safe communities for the most vulnerable segments of the society, during calamities, aligns with my wish for my nation.

Justice M. Jaichandran
Former Judge, Madras High Court,
Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India and Chairperson,
Human Rights Commission Government of Puducherry
Can the global community look to India to provide best practices to combat trafficking crimes? The answer seems to be yes! During this global pandemic, it not just the virus that is a threatening lives and national stability. Human traffickers are also a rising threat. In times of disasters like COVID-19, human traffickers become integrated into the vulnerable communities. Criminal traffickers aggressively prey on distress migrants, who are suddenly without any work and means for survival. Traffickers gladly offer small amounts of money to desperate, hungry and unsuspecting migrants in exchange for a future life of debt bondage. It is not the money the traffickers care to re-collect, they want human bodies that will be trapped in sex and forced labour exploitation. This is a common ploy of these criminal actors. While trafficking is a global phenomenon, the Government of India has been swift to react to this criminal threat to protect their most vulnerable citizens. First Responders, like the NIDM within the MHA, not only provide disaster relief, but also ensure that law enforcement officers and other government actors are equipped to react to trafficking patterns. Tens of thousands of lives have been saved as proactive policing is preventing this crime and rescuing those already victimised. When laws are enforced, the prevalence of trafficking crime decreases!

This webinar series has provided best-in-class resources to law enforcement officers and other first responders to ensure a holistic response to trafficking. IJM is honoured to have partnered with the Government of India to conduct this 9-part series. The gains from the series will be significant, most especially for poor communities that can confidently turn to capable government officials as a source of safety and protection, even during a global pandemic.

Saju Matthew
Regional President, South Asia
International Justice Mission
The times of human life have passed through some of the most significant times of uncertainty and anxiety during this decade with many disasters that have come upon them suddenly. The continuous influx of disasters like tsunami, earthquakes and proxy conflicts have devastated life for many in the country. The recent pandemic has created a deep sense of confusion which has caused the citizens of this nation, much the women and children. At the outset my sincere thanks to all the front line agencies from all the walks of life joining hands with the Government to ensure timely support is rendered to the effected community.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has taken some constructive steps to curtail the pandemic by providing medical and food care to millions across the nation. The NIDM-MHA and IJM collaboration on ensuring the morale and upkeep of the first responders is well kept was stimulated with this webinar series, which in fact had some of the countries best panelists who appeared on various subjects to create awareness and steps to fight this pandemic. The wide spectrum of speakers and subjects provided a holistic approach to handling this pandemic by the first and primary responders on field.

My sincere thanks to NIDM-MHA and IJM initiative as the feedbacks from the field are very impressive and the series saw consistent attendance by various primary responders. The series like this should continue further and should be an ongoing journey so keep the forces well prepared for further and future disasters as when they arrive on our shores. Jai Hind.

Commander. Ashok VM Kumar
Former Indian Navy Officer
Regional Director, South Asia
International Justice Mission
Amidst the pandemic, it has been our honour to partner with the National Institute of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, in the nine-part series of national webinars, which have generated discussions and confluence of ideas towards creating safe citizen communities for, especially women and children.

In response to the Niti Aayog letter on March 31st earlier this year on behalf of inter-ministerial committee to all Chief Secretaries/States to collaborate with CSOs and appoint a Nodal Officer who will be the point of contact for the work in the State, civil society organisations have partnered with local governments during this pandemic to ensure that the challenges due to the unpredictable nature of Covid 19 were addressed to the best extent possible.

International Justice Mission along with many other professionally and nationally minded organisations across the country responded to this invitation by Niti Aayog and assisted local governments in ensuring that rations and supplies were supplied to vulnerable communities including women, children, transgenders and distressed migrants and thus protected thousands of vulnerable poor from falling into trap of human trafficking and descending further into the downward spiral of poverty. E-workshops for first responders were also conducted with government technical experts and civil society experts together to address the pressing situations created in various States. The “work from home” situation had its limitations, but it also provided the flexibility of all those interested to be more available to participate in the complex solution finding and nation building process that C19 has left us with.

COVID-19 has impacted people from all walks of life socially, economically and psychologically. Now more than ever, vulnerable communities are exposed to newer forms of social evils. To create awareness in this unique and challenging season, NIDM pioneered the nine-part webinar series which brought together government officials, first responders, NGOs and stakeholders unified in their mutual interest in creating and sustaining safe communities with special focus on women and children, amidst COVID-19. NIDM leadership in equipping vulnerable communities to fight disasters effectively has always been exemplary and this time it’s much needed webinars have reached out to thousands across the country.

The professionally organised NIDM webinar series hosted renowned and expert panellists from various sectors who shared their best practices and way forward recommendations to build strategies focussed on caring for the disadvantaged, vulnerable and the destitute particularly during this pandemic, in partnership with the Government. As an organisation committed to the protection of the poor from the violence that leads to poverty, it has been IJM’s pleasure to collaborate with NIDM as it provides sterling service to the nation – especially during times when we need it the most.

Ajoy Varghese
Vice President - Regional Programs, South Asia
International Justice Mission
COVID-19 has brought everything to a standstill. And while the world grapples with the spread of the virus, violence and exploitation continues to rage against vulnerable communities who are often the most affected during any disaster. The pandemic seems to have created newer ways and opportunities for perpetrators to exploit the poorest of the society. But the Indian Government’s prompt and sharp response has been noteworthy.

It has been a privilege for International Justice Mission to partner with the National Institute of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, for a series of eight national webinars to continue conversations on human trafficking and create safe communities for women and children. While these webinars exposed the flip-side of COVID-19 and its adverse effects on people primarily from the lowest strata of the society, they also imparted extensive knowledge to thousands of citizens across the country, who are now vigilant and sensitive to crimes against their fellow citizens. By empowering such a large community, the government has not just showcased its intent in creating safe societies especially for people who are poor but has also made a significant stride in sustaining the momentum on issues such as trafficking and violence against women and children.

This initiative of the government is incredibly important as we prepare for a new way of life post the pandemic. As precautionary measures are set in place to ensure the world is not medically compromised, it is also important to look into other important issues such as trafficking and violence against women and children which if left unchecked could have much deeper and long term consequences.

Merlin Freeda
Director of Operations,
International Justice Mission
ABOUT COLLABORATION

National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) has been entrusted with the nodal responsibility for Human Resource Development, capacity building including training & education, research, documentation, and policy planning in the field of disaster management.

The Mission of NIDM is to strive relentlessly towards making a disaster free India by planning and promoting training and capacity building services including strategic learning, research, documentation, development of national level information center, system development & expertise promotion for effective disaster preparedness and mitigation, promoting awareness & enhancing knowledge & skill of all stakeholders, strengthening institutional mechanisms for training & capacity building of all stakeholders and to become the National Resource Centre for the Central and State Governments in the field of Disaster Management in collaboration with other premier institutions. During COVID-19 pandemic, NIDM has marched forward to fulfil its mission, to make a disaster resilient India by developing and promoting a culture of prevention & preparedness at all levels, emerge as a Centre of Excellence by organising virtual trainings, staff development programs, virtual certification courses and webinar series.

International Justice Mission (IJM) was fortunate to collaborate with National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India with the shared vision to make a disaster resilient India through a series of webinar on various topics, raising awareness on different aspects of issues among the vulnerable communities during disaster and pandemic. International Justice Mission (IJM) is a global organisation that protects the most vulnerable from violence and oppression irrespective of their gender, community, caste, race, and ethnicity. IJM India works with the State and Central Government on two forms of human trafficking — bonded labour and commercial sexual exploitation of minors. They work alongside Government Officials and Grassroots Organisations to rescue and rehabilitate victims, prosecute offenders, and build the capacity of implementing authorities.

The webinar series organised by National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) and International Justice Mission (IJM) on various topics created awareness among Government Officials, District Administration, Law Enforcement Agencies, Judicial, Educational Institutions, State & District Disaster Risk Management Officials, Non-Governmental Organisation, Academia and individuals to achieve the mission of making India a disaster resilient country.
AT A GLANCE

9 Webinars

3600+ Attendees

20+ Speakers & Panelists

28 States in India  8 Countries
National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
in collaboration With
International Justice Mission (IJM)
invites you to a National Webinar on
Creating Safe Communities for Women and Children during Disaster
on Wednesday, 5th August 2020 from 12.00pm to 2.00pm

Key Note Address
Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal
Executive Director,
National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)

Speakers
Justice M. Jaichandran
Former Judge, Madras High Court
Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India

Topic:
Creating Safe Communities for Children during Disaster.

Dr. Beulah Shekhar
Emeritus Professor, Department of Criminology, School of Arts, Media & Management, Karunya Institute of Technology & Sciences, Coimbatore

Topic:
Creating Safe Communities for Women during Disaster

Commander, Ashok VM Kumar
Former Indian Navy Officer,
Regional Director, South Asia, IJM

Topic:
Creating Safe Communities for Women and Children through Systemic changes.

Moderator
Dr. Ajinder
Assistant Professor, National Institute of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

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All the participants will be awarded e-certificates
Disasters, whether they occur over a short span or over an extended period, tend to cause extensive loss in life and possessions, impact the economy and/or the environment. The impacted community in most cases lacks the ability to cope using its own resources or strength.

Disaster Management Teams use many multi-pronged approaches to mitigate and the problems caused by a disaster, sometimes in a previously perfect landscape. Despite this, it requires the collaboration of many agencies and the locals, and a whole lot of time, to bring back some semblance of normalcy in the affected areas. Moreover, there are always groups that are more vulnerable, and hence more affected by certain disasters. The poor being a common denominator in most cases.

It is no wonder then, that the Covid-19 Pandemic, has brought about predicted and unpredicted disastrous outcomes that we are still fighting. Apart from the obvious loss to livelihood, impact on the economy and the gross burden on the healthcare structure, which are all expected outcomes, Covid-19 and the resulting lockdown has also pushed the already vulnerable - women and children - further into distress.

The lockdown enforced a compulsory halt on most activities and placed most women and children within arm’s reach of constant domestic abuse, violence, and rape with no visible escape route. Additionally, those children for whom school was not only a sanctuary away from the abuse, but also a place where they would be well-fed five days of the week, are now deprived of healthy, nutritious food and are already suffering the effects on malnourishment. Children who studied out of boarding homes/ childcare homes are now back with guardians who cannot care for them, and also faced with uncertainty and violence at the hands of guardians who do not have the means to provide for them.
Crimes against Women and Children are increasing at a staggering rate and it is high time that we not only identify these crimes but also anticipate the vulnerabilities and act swiftly to mitigate these crimes. To be able to bring even existing laws into practice at field level requires convergence between stakeholders, and the ultimate goal of mitigating these problems will come to fruition only when enforcement officials, police personnel, grassroots workers, individuals of the community take personal ownership of their own roles and responsibilities. This will bring about a complete standstill in criminal activities and violence within homes and the community, making Safe Communities a reality!

The Webinar on Creating Safe Communities for Women & Children during this Disaster and Pandemic was aimed to create an opportunity for the participants to be aware of the harsh realities, of the vulnerable group with special focus on Women and Children. The eminent panelists who are also subject matter experts shared their own experiences, field realities and practical recommendations to counter this issue even during the Covid-19 enforced lockdown. Based on the recommendations placed by the expert panelists and also the participants, a working action plan was drafted and finalised in collaboration with NIDM to keep up the momentum.

**SPEAKERS**

**Creating Safe Communities for Children during Disaster**

Justice M. Jaichandran  
Former Judge, Madras High Court, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India and Chairperson, Human Rights Commission, Government of Puducherry

**Creating Safe Communities for Women during Disaster**

Dr. Beulah Shekar  
Former Head, Department of Criminology, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu

**Creating Safe Communities for Women and Children through Systemic Changes**

Commander Ashok VM Kumar  
Former Indian Navy Officer, Regional Director, South Asia, International Justice Mission
KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Webinar on Creating Safe Communities for Women & Children during Disaster and Pandemic created an opportunity for the participants to be aware of the harsh realities, current situations of the vulnerable group with special focus on Women and Children.
- The lockdown enforced a compulsory halt on most activities and placed most women and children within arm’s reach of constant domestic abuse, violence, and rape with no visible escape route.
- The children for whom school was not only a sanctuary away from the abuse, but also a place where they would be well-fed five days of the week, are now deprived of healthy, nutritious food and are already suffering the effects on malnourishment.
- Women are major contributors of child safety, recognising them as agents of change will keep our children and society safe.
- Involving women in all Policy decision making, execution, implementation and sustenance will be effective.
- 90% of the crimes against children are done by people they trust and are closest to the child. Zero tolerance toward child abuse cases in India is key and disaster management teams must take all measures to help people come out of it. Success is possible only when we all work together to protect our children. We need to learn the problem thoroughly and have an effective plan in place considering the sensitivity and secrecy of the issues surrounding children.
- Lack of awareness is a major challenge. Awareness on child abuse and child rights should be made part of the curriculum for school children.
- Women and children from low-income groups have been the most affected by the Covid19 pandemic.
- Impunity is key in creating a safe community for women and children. Regulatory systems should replace reactive systems.
- A centralised database and technologies must be developed to prevent and curb Human trafficking at the initial stage.
- Government agencies should work in collaboration with CSOs. Best practices identified and put into practice.
- Communities should identify representatives or voices that will contribute to whistle blowing and accountability.
- Judiciary being a powerful weapon should act justly and instantly to combat this crime. Speedy disposal of cases will send clear messages to offenders to stop the crime.
National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM),
Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

in collaboration With
International Justice Mission (IJM)

invites you to a National Webinar on

Mental Well-being of the First Responders of COVID-19”

on Thursday, 13th August 2020 from 12.00pm to 2.00pm

Key Note Address

Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal
Executive Director,
National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM),
Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India

Speakers

Dr. E. Aravind Raj,
Associate Professor,
Department of Psychiatric Social Work,
National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS),
Bangalore

Mr. Rajeev Maikhuri
MSSO & Sr. Organ Transplant Coordinator
ORBC, All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS),
New Delhi

Ms. Shalini Newbigging
Specialist- Rehabilitation and Social Services
International Justice Mission

Moderator

Mrs. Mary Prathima
Head, Strategic Engagement,
International Justice Mission

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https://ijm.zoom.us/webinar/register/ VN_cJpOZJMKvVdGBv7hmqdg

Webinar Co-ordinator:

Dr. Ajinder
Assistant Professor,
National Institute of Disaster Management,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Government of India.

All the participants will be awarded e-certificates.
The novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) was declared to be a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11th, 2020. The virus spread at an alarming rate, and the severity of infection crossed international borders within no time. A national lockdown and strict regulations were put in place, as a precaution to contain further spread of the virus, in India.

As a result, first responders across multiple fields have had to face ongoing stress of keeping communities safe and provide life-giving care in overwhelming circumstances. Fear and anxiety about the new disease, and what could happen in the ever-changing face of the pandemic, along with extended work hours and work pressures caused strong reactions, and a rise in mental health issues. Coping with stress in a healthy way will allow first responders to take better care of themselves, and in turn care better for the people in their line of work, and work towards building stronger communities together.

This conversation covered simple plans that will help first responders prioritise their mental health, holistic wellness and self-care, and discussed the way forward in creating a healthier society post COVID-19.

**SPEAKERS**

**Overview of COVID-19 Pandemic and Mental Health**

Dr. E. Aravind Raj  
Associate Professor,  
Department of Psychiatric Social Work,  
National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore

**Importance of Mental Health among the First Responders of Covid-19 and Challenges**

Mr. Rajeev Maikhuri  
MSSO & Sr. Organ Transplant Coordinator ORBO, All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi

**Mental Wellbeing to Combat Pandemic Mechanisms, Best Practices, & Way forward**

Ms. Shalini Newbigging  
Specialist - Rehabilitation and Social Services  
International Justice Mission
KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Mental well-being is not just the absence of mental illnesses but it is realisation and utilisation of one's full potential.
- The best source of support comes from family and community. As first responders, we need it and we must ensure that such a model is built in the society.
- Prioritise receiving information from right sources. Myths and rumours spread through social media should be avoided.
- First responders must be trained and certified to handle such situations.
- Studies show that first responders are affected with depression, anxiety, stress and insomnia. Many first responders feel responsible if their family and community get contracted with Covid.
- Many first responders are now getting addicted to smoking & alcoholism due to pressure, isolation, and fear of job loss.
- We are responsible and need to take intentional measures to keep ourselves positive.
- Wellness is not just absence of diseases but covers wellness in social, emotional, spiritual, occupational, intellectual, financial, physical & environmental.
- Goal setting, taking intentional breaks, identifying negative thoughts & replacing them with positive thoughts, flexible schedule, online connectivity with people, journaling, reflecting, practicing positive coping skills are some of the best coping strategies.
- Focus on things that you can control and refrain from things that you can’t control to stay positive.
- It is our responsibility to take care of our own mental well-being and also seek support from external sources to have good mental health.
- Creating support systems/buddy groups for first responders is beneficial and acts as a key strategy for good mental well-being.
National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
in collaboration with
International Justice Mission (IJM)
jointly organising a National Webinar on
Disaster and Human Trafficking - Dimensions, Challenges, Responses
on Thursday, 20th August 2020 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Keynote Address

Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal
Executive Director,
National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM),
Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India

Opening Remarks

Mr. Saju Mathew
Regional President, South Asia,
International Justice Mission

Speakers

Mr. V. V. Lakshminarayana IPS
Former Additional Director General of Police (ADGP),
Maharashtra, India

Ms. Chitra Iyer
Founder Partner,
Space2Grow

Dr. M. Devasitham
Head, Strategic Development,
International Justice Mission

Moderator

Dr. Ajinder
Assistant Professor,
National Institute of Disaster Management,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
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Disaster is a serious disruption that occurs over a short or extended period of time, resulting in extensive loss of people, material possessions, economy and or environment which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources or strength. Disaster Management Teams over the years with their perfect mitigation strategies, plans and collaborative work with the locals have effectively tackled issues and situations, ensuring the normalcy with greater restoration.

Natural disasters are one of the main reasons for Human Trafficking. Covid-19 brought with it lot of uncertainties and ambiguity. Loss of jobs and the pressure to keep up the income to meet the basic needs of the family, resulted in many vulnerable people becoming prey to Human Trafficking.

Human Trafficking is prevalent, and often works in shadows that none can easily identify. It is an illegal trade that fetches billions for the traffickers! Illegal trade of human beings for the purpose of exploitation of their labour, sex and organs etc. is considered to be Human Trafficking.

Vulnerability has increased exponentially with the pandemic still around and posing a greater threat. Experts say, anyone can become a victim of Human Trafficking and groups that have little social and legal protection are highly vulnerable. Statistics show that 70% of the victims are women and of which 58% victims are said to be below 18 years of age.
Section 370 of Indian Penal Code, defines Human Trafficking as a heinous crime that includes Recruiting, Transporting, Harbouring, Transferring and Receiving of victims by means of threats, coercion, intimidation, manipulation, deception and many more for the purpose of exploitation. This recent amendment has significantly increased the punishment for all forms of trafficking and created serious deterrence. Knowing the reality of Human Trafficking and our role in prevention, is the need of the hour. The webinar helped create awareness among the participants, making them stand as “whistle blowers” in their own community.

Eminent speakers with wealth of knowledge and experience at field level spoke on the topic and gave practical, workable solutions for the participants. The learnings, recommendations were compiled for future implementations.

SPEAKERS

Disaster and Human Trafficking – Role of Law Enforcement Officials in combating Human Trafficking during Disaster

Mr. V. V. Lakshminarayana IPS  
Former Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Maharashtra

Overview on Disaster and Human Trafficking in India

Mrs Chitra Iyer  
Founder Partner, Space2Grow

Convergence Effort to Combat Human Trafficking During Disaster – Best Practice Model

Dr. M. Devastham  
Head, Strategic Development  
International Justice Mission
KEY TAKEAWAYS

- It is very important to recognise the work of first responder, government officials, police, medical professionals, front line workers who put their life at risk to contain this crisis which is truly a heroic act!
- Strengthened and effective local Government, justice system, and law enforcement is the best solution to ensure safety of people who are vulnerable.
- Stop the trafficker to stop Human Trafficking. Stop the trafficker to exploit the people who are vulnerable. This will enable greater chance for citizens to thrive in freedom with safety and protection.
- Traffickers and the victims need to be identified, must also be rehabilitated and provided with needed care. It is important to not lose sight of rehabilitation opportunities available for the restoration of victims.
- Implementation of effective Child protection unit with experts, improved quality of investigation, and effective supervision of cases through software will lead to just convictions.
- Awareness among the public needs to be increased. Victim compensation under the scheme must be disbursed, SOPs needs to be developed with victim centric approach.
- There needs to be a change in the thought process of every citizen. Thus education plays a major role.
- Cross border entry system needs to be strictly monitored and controlled. victimisation should not happen and it should be countered/prevented. There is a high need for proper data/research/tracking system on the subject. Lack of coordination between departments must be addressed. Convergence is crucial for holistic rehabilitation.
- Lack of space for interaction among the adolescents makes them more vulnerable. They are unable to talk freely and are unaware of the things around them.
- Awareness at the community level is the key towards being resilient. Leaders in the community should become protectors of their community members during disaster.
- Focus on: Care, Protection, Justice and Prevention. Establish survivor collective and build their capacity. Training the workers, collaborating with non-profits, investing on people who are vulnerable, strengthening the CBOs and speedy disposal of cases are some of the key solutions to combat Human Trafficking.
- 98% of the victims stated that the traffickers capitalised on their vulnerable situation which was an outcome of the pandemic.
- Creating safe communities, building the capacity of the responders, identifying vulnerable groups and organising scientific studies on the vulnerable population is the best vaccine to combat Human Trafficking.
National Institute of Disaster Management (NiDM), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India in collaboration with International Justice Mission (IJM) jointly organising a National Webinar on Transgender and Disasters on Thursday, 27th August 2020 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

### Keynote Address

**Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal**  
Executive Director, National Institute of Disaster Management (NiDM), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India

### Opening Remarks

**Mr. Indrajeet Pawar**  
Director of Operations, International Justice Mission

### Speakers

**Dr. Veerendra Mishra**  
Director, National Institute of Social Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

**Ms. Jaya**  
General Manager  
Sahodaran, Chennai

**Commander Ashok VM Kumar**  
Former Indian Navy Officer  
Regional Director, South Asia, International Justice Mission

### Moderator

**Ms. Preeti Daniel**  
Head, Partnership Casework, International Justice Mission

### Webinar Coordinator

**Dr. Ajinder**  
Assistant Professor, National Institute of Disaster Management  
[Zoom Link](https://imj.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JIC77dTRG61vGE4dMw)  

**Dr. M. Devasitham**  
Head, Strategic Development, International Justice Mission

All the participants will be awarded e-certificates.
Disaster is a serious disruption that occurs over a short or extended period of time, resulting in extensive loss of people, material possessions, economy and or environment which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources or strength. Disaster Management Teams, as a part of their mitigation strategies, plan and collaboratively work with the locals and effectively tackle issues and situations, ensuring normalcy and restoration.

Covid-19 has left us all with many predicted and unpredictable disastrous outcomes that we are still fighting. It has also resulted in the disruption of safety and security of individuals.

The transgender community has always stayed at the brim of vulnerability. These group of individuals face a whole lot of issues in the community - you name it, they face it. Neglect by their own family & community, stigma, myths, misconceptions, societal rejection, lack of acceptance, discrimination, less clarity in relevant laws and less recognition have put them in a vulnerable situation especially during this disaster.

Times of disaster have always pushed these individuals to vulnerable situations and many a time their lives have been at risk. Unemployment, lack of identity proof, rejection by families resulting in homelessness have forced them to engage in commercial sexual activities & beggary. This unsafe source of income has resulted in many of them facing brutal violence and contracting sexually transmitted infections.
The Transgender (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 that came into effect in January 2020 speaks addresses Prohibition of Discrimination, Recognition of Identity, Welfare Measures, Access to Education, Health and Social Security and mentions the constitution of a National Council for Transgenders. Lack of awareness about relevant laws, myths, misconceptions and the mindset of individuals with regard to transgenders needs to be addressed through various platforms.

This webinar focused on the impact of COVID19 on the Transgender community. Eminent speakers from Social Justice Department and practitioners from the field shared their experiences and learnings and came up with practical solutions for desired outcomes in the society.

Speakers

Overview on Transgenders and Disaster: Role of NISD in Empowering Transgenders During Disaster

Dr. Veerendra Misra
Director, National Institute of Social Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

Transgenders and Disasters: Challenges faced by Transgenders during Disasters and Best Practices

Ms Jaya
General Manager Sahodaran, Chennai

Need for Systemic Change and Mechanisms to support Transgenders during Disasters.

Commander Ashok VM Kumar
Former Indian Navy Officer Regional Director, South Asia, International Justice Mission
Key Takeaways

- Fear of discrimination and rejection has made the transgender community more vulnerable. Citizens sensitised towards equality and inclusion will ensure a safer community for everyone including the transgender community.
- Transgenders are at a high risk due to the stigma and exposure. Social security schemes need to focus on this vulnerable group. Their voices must be included in planning and policy making. The laws and schemes should translate into action.
- The National Council established under the Transgender (Protection of Rights) Act has strong members from the transgender community who can now voice out their needs.
- The National Institute of Social Defence has started capacity building trainings for the transgender community to empower them and help them take ownership of the issue.
- Transgender communities face challenges in their own families due to lack to education, unemployment and go through health, legal and social issues. Deaths and suicides are at a rise among the transgender community. Many of them have also been facing mental health issues due to the COVID situation.
- Health care & psycho-social support needs are unique for transgenders and needs a sensitive team to cater.
- Food security, endowment of financial aid by employment, access to health care, shelter, security, sanitation needs to be prioritised. Documentation for identity proof should come through a single window system that would help them receive the benefits without any hassle.
- Improve/amend corporate gender policies to promote employment and promotions. Bring awareness on transgenders among public and private sectors.
- Sensitisation is important and plays a crucial role in understanding and clearing myths. It must begin at an early age in schools and educational institutions. The Government must issue an Order to ensure safety of transgenders.
- There is no excuse for not supporting the transgender community. Follow the 3I principle- Involve them and let them know that they are not invisible by being kind, get involved in their life to know more about them and if you are in a place of influence, begin by bringing about a change in small matters.
- The National Council formed under the Act will give more opportunities for the transgender community to voice out their opinions in policy making conversations.
National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
in collaboration with
International Justice Mission (IJM)
jointly organising a National Webinar on
Reverse Migration and Best Practices
on Thursday, 3rd September 2020 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Keynote Address

Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal
Executive Director,
National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM),
Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India

Opening Remarks

Kural Amuthan
Head, Government and Community Relation,
International Justice Mission

Speakers

Dr. Rahul Suresh Sapkal
Assistant Professor,
Centre for Labour Studies, School of Management and Labour Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

Mr. Shabarinath Nair
Labour Migration Specialist,
International Labour Organization (ILO)
Decent Work Technical Team, South Asia

Dr. Tina Kuriakose
Head, Central Government Partnerships,
International Justice Mission, Delhi

Moderator

Ms. Neenu Thomas
Director, Odisha Projects
International Justice Mission

Webinar Coordinators

Dr. Ajinder
Assistant Professor,
National Institute of Disaster Management

Dr. M. Devasitham
Head, Strategic Development, International Justice Mission

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All the participants will be awarded e-certificates
Disaster is a serious disruption that occurs over a short or extended period of time, resulting in extensive loss of people, material possessions, economy and or environment which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources or strength. Disaster Management Teams, as a part of their mitigation strategies, plan and collaboratively work with the locals and effectively tackle issues and situations, ensuring normalcy and restoration.

Covid-19 has left us all with many predicted and unpredicted disastrous outcomes that we are still fighting. It has also resulted in the disruption of safety and security of individuals, especially migrant labourers.

Everyone has dreams to come up well in life. Some have feasible conditions in their own community itself while few don’t have those opportunities in their own communities. These dreams, situations push people in search of employment opportunities (mostly unorganised), to places where it is available, resulting in Migration from rural to urban places.

There were 56 million migrants in India, as per the 2011 Census. 79% of these migrants in urban cities were daily wagers at construction sites or factories where they were employed. Another large number of migrants were self-employed with low levels of income. Until the pandemic struck, it was all fine. As lock-down measures to control the pandemic were imposed, it resulted in loss of jobs and uncertainties paving way to Reverse Migration from urban to rural areas.
Reverse migration is expected to have put pressure on the native states as it not only suppressed the wage flow from other states but also brought in a great deal of uncertainty on the work opportunities of returned migrants. The returning migrants faced and continue to face a lot of stigma and societal pressures as they are presumed to be potential carriers of the virus. Most of these migrants hail from the interior parts of the states, from communities who are highly vulnerable to poverty, health issues, unemployment, and other related problems.

This webinar focused on Reverse Migration caused by Disasters and the practical solutions to mitigate this issue. Eminent speakers from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, International Labor Organization and International Justice Mission shared their experiences and learnings for desired outcomes in the nation.

**SPEAKERS**

**Overview on Reverse Migration**

Dr Rahul Suresh Sapkal  
Assistant Professor,  
Centre for Labour Studies,  
School of Management and Labour Studies,  
Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

**The Need for Strengthening the State Mechanisms to Manage Migration**

Mr Shabarinath Nair  
Labour Migration Specialist,  
International Labour Organization (ILO)  
Decent Work Technical Team, South Asia

**Effective Policy Recommendations to protect migrant workers**

Dr Tina Kuriakose  
Head, Central Government Partnerships,  
International Justice Mission, Delhi
KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Migrant workers pay both entry and exit costs when they decide to migrate to urban areas. As entry cost, migrant workers accept jobs which are hazardous, risky, and low paid, with adverse conditions and continue to work to fulfil their household necessities.
- Reverse migration began from source to destination states after the recent unlock phase as job availabilities were scarce in their native states. 67% of individuals migrated in seek of employment opportunities.
- Desperate for money, some migrants are ready to take up any job and travel multiple times a year to the same cities which is called circular migration. These individuals may not have any land holdings in their native states.
- MGNREGA is an option to provide employment opportunities to the returned migrants post pandemic. An estimated 44.16% of labourers either lost their jobs, or were evicted by land lords or were not paid wages.
- There is need for a credential database that can help mitigate these challenges by helping the Government identify, track and manage skills for work requirement.
- There has been an increase in child and adolescent labour within and outside the family. Many have been pushed towards poverty and hunger leading to lower Human Development Index.
- The 2011 census data on Migration is underestimated. A fact finding report reveals as close to 455 million migrants migrated and a significant number of women remain invisible or sidelined.
- Reverse migration is not effective if wage arrears are not compensated. Transitional justice mechanism need to be exercised for migrants to rightfully receive their wages that was not paid during the pandemic.
- A lot of people in our country are not respected or appreciated for their work. It is not the government but the citizen’s attitude. There is a lack of dignity for the lower class labourers. The dignity for labourers needs to be ensured. A majority of migrant workers come under the unorganised and unskilled workers category which is at the lower strata of society.
- There is a need to prioritise mapping of migration patterns and cluster formation for need based approach. Facilitation centers to help with reverse migration, maintain continuity in contact and provide employment opportunities, and investing in education and skill development will give greater outcomes. Access to financial products and services will provide an efficient financial safety net.
- Coordination between states will remain a crucial component in mitigating the challenges when it comes to migration issues. If coordination happens, many issues pertaining to migration can be resolved.
- The informal sector has been the hardest hit during this pandemic. Four out of ten women lost their jobs during COVID19, resulting in increased debt and uncertainties. There has been a drastic decline in the women work force’s participation as they had to focus on the family.
KEY TAKEAWAYS

- A CDC approach will be effective - Collaborate: CSOs to collaborate with Government; Decentralize: local panchayats/ NRLM/ SHGs/ Village level volunteers and local people to respond. Converge: convergence between all the relevant stakeholders.
- The CDC approach will address Prevention & Awareness/ Protection & Care/help create Safe & Strong Communities and enable people who are vulnerable have Access to Justice Systems.
- At a time as this when migrant labourers are highly vulnerable to being trafficked, coordination, community level awareness, and a robust method to tackle trafficking is needed. It is critical to map people who are vulnerable especially women & children, people who are physically challenged and the unemployed population.
- There is need for specialised protection for women and children of migrant workers as they are invisible. ICDS, healthcare access to women, commissions, must take proactive steps. Government must meet with the people who are vulnerable and ensure they have access to the available resources.
National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
in collaboration with
International Justice Mission (IJM)
invites you to a National Webinar on
PREVENTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM ONLINE CRIMES DURING PANDEMIC AND DISASTERS

9th September 2020 | 12.00 noon to 02.00PM (IST)

Keynote Address:
Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal
Executive Director,
National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)

Opening Remark:
Melissa Walawalkar
Director of Operations,
International Justice Mission

Speakers

K.G.V. Saritha, MSc.LL.M
Additional Superintendent of Police, CID
Women Protection Cell (In-charge)
AP Police Headquarters, Mangalagiri

Prasad Patibandla
Cyber Crime & Digital Intelligence Analyst

Dr. M. Devasitham
Head, Strategic Development,
International Justice Mission

Moderator:
Shirley Fatima Iyaz
Senior Lead, People Operation
International Justice Mission

Webinar Co-ordinators:
Dr. Aijinder
Assistant Professor,
National Institute of Disaster Management,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Government of India.

Mr. Micosteen,
Lead, Aftercare Manager,
International Justice Mission
gmicosteen@ijm.org,
9840967259

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Prevention of Women & Children from Online Crimes during Pandemic and Disasters

Disaster is a serious disruption that occurs over a short or extended period of time, resulting in extensive loss of people, material possessions, economy and or environment which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources or strength.

Disaster Management Teams, as a part of their mitigation strategies, plan and collaboratively work with the locals and effectively tackle issues and situations, ensuring normalcy and restoration.

India is one of the largest and fastest-growing markets for digital consumers. With 560 million internet subscribers in 2018, India is second only to China. With the increase in online subscribers, online crimes are also at a rise. The latest NCRB data on cyber-crimes shows a staggering 27,248 cases in 2018 alone. And these are just cases that were reported. It is highly likely that many cases were not reported by the victims.

Women & children are the primary targets for cybercrimes. A research study on violence against women and girls suggests that 73% of women have already been exposed to or have experienced some form of online violence. Easy access to internet and the convenience of anonymity has made it very easy for cyber criminals to function.

Cyber crimes that target women and children include phishing, identity thefts, child pornography, grooming, cyber harassment, cyber stalking, cyber bullying and many more hidden activities. In spite of many stringent laws, commissions, cells and units in place to combat this issue, online criminal activities are at a rise. Creating awareness among women and children is crucial to fight this crime.
This webinar focused on Prevention of Women & Children from Online crimes during Pandemic and Disasters. Eminent speakers with a wealth of knowledge and field experience spoke on the topic and gave practical, workable solutions to the participants. The learnings and recommendations were compiled for future implementation. “If I would have known about this or if someone would have told me about this, I would not landed in this place” a victim said.

SPEAKERS

Overview on Online Crimes Against Women and Children during Pandemics and Disasters
Dr. M. Devasitham
Head, Strategic Development, International Justice Mission

Investigation of Cyber Crimes Against Women and Children – Case Study
Prasad Patibandla
Cyber Crime & Digital Intelligence Analyst

Role of Law Enforcement in Combating Online Crimes against Women and Children and Safe Measures
K.G.V. Saritha
MSc.LL.M Additional Superintendent of Police, CID Women Protection Cell (In-charge) AP Police Headquarters, Mangalagiri
KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Women between 18-20 years of age are highly targeted as this group use Internet mostly through social networking sites. Pandemic has further increased the dependency of women and young girls on Internet.
- Online platforms are not only used by family and friends but by criminals, paedophiles, abusers, frauds & human traffickers. The pandemic has changed the behaviour of individuals during this season with 47% time spent more on Social Media. Using technology without basic understanding puts us in greater risk in online platforms.
- App traps, Phishing, Fake Job Advertisements, Cyber pornography, Sextortion, Child Grooming are the top criminal activities taking place in online platforms.
- Data shows that approximately 12000 paedophiles are always online waiting to lure children into sexual exploitation.
- What you do online will reflect on you! Beware of what you post in social media platforms. Parents must be careful when they post about their children. Photos, videos of children can be stolen by the paedophiles. Cyber criminals are not too far away as we think. The NCRB data states 14.7% of cyber criminals are near us. We need to be careful about what content we share.
- Cyber Teasing, Cyber Stalking, Cyber Defamation, Identity Theft, Cat Fishing, Doxing, Swatting, Trolling, and Revenge Porn are some of the technology driven crimes against women.
- We must prioritise & give importance to complaints and act immediately to prevent people from committing suicide on pressure. Use reporting option - do not panic block the content and track the abuser - do not delete the information. If you are a victim, use a reporting option to counter. If not, reach the nearby police station. You may also give anonymously report to the MHA initiated grievance cell for speedy intervention.
- Fear of reporting is a major challenge. Many hesitate to come out and file a complaint with the law enforcement agencies. Hence, several crimes goes unreported. The NCRB data is expected to be just 50% of the actual crimes committed.
- Tackling cyber-crime is challenging as it happens online and the transit space makes it difficult to track the criminals. In spite of many tools being available, end to end encryption and privacy makes it challenging for law enforcement agencies to locate the criminal. Lack of tech savvy officials in the law enforcement team also adds to the challenge.
- Sensitisation is the need of the hour. And while we create awareness about the crime, it is also important to focus on one's self-respect, self-confidence and ensure that we never find our worth through the eyes of others. Do not give in to others words/statements which is seldom not true.
- The handbook on cyber safety released by the MHA and the pictorial book on cyber safety are good resources to understand simple steps to online safety. Parents can also use and activate parental control techniques.
National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India in collaboration With International Justice Mission (IJM) invites you to a National Webinar on

IMPACT OF PANDEMS ON MEN AND WOMEN

16th September 2020 | 12.00 noon to 02.00PM (IST)

Keynote Address:
Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal
Executive Director,
National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)

Opening Remark:
Saptarshi Biswas
Head, Legal Solutions,
International Justice Mission, Kolkata

Speakers

Commander Ashok VM Kumar
Former Indian Navy Officer
Regional Director, South Asia
International Justice Mission

Ms. Debashmita Chattopadhyay
Divisional Security Commissioner,
Railway Protection Force, Bangalore

Mrs. Merlin Freeda,
Director of Operations,
International Justice Mission

Moderator:
Mary Sebastian
Senior Lead - Strategic Partnerships,
South Asia Partnerships, IJM

Webinar Co-ordinators:
Dr. Ajinder
Assistant Professor,
National Institute of Disaster Management,
Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Mr. Solomon Antony
Lead, Community Relations,
International Justice Mission
asolomon@ijm.org, 9840967269

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Impact of Pandemics on Men and Women

Disaster is a serious disruption that occurs over a short or extended period of time, resulting in extensive loss of people, material possessions, economy and or environment which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources or strength. Disaster Management Teams, as a part of their mitigation strategies, plan and collaboratively work with the locals and effectively tackle issues and situations, ensuring normalcy and restoration.

Covid-19 has brought with it a lot of uncertainties and ambiguity. Men and Women are facing many multi faceted effects such as gender, behavioural, sociological, health etc. Data reveals that both men and women are equally susceptible to corona virus and that more men were infected as compared to women due to low immunity, exposure without protection, and health issues. Data also shows that the death toll was higher among men.

Men and Women both faced job losses which brought a lot of financial pressure within the families paving way for increase in domestic violence, harassment and abuse. Women at home had to face a lot leading to mental health issues. Alcohol withdrawal, fear of being infected, stigmatized, and unemployed were said to be the key reasons for suicidal deaths during the pandemic.

In many families, men are the primary bread winners and the functioning of the whole family depends on them. The pandemic toppled this and brought uncertainties leading to anxiety, stress, depression and much more. Many children lost track of their education as they did not have the resources to study online. Guilt and inability to provide has caused many men to end their lives.
Oxfam India estimates the economic loss from women losing their jobs during the pandemic at about $216 billion, knocking off 8% from the country’s gross domestic product. Ashwini Deshpande, an economics professor at Ashoka University, mentioned in a research paper published on June 3rd that female employment in April was at 61% of the pre-lockdown yearly average and male employment at 71%. This is further expected to decrease in the coming days.

As we face relaxed but extended lock down measures, gender norms are not being considered. Social distancing coupled with quarantine, has exposed women to potential perpetrators and abusive intimate partners mostly their spouse. The government has taken initiatives to counter this issue but still many cases go unreported and continue to take place within the four walls of the house.

This webinar focused on the “Impact of Pandemics on Men and Women”. Eminent speakers with a wealth of knowledge and expertise spoke on the topic and shared practical, workable solutions to the participants. The learnings and recommendations will be compiled for future implementation.

**SPEAKERS**

**Impact of Pandemics on Women**
Ms. Merlin Freeda, Director of Operations, International Justice Mission

**Impact of Pandemics on Children and Women – Experience from Railways**
Ms. Debashmita Chattopadhyay
Divisional Security Commissioner, Railway Protection Force, Bangalore

**Impact of Pandemics on Men**
Commander Ashok VM Kumar
Former Indian Navy Officer
Regional Director, South Asia
International Justice Mission
KEY TAKEAWAYS

- We must build a robust gender specific database for effective coordination between the state and center, formulation of gender neutral policies, and gender sensitive post trauma stress disorder counter services to be planned and executed.
- As an outcome of this pandemic, men have lost their confidence, self-esteem and jobs. There is a lot of pressure on men specifically in families where men are the primary bread winners.
- There are people infected by corona virus and people affected by corona virus. Gender equality must be the center of COVID 19 response. Women must be empowered. There must be equal gender representation in covid 19 response planning and decision making. Information and services on sexual and reproductive health, social protection and economic empowerment must be prioritised.
- Many young girls have been forced to play the role of caretakers for their younger siblings which has resulted in school dropouts. Parents are prioritising education of sons over daughters. Although the effect of the pandemic looks equal, many women are at the receiving end of vulnerabilities across all spheres. Social development that is usually propelled by a child’s social interaction has been largely affected.
- Infectious diseases affect women & men differently as their roles are primarily different. Men spread infection due to travel while women nurse men and consequently get infected.
- As an outcome of Spanish Flu, single mothers and widows received support from the government through social security benefits which needs to be provided now.
- The disruptive effects of these responsibilities on women’s empowerment are well documented. Excess of unpaid care work impacts women’s ability to gain formal employment and in turn affects their health. Job quality penalty as ILO calls it, indicates an increased probability that women will not have good job quality.
- 1 in 6 women experienced sexual or physical violence by their partner before the pandemic. There is now an increased risk of gender violence both at home and work place.
- Drive transformative change for equality by addressing the care economy, both paid and unpaid. Target women and girls in all effects to address the socio economic impact of COVID. It is also important to apply an intentional gender lens to the design of fiscal stimulus packages and social assistance program to achieve greater equality and social protection.
- Collaborative efforts by government and CSOs will assuredly result in lessening the effects of COVID on women. It will also quicken the process of coming out of vulnerable situations.
- Process of migration needs to be well understood to ensure safe migration. Government must prioritise installing One Stop Kiosks to help and support migrants at railway stations.
- All citizens do not have the same level of understanding. The Government must take steps to communicate precise information to all citizens. We must work on the migration issue. The concept of ideal wage for labourers is an area the government needs to look at.
National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
in collaboration With
International Justice Mission (IJM)
invites you to a National Webinar on

CHALLENGES FACED BY STUDENTS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS DURING PANDEMIC – RESPONSES AND WAY FORWARD

23rd September 2020 | 12.00 noon to 02.00PM (IST)

Keynote Address:
Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal
Executive Director,
National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)

Opening Remark:
T. Praisey Glory Bai
Lead, Survivor Advocacy & Rehabilitation
IJM Bengaluru

Speakers

Dr. Miriam Samuel
Associate Professor & Head
Department of Social Work
Madras Christian College

Mrs. Sharen Gideon
Head- HR and L&D
United International School and Institutions

Mr. Kural Amuthan,
Head, Government and Community Relation
International Justice Mission

Moderator:
Bumjangam Chiru
Head, LED
International Justice Mission
Kokuta

Webinar Co-ordinators:
Dr. Ajinder
Assistant Professor,
National Institute of Disaster Management

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Disaster is a serious disruption that occurs over a short or extended period of time, resulting in extensive loss of people, material possessions, economy and or environment which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources or strength. Disaster Management Teams, as a part of their mitigation strategies, plan and collaboratively work with the locals and effectively tackle issues and situations, ensuring normalcy and restoration.

India has the largest population in the world with approximately 500 million people in the age bracket of 5-24 years which presents a large opportunity in the education space. India is the only country which has over 250 million school going students. The Ministry of Education has taken many initiatives to ensure education for children who are of school going age. State governments have also introduced special initiatives like mid-day meal, free laptops, cycles, play-way method, open schooling, etc. But despite these initiatives, there have been challenges in ensuring education for all children due to various socio-economic factors.

The Millennium Development Goals focus on various fields of improvement. India is a signatory to the Millennium Declaration adopted at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2000 and has consistently reaffirmed its commitment towards the eight development goals. India is committed to ensure quality education to all its student population which is one of the goals.
The unexpected disaster caused by the pandemic has left scars in the student community. The mode of learning being made online, many students do not have the required resources or the means to procure them. Families having only one gadget are forced to prioritise the son’s education over the daughter. Educational institutions are also facing challenges in bringing education online. The mental health of the staff and students remains a question mark and there have been instances of suicidal deaths and attempts among students.

This webinar focused on responses and the way forward on the challenges faced by students and educational institutions during the pandemic. Eminent speakers with a wealth of knowledge and experience on the topic gave practical solutions to the participants. The learnings and recommendations have been compiled for future implementation.

**SPEAKERS**

**Challenges faced by Colleges and Students during Pandemics and Way Forward**

**Dr. Miriam Samuel**  
Associate Professor & Head  
Department of Social Work  
Madras Christian College

**Challenges faced by Schools and Students during Pandemics and Way Forward**

**Mrs. Sharen Gideon**  
Head- HR and L&D  
United International School and Institutions

**Challenges faced by the Marginalised Students during Pandemics and Way Forward.**

**Mr. Kural Amuthan,**  
Head, Government and Community Relation, International Justice Mission
KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Due to the earning member of the family being unemployed resulting in shortage of resources, students have been forced to work for a living. As compared to urban areas, students living in rural parts have been affected badly.
- Students have been psychologically affected leading to stress, anxiety, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, loneliness, and lack of peer support. Lack of support and privacy, unconducive environment, and domestic violence have also affected the students.
- Students are facing a lot of technological issues, distractions, seclusion and lack of motivation. Many parents are unable to pay the fees due to unemployment.
- Teachers are facing challenges in evaluating, assessing and engaging students. Many private schools have been shut down and teachers have had to take pay cuts.
- The pandemic has disproportionately impacted children and parents. Child marriages, child bonded labor, juvenile offences, suicidal deaths, and trafficking issues have been rampant.
- As per UNICEF, 321 million school going children have been out of school since lock-down and 370 million children are missing out nutritious mid-day school meal due to the pandemic.
- United Nations’ State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report forecasts that the pandemic could push over 132 million more people into chronic hunger by the end of 2020.
- COVID19 fallout: There has been a 65% increase in suicidal attempts. The NCRB data indicates that most of the victims are daily wage workers who opt for the same due to family problems.
- Direct bank transfer of stimulus package to informal workers/vulnerable communities can prevent hunger. Child Protection Committees at the village, block and district levels need to be strengthened to address grassroots concerns.
- State governments must prioritise the Nutritious Meal Program despite school/ICDS center closure. Policies governing school education across the nation should be consistent to close the gap between the rural and urban scenario.
- 80% of government school students have had no education since the lock-down. There is an expected increase in the number of school drop outs.
- Blended learning - Synchronous learning and asynchronous learning to be explored for best outcome and periodic counseling for teachers and students.
- We must empower students to be technical experts and equip them to adapt to 21st century skills.
National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
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invites you to a National Webinar on

ROLE OF YOUTH IN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

7th October 2020 | 12.00 noon to 02.00PM (IST)

Keynote Address

Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal
Executive Director,
National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)

Opening Remarks

Ajoy Varghese
Vice President - Regional Programs, South Asia,
International Justice Mission

Speakers

Dr. Veerendra Mishra
Director, National Institute of Social Defence,
Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

Dr. S. Lalitha
Assistant Professor,
Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India

Ms. Zothanpuii Varte
Senior Lead, Judicial Trainings,
International Justice Mission, Kolkata

Moderator

Ms. Preethi Hannah Daniel
Head, Partner Casework,
International Justice Mission, Chennai

Webinar Co-ordinators:

Dr. Ajinder
Assistant Professor,
National Institute of Disaster Management

Dr. M. Devasitham
Head, Strategic Development,
International Justice Mission, Chennai

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Role of Youth in Disaster Risk Management

Disaster is a serious disruption that occurs over a short or extended period of time, resulting in extensive loss of people, material possessions, economy and or environment which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources or strength.

Disaster Management Teams, as a part of their mitigation strategies, plan and collaboratively work with the locals and effectively tackle issues and situations, ensuring normalcy and restoration.

The pandemic has left us all with many predicted and unpredicted disastrous outcomes that we are still fighting. It has also brought along with it many positive and negative aspects and learnings. As individuals, we need to be change makers. There is a high hope on the youth of our nation.

As per India’s 2011 Census, youngsters between 15-24 years constituted one-fifth (19.1%) of India’s total population. This is expected to increase to 34.33% by 2020.

Many famous quotes read, “Youth are the future of tomorrow.”,”Youth of today are leaders of tomorrow.”,”Youth are the pillars of the nation”. These signify the importance of youth in development, management and administrative sectors. Capitalising the power of youth will bring them opportunities that can make them responsible citizens and keep them away from anti-social behaviour.
The current pandemic and the disasters in the past have shown the nation the potential of its youth. From being volunteers to having administrative abilities, youth have contributed and proved themselves for good. Identifying, preparing, equipping and taming their skills and abilities will make the nation more powerful. While these series of webinars focus on the impact of disasters and responses, this webinar will focus on learning how youth can be involved in pre, ongoing and post disaster response.

This webinar focused on the "Role of Youth in Disaster Management". Eminent speakers from educational institutions and other fields shared their expertise for desired outcome in the society and the nation as a whole.

**SPEAKERS**

**Mainstreaming Youth in Disaster Risk Management - Activities and Way Forward**  
Dr. Veerendra Mishra  
Director, National Institute of Social Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

**Role of Youth in Pre-Disaster Planning and preparedness**  
Ms. Zothanpuii Varte, Senior Lead, Judicial Trainings, International Justice Mission, Kolkata

**Challenges faced by the Marginalised Students during Pandemics and Way Forward.**  
Dr. S. Lalitha, Assistant Professor, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNiYD)  
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India
India has the youngest workforce and a competing economy in the world. Generation Z (within the age group of 25 and born after 1995) are by and large the most connected, realistic and socially conscious of their day to day lives. Having such a huge capital of youth, we must invest in them and synergise.

A nation with effectively functioning systems will be one that can deters crimes.

There is a need for local level task force comprising of youth who will contribute to enforce guidelines, guard borders against illegal entries, trace contacts, and carry on relief work.

Creating a scheme, setting up a task force to mobilise youth and building their capacity will be beneficial.

Developing curriculum, bringing high visibility and involving the youth in creating a safety net for combating Human Trafficking are ways in which we can engage the youth.

To empower the youth, we must create a productive workforce, develop a strong and healthy generation, instill social values, promote community service, facilitate participation, civic involvement, and support youth at risk with equal opportunities.

UN’s strategy to engage with youth for its 2030 vision is to have them engage and participate in SDGs, make them leaders, solution catalysts and full-fledged partners.

Youth being in the active age group, dynamic with full of potential, with a strong urge to learn, having societal and community sentiments and a longing for identity and recognition makes them crucial players in the nations’ development.

During disasters, youth can be engaged as front-line workers, service providers or volunteers, supporting in resource mapping and capability response, and in also devising resilient recovery plans for the community. Their role can also extended in emergency information management - data collection, analysis, consolidation and dissemination, vulnerability assessment and in coordinating rebuilding and communication planning activities such as awareness creation, support and protection.

We must view youth as a significant social capital and a critical stakeholder in mitigation measures and promote structured volunteering activities (goals, strategies, relationship building with NGOS and Govt, etc.)

Initiate Community Disaster Management Authority at village level. The youth group which could be the Community Emergency Response Team in each village should have a village development plan.

We must look into synergising youth and build them instead of just seeing them as group that can react during disasters. We must train youth to be proactive.
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Citizens should prioritise receiving information from the right sources. We must avoid relying on social media for information which is filled with myths and rumours, and not ascertain a situation based on this information.
- First responders in any disaster must be trained and certified to handle such situations. The training should also cover the mental well-being of the first responders.
- Human Trafficking can be controlled if we stop the trafficker. It is our responsibility to stop the trafficker from exploiting the vulnerable. This stringent action will provide greater chance for citizens to thrive in freedom with safety and protection.
- Child protection units must recruit experts to provide improved quality of investigation, and effective supervision of cases through software, for just convictions.
- Public awareness on social causes should increase. Victim compensation under schemes must be effectively disbursed. Standard Operating Procedures must be developed with victim centric approach.
- Human Trafficking needs to be tackled in the sociological and economic front. There needs to be a change in the thought process of every citizen and thus education plays a major role.
- Creating safe and aware communities, building the capacity of responders, identifying vulnerable groups, organising a scientific vulnerable study, and redeploying to create awareness is the best vaccine/solution to combat Human Trafficking. This is a proven and available model.
- Focus on Care, Protection, Justice and Prevention. Establish survivor collective and build their capacity. Training the workers, collaborating with non-profits, investing on people who are vulnerable, strengthening the CBOs and speedy disposal of cases are some of the key solutions to combat Human Trafficking.
- Citizens should be sensitised on equality and inclusion which will ensure a safer community to everyone including the Transgender community.
- Health care & psycho-social needs are unique for transgenders and they need a sensitive team to cater. Food security, endowment of financial aid by employment, access to health care, shelter, security, sanitation needs to be prioritised. Documentation for identity proof should come through a single window system that would help them receive the benefits without any hassle.
- Sensitisation is important and plays a crucial role in understanding and clearing myths. It must begin at an early age in schools and educational institutions. The Government must issue an Order to ensure safety of transgenders.
- App traps, Phishing, Fake Job Advertisements, Cyber pornography, Sextortion, Child Grooming are the top criminal activities taking place in online platforms. Parents must be careful when they post about their children. Photos, videos of children can be stolen by the paedophiles.
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Sensitisation is the need of the hour. And while we create awareness about the crime, it is also important to focus on one’s self-respect, self-confidence and ensure that we never find our worth through the eyes of others. The handbook on cyber safety released by the MHA and the pictorial book on cyber safety are good resources to understand simple steps to online safety.
- Investment and opportunities provided through MNREGA are an option to provide employment to the returned migrants post pandemic. Creating a credential database that can help mitigate these challenges by helping the government identify, track and manage skills for work requirement.
- The CDC approach will address Prevention & Awareness, provide Protection & Care, help create Safe and strong communities and enable people who are vulnerable have Access to Justice Systems.
- During reverse migration, investing in education, vocational education, and skill development will give greater outcomes. Providing access to financial products and services will create a financial safety net.
- Create a local level task force comprising of youth who will contribute towards enforcing guidelines, guarding borders, tracing contacts, and relief work.
- Initiate Community Disaster Management Authority at village level. The youth group which could be the Community Emergency Response Team in each village should have a village development plan. We must synergise youth and build them instead of just seeing them as group that can react during disasters. We should train them to be proactive.
- Direct bank transfer of stimulus package to informal workers/vulnerable communities can prevent hunger. Child Protection Committees at the village, block and district levels need to be strengthened to address grassroots concerns. State governments must prioritise the Nutritious Meal Program despite school/ICDS center closure. Policies governing school education across the nation should be consistent to close the gap between the rural and urban scenario.
- There is a need for counselling at regular intervals for students, parents and teachers. Just a time of conversation, informal meeting or listening can potentially alleviate a lot of issues relating to mental health.
- Drive transformative change for equality by addressing the care economy, both paid and unpaid. Target women and girls in all effects to address the socioeconomic impact of COVID. It is also important to apply an intentional gender lens to the design of fiscal stimulus packages and social assistance program to achieve greater equality and social protection.
FOR MORE INFORMATION

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