

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE: THE WAY FORWARD FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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The tropical cyclone of 1991 with wind speed of 225 km per hour killed over 300,000 people in Bangladesh, whereas a year later Hurricane Andrew with even higher wind velocity (285 km/h) left a causality of only 18 in the United States of America. So, it is not only the fury of any hazard which is responsible for the loss of life and property, but there are other factors such as poor physical, social, economic and political infrastructures. Again, in a developing country, it is the poor and the disadvantaged who are always affected by any disaster, but not the rich and the powerful.

Today in many developing countries, lack of financial resources for disaster management is not always the problem, but its effective utilization is. Even after the adaptation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) held in Kobe in 2005 and the declaration made at the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) in Geneva in 2009, large sums of money are spent on post-disaster emergency relief and rehabilitation operations, physical infrastructural developments, procurement of equipments and machineries, and also on highly paid western consultants for research and studies. However, insignificant investments are made for the reduction of the risks of the poor and the disadvantaged communities. There is an urgent need to appreciate that the poor have no other option but forced to live in high disaster risk areas only to earn a living. They are exploited economically, socially and even politically.

So, disasters should not be seen in isolation. Any effort aiming at community resilience for disaster risk reduction should address the root causes of the problems and contribute to the establishment of good governance in social, disaster risk, economic and political spheres. The centre for all activities related to disaster management should be the people at risk. The focus should be on the empowerment of the poor and disadvantaged communities so that they can identify and prioritize their risks, plan for mitigation and treat the risk factors. Ultimately they should have direct access to and control over the public resources allocated to them and establish their rights to reduce their risks, be it disaster, social, economic or political. This is the only solution to address the challenge of disaster resilience in the developing countries and break the vicious cycle of poverty and disaster.

Keywords: community, resilience, empowerment



COMPARISON

COUNTRY	YEAR	WIND SPEED (per hour)	HUMAN CASUALTY
BANGLADESH	1991	225 KM	138,000+
USA	1992	240 KM	18



HALIMA

- **WIDOW**
- **VICTIM OF RIVER-BANK EROSION**
- **LANDLESS**
- **3 FAMILY MEMBERS**
- **DOMESTIC AID AND POULTRY REARING**
- **AVERAGE DAILY INCOME IS TK 30**

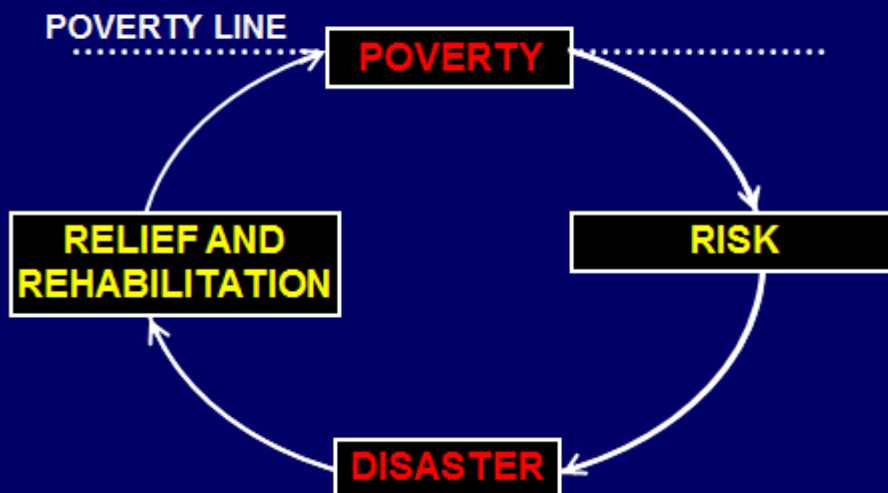


SHARNA KUMAR JALADAS





VICIOUS CYCLE OF DISASTER AND POVERTY



COMPARISON OF RISKS

VALUES : 1 - 5
(LOWEST - HIGHEST)

JASIM MANDAL :

$$\text{RISK} = (H) 5 \times \frac{(V) 1}{(C) 5} = 1$$

HALIMA :

$$\text{RISK} = (H) 5 \times \frac{(V) 5}{(C) 1} = 25$$

UDPC

HALIMA :

$$\text{RISK} = (H) 5 \times \frac{(V) \cancel{5}^4}{(C) \cancel{1}_2} = 10$$

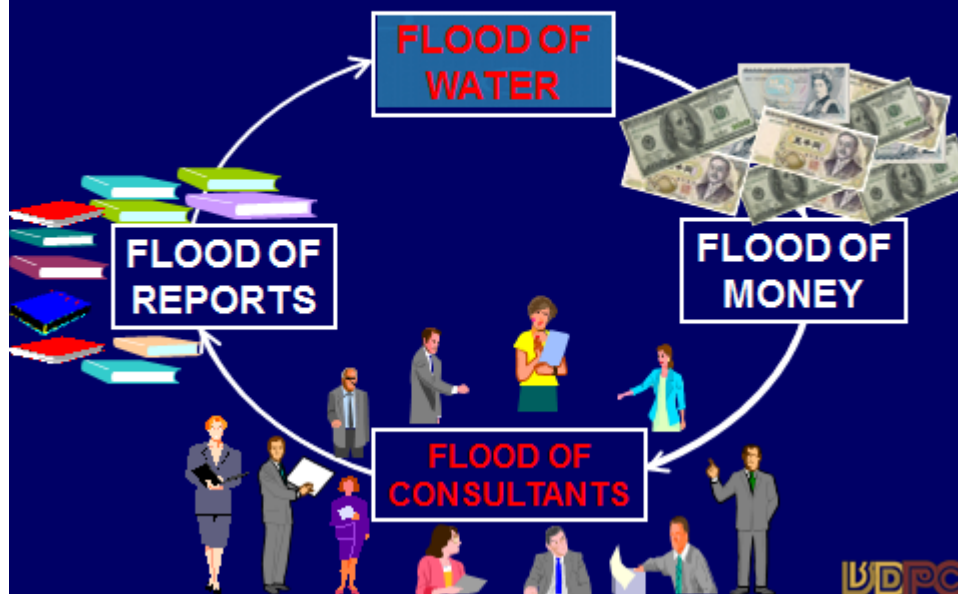
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HOW THE MONEY IS SPENT ?

- RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ✓
- **INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT** ✓
- HIGHLY PAID CONSULTANTS ✓

UDPC

CYCLE OF FLOODS



TRICKLE DOWN THEORY



THE WAY FORWARD

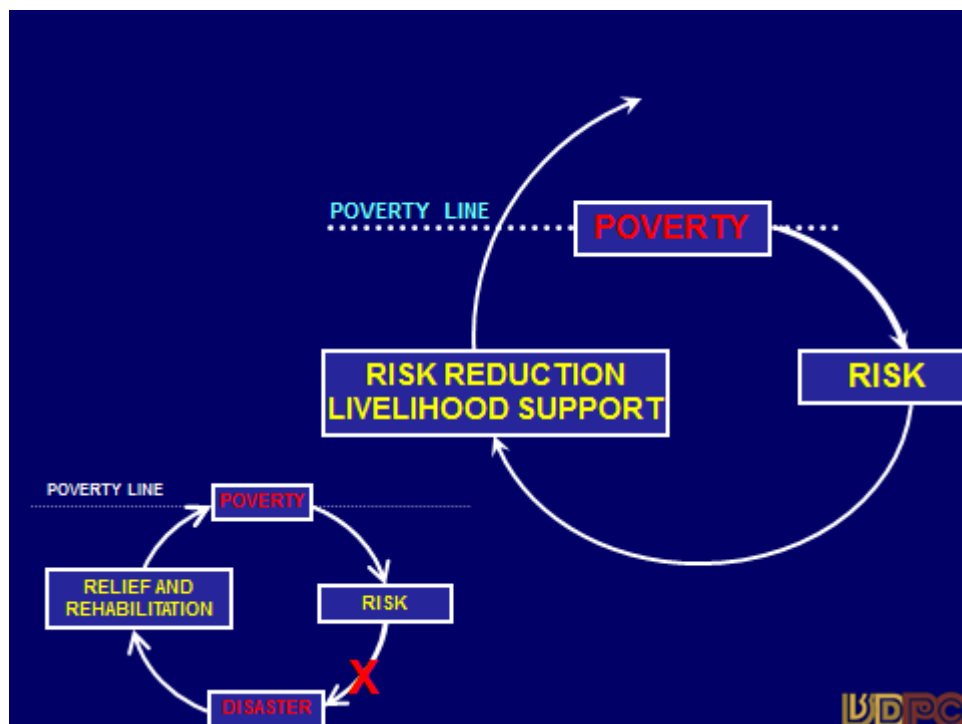
- ✓ **COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT**
(SOCIAL AND POLITICAL)
- ✓ **SUSTAINED LIVELIHOOD**
- ✓ **DISASTER RESILIENCE**

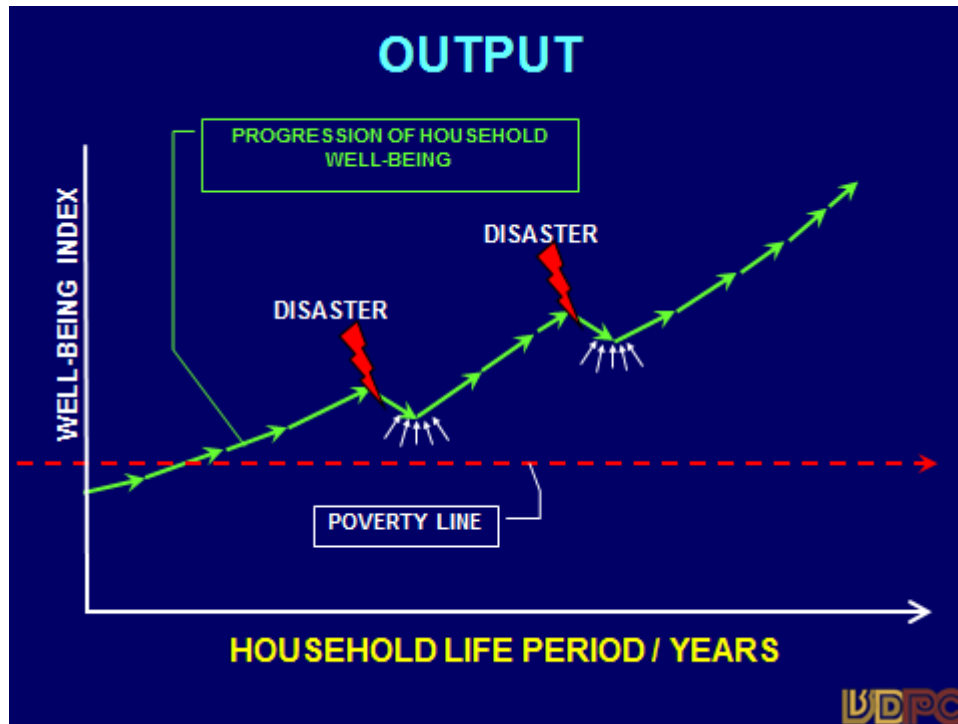


RESILIENCE

✓ **ABSORB SHOCK**

✓ **BOUNCE BACK**





OUTPUT Contd.

- SUSTAINED RESILIENCE
- **EMPOWERMENT OF THE POOR**
- ALLEVIATION OF POVERTY
- **ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMOCRACY**

CHALLENGES

- DE-EDUCATION OF CONSULTANTS
- **CHANGE OF MIND-SET OF KEY ACTORS**
- A BELIEF IN THE POTENTIAL POWER OF THE POOR
- **INTEGRATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT INTO DAY TO DAY LIFE**
- SUSTAINED SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS COMMITMENTS



WIN

WIN

WIN





THANK YOU

