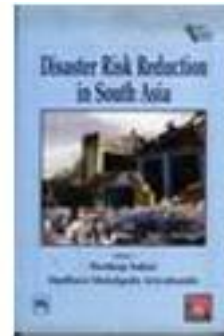


Disaster Risk Reduction in South Asia

South Asia represents a region highly prone to natural disasters. The region suffered 15 out of the 40 major disasters in the world from 1970 to 2000. Disasters not only disrupt the normal life of the affected communities and the countries but also impede developmental efforts as the funds earmarked for new initiatives often need to be diverted for relief and rehabilitation work. By and large, the approach of the major stakeholders has been 'reactive' rather than 'proactive'. In consonance with the need of the hour, some efforts are now being made in South Asia towards disaster risk reduction by adhering to effective participatory strategies. Yet, it is a long way to achieving the desired results. There is indeed, a dire need for concerted and well-planned efforts to achieve risk reduction through risk identification, and sharing and transfer of information.



This edited volume explores how the risk of disasters can be reduced by structural and non-structural measures with detailed, comprehensive and participatory strategies, so that the money thus saved can be utilized for development projects. Twenty-seven contributors, both academicians and practitioners, investigate the challenges that the region faces and how changes can be effected at the community, society, government and non-government levels to foster a culture of preparedness.

The overall focus is on risk reduction through prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. Some case studies from different settings dealing with various disasters have also been included in the volume. Since disaster risk reduction is an area of great concern and there is absolute dearth of literature addressing this issue with regard to South Asia, this volume will be of immense utility and interest to government departments, NGOs, insurance companies, universities, training institutes, professional associates, media, general public, and students pursuing courses in disaster management.