

Special Centre for Disaster Research

This is a Transdisciplinary Centre for Disaster Research. It attempts to bring decision making closer to the relationship which a society at any given point of time shares with nature or in conflict with nature. It addresses the gaps in disaster research by bridging natural sciences to social sciences with the objective of strengthening resilience of vulnerable populations of humans, non-humans and of their habitat erosion. Preparedness is the key to disaster management and the Centre attempts to address this fundamental lack of research in this area by looking into institutions, legal frameworks and into strategies which build community resilience in vulnerable zones.

The main aim of this Centre is to address the policy issues embedded within the management of disasters. There is a phenomenal increase in disasters due to human expansion against nature. This is coupled with uncontrollable and unending impacts encountered due to climate change, fragile ecosystems, unprotected human and animal habitats, counterproductive laws and lack of critical thinking in disaster management institutions. While science has done much to bring knowledge into the understanding of these disasters it could not do enough on the much needed critical thinking based capacities and skills of institutional structures and practicing administrators on one hand and dissemination of knowledge to the inhabitants in risk regions. Since the Hyogo Declaration of 2005 the pedagogy of disaster studies has much changed to expose the relative apathy and indifference of social sciences to their enormously important role and contribution to disaster research. Their research and recommendations towards vulnerability mapping, disaster risk reduction and building community resilience involves an understanding of the nature and content of governance, law and the constitution, innate capacities and local culture of communities. Mapping of changes in the pedagogical approaches will cultivate a habit of critical thinking in the course curricula of disaster management and revisit the jargon of research such as 'a disaster', 'preparedness', 'resilience' and 'vulnerability' to name a few which will innovate studies and research in disaster management and help in redefining 'accountability', 'victimology', 'criminality' and 'compensation' within the contemporary constitutional jurisprudence. Research in disaster management would also look into state and district administrative agencies, public-private partnership in preparedness and community resilience building, budget and fund allocations to states.

Programmes of Study: M.Phil/Ph.D. and Ph.D. (Proposed)