



CLASS IX
DISASTER MANAGEMENT
UNIT V
CHAPTER 1 – UNDERSTANDING KEY TERMS

NOTES

- **Hazard** – Hazard is a dangerous natural or man-made condition that could cause injury, loss of life, damage to property or environment.
- It has three types:-
 - (i) **Natural hazards** caused by nature like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis etc.
 - (ii) **Social-natural hazards** caused by both natural and man-made factors like floods, droughts, fires, landslides etc,
 - (iii) **Man-made hazards** caused by human beings like the leakage of toxic gas, explosion, pollution dam failures, war, civil strife etc.
- **Disaster** – Disaster is a natural or man-made event that kills a lot of people or causes a lot of damage to property or environment, e.g., **cyclone, earthquake, flood, drought, tsunami, fire, leakage of toxic gas, war etc.**
- Since disaster affects large number of people, external aid is required to make up the losses.
- **Vulnerability** – Vulnerability is the extent to which a person or a community can be affected by natural disaster or man-made conditions.
- **Economically or socially backward people are more vulnerable** to disaster because they do not have safe shelters, awareness, education, training etc.
- **Women, children, old people and physically challenged are more vulnerable** to disaster than healthy adults.
- **Risk** – Risk is a measure of the potential to cause damage. When vulnerability and hazard are high, disaster risk is also high.
- **Capacity** – Capacity is defined as the community to intervene and manage a hazard in order to reduce potential impact.
- Risk is expressed by the notation:

$$\text{Risk} = \frac{\text{Hazards X Vulnerability}}{\text{Capacity}}$$

- About 60% of land in **India is prone to earthquakes**; 70% of the cultivable land in India is drought-prone; 12% is prone to floods and 8% to cyclones.
- **Kashmir and parts of North-East India are facing the hazards of terrorism and war.**
