



# Role of Students in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Karimganj College

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**Abstract:** This paper explores the involvement of students at Karimganj College in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM), focusing on their active roles in preparedness, awareness campaigns, and building community resilience. Utilizing both primary and secondary sources, the study assesses student participation and institutional efforts. Results indicate that students significantly contribute to raising disaster awareness, engaging in mock drills, and developing key skills such as first aid and rescue techniques. The college facilitates disaster education through seminars, training sessions, and activities organized by NSS and NCC, fostering a culture of safety and responsibility. The research underscores the importance of integrating disaster education into higher education to boost youth engagement in risk mitigation. Recommendations for the future include incorporating DRRM into the curriculum, enhancing practical training, and strengthening collaborations with local disaster management agencies to develop a more resilient and prepared community.

**Keywords:** Disaster Risk Reduction, Student Participation, Karimganj College, Community Resilience.

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

The role of students in disaster risk reduction and management is increasingly recognized, particularly through the involvement of educational institutions such as Karimganj College. These institutions do more than provide academic instruction; they also promote awareness of disaster preparedness and resilience with particular reference to earthquake flood and epidemic through district administration management authority. By incorporating disaster management into their curricula, colleges help students acquire skills in risk assessment, first aid, and community response. Students then become responsible citizens who share knowledge and raise awareness within their families and communities.

### Brief Description of Karimganj College

Karimganj College started in 1946 and is one of the first colleges in Assam. It helps students learn about Science, Arts, and Commerce. The college is located near the Kushiara River, which is on the border between India and Bangladesh. For over sixty years, it has been important for education in the area. Now, it is one of the top colleges connected to Assam University. In 2010, the college received a 'B' grade for its quality from a special organization called NAAC. The college is also one of two schools in Assam that offers special computer programs. Since 2005, students can study for degrees in Computer Science and Computer Applications. In 2006, they started a special program in Biotechnology as well. The college is excited to welcome new students who come with big dreams. It hopes that all students will grow in knowledge and character while learning in a healthy and supportive place, becoming strong in body, mind, and spirit.

The Department of Commerce, Karimganj College began its journey as an independent stream during the session 1947-48 and by 1965 a full grown stream under the able guidance of R.C. Roy, G. Bhadra and M.L. Saha. Calcutta University extended its affiliation to the College in certain subjects of Commerce to the IA Standard with effect from commencement of the session 1947-48. In 1950, the University of Gauhati accorded its affiliation to it. With this



commerce became a separate department with Profesor R.C. Roy as the Head. Befoe introduction of B.Com in 1959 Anil Kumar Deb, Ashok Chattarjee, Rathindra Kumar Acharjee Choudhury and Gajanan Bhadra were appointed in 1952, 1954 and 1958 respectively. But among them only Professor Bhadra rendered full length of service in the department. During the tenure of his leadership, Honours in Accountancy was introduced in the department in 1971. After introduction of three year degree structure, Honours in Banking and Insurance and Accountancy was introduced in 1962. At present the Dept. of Commerce has been running one Certificate Course in “Tax Procedure and Practice” which was introduced from 2020. The objective of this course is to extend it to Diploma and Advanced Diploma for the students of B.Com 1st Sem. to 6th Sem. Gradually.

### **Concept and Importance of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM):**

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) involve taking proactive measures to lessen the impact of natural or human-made disasters like floods, earthquakes, or fires. It emphasizes preparing individuals before disasters occur and supporting their response and recovery afterward. Activities under DRRM include awareness campaigns, safety training, and rescue planning, and constructing safer buildings. Its primary aim is to save lives, protect property, and minimize damages during emergencies. Additionally, DRRM helps communities build resilience and confidence in handling future risks. It is crucial because it educates people on how to act wisely during emergencies and promotes collaboration among students, teachers, and citizens to create a safer, disaster-ready society.

### **Need for Active Youth Participation in Disaster Management:**

Engaging young people actively in disaster management is crucial because they are energetic, flexible, and quick to learn. They can significantly contribute to raising awareness, assisting during emergencies, and supporting recovery efforts. Youth can volunteer in rescue missions, conduct safety campaigns, and educate their communities about disaster preparedness. Their participation fosters a sense of responsibility and teamwork within society. By training and involving students in disaster management activities, a nation can develop a generation that is informed, prepared, and capable of responding efficiently to crises, ultimately minimizing risks and saving lives during disasters.

### **Relevance of Involving Educational Institutions:**

Including educational institutions such as Karimganj College in disaster management efforts is highly important because colleges function as hubs for learning, awareness, and community involvement. Students can be educated in areas like disaster preparedness, first aid, and emergency response, thereby enhancing the resilience of the community. The college can host seminars, workshops, and mock drills to improve both knowledge and practical skills among students. As a prominent institution in the area, Karimganj College can also partner with local authorities to raise awareness about disasters and promote safety practices. By incorporating disaster education into its programs, the college contributes to developing responsible citizens who are equipped to effectively handle and respond to emergencies.

### **Overview of Disaster Vulnerability in Assam:**

Assam is one of India’s most disaster-prone states, frequently affected by natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes. Every year, flooding is caused by the Barak River and its, including the Kushiya, Longai, and Singla rivers and its tributaries results in significant loss of lives, property, crops, and infrastructure, impacting thousands. The state is also situated in Seismic Zone V, the highest risk zone for earthquakes, making it susceptible to frequent tremors and potential major quakes. Landslides in hilly regions and riverbank erosion further exacerbate the disaster situation. These recurring calamities disrupt livelihoods, education, and communication networks. Consequently, implementing effective disaster management, raising awareness, and preparing communities are crucial for minimizing risks and safeguarding the people of Assam from the devastating effects of floods and earthquakes.

## **2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:**

Disaster risk reduction education helps students develop awareness, preparedness, and safety skills to face emergencies effectively. It empowers them to act responsibly and share knowledge within their communities. However, challenges such as limited resources, increased workload, and lack of teacher training can affect the successful implementation of disaster education. Some authors have systematically studied the topic and found that disaster risk reduction education improves students’ awareness and preparedness.

Research indicates that students possess a high level of awareness regarding disaster risk reduction, which correlates positively with their preparedness levels (Abas et al., 2024). Integrating disaster risk reduction into school curricula fosters a deeper understanding among students, enabling them to respond effectively to potential threats (Kamarudin, 2024). Students act as agents of change, transferring knowledge from schools to their families and communities, thereby amplifying the impact of disaster preparedness initiatives (Pambudi & Ashari, 2019). Schools in disaster-prone areas play a crucial role in developing students' understanding of risks and preparedness strategies, which can significantly reduce casualties during disasters (Pambudi & Ashari, 2019). Including disaster risk reduction in education helps students become more aware and prepared for emergencies. It builds confidence and teaches them how to act quickly and safely during disasters. Students also share this knowledge with their families and communities, which increases overall safety. When schools provide disaster training, students learn practical skills like first aid and evacuation methods, reducing loss of life and property.

Some people argue that adding disaster management to the school curriculum may increase students' workload. Without proper training or resources, teachers may find it hard to teach the topic effectively. In some areas, students might not take disaster education seriously unless it is made practical and engaging.

### 3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To identify the role of College students in disaster preparedness and response
- To understand students' participation in awareness and training programs on DRR
- To highlight the initiatives taken by the college to promote disaster management

### 4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

This descriptive study utilizes both primary and secondary sources. Primary data were obtained through observations and informal conversations with students and faculty at Karimganj College. Secondary data were collected from books, journals, reports, and online resources pertaining to disaster management. The research aims to explore students' roles, involvement, and the college's efforts in enhancing disaster risk reduction and preparedness.

### 5. DISCUSSION:

#### Role of College Students in Disaster Preparedness and Response:

College students contribute significantly to disaster preparedness and response through their knowledge, enthusiasm, and communication abilities, aiding communities in staying protected. Their involvement in awareness campaigns, training sessions, and emergency assistance enhances disaster management initiatives and fosters a culture of safety and resilience within society. The following points elaborate on this.

- Awareness Building:** College students can increase understanding of disaster hazards, safety protocols, and preparedness strategies by organizing seminars, rallies, and utilizing social media platforms.
- Volunteer Assistance:** They can help local agencies in emergencies by participating in rescue, relief, and recovery efforts.
- First Aid and Emergency Help:** Trained students are able to offer first aid and basic medical help to victims in emergency situations.
- Community Education:** Students can teach families and local residents about the appropriate actions to take before, during, and after emergencies.
- Organizing Mock Drills:** Participating actively in mock drills enable individuals and others to practice and reinforce safe evacuation procedures.
- Environmental Conservation:** Students can participate in activities such as planting trees, managing waste, and controlling floods to help minimize the risk of disasters.
- Communication Network:** They can use digital platforms to share accurate information and prevent panic during emergencies.



## Students' Participation in Awareness and Training Programs on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Students contribute significantly to disaster risk reduction by engaging actively in awareness campaigns and training sessions. By participating in workshops, simulated drills, and community outreach efforts, they acquire vital safety skills and spread awareness among others. Their involvement fosters confidence, readiness, and leadership qualities, ultimately supporting the development of safer and more resilient communities. The subsequent points address the importance of student participation in awareness and training initiatives.

- a. **Active Involvement:** Students actively participate in seminars, workshops, and awareness campaigns related to disaster preparedness.
- b. **Skill Development:** Training sessions enable participants to acquire knowledge in first aid, rescue techniques, and safety protocols.
- c. **NSS/NCC Participation:** Students participate in disaster preparedness and relief efforts through their involvement in NSS and NCC programs.
- d. **Knowledge Sharing:** They share information about disaster safety with their families and community members.
- e. **Practical Experience:** Practical training through mock drills and simulation exercises enhances confidence and improves the ability to respond quickly.
- f. **Collaboration:** Students collaborate with teachers, non-governmental organizations, and local officials to support disaster risk reduction efforts.
- g. **Leadership Role:** They serve as youth leaders, encouraging a culture of safety and resilience.

## Initiatives Taken by the College to Promote Disaster Management:

Colleges are essential in raising awareness and preparing students and communities for disasters. Karimganj College has implemented various actions to promote disaster management and foster a culture of safety and resilience.

- a. **Awareness Programs:** Organizing seminars, workshops, and safety lectures.
- b. **Mock Drills:** Conducting regular evacuation and fire safety drills.
- c. **Training Camps:** Providing first aid and rescue training in collaboration with local authorities.
- d. **NSS and NCC Activities:** Engaging students in awareness and relief work.
- e. **Disaster Management Cell:** Coordinating all disaster-related activities.
- f. **Environmental Projects:** Promoting tree plantation and flood control measures.
- g. **Community Outreach:** Spreading disaster preparedness awareness among nearby residents.

Through various initiatives like mock drills, environmental projects, and NSS/NCC activities, the college fosters a culture of preparedness, resilience, and social responsibility among students and the community.

## 6. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

- a. The students actively participate in disaster awareness and preparedness activities.
- b. The college effectively supports disaster management through seminars, mock drills, and training.
- c. Students gain practical skills like first aid and rescue operations.
- d. Students help spread disaster awareness in nearby communities.

## 7. CONCLUSION & SUGGESTIONS:

The study highlights Karimganj College's notable efforts in advancing disaster preparedness and management by actively involving students. Students contribute to raising awareness, participating in mock drills, and developing vital skills such as first aid and rescue techniques. The college's initiatives including awareness campaigns, training programs, and community outreach have bolstered a culture of disaster resilience. By incorporating disaster management into student activities through NSS, NCC, and environmental projects, the institution not only improves readiness but also fosters a sense of social responsibility among students. Overall, Karimganj College stands out as a model for encouraging youth engagement and community cooperation in effective disaster risk reduction and sustainable safety practices. Some key recommendations are also provided



- a. **Include Disaster Management in Curriculum:** The College may introduce short-term courses or certificate programs on disaster preparedness and risk reduction.
- b. **Enhance Practical Training:** More frequent mock drills and hands-on rescue training should be organized to improve students' real-life response skills.
- c. **Strengthen Community Collaboration:** The College can partner with local authorities, NGOs, and disaster management agencies to expand outreach and awareness activities in nearby areas.

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