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# Diploma in Pharmacy 1<sup>st</sup> Year

## Social Pharmacy

### Experiment

To study the role of Pharmacist in disaster management

#### Aim:

To study the role of pharmacist in disaster management

#### Reference :

Dr. Gupta G.D , Dr. Sharma Shailesh , Dr. Sharma Anshu , “ Practical Manual of Social Pharmacy ” Published by Nirali Prakashan , Pg.No 47 - 49

#### Theory :

A disaster is a serious problem occurring over a short or long period of time that causes widespread human, material, economic or environmental loss which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources.

#### Types of Disasters :

There are two types of disasters.

**1) Natural Disasters :** The disasters that are caused by nature are termed as natural disasters.

**i) Earthquake :** Earthquake is a sudden and violent shaking of ground causing great destruction as a result of movement of earth's crust. An earthquake has the potential to tsunami or volcanic eruption.

**ii) Cyclone :** Cyclones (or more properly called Tropical Cyclones) are a type of severe spinning storm that occurs over the ocean near the tropics.

**iii) Tsunami :** Tsunamis are giant waves, initiated by a sudden change, usually in relative position of underwater tectonic plates. The sudden jerk is enough to propagate the wave, however, its power can be enhanced and fed by lunar positioning and boundaries that focus its energy.

**2) Man-made Disaster :** The disasters which are caused as a result of human activities are termed as Man Made Disasters eg. Road accident, terrorist attack.

**i) Road Accidents :** Road accidents are common in India due to reckless driving, untrained drivers and poor maintenance of roads and vehicles. According to Lifeline Foundation, the Ahmadabad based organisation working for road safety, India accounts for 13 per cent of road accident fatalities worldwide.

**ii) Terrorist Attack :** Devastating acts such as the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon have left many concerned about the possibility of future incidents in the United States and their potential impact. Terrorism may involve devastating acts using weapons of mass destruction ranging from chemical agents, biological hazards, a radiological or nuclear device, and other explosives.

### **Role of Pharmacist in Disaster Management**

Pharmacists are uniquely placed in the community to be of assistance to disaster-affected patients. However, the roles undertaken by pharmacists in disasters are identified based on their own experiences and networks.

- Providing vaccinations to the affected people.
- Providing consultations on wound infections and other serious health related issues.
- The principal task of the modern pharmacist is to identify, resolve and prevent drug-related problems
- The Pharmacist will dispense drugs prescribed by physicians and other health practitioners and provide information to patients about medications and their use.
- Maintains records for controlled substances and removes out-dated and damaged drugs from the pharmacy inventory.
- Provides pharmacological information by answering questions and requests of health care professionals and counselling patients on drug therapies.
- Protects patients and technicians by adhering to infection-control protocols.

- Develops hospital staff's pharmacological knowledge by participating in clinical programs and training pharmacy staff, students, interns, externs residents, and health care professionals.
- Emergency and disaster pharmacy serves to ensure the best possible pharmaceutical care for the population during major incidents and disasters as well as in other exceptional situations.
- Have plans in place to enable them to limit the impact of disasters and respond appropriately in the event of a disaster.

**Result :** The role of pharmacist in disaster management was studied.

