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Swami Vivekananda Chair Professor and HOD Environment and Disaster Management
Former Secretary National Disaster Management Authority
Executive Director, National Disaster Management Authority
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Member Advisory Board Central Emergency Response Fund United Nations
Member Expert Groups UNISDR, UNOCHA, UNFCCC

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

I started my career as an Assistant Professor of Political Science in University of Calcutta, joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1980 and held various challenging assignments at local, provincial, national, regional and international levels for nearly three and half decades. The first decade of my service was spent in districts, administering various regulatory and development programmes and projects. The next decade was occupied mostly in formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes at the provincial level, while during the last and decade and half I was mostly engaged in national, regional and international level initiatives in different fields.

My main areas of professional experience during this period included disaster risk management, urban development, infrastructure development and management, federal governance, poverty alleviation, and gender issues in development. My long stint in government gave me deep insights into the issues of governance, coordination, implementation, enforcement, monitoring and evaluation.

After my superannuation from service in I was engaged with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) as a Distinguished Fellow and with TERI University (now TERI Institute for Advanced Studies) as an Adjunct Faculty. I have been involved with various academic institutions and policy think tanks for delivering lectures, guiding research studies, and leading discussions.

I did international consultancy assignments with various UN agencies like UNISDR, UNHABITAT, UNOPS, UNDP, UNESCAP, IWMI, WFP and the World Bank and contributed several technical papers in books and journals, besides editing a number of book

EXPERTISE ON DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

I have hands on experience with disaster risk management over a decade and half. In the early stage of my career (1984-1985) I had worked as Chief Executive Officer of Emergency Relief Organisation and supervised emergency relief management at various places. I was involved with flood relief and reconstruction works during my posting as District Commissioner/ District Magistrate during 1986-1990.

I was Executive Director of the National Institute of Disaster Management of India (2005-2011) and served as Secretary National Disaster Management Authority (2011-2013). During this period I contributed to the development of national level policies, guidelines and plans on disaster management. I developed the NIDM from a scratch and made it one of the premier institutes for training and research on disaster management in the region. The institute played important role in conducting post disaster need assessment following Indian Ocean tsunami 2004, Kashmir earthquake 2005, Koshi flood 2008, Indian drought 2009 and Cyclone Aila 2011. The institute developed training modules on PDNA and conducted several training programmes for key functionaries. India specific tools for PDNA were also developed.

I was founding Director of SAARC Disaster Management Centre (2006-2011) that had jurisdiction over eight countries of South Asia (Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives). I developed through a consultative process the South Asian Regional Framework on Disaster Management and the regional road maps on different aspects and issues of disaster management. This included post disaster response, relief and reconstruction. I was involved with studies on post disaster recovery following 2004 tsunami in India, Sri Lanka and Maldives, 2005 earthquake in Pakistan, 2008 floods in India and Nepal and 2009 drought in India and Afghanistan.

During this period I had the opportunity of being involved with various international expert groups on different aspects on disaster risk management. The most important was my nomination by UN Secretary General as Member of the Advisory Group on Central Emergency Response Fund. This provided me valuable exposures to disaster and conflict situations around the world and opportunities to develop guidelines for addressing the immediate needs for response and relief and for systematically assessing damage, loss and needs for post disaster rehabilitation and recovery.

I was involved by the UNISDR for their works on 'Gender Issues on Disaster Risk Reduction' (2006-2007), and development of 'Indicators for Measuring Progress in Implementation of Hyogo Framework of Action' (2007-2008) and Indicators for Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-16). I was also part of expert group consultations of UNFCCC (2018) on development of indicators on assessing progress on national adaptation goals under Paris Agreement on climate change.

I was involved with International Recovery Platform in Kobe Japan (2009-10) in reviewing some of their guidance documents on disaster recovery

I was a member of the Technical Committee of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) of the World Bank for evaluation of their Track-II programme on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in development (2014). I was also a member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum of the UNDP Dryland Development Programme in Nairobi, Kenya (2010-2014).

I was engaged as Chairman of Scientific and Technical Committee for the organisation of four World Congresses on Disaster Management held in Vishakhapatnam, Mumbai, and Delhi in 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2021.

CONSULTANCIES

I was commissioned to work on a number of consultancy projects on disaster risk management. This includes the following:

- World Food Programme (2021) – *Strengthening Humanitarian Systems in India*
- GIZ India (2020) – *Designing the Framework of Climate Change Knowledge Network in Himachal Pradesh*
- UNDP Myanmar (2019) – *Mainstreaming DRR in Development in Rakhine State of Myanmar*
- UNESCAP (2018) – Think Piece on ‘Equality, Empowerment, Inclusion for Building Resilience to Disasters’ for HLPF 2019
- IWMI (2019) – Strategic Framework for Research on Water Related Disasters
- UNDP Myanmar (2017) – *National Capacity Development Strategy on Disaster Management.*
- UNDP India (2016-2019) - *Disaster Score Card for the States and Union Territories of India*
- UNDP India (2015) - *Disaster Management Plan for the Indian State of Himachal Pradesh*
- UNDP India (2015) - *Model Template of Departmental Disaster Management Plan.*
- UNISDR (2016) - *Policy Guidance for Implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia-Pacific.*
- UNESCAP (2016) - *Guidelines on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk reduction in the Asia-Pacific.*
- UNISDR (2014) - Background Paper on ‘*Underlying Risk Factors*’ for discussion in Sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangkok, 2014.
- UNOPS (2014) - Theme Paper on the Federal Provisions of the Draft Constitution of Yemen.
- UN-HABITAT (2015) - *Strategic Framework and Work Programme of UN-Habitat in Myanmar for 2015-2025.*
- UNISDR (2011) - *Tracking Public Investments on Disaster Management in India*
- UNISDR (2014) - Social Vulnerabilities spanning across five geographical regions in the Asia-Pacific, namely East Asia, South East Asia, South and West Asia, Central Asia and the Pacific Island countries.
- Thirteenth Finance Commission (2010) - *Financing Disaster Management in India*
- UNESCAP - Lead author/ contributor of *Asia Pacific Disaster Reports 2010, 2012, 2015, 2017 and 2019*
- The World Bank GFDRR (2009) - *Operational Manual for Track- III Operations*
- Administrative Reforms Commission (2007) - *Crisis Management in India*

EDUCATION

College/ University	Major Field	Degree Awarded
Presidency College Calcutta	Political Science (Honours)	B.A Honours (1973)
University of Calcutta, Calcutta	Political Science	M.A First Class (1975)
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	International Relations	M.Phil (1980)
National Museum Institute, New Delhi (Deemed University)	History of Art	PhD (2014)

SPECIALIZED COURSES

I was awarded fellowships by the UNDP, WHO, JICA, East West Centre etc. to attend specialized

courses in a number of reputed institutions. These included

- *Financing Urban Water and Sanitation Projects* at the JFK School of Government, Harvard University, October-November 1993
- *Advanced Course on New Directions in Urban Management* at the University of Birmingham, September-November 1998
- *Earthquake Risk Mitigation and Management* at the Public Works Research Institute, Tsukuba, Japan October-November, 1999
- *Communicating Social Sector Research to Policy Makers* in East West Centre, Honolulu, Hawaii, May-June 2003
- *Governance Challenges for India* jointly organised by the John F. Kennedy School of Government and Indian Institute of Management, Ahmadabad, 5-30 January, 2009

I got fellowship from USAID in 2008 to study the system of higher education and training on emergency management in the United States. Based on this study I prepared a strategy paper on introducing disaster management in higher education curriculum in India.

Within the country I attended training programmes in Indian Institute of Management Ahmadabad and Kolkata, Administrative Staff College, National Academy of Administration, National Institute of Rural Development etc.

STUDIES AND RESEARCH

I obtained my PhD degree on ‘Wooden Monuments of Kashmir’ – a subject I have been researching for over ten years during my tenure in Jammu & Kashmir. One of the reviewers of my thesis has commented “It is the most significant contribution on the subject after R.C.Kak’s work on *Ancient Monuments of Kashmir*, published in 1933”.

During my three and half decade stint in government I undertook serious policy research on several issues which facilitated many reforms. For example, my work on ‘Demonopolization of Silk Industry in Jammu and Kashmir’ triggered major policy reform in the sector. Similarly my policy paper on ‘Urban Sector Reforms in Jammu and Kashmir’ helped to convince the authorities about the need of legal-institutional and regulatory changes.

I contributed to the development of ‘National Policy on Empowerment of Women’, ‘National Policy on Disaster Management’ and ‘SAARC Disaster Management Framework’, to name a few. My work on ‘Financing Disaster Management in India’ was used by the Thirteenth Finance Commission to formulate their recommendations for devolution of funds to the State governments on disaster management.

I was the team leader for the development of National Drought Manual of India (2009).

I contributed background and input papers for the Global Assessment Reports on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR) 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2019.

GUEST/VISITING FACULTY

I have been invited as a Guest/ Visiting Faculty in several Universities and academic institutions, such as Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University, Erasmus University, National Disaster Management Institute, South Korea etc.

RESEARCH SUPERVISOR

I have supervised several research projects including 2 PhD dissertations on disaster management.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- I was engaged by the UNDP India to develop Disaster Score Card on Disaster Risk Index and Disaster Resilience Index for the States and Union Territories of India. The study was undertaken in collaboration with Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata. The study report was published as *Disaster Risks and Resilience in India- An Analytical Study* was published jointly by the UNDP India and Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
- I conceptualized, coordinated, and edited the TERI Global Sustainability Development Report 2016 on the theme 'People, Planet and progress: Beyond 2015' The study looked at six issues of the Planet (Climate Change, Depletion of Ozone Layer, Loss of Bio-Diversity, Desertification, Unsustainable Use of Natural Resources, and Environmental Pollution), six issues of People (Food Security, Health, Education, Habitat, Energy, and Social Justice and Equity) and assessed the progress of the countries and the ways ahead. The book was published by TERI Press and released on the occasion of World Sustainable Development Summit in 2016.
- I conceptualized, coordinated, and edited the TERI Global Sustainability Development Report 2015 on the theme 'Climate Change and Sustainable development'. The publication assesses climate risks, reviews progress of the regions and countries on climate mitigation and climate adaptation and ranks 193 member countries of the UN on Climate Risks, Historical and Current Responsibilities for Climate Change and Climate Adaptation Capacity. 6 out of 20 chapters of the book were contributed by me. The book was published by Oxford University Press and released on the occasion of the Delhi Sustainable development Summit in February 2015.
- I co-edited with Raphael Jozan and Tancrede Volturiez a joint publication of TERI, AFD and IDDRI on 'A Planet for Life – Building the Future We Want' which was released on the occasion of the Delhi Sustainable development Summit in February 2015. A French version of the book was released in April and Chinese version in June 2015.
- I edited the book titled 'Green Federalism: Experiences and Practices' which a collection is of papers from the federal countries on the issues federal-provincial relations on environmental governance and climate change.
- I edited with Mihir Bhatt a book titled *Micro Finance and Disaster Risk Reduction* which contains papers contributed by many renowned experts on the subject, Published by Knowledge Links, New Delhi, 2006
- I edited with Elaine Enarson a book on *Women, Gender and Disaster* which was published by Sage International Publishing House, 2010.
- I co-authored a book on *Indigenous Knowledge and Disaster Risk Reduction in South Asia* which was published by Macmillan India, 2009.
- I authored a book on *Disaster Risk Reduction for Safe Development—A Study of Corporate Practices in India* based on a project supported by the UNISDR. The book was published by Macmillan Publishers (India) Ltd, New Delhi, 2009 and was released on the occasion of the second session of Global Platform in Geneva in 2009

Journals

- I was the founder and Chief Editor of the bi-annual Journal *Disaster and Development* which was started under my initiative. The Journal publishes papers on the issues related to mitigation of natural and manmade disasters, climate change and related issues.
- I was also the founder and Chief Editor of the bi-annual South Asian Journal on Disaster Studies, which was started under my initiative. The Journal publishes original research papers on issues of disaster risks in South Asia.

Book Chapters and Papers

- 'Tsunami Aid and Its Effectiveness' a chapter in the book titled, *The Asian Tsunami and Post-Disaster Aid*, published by Springer, 2018.

- I was the lead author of all editions of Asia Pacific Disaster Reports (APDR) published so far - 2010, 2012 and 2015 and 2017.
- *Cyclone Risk Mitigation and Management*, a Chapter in the book titled, *Disaster Management: Global Challenges and Local Solutions* edited by Rajib Shaw and RR Krishnamurthy, Universities Press, Hyderabad, 2009, pages-65-76.
- *Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction with Climate Change Adaptation: Recent Initiatives in South Asia*, a Chapter in *Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction: Issues and Challenges*, edited by Rajib Shaw, Juan Pulhin and Joy Pereira, Emerald Books, UK, 2010, pages-305-24.
- *Disaster Management and Climate Change*, Discussion Paper Series, Centre for Social Marketing, NewDelhi2011.
- *Indigenous Knowledge and Decision Making in India*, a chapter written for the book titled *Indigenous Knowledge and Disaster Risk Reduction: From Practice to Policy*, Sharma, by Nova Science Publishers, New York, pages-431-444.
- *Emerging Disaster Management Framework of India* published in the Special Issue of *Yojana*, May2006
- *A Tale of Two Cities: A Study of the Relationship of the Formal and Informal City of Delhi* paper presented at the Sixth International Conference on Urban History held at Edinburgh, September 2002 and published in a volume titled 'Historical Urban Studies' in 2004.
- *Invisible Economic Activities of Women – A Study Based on Time Use Survey and its Implications for Social Policy in India*, paper presented at the XV World Congress of Sociology held at Brisbane, July 2002. The paper has been published at the *International Scope Review* in 2003.
- *Gender Inequality and Social Change in India* paper presented at an International Conference on 'Old and New Social Inequalities: What Challenges for Welfare State' organized by the Research Committee 19 (Poverty, Social Welfare and Social Policy) of the International Sociological Association, Oviedo, Spain, 6th-9th September 2001.
- *Rooftop Rain Water Harvesting - An Alternative Technology for Fresh Water Augmentation in Chronically Deficient Urban Agglomerates of India*, paper presented at an International Conference on "Frontiers of Urban Water Management: Deadlock or Hope" organized by World Water Council and UNESCO at Marseilles, June2001.
- *Delhi's Ongoing Debate on Informal Settlements and Work Places – Issues of Environmental Jurisprudence*, a paper presented at an International Conference on 'Coping with Informality and Illegality in Human Settlements in Developing Cities' organized by the Network-Association of European Researchers on Urbanization in the South, at Leuven and Brussels, Belgium, May 2001 and published in a reader published by the DFID.
- *Urban Settlement Planning in Hilly Areas – A Case Study of Jammu, Srinagar and Leh*, paper presented at the Annual Conference of Indian Institute of Town Planners, Coimbatore, December 1993 and published in the *Journal of Institute of Town Planners of India*, 1994.
- *Poverty and Polity in India*, a paper presented at an International Conference organized by the Research Committee19 of International Sociological Association at the University of Tulburg, Netherlands, September 2001.
- *Mobilising Societal Action for Effective Implementation of Anti-Poverty Programmes of the State: A Normative Model based on the Experience of India*, a paper presented in an International Workshop organised by Comparative Research on Poverty (CROP) of International Social Science Council, Accra, Ghana, October, 2000.
- *Urban Sector Reforms in Jammu & Kashmir*, Urban India, Journal of National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi, 1997.
- *Urban Crisis in India: New Initiatives for Sustainable Cities*, a paper presented in an International Conference at Geneva, May2000
This was subsequently published in the *Journal Development in Practice*, Volume11, No. 2-3, 2001 and book

- *Challenges of Urban Growth in Jammu*, Urban India, Journal of National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi, 1995.
- *Eco-Management and Sustainable Development in Ladakh*, a paper presented at the colloquium of International Association of Ladakh Studies held at the University of Arhus, Moesgard, Denmark.
- *Federalism and Disaster Management*, Occasional Paper published by the Forum of Federations, Ottawa, Canada.