

University of Colombo
Faculty of Graduate Studies
Master of Regional Development and Planning 2016/2017

MRDP 509 – Natural Hazards and Disaster Management

(Time: Three (3) Hours)

Answer any four (4) questions only.

All questions carry equal marks.

- (1) Regional development is to promote and ensure balanced and sustainable development of the State, taking into account the special features and opportunities of the entire State territory and of separate parts thereof, to reduce the unfavourable differences among them, as well as to preserve and develop the features characteristic of the natural and cultural environment of each territory and the development potential thereof.

Pelanda (1981) sees 'disasters' as manifestations of the social vulnerabilities of societies. In other words, their origins are in the structural and cultural dimensions of social systems".

Considering theoretical backgrounds and your experiences, assess the relationship between regional development and disaster management. (25 Marks)

- (2) (i) '....to the extent that most natural disasters are indeed social in origin, it also follows, as experts agree, that their burden falls disproportionately on those already most economically disadvantaged, both on an international level...and domestically. The poor within each society are forced to live in substandard structures on more dangerous land, and have fewer resources to lessen their own risk and vulnerability.' (Hooke 1999, 283).

Discuss and establish your opinion on the above statement. (12 Marks)

- (ii) Poverty is one aspect of vulnerability. Social vulnerability refers to the socio economic and demographic factors that affect the resilience of communities. Studies have shown that in disaster events, the socially vulnerable are more likely to be adverse affected.

Discuss how development initiatives change the level of social vulnerability.

(13 Marks)

- (3) (i) Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act, No. 13 of 2005 was passed by the Parliament with the purpose of the establishment of the National Council for Disaster Management, the Disaster Management Centre and the Technical Advisory Committees, and for the preparation of Disaster Management Plans, declaration of state of disaster, award of compensation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

As the frequency of occurring of disasters as well as the socioeconomic impact of such disasters have been reportedly increased, and as there is emerging requirement

of revising the structures, mandates, and functions of the disaster management mechanism in Sri Lanka to improve the effectiveness of the mechanisms, you are required to propose an amendment to the Disaster Management Act. (12 Marks)

(ii) Sri Lanka Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (2014-2018) will be coming to an end by next year. In this scenario, considering the future requirements, propose some suggestions for a National Disaster Management Plan (13 Marks)

(4) Different theories of disaster management describe different causes of disasters, thus, it requires systematic approach for disaster management. Meanwhile, it is a prerequisite to consider disaster risk at all levels of the development programmes, and to integrate disaster mitigation activities into development programmes.

Select one natural hazard in an area that you are familiar with and design and develop a Pathway of Change using the Theory of Change, to manage the identified hazard.

(25 Marks)

(5) Write short notes on any **four (4)** of following:

- (i) The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030.
- (ii) Significance of community engagement in disaster management.
- (iii) Neediness of considering gender in disaster management.
- (iv) Social Injustice theory.
- (v) Risk Governance.

(4 x 6.25 = 25 Marks)

(6) (i) Management is the process of Planning, Organizing, Leading and Controlling the activities of various resources within the organization through systematic, coordinated and cooperate human efforts to achieve organizational objectives. Michael Armstrong argues that human resources management is 'a strategic and coherent approach to the management of an organization's most valued assets: the people working there who individually and collectively contribute to the achievement of its objectives'.

While exploring the key functions of human resources management, discuss how human resources management is significant in disaster management.

(12 Marks)

(ii) Explain how the Guiding Principles on Internally Displaced Persons and the - Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere Principles) are relevant for an effective disaster response.

(13 Marks)