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THE AXIS OF DISRUPTION

Official newsletter of the IFRC TISS Programme in Disaster Management



SNEAK PEEK

3 Proudly, A Humanitarian

4 Introducing 510, Big Data

4 Lessons from the Hot Zone



FROM THE PROGRAMME DIRECTOR'S DESK

Prof. Janki Andbaria, Programme Director, IFRC-TISS Programme

Disasters and extreme weather events impact people, their livelihoods and often the global economy and pose serious challenges to attaining the goals of sustainable development. The International Federation of Red Cross and Crescent Societies (IFRC) as the world's largest humanitarian organization, aims at preventing and alleviating human suffering and has been instrumental in responding to a wide range of humanitarian crises. The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) with more than seven decades of rich experience in social development and in post disaster interventions, has engaged in systematic research, teaching and praxis. The year long IFRC-TISS online Certificate Programme in Disaster Management was conceptualized recognizing the need for practitioners to gain systematic knowledge of a rapidly expanding field. The program is established in line with IFRC's Strategy 2020 and TISS's commitment to excellence in disaster management education. It has seen participants from over 90 countries. As the programme completes its 6th year and the team will continue in its endeavour to provide the best that would help enhance the knowledge and capacities of humanitarian professionals and contribute to our collective aim of reducing disaster risks and building sustainable and resilient communities.



QUARTERLY REVIEW

Ms. Saumya Kumar, Assistant Professor with the IFRC-TISS Programme

In the current academic year which comes to an end in May 2019, the IFRC-TISS Programme Team primarily focussed on conducting the different cohorts for the IFRC-TISS Certificate Programme and was also involved in some key activities of Jamsetji Tata School of Disaster Studies, TISS. We introduced two new cohorts – Cohort XI and Cohort XII, this academic year and awarded certificates to our participants from Cohort IX and Cohort X. With the approval of the Academic Council, TISS, we have awarded 29 certificates this academic year. We received participants from across the world, from Canada to Malaysia, with a significant number of participants from the African nations. This year, two members of our Team, Ms. Madhuvanthe and Ms. Larina Fernandez left and we were joined by Ms. Shaiza Irani and Ms. Manomita. Ms. Pascale Meige, Mr. Daniel Bolanis and Mr. Fred Fulton from IFRC have been extremely supportive to the Team in conducting the programme.

The academic year started with the IFRC-TISS Team participating and organizing JTSDS' Annual Roundtable in collaboration with King's College in Mumbai on Post - Disaster Recovery and Development: Reflecting on Processes in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands after the Tsunami. The Roundtable was attended by senior officials from NDMA, Maharashtra Government, Indian Armed Forces, Academicians, Activists and Journalists from and working in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

JTSDS worked closely with the Kerala State Government after the floods in August, 2018 in extending support in the post disaster recovery phase. Students and Faculty members from JTSDS, including myself were stationed in Alapuzha in

October, 2018 to provide support to the district administration in the response and recovery work in the Kuttanad Taluka.

Students and faculty members from the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute, University of Manchester attended a Winter School organized by JTSDS with the IFRC -TISS Team involved in conducting the programme. The Winter School focused on urbanization in developing countries with Mumbai as a case study and on memorialization of conflicts considering the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.

The IFRC-TISS Team and some of our participants participated in 4th World Congress on Disaster Management organized by IIT Mumbai, TISS and Govt. of Maharashtra at IIT Mumbai. Ms. Niti Mishra, Senior Programme Manager, presented a paper on Structuring Participation in Post Disaster housing Reconstruction. The IFRC-TISS Team is also working on a research project on National Policy Review on Entry Points to DRR which is expected to wrap up in the coming academic year.

We are geared up to start the new cohort in May, 2019 and are expected to award the certificate to the participants of Cohort XI soon. The next academic year promises to be a new challenging year where we look forward to work with new cohorts. The Team is working towards updating the course content of the programme and exploring alternate modes of delivering the content. We are also pleased to announce the launch of our quarterly newsletter. Through the newsletter, we intend to provide a platform specifically to our students and alumni to document their experiences from diverse regions and bring to us the voices from the field. The Team looks forward to continue working with Faculty Members and students of JTSDS in the coming academic year.



◀ Surprise visit by IFRC—TISS Programme Alumni **Ms. Sarita Rout** and **Ms. Anu Bothra** to the programme office in Mumbai. Both of them presented a paper at the 4th World Congress on Disaster Management. We hope to see you again very soon.



◀ **Ms. Neeti Mishra** from the IFRC - TISS Team at the 4th World Congress on Disaster Management organized by IIT Mumbai, TISS and Govt. of Maharashtra at IIT Mumbai. She presented a paper on **Structuring Participation in Post Disaster housing Reconstruction.**

IFRC-TISS TURKEY REPORT



Asst. Prof **Saumya Kumar** of the IFRC—TISS team with the Kerala Flood Documentation team.

TISS worked with the Kerala Government after the devastating floods in August, 2018. The initial response activities were conducted by our Programme Director, Dr. Janki Andharia and other senior faculty members including the Director, Prof. Shalini Bharat. A Steering Committee was created under the guidance of Prof. Bharat which anchored and guided the initiatives taken by the TISS team of students and faculty members in Kerala in October, 2018. The TISS Team consisted of students from JTSDS and the School of Social Work with Dr. Andharia, Dr. Bipin Jojo, Dr. Manoj Joseph, Dr. Ramesh V and Ms. Saumya Kumar supporting the students in the field. With the support of the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority and the District Administration of Alapuzha, the TISS Team studied the supply chain of food materials during the floods in the Kuttanad Taluka. The Team was supported by the different Panchayats in Kuttanad and by the energetic presence of the ladies from Kudumshree.

PROUDLY, A HUMANITARIAN

Kim de Vos, Cohort VIII Participant, shares with us a memoir of her fulfilling visit to Bangladesh



For someone who's spent most of her time within the four walls of her office, away from people she strives to support and from colleagues and friends within the RCRC family; a short trip to Bangladesh helped put her work in perspective.

One month after more than 300,000 refugees had arrived in an area of muddy hills in the country, I set foot in Bangladesh. The short time span in

which these people had to flee their homes and the immense scale of the crisis is staggering. Kilometers of hills on end that were completely empty a few weeks ago are now inhabited.

The needs are so high and so many, it is overwhelming. There is very little food, water and latrines and a severe lack of safety! With the upcoming cyclone season and high probabilities for a disease outbreak, the outlook is dire.

While being there, I started working with the local officials trying to assist in all ways as possible and as I have always intended for.

Talking with the natives gave me hope. They told me how encouraging it felt to help.

They provided me with renewed inspiration and motivation. They reaffirmed that I was in the right job and that I was proud to be part of this family!

Aa DISASTIONARY

GER: Traditional Mongolian circular tents carrying a felt cover, canvas and wood or steel; customized to be warm in Winters and cool in Summers. The circular design and materials used can resist winds from any direction and act as safe abodes even during disasters.



DZUD: A unique, slow onset phenomena in which a particularly dry summer precedes a harsh winter. Also known as “white death”, livestock (and herders) are at risk during a dzud. Dry summers create desertification and hence livestock are underfed. Unable to store enough energy to survive the winter cold, they become vulnerable to losing lives to the extreme weather.

Ritzzy Dogcio, past participant, who was amazed by the 9:00 pm sunset in Mongolia and its nomadic culture.

LESSONS FROM THE HOT ZONE

Major Ritesh Goel, Special Forces Paratroopers team, deployed for Search and Rescue Operations during Uttarakhand, 2013

DM Plans and Policies: The deployed forces had robust communication infrastructure, logistics, and planning capabilities. But, incomprehension of “DM Plans” resulted in suboptimal coordination at the State, district, and local levels affecting disaster response. Medical relief plans should be dovetailed into response plans and hospitals earmarked for DMAT should be deployed immediately to assess and start response. Here, the first teams were deployed after 48 hours of the incident and supplies were dropped only after 5 days.

Tourism: Majority of the people reported or presumed dead were tourists who visited the State for religious/recreational purposes. Before entry to disaster prone/high altitude areas, they should be clearly warned about weather conditions. They should be sensitized about the importance of physical fitness to sustain themselves during adverse climatic conditions and road blocks.

Training and Capacity Building: Responders must be trained in Incident Response System. Developing area specific

training strategies and modules keeping the vulnerability of the region to different types of disasters in view would help. Local institutes that are aware of the terrain and have the equipment and expertise ready, can be volunteers for such operations.

Search, Rescue and Evacuation: Requires comprehensive plans that lists alternate evacuation routes, whenever feasible, in disaster prone areas. Good Casualty Tracking Systems and Disaster Victim Identification Methods are also lacking on ground. Easily transportable equipment for S&R in hilly terrains is a must. Standardized and user friendly Medical Kits should be stocked in warehouses regionally.

Availability and Transportation of Supplies: Non availability of essential supplies created enormous hardships. Therefore, flexibility in procedures for procurement of essential items during emergency situations is a must. Shortage of cooking gas cylinders during the crisis was also a major problem. The desirability of maintaining mules and ponies for transport to areas inaccessible by road should be considered, as this disaster has manifested importance of animals for transportation in hilly terrains.

INTRODUCING 510, BIG DATA!

Marc van den Homberg, Scientific Lead 510 Big Data Team & IFRC-TISS Alumni.

510 is the fast growing data initiative of The Netherlands Red Cross which aims to make smart use of data for a more (cost) effective preparedness and humanitarian response. The team comprising of staff and volunteers from over nine countries brings together a variety of skills in data science, geographical information management and applications, data visualization and disaster risk management. Regarded as one of the front runners in promoting the use of data within the RS

Movement; 510 is a core member of IFRC's Surge Information Management Systems (SIMS) roster and the Missing Maps Project. Through our collaborative networks like the UN OCHA Humanitarian Data Centre and the INFORM Risk Index, we aim to scale up new data innovations, particularly within Disaster Preparedness.

How it works?

510 identifies prospective information needs of disaster management actors, match these needs on existing data sets to pinpoint information gaps and leverage capacities to collect data once a disaster hits to enhance timely, efficient response. See: <https://www.510.global/> for more information!



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