

COURSE : DISASTER MANAGEMENT (MA/MSc PART I)

Paper : I

Prepared by : Prof. B. K. Mishra, Course coordinator

Topic : Natural Disasters vs Man-made Disasters

INTRODUCTION

Disaster is a sudden calamitous event bringing great damage, loss, or destruction. Disasters can be classified into two basic categories based on their cause. Natural disasters and man made disasters are these two basic categories. **Natural disasters are the disasters caused by natural forces whereas man made disasters are caused by activities of human beings.**

Natural disasters

A natural disaster is a natural process or phenomenon that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.

Various phenomena like [earthquakes](#), [landslides](#), [volcanic eruptions](#), floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, blizzards, tsunamis, and cyclones are all natural hazards that kill thousands of people and destroy billions of dollars of habitat and property each year. However, the rapid growth of the world's population and its increased concentration often in hazardous environments has escalated both the frequency and severity of disasters. With the tropical climate and unstable [landforms](#), coupled with deforestation, unplanned growth proliferation, non-engineered constructions make the disaster-prone areas more vulnerable. Developing countries suffer more or less chronically from natural disasters due to ineffective communication combined with insufficient budgetary allocation for [disaster prevention and management](#).

The new classification distinguishes two generic disaster groups: **natural** and technological disasters. The **natural** disaster category being divided into six disaster groups: Biological, **Geophysical**, **Meteorological**, Hydrological, Climatological and Extra-Terrestrial.

Man-made disasters

Human-instigated disasters are the consequence of technological or human hazards. Examples include stampedes, fires, transport accidents, industrial accidents, oil spills, nuclear explosions/nuclear radiation. War and deliberate attacks may also be put in this category.

Other types of man-made disasters include the more cosmic scenarios of catastrophic [global warming](#), [nuclear war](#), and [bioterrorism](#).

Human-made disaster admits that all disasters are caused by humans. Human-made disaster involves an element of human intent, negligence, or error; or involving a failure of a man-made system.

As a result, environmental imbalances have caused many other major problems affecting human life, such as the occurrence of landslides, floods, the rise of new diseases and many other disasters. ... However, a section of society reckons that man-made causes trigger flood disasters through deforestation and pollution.

[Airplane crashes](#) and [terrorist attacks](#) are examples of man-made disasters: they cause pollution, kill people, and damage property

NATURAL DISASTER
V S
MAN MADE DISASTER

Natural disasters are caused by natural forces

Man made disasters are caused by the activities of men

Examples: tsunamis, floods, landslides, hurricanes, wildfires, droughts, volcanic eruptions, etc.

Examples: hazardous material spills, explosions, chemical or biological attacks, etc.

Steps can be taken to minimize the effects

Can be avoided with careful planning and prevention methods