

V

Abstract

In recent years, people around the world have become increasingly alarmed by disasters and natural calamities such as earthquakes, floods, cyclones, windstorms, landslides, droughts, volcanic eruptions, and the like. Recent earth quake in China, cyclone *Sidr* and flood in Bangladesh, and cyclone *Nargis* in Myanmar are among the few examples which has resulted in great losses and the tragedies that are still fresh in our memories. Bangladesh is a disaster prone country and almost every year the country faces some sort of natural catastrophes. Bearing the risk of disaster is almost inevitable to its population. After the devastating super cyclone Sidr on 15 November 2007, there was a clear indication of lack of coordination in relief distribution. Experience suggests that many cyclone affected people living in and around Upazila headquarters received more relief materials, while people staying on the outlying areas were starving. Following SIDR, many relief workers distributed relief materials by their own considerations and they have had least coordination with Relief Ministry and Disaster Management Bureau (DMB) and district and Upazila relief office. Of late, however, discussing the coordination problem the government urged all to operate relief activities in coordination with the local administration for proper distribution of relief materials. It was observed by many participants, who had visited the cyclone hit areas and took part in the relief operation, that the relief materials were being distributed haphazardly due to lack of coordination. The present thesis argues that integrated approach of disaster management can help minimize the loss of lives and property during natural calamities and utilize resources to mitigate the post disaster situation in effective manner. It would also underline the need for an integrated disaster management center in all the Upazila headquarters of the coastal districts.