WELCOME TO THE PARTICIPANTS

Disaster Influence on School Children
(During & After Disaster)

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• A disaster such as an earthquake, flood, fire and draught or violent acts is frightening to children and adults alike.

• Talking about the incident with children can decrease their fear. It is important to explain the incident in words the child can understand, and in a way that will not crush them.
Several factors affect a child's response to a disaster. The way children see and understand their parents' responses are very important.

Children are aware of their parents' worries most of the time, but they can be very sensitive during a crisis.
Parents & Teachers should talk about their worries to their children, and talk about their abilities to cope with the disaster.

If a friend or family member has been killed or seriously injured

or

If the child's school or home has been severely damaged, there is a greater chance that the child will experience difficulties.

A child's reaction also depends on how much destruction and/or death he or she sees during and after the disaster.
A child's age affects how the child will respond to the disaster.

For example, six-year-olds may show their worries by refusing to attend school, whereas teens may minimize their concerns, some may argue more with parents and show a decline in school performance.
Why are children more susceptible

Physical characteristics –

Children have a smaller body mass to surface area ratio than adults, making them more vulnerable to heat-related morbidity and mortality. Children are more likely to become dehydrated than adults because they can lose more fluid quickly.
Behaviors –

Children play outside more than adults, and they may be at greater risk of heat stroke and exhaustion because they may lack the judgment to limit exertion during hot weather and to rehydrate themselves after long periods of time in the heat.

There are also regular reports of infants dying when left in unattended vehicles, which suggests a low awareness of the dangers of heat events.
Types of Disasters

- Earthquakes
- Cyclones
- Tsunami
- Fire Accidents
- Drought
- Cyclones
- Floods
Disaster Influence on School Children in the following areas

- Physical
- Psychological
- Emotional
- Social
- Economical
- Educational
After a disaster changes in a child's behavior:

• Refusal to return to school and "clinging" behavior, including shadowing the mother or father around the house

• Continuing fears about the event (such as fears about being permanently separated from parents)

• Sleep disturbances such as nightmares, screaming during sleep and bedwetting, persisting more than several days after the event
• People may develop Post traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which is a set of symptoms that can result from experiencing, witnessing, or participating in an tremendously disturbing event.

• Children with this disorder have repeated episodes in which they re-experience the traumatic event.
• Withdrawal from family and friends, sadness, lethargy, decreased activity, and pre-occupation with the events of the disaster

• Professional advice or treatment for children affected by a disaster...especially those who have witnessed destruction, injury or death...can help prevent or minimize PTSD.

• Parents who are concerned about their children can ask their pediatrician or family doctor to refer them to a child and adolescent psychiatrist for an evaluation.
• Children often relive the trauma through repetitive play. In young children, upsetting dreams of the traumatic event may change into nightmares of monsters, of rescuing others, or of threats to self or others.

• PTSD rarely appears during the trauma itself. Though the effects can happen soon after the event, the disorder often surfaces several months or even years later.
Debris-filled Areas:

Children in these areas may be at risk of exposure to dirt and debris that may have been contaminated with hazardous chemicals like lead, asbestos, oil and gasoline.

Children can be exposed by direct contact through their skin, by breathing in dust particles or fumes, or by putting their hands in their mouths.

*Mosquitoes and Disease-Causing Pests*: Flood water may increase the number of mosquitoes and other disease-causing pests.
Children’s Health in the consequences of Floods

Children are different from adults. They may be more vulnerable to chemicals and organisms they are exposed to in the environment because:

Children’s nervous, immune response, digestive and other bodily systems are still developing and are more easily harmed.
• Children eat more food
• Drink more fluids
• Breathe more air than adults in proportion to their body size

So it is important to take extra care to ensure the safety of their food, water and air
After Disaster
Homes / schools have been flooded, moisture can remain in drywall, wood furniture, cloth, carpet, and other household items and surfaces and can lead to mold growth.

Exposure to mold can cause hay-fever-like reactions (such as stuffy nose, red, watery or itchy eyes, sneezing) to asthma attacks.

It is important to dry water-damaged areas and items within 24-48 hours to prevent mold growth.
Some children are more susceptible than others to mold, especially those with allergies, asthma and other respiratory conditions. To protect our children from mold exposure, needs to clean smooth, hard surfaces such as metal and plastics with soap and water and dry thoroughly.

Flood water damaged items made of more absorbent materials cannot be cleaned and should be discarded. These items include paper, cloth, furniture, curtains, clothes, TLM etc.
People need safe Drinking Water it is especially important for children because they are more vulnerable to harm from contaminated water.

If a water source may be contaminated with flood waters, children, pregnant women and nursing mothers should drink only packaged water, which should also be used for cooking also.
Nature’s Fury: India’s Deadliest Natural Disasters Since 1990

Lives claimed by natural disasters

- **Floods**: 35,025
- **Earthquakes**: 32,822
- **Storms**: 19,655
- **Tsunami**: 16,389
- **Extreme Temp.**: 10,373

5 natural events with the highest casualties

- **Jun 2013**: 6,054 North India floods
- **Dec 2004**: 16,389 Indian Ocean Tsunami
- **Jan 2001**: 20,005 Bhuj Earthquake
- **Oct 1999**: 9,843 Odisha Cyclone
- **Sep 1993**: 9,748 Latur Earthquake

Source - EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database
www.emdat.be - Université catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium.
Precautions

• Prepare the Children & Community to face the different types of calamities
• Train the children to overcome the hurdles during & after disaster safely
• Educate the children to protect themselves & Others during disasters
Conduct mock Disaster events to children at schools
Thank you