***Abstract***

**Women Matter in Disaster Education in India**

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Women and men are affected differently by these disasters due to the economical, social and cultural roles that they play in society. Disasters have had an impact on the lives of women all around the world. Generally women are looked at in disasters only as victims despite the fact that the majority of victims in disasters are women and children. The central role of women in facing the aftermath of disasters is totally neglected. India is one of the most vulnerable countries to natural disasters. The country has faced a number of natural disasters in the last decade which have claimed hundreds thousands of precious lives and heavy economic losses. It has been observed that more than half of the victims in the past disasters were women, which shows the lack of disaster education among women.

The study concludes that the women in disaster education status varies with the educational background, origin and age and the level can be strengthened through a combination of appropriate community based disaster education, information technology and collaborative relationships between government, Non Government Organizations and community-based organizations. 78% of subjects knew about earthquake but only 69% had knowledge about what they have to do in order to save their life in case there is an earthquake and fire. Disasters are natural forces difficult to tackle but women to face the calamity will help to solve the magnitude of the problems. The women at large must be well aware of the occurrence of disaster. Education for disaster can be the only effective means in teach at all levels. It should be treated on priority basis. Long-term planning and disaster education, leadership among women for disaster mitigation is gradually being made part of the process of development planning in India. As in India, mostly women particularly in rural areas, they spend maximum time in their houses with high vulnerability. Therefore, women in disaster education through intensive training can play an important role to save many lives.

**Keywords:** Disaster preparedness, knowledge, mitigation, risk reduction, awareness, education.