

Guidance Note on Establishing Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Clubs in Higher Education Institutions

1. Background: Work of NIDM and IUINDRR

The **National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)**, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, is mandated to plan and promote training, research, documentation, and capacity building in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and disaster management (DM). NIDM works closely with state governments, universities, training institutes, and international organisations to strengthen resilience at all levels.

The **Indian Universities and Institutions Network for Disaster Risk Reduction (IUINDRR)** established in 2021 under the aegis of NIDM, serves as a platform to integrate DRR and DM into higher education, promote research and innovation, and engage youth in building resilience. IUINDRR has been working to mainstream DRR into academia through curriculum development, research partnerships, and awareness initiatives.

2. Need for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Higher Education

India's vulnerability to multiple hazards underscores the urgency of building disaster-resilient communities. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) play a critical role in creating informed and capable citizens. By mainstreaming DRR and DM into academic spaces, institutions can:

- Build awareness among students across disciplines.
- Equip youth with practical skills for preparedness and response.
- Encourage community-driven resilience initiatives.
- Contribute to the national agenda of sustainable development and risk-informed growth.

The establishment of DRR Clubs in HEIs provides an institutional mechanism to systematically engage students and faculty in advancing this agenda.

3. About DRR Clubs

Membership:

- Open to students of all disciplines and levels (UG, PG, PhD).
- Faculty members across departments are encouraged to support the initiative.

Structure:

- One **nodal faculty member** should be designated to coordinate the club.
- A small team of **additional faculty members** may be involved as advisors.

- The club should operate in an **activity-based learning** mode, encouraging student-led initiatives under faculty guidance.
- Collaboration with local authorities, disaster management agencies, and civil society organisations is encouraged.

4. Suggestive Activities

1. Hands-on Training & Capacity Building

- Organize **First Aid & CPR training** in collaboration with health professionals.
- Conduct **fire safety drills and earthquake preparedness workshops** with local emergency responders.
- Arrange **disaster simulation exercises** to educate students on effective response strategies.
- Join NIDM e-learning courses for capacity building through <https://elearning.nidm.gov.in/local/home/index.php>
- Join DRR courses on I-GOT through <https://www.igotkarmayogi.gov.in/>

2. Local Planning & Risk Assessment

- Assist in **campus vulnerability mapping** for identifying high-risk zones.
- Facilitate discussions on the **institution's Disaster Management Plan (DMP)** and suggest improvements.
- Organize **awareness campaigns** on early warning systems and evacuation protocols.

3. Disaster Awareness through Interactive Activities

- Host **documentary screenings** on earthquake resilience, climate change, and community preparedness.
- Conduct **poster-making competitions** and **thematic quizzes** on disaster risk reduction (DRR).
- Develop **interactive models** showcasing flood-resistant housing, earthquake-resistant structures, etc.

4. Sustainability and Climate Action

- Lead **tree plantation drives** and create **green belts** on campus.
- Promote **waste segregation, composting, and upcycling initiatives** to reduce waste generation.
- Implement **water conservation projects**, such as rainwater harvesting demonstrations.

5. Emergency Preparedness and Response

- Organize **mock drills** for fire, earthquake, and chemical hazards in coordination with disaster response agencies.
- Train students on **crowd management and emergency communication** in case of a disaster.
- Develop **eco-club emergency response teams** to assist in campus safety measures.

6. Any other activities suggested by DoHE, MoE

5. Financials

There will be **no financial support from NIDM** for establishing or operating DRR Clubs. Institutions are expected to utilise their own resources and may integrate activities into existing student clubs or societies in line with extant norms.

6. Level of Training and Activities

- **Within Institutions:** Hands-on training, capacity-building workshops, simulation exercises, and integration of DRR themes into student activities.
- **Community Involvement:** Outreach activities in nearby communities, awareness campaigns in schools, collaboration with local disaster management authorities (DDMAs/SDMAs).

7. Resources

For reference and resource materials, institutions may consult:

- **NIDM official website:** www.nidm.gov.in (Publications tab)
- **NDMA official website:** www.ndma.gov.in (Resources tab)

8. Special Note

- i. These guidelines are only suggestive; universities and institutions may adapt or modify them as per their resources and capacity
- ii. In line with the UGC's directive for a **2-credit Skill Enhancement Course on Disaster Management**, NIDM is developing a **model curriculum for undergraduate level**, which will be released shortly and may be adopted by institutions alongside DRR Club activities.

Suggestive Model Structure / Charter for DRR Clubs in HEIs

Aims & Objectives:

- To create awareness on disaster risks and promote a culture of safety and resilience within the campus.
- To provide students with hands-on training and exposure to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery practices.
- To engage students and faculty in community outreach and risk reduction initiatives.
- To integrate sustainability, climate action, and resilience-building into student activities.

Membership:

- Open to all students of the institution irrespective of discipline.
- Voluntary student participation encouraged.
- At least one nodal faculty coordinator and two faculty advisors to guide the club.

Structure & Governance:

- **Patron:** Head of Institution (e.g., Vice Chancellor/Principal/Director).
- **Faculty Coordinator:** One designated nodal faculty member.
- **Advisory Team:** 2–3 faculty members from different disciplines.
- **Student Core Committee:** President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Activity Coordinators (elected or nominated annually).

Mode of Functioning:

- Activity-based learning through workshops, simulations, awareness campaigns, and community outreach.
- At least **one major activity/event per semester** and smaller periodic engagements.
- Collaboration with local DDMA/SDMA, NCC/NSS units, and community-based organisations encouraged.

Reporting & Documentation:

- Annual activity plan to be prepared at the beginning of the academic year.
- Documentation of activities, reports, and outcomes to be submitted to the Head of Institution.
- Participation in IUINDRR-NIDM initiatives may be encouraged.