



*Sharing knowledge...
building skills...
encouraging innovation*

ACE

Advanced Centre for Enabling
Disaster Risk Reduction

DRR

The Advanced Centre for Enabling Disaster Risk Reduction (ACEDRR) is a specialised centre established at the Tata-Dhan Academy by DHAN Foundation with the support of Oxfam America, an international relief and development organization and affiliate of Oxfam International that works on creating lasting solutions to poverty, hunger, and injustice. The ACEDRR aims at enhancing the knowledge and practice on disaster risk reduction (DRR) by working with peoples' organisations, non-government and government organizations, technical institutes, research and academic institutes and funding agencies.

🌿 **Mission**

Provide evidence based knowledge for enabling integration of disaster risk reduction in mainstream development and encourage community-driven models and solutions for sustainability of disaster risk reduction

🌿 **Vision**

The centre aims to become a centre of excellence in the field of disaster risk reduction through

- ❖ Building and sharing knowledge gained from practice.
- ❖ Pioneering in research, networking and policy advocacy
- ❖ Encouraging innovation and action

🌿 **Guiding Principles**

- ❖ The principles that are guiding the approach and activities of the centre are:
- ❖ Giving primacy to indigenous knowledge, wisdom and practices of the communities in DRR
- ❖ Promoting partnership models and community-driven approaches for DRR
- ❖ Advancing knowledge and practices in DRR
- ❖ Enabling DRR through multi-sectoral, inter-disciplinary, and multi-stakeholder action.

🌿 **Core Values**

Humaneness encompasses expressions of kindness, compassion and caring, and is instrumental for creating sensitivity to individual and community needs irrespective of caste, class, creed, gender, or ethnicity.

Openness promotes opportunities for learning, sharing, and building linkages across sectors, disciplines, and institutions.

Enabling expands the scope for capacity building, and knowledge sharing through networking, sustaining other initiatives, and building self-reliance and long term sustainability.

Innovation promotes contributing to knowledge enhancement and enrichment and is instrumental for advancing knowledge.

Excellence integrates efficiency, effectiveness, and quality consciousness into our activities.

💧 Why ACEDRR?

Many institutions and NGOs are working in the field of DRR. The centre will join them in advancing the sector's efforts by

- ❖ Negotiating with complex theories as well as understanding and addressing realities on the ground.
- ❖ Creating a knowledge system of time-tested and proven development experiences; this enhances its capability to develop and demonstrate widely applicable development models that integrate DRR.

ACEDRR will provide a platform to identify, appreciate and nurture the

local knowledge and wisdom in disaster management. It will encourage the practitioners promoting collective action around disaster risk reduction and aid in influencing state and national policies in tune with the community's aspirations and needs.

Additionally, there is a dire need for decision support tools and people trained to use these tools at all levels. At the participatory planning level, there is a need for people with special skills, attitudes and aptitudes who can facilitate the planning process. ACEDRR will help nurture such people and link them to needs.

Above all, ACEDRR is a centre committed to enabling DRR.

💧 ACEDRR as a centre for learning will:

- ❖ Document the good practices and DRR models already in existence and disseminate this knowledge to a wide audience.



- ❖ Experiment with, develop, and disseminate various tools, techniques, and innovative models for DRR.
- ❖ Create and maintain a DRR database which will cater to the needs of professionals, institutions, and the community.
- ❖ Involve community-based research and policy research in the area of DRR.

📍 Activities

The centre promotes inter-disciplinary and multi-sectoral research and extension activities in the field of DRR involving multiple stakeholders in the process.

📍 Research

The centre supports a wide range of action research that can bring evidence-based and community-based studies to policy researchers in the area of DRR. The current research projects are trying to link DRR with recent development paradigms and themes such as climate change adaptation,

participatory design and implementation, natural resource management, microfinance, micro insurance and so on.

📍 Pilot Projects

The centre facilitates pilot projects with the development practitioners who are capable of facilitating community-driven DRR strategies to develop models and tools that can integrate development and DRR. These pilot projects cover different types of disasters both natural and man made; in various contexts such as tribal, rural, urban and coastal.

📍 Database Creation

ACEDRR works on “disaster database” creation and dissemination to cater to the needs of professionals, institutions, and the community. It works towards launching a full-fledged online knowledge portal for sharing knowledge on DRR.

These products will help identify and develop practical ways of integrating DRR strategies into development plans and actions.

🌱 Training and Education

The training and educational initiatives of the centre would address the capacity building needs of the communities, development practitioners, mainstream agencies, media and educational institutions. The centre would design and offer short duration training programmes in different disciplines such as the Basics of DRR, Technology of DRR, Management of DRR, Leadership Development and Institution Building around DRR, and Communication for DRR.

🌱 Documentation and Publication

Documentation of the existing knowledge and practice in DRR is the key strategy of the centre in showcasing good

practices. The centre will take up specialised studies and documentation assignments publish them in different formats and disseminate them to a wider audience.

🌱 Networking and Consultancy

The centre will promote networks among the practitioners, policy makers and academicians in addition to playing an active role in various networks. It will work towards the networking of networks to realise collective strength for the cause of enabling DRR.

🌱 Policy Advocacy

ACEDRR, as part of different policy making bodies, will support policy formulation by echoing the voices of the communities. It will conduct policy reviews and publish policy briefs in order to advocate policies that address the needs and aspirations of communities.

Overview of DHAN Foundation



DHAN Foundation works with about 700,000 families in 11 states of India, striving to improve the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable communities by helping to organize themselves and bring themselves out of poverty and address their various development needs. The interventions are spread across urban, rural, coastal, and the tribal contexts.

Frequent disasters hinder development by reversing the benefits gained thus far. The 2004 tsunami's devastating impact on the coastal population provided DHAN Foundation an opportunity to work closely with affected communities on a large scale and understand the effects and long term impacts of such disasters first hand. More than a decade of grassroots experience of DHAN shows that droughts and floods are the frequently occurring disasters which perpetuate poverty. These situations have compelled DHAN to look at and address these issues on a long term basis.

DHAN believes that in order to build a disaster resilient community, humanitarian responses alone which stop at restoring the habitation and livelihoods of the affected community are not enough. Rather, it is essential to work with the affected community on a long term basis, build people institutions, and internalize the process of disaster risk reduction at the community level. This can be done only by development organisations with trained human resources who work on DRR, disaster response, and disaster management. Hence it becomes imperative for the development sector to enhance its own capacity in the field of DRR if it is to build a strong disaster resilient community at the grassroots level.

In this backdrop, DHAN Foundation has established a specialised centre ACEDRR in the Tata-Dhan Academy, to not only enhance DHAN's own capacity, but also improve the capacity of the sector as a whole.

Tata-Dhan Academy

Tata-Dhan Academy is a pioneer institute in the field of development management education. The Academy grooms and nurtures young graduates as development professionals for development action by providing them with the relevant attitude, skills and knowledge. DHAN Foundation established the Tata-Dhan Academy in 2000; Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) extended its strategic seed support to help position the Academy as a Centre of Excellence in Development management. The Academy offers a two-year full-time Programme in Development Management (PDM) and a number of short duration Development Management Programmes (DMPs). Also the Academy takes up research, documentation and consultancy services. The other specialized centre in the Academy is ASKMI, the Asian Knowledge Centre for Mutual Insurance.

Oxfam America



Oxfam America is an affiliate of Oxfam International, a relief and development organization that creates lasting solutions to poverty, hunger and injustice. Together with individuals and local groups in more than 120 countries, Oxfam saves lives, helps people overcome poverty, and fight for social justice. Right from the stage of conception, Oxfam America was involved in setting up ACEDRR in the Tata-Dhan Academy. Being a humanitarian organization with a long and enriching experience in the field of disaster management, Oxfam America came forward to provide financial and technical support in this endeavor.



Visit us at www.dhan.org/acedrr/ to read more about our activities and resources. To learn how to contribute to the cause of DRR and get involved in the activities of the centre please contact us at:

The Coordinator

Advanced Centre for Enabling Disaster Risk Reduction

Tata-Dhan Academy

Boys Town Campus

Pulloothu, Madurai 625016.Tamil Nadu, India

Tel: 91-452-2475219/318 Fax: 91-452-2602247

Email: acedrr@gmail.com URL: www.dhan.org/acedrr/

*Working for
secured lives and livelihoods of
vulnerable communities...*

