

Chapter-6 | Role of Pharmacists in disaster management



Social Pharmacy

One Shot

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We learn in this Topic:

Role of Pharmacists in disaster management Complete PDF Notes and online Class



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Syllabus

- **Role of Pharmacists in disaster management.**

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Disaster

- **It is defined as the sudden occurrence of a calamitous, usually violent, event resulting in substantial material damage, considerable displacement of people.**

OR

- **Natural or man-made, wars or civil disorder and pandemics have devastating effects on the lives of millions of people each year.**
- **Economic dislocation, collapse of political structures, terrorism, conflict, climate change, and mass population displacements are man-made disasters that also are increasing in impact.**

Types of Disasters

1. Natural Disasters:

- These include events such as earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, tsunamis, and droughts.

2. Human-Made Disasters:

- Also known as man-made or anthropogenic disasters, these include events like industrial accidents, fires, nuclear explosions/radiation, chemical spills, and acts of terrorism.

Advantages of Disaster Management

- **Saves Lives:** Effective disaster management can save people's lives. For example, a timely warning about an incoming tsunami can allow people to reach safety.
- **Minimizes Economic Loss:** Disasters can cause significant economic damage. However, a well-thought-out plan can protect valuable infrastructure like roads, hospitals, and power plants.
- **Enhances Preparedness:** Regular drills and exercises can help people know what to do in the event of a disaster.
- **Streamlines Response and Recovery:** Good disaster management ensures that help and resources are directed where they're needed most, helping communities recover more quickly.
- **Builds Community Resilience:** Being prepared for disasters not only helps in the present but also strengthens the community for future disasters.
- **Psychological Benefits:** Knowing that there's a plan in place can provide a sense of security and reduce anxiety.

Earthquake (Natural)

Definition:

- An earthquake is a sudden shaking or trembling of the earth's surface caused by a sudden release of energy within the earth's crust.
- This release of energy generates seismic waves, commonly known as S waves.

Causes:

- Earthquakes occur due to sudden tectonic movements within the Earth's crust.
- The Earth's crust is divided into large sections called tectonic plates, which float on the semi-fluid layer known as the asthenosphere.
- These plates are constantly in motion, albeit very slowly.
- When two tectonic plates interact, disturbances are created when they pass each other or collide

Earthquake

Effects of Earthquakes:

- **Ground shaking:** The most noticeable effect, ranging from mild tremors to violent movements that can topple buildings and trigger landslides.
- **Tsunamis:** Powerful waves generated by underwater earthquakes that can devastate coastal communities.
- **Liquefaction:** Saturated ground can turn to liquid during strong shaking, causing buildings to sink and infrastructure to fail.
- **Aftershocks:** Smaller earthquakes that follow the main event, posing an ongoing threat.

Earthquake

What to do During an Earthquake?

- **Stay Calm:** It's important to remain calm during an earthquake. Panic can lead to accidents.
- **Indoor Safety:** If you're indoors, stay inside. Find a safe place such as under a sturdy piece of furniture or against an interior wall. Stay away from windows and outside doors.
- **Outdoor Safety:** If you're outside, find an open space away from buildings, trees, streetlights, and utility wires. Stay there until the shaking stops.
- **Driving During an Earthquake:** If you're driving, pull over to a safe spot, stay in your car until the shaking stops.
- **Avoid Using Flames:** Don't use matches, candles, or any flame during or after the earthquake due to potential gas leaks.
- **If in Bed:** If you are in bed when an earthquake starts, do not get out of bed. Instead, lie face down to protect vital organs, and cover your head and neck with a pillow.
- **Avoid Elevators:** Do not use elevators as they may shut down.

Bhopal gas tragedy (Human-Made Disasters)

Introduction:

- **The Bhopal disaster or Bhopal gas tragedy was a chemical accident on the night of 2–3 December 1984 at the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) pesticide plant in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India.**
- **In what is considered the world's worst industrial disaster, over 500,000 people in the small towns around the plant were exposed to the highly toxic gas methyl isocyanate (MIC).**
- **Estimates vary on the death toll, with the official number of immediate deaths being 2,259. In 2008, the Government of Madhya Pradesh paid compensation to the family members of 3,787 victims killed in the gas release, and to 574,366 injured victims.**

Role of Pharmacists in disaster management

- **Pharmacists or other pharmaceutical personal have a history role in disasters.**
- **The role of Pharmacists in community pharmacies and hospital setting can be seen during the current ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID 19) disaster around the global.**
- **Pharmacists are uniquely placed in the community to be of assistance to disaster-affected patients.**
- **They also provided additional information to patients having associated chronic diseases.**
- **Pharmacist worked with other members of the healthcare team and refer patients chronic disease related issue to them.**
- **The unique situations disaster create require pharmacists to play nontraditional roles involving decision making in therapeutic protocols.**
- **They are positioned during disasters to provide healthcare continuity and medication management to affected communities.**
- **Taking medication histories**
- **Providing vaccinations**
- **Performing basic medical checks.**

NEXT CLASS

CHAPTER-7 | SOCIAL PHARMACY

- **Pharmacoeconomics – basics, Health Insurance, Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs), Health spending, Out- of- pocket expenses**

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