

Need to take geoscience education to people in India

AUTHOR DR. SHARMA S.K. Geologiacl Research Institute
24 National Road, Dehradun, India

It is said that 90% of the natural disasters and 95% of the total disaster related deaths world-wide occur in developing countries. India, as a developing nation, is no exception to it and on account of its geographical position, climate and geologiacl setting, it has become a major natural calamity prone country in the world resulting in uprooting people, disturbing livelihood, damaging infrastructure and claiming several thousand lives every year in its one part or the other.

About 8 million hectares including a cropped area of about 3.7 hectares is affected by flood annually, nearly 68% of the arable land area in India is prone to periodic droughts due to failure of monsoon. On an average about 60 million people in the country every year suffer from adverse impact of geohazards, natural like earthquake, landsalide or human induced like soil erosion, water contamination etc costing a huge sim to the Government to bring back the life noraml in the affected area. This creates an imbalance and adersely affect the progress of the country which a developing nation like India can ill afford.

Such devastations merely show the ignorance of people to understand the physical processes of the earth that affects the environments around them.

The paper deals with the suggestions of applying geoscientific knowledge, techniques and experiences to mitigate the impact of geohazards and to augment the economic development of the country by taking geosience education to people in India.