



Mains Practice Question

Q. Critically examine the concept of 'disaster-resilient livelihoods'. How can it be promoted in disaster-prone regions of India? **(250 words)**

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Approach

- Introduce the answer by defining disaster resilient livelihoods
- Highlight the Strengths and Limitations of Disaster-Resilient Livelihoods
- Suggest measures to promoting Disaster-Resilient Livelihoods in India's Disaster-Prone Regions
- Conclude suitably.

Introduction

The concept of "**disaster-resilient livelihoods**" refers to the **capacity** of individuals and communities to **sustain or quickly recover their livelihoods** in the face of disasters.

- **Adaptive Capacity:** Ability to adjust to potential damage and respond to consequences.
- **Absorptive Capacity:** Ability to absorb shocks and stresses.
- **Transformative Capacity:** Ability to create new systems when existing conditions are untenable.

Body

Strengths and Limitations of Disaster-Resilient Livelihoods:

- **Strengths:**
 - **Holistic Approach:** Integrates social, economic, and environmental dimensions.
 - **Proactive Stance:** Focuses on **pre-disaster preparedness** rather than just post-disaster response.
 - **Sustainable Development:** Aligns with SDGs, particularly **Goal 1 (No Poverty) and Goal 13 (Climate Action)**.
 - **Community Empowerment:** Emphasizes local knowledge and participation.
- **Limitations:**
 - **Complexity:** Requires intricate coordination across multiple sectors and stakeholders.
 - **Resource-Intensive:** Demands significant **financial, technical, and human resources**.
 - **Context-Specificity:** Solutions may not be universally applicable across diverse geographies.
 - **Measurement Challenges:** Difficulty in quantifying resilience and progress.
 - **Potential for Maladaptation:** Poorly implemented strategies may inadvertently increase vulnerability.

Promoting Disaster-Resilient Livelihoods in India's Disaster-Prone Regions:

- **Access to Financial Services**
 - Provide microfinance and insurance products tailored to the needs of **disaster-prone communities**.
 - Establish **emergency funds and savings schemes** to help communities recover post-disaster.
 - Facilitate access to **low-interest loans** for rebuilding and livelihood restoration.
- **Risk Assessment and Mapping:**
 - Implement the **National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM)** for real-time disaster risk monitoring.
 - Utilize satellite imagery and **GIS** for detailed vulnerability mapping (e.g., **ISRO's Bhuvan** platform for flood hazard zonation).
- **Climate-Smart Agriculture:**
 - Promote **drought-resistant crop varieties** (e.g., ICAR's drought-tolerant chickpea varieties).
 - Encourage agroforestry (e.g., ICRAF's work in the **Bundelkhand region**).
- **Livelihood Diversification:**
 - Encourage **eco-tourism** in vulnerable regions (e.g., **Himalayan Homestay Program in Ladakh**).
- **Financial Inclusion and Risk Transfer:**
 - Expand coverage of **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** with faster claim settlements. (e.g., **Beed model in Maharashtra**).
- **Infrastructure Development:**
 - Implement nature-based solutions for flood management (e.g., **Room for River project in Kerala**).
- **Technological Integration:**
 - Utilize AI and big data for disaster prediction (e.g., **Google's flood forecasting initiative in Patna**).
 - Promote mobile apps for disaster communication (e.g., **NDMA's Safetipin app**).
- **Strengthening Local Governance:**
 - Implement Urban Risk Reduction programs in cities (e.g., **UNDP's urban risk reduction project in 56 cities of India**).

Conclusion

Promoting disaster-resilient livelihoods is essential for India's vulnerable regions. A comprehensive approach involving policy, **livelihood diversification, social protection, resource access, infrastructure development, and climate change adaptation** is crucial for building resilient communities and safeguarding livelihoods.