



# Role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Response and Recovery Efforts: An Investigation in Bangladesh

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## ABSTRACT

This research study examines the critical role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in disaster response and recovery activities in Bangladesh. Given Bangladesh's vulnerability to natural disasters such as cyclones, floods, and landslides, the success of disaster management techniques, particularly those sponsored by NGOs, is critical. This study adopts a mixed-methods approach, integrating quantitative survey data analysis with qualitative interviews and case studies. This research attempts to assess the role of NGOs in all stages of disaster management, including preparedness, response, and recovery, via extensive data collecting and analysis. This study examines the methods, resources, and interventions used by NGOs to determine the extent to which these organizations lessen the negative effects of catastrophes while also facilitating long-term recovery and resilience-building activities. Furthermore, the study looks into the collaboration and coordination methods used by NGOs, government agencies, and other stakeholders to improve the overall efficacy of disaster management activities. This study's findings are likely to give useful insights into the strengths, problems, and possibilities related to NGO participation in disaster response and recovery activities in Bangladesh. Such findings can help policymakers, practitioners, and humanitarian actors develop more effective and integrated disaster management plans. Finally, the goal of this research is to contribute to disaster resilience and sustainable development in Bangladesh, reducing the negative effects of future catastrophes on vulnerable people.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Bangladesh's geographical position and topography make it particularly vulnerable to natural catastrophes including cyclones, floods, and landslides. The frequency and severity of these catastrophes have resulted in major humanitarian crises, demanding adequate disaster response and recovery systems. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play an important role in augmenting government efforts and assisting impacted populations during and after catastrophes. However, while the relevance of NGOs in disaster management is well acknowledged, there is still a lack of understanding of NGOs' particular responsibilities, methods, and impacts in Bangladesh's disaster response and recovery operations.

As a result, the purpose of this study is to look at the role of NGOs in disaster response and recovery activities in Bangladesh, with a particular emphasis on examining their efficacy, problems, and contributions to disaster-prone communities' resilience. Even though several NGOs are present and actively involved in disaster response and recovery activities in Bangladesh, there is insufficient empirical data and a thorough knowledge of their efficacy and impact. The extant literature relies mostly on anecdotal evidence or isolated case studies, with no systematic analysis or empirical rigor. As a result, there is a need for empirical research that critically evaluates the role and contributions of NGOs in disaster management, taking into consideration the different contexts, problems, and complexity of Bangladesh's disaster-prone environment. Furthermore, studies are scarce on the processes of coordination and collaboration among NGOs, government agencies, and other players in disaster response and recovery operations. Addressing these knowledge gaps is critical to improving the efficiency, efficacy, and sustainability of disaster management measures in Bangladesh. This project aims to provide evidence-based insights and suggestions that might drive policy formation, practice, and decision-making in Bangladesh to strengthen disaster resilience and lower vulnerability.

The significance of NGOs in disaster response and recovery endeavors in Bangladesh is heightened by the nation's vulnerability to natural calamities. Bangladesh is frequently struck by cyclones, floods, and other natural disasters, which result in extensive destruction and humanitarian emergencies. NGOs fulfill an essential function in such circumstances by supplementing governmental endeavors through the provision of prompt and focused aid to impacted communities. Their proficiency in administering aid, adaptability, and presence at the grassroots level render them indispensable in attending to the urgent requirements of populations impacted by disasters. Notwithstanding this, disaster management is frequently approached with greater flexibility and adaptability by NGOs, which enables them to customize interventions following the particular vulnerabilities and requirements of affected communities. NGOs contribute to long-term recovery and resilience-building initiatives, such as subsistence support, infrastructure rehabilitation, and capacity building, in addition to their immediate relief efforts. Their active engagement promotes the empowerment and participation of the community, which ultimately improves the sustainability and efficacy of disaster response and rehabilitation initiatives.

In addition, NGOs ensure that the rights of marginalized populations are safeguarded and that their voices are acknowledged in the aftermath of disasters. NGOs facilitate disaster management coordination and cooperation by collaborating with local authorities, government agencies, and other stakeholders; this maximizes resources and minimizes duplication of effort. Therefore, it is crucial to comprehend the function and consequences of NGOs in disaster response and recovery to formulate all-encompassing and cohesive

approaches to alleviate the effects of catastrophes and advance sustainable development in Bangladesh. Objectives are the following points:

- (i) To evaluate the contributions and participation of NGOs in Bangladesh's disaster response and recovery efforts.
- (ii) To identify the most significant obstacles that NGOs in Bangladesh confront when performing their duties during and after disasters.
- (iii) To analyze the approaches and strategies utilized by NGOs in Bangladesh for disaster response and recovery.
- (iv) In disaster response and recovery, investigate the collaboration and coordination mechanisms among NGOs, government agencies, and other relevant stakeholders.
- (v) To offer suggestions for augmenting the contribution of NGOs in forthcoming calamities.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEWS

Bangladesh is one of the most disaster-prone nations in the world, with cyclones and other catastrophes posing a continuous threat. NGOs are essential to the handling of disasters. NGOs are now considered important partners by the government in this endeavor. Their creative methods—like the usage of microcredit—have been put into practice; many of them have to do with maintaining the benefits of development initiatives as a component of rehabilitation. NGOs have pressed for improved government-to-party collaboration. Although advanced buildings have been authorized, it is too soon to assess their impact. In attempts to integrate disaster management goals, neither government institutions nor NGOs have clearly defined responsibilities, despite advances. This will guarantee that long-term development initiatives lessen both local vulnerability and capability. Because of its geographic position, Bangladesh is among the countries most susceptible to natural catastrophes worldwide, according to [Rahman and Khan \(2018\)](#) study. It is said here that the Bangladeshi government has already taken many actions to handle disasters, including formally recognizing the roles of different stakeholders. Historically, the nation's unofficial support networks and NGOs have also been crucial to the recovery process both during and after natural disasters. The resilience of people, experience in disaster response and recovery, and support from donors are some of the positives of the present management techniques, but they are beset by several institutional and policy flaws. The most obvious examples of the lack of efficient collaboration between stakeholders in these formal setups are in the areas of planning, resource distribution equity, and creating a culture of group decision-making for the transparent implementation of disaster agencies and programs. To carry out the phases of disaster prevention, readiness, response, and recovery, the document places a strong emphasis on partnerships.

According to [Khan and Hossain \(2020\)](#), the study emphasizes how crucial GOs were in building up shelter facilities and arranging meetings in the run-up to the 2017 flood to lessen loss and damage. NGOs were essential in organizing training sessions aimed at raising awareness. GOs performed exceptionally well in providing CI sheets, agricultural assistance, and monetary relief for emergency shelter and support throughout the crisis. In the meanwhile, the provision of necessities including food, water, clothes, and medication was mostly handled by NGOs. The report draws attention to difficulties such as weak penalties, poor communication, ignorance among those who are impacted, and conflicting problems. NGOs have been using the community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) method as a common way to build resilient communities in their disaster risk reduction (DRR) initiatives. NGOs were the ones who first presented this strategy in the poor world, but international

groups like the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent helped it acquire support and broader adoption. Interestingly, local governments are starting to acknowledge the CBDRR method as a way to strengthen ties between official disaster management systems and community-based groups.

### 3. METHOD

The study methodology used to investigate the role of NGOs in disaster response and recovery activities in Bangladesh is a mixed-methods approach that combines quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Quantitative analysis entails collecting primary data through questionnaires distributed to NGOs working in Bangladesh, with an emphasis on issues such as organizational structure, resources, and disaster response and recovery efforts. In-depth interviews with important stakeholders, such as NGO representatives, government officials, and community people, are among the qualitative methodologies used to get nuanced insights into the strategies, problems, and outcomes of NGO disaster management initiatives. Furthermore, case studies of specific catastrophe occurrences and NGO activities give context and allow for the investigation of complex dynamics in disaster response and recovery. The triangulation of data from numerous sources improves the validity and reliability of findings, allowing for a more thorough evaluation of the role and performance of NGOs in disaster mitigation and resilience building in Bangladesh. Scholarly references ([Khan & Hossain, 2020](#); [Islam, 2017](#)) gave theoretical frameworks and methodological advice for investigating NGO engagement in disaster management contexts, assuring rigor and scholarly integrity in the study process.

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1. Importance of NGOs in Disaster Management

NGOs play an important role in disaster management, especially in countries like Bangladesh, which are highly vulnerable to natural catastrophes. These organizations play critical roles in both catastrophe response and long-term recovery initiatives. Several things contribute to their relevance. For starters, NGOs frequently have a thorough awareness of local populations and their vulnerabilities, enabling more focused and culturally sensitive disaster relief efforts. Furthermore, their speed and flexibility allow them to swiftly deploy resources and tailor their actions to changing demands on the ground. NGOs also make substantial contributions to community capacity development, helping citizens take control of their recovery processes and build resilience against future catastrophes.

Furthermore, NGOs act as advocates for marginalized populations, ensuring that their needs are met and their rights are protected throughout the crisis management process. [Khan and Hossain's \(2020\)](#) scholarly research emphasizes the crucial role of NGOs in disaster response and recovery efforts, highlighting their capacity to bridge gaps in government-led initiatives and deliver essential services to impacted communities. Similarly, [Islam \(2017\)](#) emphasizes the role of NGOs in disaster management, citing their contributions to community empowerment and sustainable development.

In Bangladesh, where natural catastrophes have a particularly severe impact, NGOs play an essential role in disaster management, with their research and assessment critical to improving overall disaster resilience and decreasing the negative consequences of future tragedies. This study's extensive research seeks to give useful insights into the efficacy, problems, and contributions of NGOs in disaster management in Bangladesh, informing policy and practice to enhance disaster response and recovery efforts in the area.

## **4.2. NGO Activities in Disasters**

### **4.2.1. Disaster preparedness**

People in this disaster-prone area have employed traditional knowledge and practices to deal with floods and storms. Flood victims demonstrated more catastrophe readiness than NGOs or donors as late as the 1988 flood scenario, with a focus on reconstruction rather than proactive planning. However, NGOs reported a growing understanding that disaster preparation is essential for emergency response. Bangladesh must prepare for catastrophes year-round since their kind and intensity vary (Ahmed, 2018). The current discussion suggests that disaster preparedness programs should focus more on community readiness, using local risk-reduction and mitigation measures and, most importantly, strengthening people's coping skills. This would require a long-term mitigation strategy and the incorporation of DMP concerns into development plans and programs, as NGOs advised during interviews.

### **4.2.2. Relief and rehabilitation**

NGOs have tried many approaches to natural catastrophes, primarily floods and cyclones. Disaster response is traditionally divided into urgent aid and post-disaster rehabilitation. Recent data has called into question this practice of splitting relief and rehabilitation resources and activities. Fertilizers, seedlings, cash-for-work programs, cash handouts, and interest-free loans for house rebuilding may be deemed critical assistance. Because rebuilding livelihood grounds and getting government permission faster are vital. NGOs usually require more than 48 hours to receive approval to transfer rehabilitation supplies from the government. Redefining rehabilitation and alleviation approaches. It is projected to speed up rehabilitation for agricultural crop cycle, shelter, and sustenance needs, reducing distress sales and borrowing.

The 1998 extensive flooding affected urbanites, especially in low-lying disadvantaged regions. NGOs have provided aid and repair in these areas. Relief included food delivery, emergency medical aid, and kid feeding. One of the NGOs interviewed indicated they did a Participatory Rural Appraisal to evaluate community needs during restoration. During this activity, participants identified the two most urgent challenges as unsanitary conditions during the prolonged floods and the lack of solid waste management. Community members actively participated in the construction of garbage bins as part of the rehabilitation process, lane committees were formed from users to manage solid waste, and caretakers were appointed using user funds. All of these activities were coordinated locally. Second, individuals or community organizations received soft loans to replace slum-hanging latrines. Dirt, sand, and leftover building materials were used to improve the latrines' approaches to the community. Community water stations and tube wells were repaired during restoration.

### **4.2.3. Rehabilitation through micro-credit**

Credit program operators are developing additional emergency plans. These two areas are related: to preserving customers' assets and helping disaster-stricken clients. Their client protection strategy allows clients to withdraw a portion of their funds voluntarily and compulsively. They postpone payments till things settle down. Some NGOs provide financing and entrepreneurship training to clients to diversify into disaster-proof income-generating companies. Several NGOs provide disaster preparation programs. Most of these activities are sponsored by specified funds, although many are being funded by NGOs. NGOs sometimes give subsidized loans for emergency supplies and food, which are hidden. Housing loans are granted for safe neighborhood properties. Portfolio-protection methods include loan

rescheduling, with or without interest, and grant-working capital loan combinations. Group contingency funds (Grameen Bank), low-interest open savings accounts (BURO-Tangail), and no-interest current accounts for members to protect term deposits.

#### 4.2.4. Advocacy and social action

Some non-governmental groups assist local protests against government infrastructure projects that exacerbate natural disasters. Several southwest coastal embankment projects flooded thousands of acres of crops. In the country's center, a large multifunctional bridge overlooks the Jamuna. The river training component of this project caused serious river bank erosion, forcing many to move and destroy their homes and valuables. Legal and emotional support from NGOs in these places helps impacted individuals oppose government policies and demand rehabilitation and compensation.

### 4.3. Various NGOs Engaged in Disaster Preparedness Activities in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, a large number of NGOs are actively participating in disaster preparedness initiatives, recognizing the need for pre-emptive actions to lessen the effects of regular natural disasters. These NGOs work on a variety of scales, from small grassroots organizations to internationally recognized enterprises, with each bringing unique experience, resources, and methods to disaster preparedness efforts. For example, BRAC, one of Bangladesh's largest NGOs, implements community-based disaster risk reduction programs, such as early warning systems, evacuation planning, and disaster-resilient infrastructure development, to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities. Similarly, Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK), a well-known local NGO, organizes capacity-building workshops and awareness campaigns on disaster risk reduction and emergency response, focusing on marginalized communities in disaster-prone regions (GUK, n.d.). Furthermore, national NGOs such as the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and the Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) play critical roles in disaster preparedness by establishing community-based disaster management committees, providing first aid and emergency services, and disseminating relevant information and training programs (BDRCS, n.d.; DAM, n.d.). Furthermore, international NGOs such as CARE Bangladesh and Save the Children work with local partners to implement comprehensive disaster risk reduction initiatives that include livelihood support, disaster-resilient housing construction, and advocacy for policy reforms to improve disaster preparedness and response (CARE Bangladesh, n.d.; Save the Children, n.d.).

Scholarly study highlights NGOs' different roles and contributions to disaster preparedness operations in Bangladesh. [Khan and Hossain \(2020\)](#) emphasized the importance of community-based initiatives and grassroots participation in disaster resilience building, reflecting the work of local NGOs such as BRAC and GUK. Similarly, [Rahman and Khan \(2018\)](#) emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts by NGOs, government agencies, and communities to improve disaster preparedness and response capacities, which is consistent with the collaborative strategies used by national and international NGOs such as BDRCS, DAM, CARE Bangladesh, and Save the Children. This research aims to elucidate best practices, challenges, and opportunities for bolstering disaster resilience at local and national levels by investigating various NGOs involved in disaster preparedness activities in Bangladesh, thereby informing more effective and sustainable disaster management strategies in the region.

### 4.4. Role of NGOs in Immediate Response during Disaster

Communities are shocked and landscapes are destroyed as the ground trembles, winds cry, and floodwaters rise. After such damage, when institutions collapse and hope seems lost,

NGOs become essential. These invisible soldiers weave a tapestry of immediate response that saves lives, reduces suffering, and prepares for long-term recovery. Their devotion and understanding of local issues drive them. Several aspects are in the following:

- (i) **Main Defense: Search, Rescue, and Relief** In a disaster, every minute counts. Those submerged or clinging to rubble must fight for survival. Here, professional non-governmental search and rescue teams shine. With expert expertise, cutting-edge technology, and unwavering bravery, they meticulously discover and remove survivors in dangerous terrain. Their local language skills and geographical knowledge assist organize volunteers and bridge the gap between optimism and despair. Beyond the mad chase, lifesaving commodities are needed. Food, water, sanitation kits, and medical help are vital during shortages. Established networks and logistical expertise make NGOs lifelines. They build supply chains, distribute to remote areas, and manage deteriorating infrastructure. Trucks full of goods provide people who have lost everything hope and ensure that basic needs are met.
- (ii) **Dark Navigation: Knowledge as a Lifeline** Disaster makes information as vital as air. Speculation, dread, and bewilderment lead to desperation. NGOs gather and share information about current events, needs, and resources. Their reliable communication helps displaced communities identify shelters, doctors, and other important services. This accurate information flow ensures a coordinated response by reducing effort duplication and optimizing help efficacy.
- (iii) **Building Bridges: Community, Trust, and Resilience:** NGOs advocate for their communities, not merely deliver services. They understand local needs, customs, and dynamics well. Due to their extensive expertise, they can foster collaboration and confidence, ensuring community participation in response and decision-making. They become familiar faces, voices of calm in the storm, and pillars of support as communities cope with the psychological impacts of the calamity. They empower communities to grieve, provide emotional support, and celebrate traditional rituals after loss.
- (iv) **Building a Sustainable Future:** Quick action is vital, but recovery will take time and effort. This method relies on NGOs' long-term development vision and persistence. They support legislation that increases catastrophe resilience and addresses deficiencies like infrastructure and discrimination. They help residents rebuild homes and schools, revive economies, and take charge of their lives. This prolonged effort heals disaster-related psychological and financial scars as well as physical ones.
- (v) **An Expert Tapestry:** Equally diverse NGOs handle equal concerns. Engineering NGOs focus on infrastructure rebuilding and critical services, while medical NGOs provide healthcare and sanitation. While psychological support teams repair the tragedy's emotional scars, education NGOs continue education. Its diversified abilities and steadfast devotion ensure that no rehabilitation aspect, perspective, or community is missed.
- (vi) **How NGO Action Reverberates:** Helping NGOs with emergency aid is an investment in humanity, not simply compassion. Every life saved, family reunited, and community given rebuilding tools ripples around the world, making it more compassionate and resilient. By assisting these unsung heroes on the front lines, we reduce loss in the immediate aftermath and cultivate the seeds of a brighter future where communities can overcome any challenge.
- (vii) **Request for Help:** Not only is supporting NGOs' early reaction efforts generous, but it is also an investment in mankind. Each life saved, family reunited, and community given the skills to rebuild adds to the symphony of hope, making the world more

compassionate and resilient. Our assistance for these frontline heroes eases suffering after a crisis and fosters a brighter future where communities are ready to face any challenge. Finally, NGOs revolutionize disaster relief. They are vital as community activists, information centers, first responders, and long-term recovery architects. Their unwavering dedication, adaptability, and deep understanding of community need create a fabric of hope and resilience in despair. Even under the worst conditions, humanity's light will shine on and help them achieve a brighter future.

#### **4.5. Importance of Disaster Management Strategies and Mechanisms**

Natural or man-made disasters may devastate communities, causing death, property, and environmental damage. In such unpredictable times, disaster management plans and processes are crucial. This assignment examines how these measures improve community resilience and reduce disaster damage. Disaster management techniques and processes are extremely important. Man-made and natural disasters can inflict enormous damage, death, and economic suffering. Good catastrophe management may reduce these effects and make communities stronger. Effective disaster management is essential because:

- (i) **Save Lives:** Efficient disaster management leads to prompt evacuation, emergency response, and medical support, decreasing human loss during catastrophes.
- (ii) **Minimize Property Damage:** Disaster management reduces damage to infrastructure, houses, and precious assets via preparedness and fast response tactics.
- (iii) **Minimize Economic Impact:** A timely and coordinated disaster response can reduce economic losses by accelerating recovery and limiting interruptions to companies and communities.
- (iv) **Enhance Community Resilience:** catastrophe management measures strengthen community resilience via education, training, and infrastructure, allowing for better catastrophe response and recovery.
- (v) **Improve Communication:** Disaster management establishes clear communication channels for the timely delivery of critical information, including warnings, instructions, and updates to the public.
- (vi) **Foster Coordination:** Effective disaster management requires collaboration across agencies, organizations, and community members to ensure effective preparedness, response, and recovery operations.
- (vii) **Minimize Environmental Impact:** Disaster management strategies prioritize protecting ecosystems and natural resources. Disaster management frameworks help governments, corporations, and communities develop and implement successful policies based on unique risks and vulnerabilities.
- (viii) **Address Vulnerable Groups:** Effective disaster management prioritizes the needs of vulnerable groups, including the elderly, children, and persons with disabilities, throughout planning and response activities.
- (ix) **Learn from prior Events:** Disaster management entails analyzing prior catastrophes to enhance and adapt techniques.

To put it briefly, disaster management plays a crucial role in preserving life, defending property, and encouraging general resilience in the face of unanticipated disasters. Numerous approaches and systems are available for use in disaster management. Among the most typical are:

- (i) **Risk assessment:** Risk assessment entails determining which dangers have the highest likelihood of affecting a certain location and evaluating the possible effects of those risks.



- (ii) **Prevention:** This refers to taking measures to lessen the possibility that a disaster will occur. Examples of such measures include planting trees to stop landslides and constructing seawalls to guard against coastal erosion.
- (iii) **Preparedness:** Being prepared entails creating strategies for handling potential emergencies, such as evacuation routes and backup communication networks.
- (iv) **Response:** This includes giving food, water, and shelter to individuals impacted by a disaster to meet their immediate needs.
- (v) **Recovery:** This includes assisting affected communities in their post-disaster reconstruction and future resilience building.
- (vi) **Economic Resilience:** Catastrophes can have catastrophic effects on the economy. Disaster management plans preserve vital infrastructure, reduce losses, and expedite recovery to increase economic resilience. Effective disaster management strategies put communities and businesses in a better position to absorb shocks and ensure long-term economic growth in the wake of a disaster.

Effective disaster management necessitates a collaborative effort from all levels of government, the commercial sector, and civil society. It is also critical to engage communities in the development and execution of disaster management policies, as they will be the most affected by catastrophes. Investing in disaster management not only saves lives and property but also protects our economy and infrastructure. By fostering resilient communities, we can ensure a safer and more secure future for everybody.

#### **4.6. Disaster Management Mechanisms in Bangladesh**

Disaster management methods in Bangladesh include a variety of techniques, policies, and institutional frameworks aimed at lowering communities' susceptibility to natural hazards and increasing resilience in the event of catastrophes. One significant example is the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP), which was formed by the Bangladeshi government in conjunction with development partners to improve disaster preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities at the national, regional, and local levels. The CDMP highlights the need for community-based initiatives, early warning systems, capacity building, and incorporating disaster risk reduction into development planning procedures (CDMP, undated).

Furthermore, the Disaster Management Act of 2012 establishes a legislative framework for disaster risk reduction and management, defining the duties and responsibilities of various government agencies, NGOs, and stakeholders in disaster response and recovery operations (Government of Bangladesh, 2012). Bangladesh has also established specific organizations, such as the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) and the National Disaster Management Council (NDMC), to monitor and coordinate disaster management actions throughout the country. These procedures are supplemented by the active participation of NGOs, civil society groups, and foreign agencies in disaster planning, response, and recovery programs, resulting in a multi-stakeholder approach to disaster management in Bangladesh.

Scholarly study demonstrates the significance of good catastrophe management methods in Bangladesh. [Huq et al. \(2019\)](#) emphasize the importance of community-based initiatives and early warning systems in lowering catastrophe risks and increasing resilience in vulnerable populations. Similarly, [Haque et al. \(2017\)](#) underline the need to coordinate efforts across government agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders to improve disaster management capacity and promote sustainable development. This study examines disaster management mechanisms in Bangladesh to provide insights into best practices, challenges, and opportunities for improving disaster resilience and reducing vulnerability in the region,

thereby contributing to more effective and sustainable disaster management strategies. Detailed information is in the following aspects:

- (i) **Institutional Framework:** In Bangladesh, the Disaster Management Institutional Framework comprises major institutions such as the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) and the National Disaster Management Council (NDMC), which are in charge of coordinating disaster response and risk reduction initiatives. Furthermore, the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) emphasizes community-based methods and disaster risk reduction in development planning. These institutional frameworks are critical to efficient catastrophe management. The scholarly study by Huq et al. (2019) and Haque et al. (2017) highlights the importance of such frameworks in improving disaster resilience and lowering vulnerability in Bangladesh.
- (ii) **Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR):** The principal governing body tasked with devising and executing policies about disaster management and coordinating all associated endeavors.
- (iii) **National Disaster Management Council (NDMC):** The preeminent policy-making entity, led by the Prime Minister, the NDMC supervises disaster management efforts and offers strategic direction.
- (iv) **Disaster Management Bureau (DMB):** The technical branch of MoDMR, tasked with implementing DRR programs and coordinating with department ministries, agencies, and NGOs.
- (v) **Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation (DRR):** Oversees post-disaster relief and rehabilitation operations.
- (vi) **Local Government Institutions:** At the local level, disaster management activities are coordinated by the District and Upazila Disaster Management Committees.
- (vii) **Community-Based Organizations (CBOs):** Serve as pivotal actors in enhancing community-level preparedness, awareness, and response.
- (viii) **Key Mechanisms:** This includes several points:
  - **National Disaster Management Plan (NPDM):** The National Disaster Management Plan (NPDM) is an all-encompassing blueprint that delineates strategies for risk mitigation, readiness, reaction, and recuperation.
  - **Early Warning Systems:** Robust warning and forecasting systems for floods and cyclones furnish affected communities with opportune notifications.
  - **Cyclone Shelters:** In the course of cyclones, more than 1800 shelters provide secure havens across the nation.
  - **Embankments and Polders:** Flood risks are mitigated through the regulation of river flows and the protection of low-lying areas by infrastructure projects such as embankments and polders.
  - **Community Preparedness Programs:** Drills and training programs furnish communities with the necessary expertise and understanding to efficiently address catastrophic events.
  - **Volunteer Networks:** Rescue, relief, and rehabilitation endeavors are significantly aided by trained volunteers affiliated with organizations such as the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and the Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP).

#### **4.7. Findings and Recommendations**

NGOs are indispensable to disaster management; however, their effectiveness is often impeded by several significant challenges. The subsequent sections provide a critical evaluation of the aforementioned concerns along with recommendations for progress:

Despite the crucial role that NGOs fulfill in disaster management, their efficacy is frequently impeded by many formidable obstacles. The following is an analysis of these challenges accompanied by recommendations for enhancement: The following are challenges:

Findings are in the following points:

- (i) **Finances:** One of the NGOs' ongoing problems is a lack of funds. Reliance on erratic funding and varying contributions makes it challenging to plan and respond effectively. This frequently results in catastrophe management that is reactive as opposed to proactive.
- (ii) **Coordination and cooperation:** Due to the large number of entities participating in disaster management, such as local communities, NGOs, and government agencies, there is frequently miscommunication, duplication, and resource waste.

The recommendation is in the following points:

- (i) **Limited capacity and expertise:** Many NGOs lack the skilled people and specialized equipment required for efficient disaster response. This can cause delays in rescue efforts, poor distribution of supplies, and decreased safety for both rescuers and assistance personnel.
- (ii) **Security and Access Restrictions:** Conflict zones, unstable nations, and isolated places are frequently hazardous and difficult situations for humanitarian workers, limiting access to impacted communities and endangering rescuers.
- (iii) **Long-term recovery and sustainable solutions:** Disaster aid frequently prioritizes urgent needs while ignoring the long-term recovery and rebuilding process. This can render populations more vulnerable and prone to future calamities.
- (iv) **Diversification of funding sources:** To establish a more sustainable financing base, NGOs can consider forming relationships with commercial corporations, social impact investors, and community organizations.
- (v) **Advocates for more government support:** Lobbying for a designated disaster relief budget and easier access to emergency funds can give essential assistance during times of crisis.
- (vi) **Focus on cost-effectiveness and openness:** Demonstrate the efficacy of programs in building trust and recruiting long-term contributors. Improve pre-disaster communication and collaboration by establishing venues for information exchange, cooperative planning, and resource sharing before disasters strike.
- (vii) **Develop a clear leadership structure:** Define each actor's tasks and responsibilities to prevent redundancy and guarantee a timely and coordinated reaction.
- (viii) **Develop dispute resolution and negotiating skills:** Provide staff with the ability to bridge gaps and create common ground while dealing with a variety of stakeholders.
- (ix) **Develop links with local communities and authorities:** Collaborate with local stakeholders to build confidence and provide safe access to the impacted regions.
- (x) **Policy Change Advocates:** Promotes policies that address the underlying causes of vulnerability, such as poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Finally, the examination of the role of NGOs in disaster response and recovery activities in Bangladesh emphasizes their critical relevance in lessening the negative effects of natural catastrophes. NGOs, with their agility, local expertise, and community ties, play an important role in supplementing government efforts and delivering timely and targeted aid to disaster-affected populations. Furthermore, their participation in long-term recovery and resilience-building programs promotes sustainable development and improves the overall resilience of

vulnerable communities. However, obstacles such as coordination issues, resource restrictions, and accountability concerns persist, demanding collaborative efforts by NGOs, government agencies, and other stakeholders to successfully address them. NGOs may optimize their effect and make a substantial contribution to building a more resilient and disaster-resistant Bangladesh by utilizing their strengths and encouraging collaboration. Khan *et al.* (2020) and Islam (2017) give useful insights into the various roles and contributions of NGOs in disaster management contexts, emphasizing the relevance of community engagement, coordination, and sustainability in improving disaster resilience. This study work, using an evidence-based approach, adds to a better understanding of the dynamics of NGO participation in disaster response and recovery activities in Bangladesh, guiding policy and practice to enhance disaster management methods and results in the nation.

## 6. AUTHORS' NOTE

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article. The authors confirmed that the paper was free of plagiarism.

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