

Establishment of Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Change Adaptation (DRR-CCA) Clubs in Colleges, Universities and Institutes of Higher Education

Background and Rationale: Climate change, environmental degradation, and unplanned urbanization are increasing disaster risks globally and nationally. Youth, though among the most impacted, remain underprepared and underutilized in organized disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) efforts.

Educational institutions play a crucial role in shaping resilient communities. However, most colleges, Universities and institutes of higher education currently lack structured platforms for systematic awareness and preparedness activities. National and international frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction emphasize youth engagement and the role of educational institutions in fostering a culture of resilience.

Why DRR-CCA Clubs?

- Disasters disrupt education, livelihoods, and social systems. Students need knowledge and skills to safeguard themselves and their communities.
- Existing disaster related and climate change awareness initiatives are limited to one-off events without continuity.
- Colleges lack formal structures for sustained student participation in disaster preparedness, response, and adaptation measures.
- Linkages with technical agencies like SDRF, Fire & Emergency Services, and Red Cross are minimal.
- DRR-CCA Clubs provide a low-cost, sustainable mechanism for youth-driven safety, preparedness, and community outreach.

The recent advisory from the University Grants Commission (UGC) in association with the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), encourages Higher Educational Institutions to promote disaster resilience among students.

In alignment with this national vision and as a leading organization in building resilience, enhancing disaster response capabilities, and promoting climate change adaptation, RedR India is launching an initiative to establish at least **100 Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR-CCA) Clubs** in colleges and universities across India, and South Asia.

The primary objective of the DRR-CCA Club program is to empower the next generation of leaders—our students—with the knowledge, skills, and mindset necessary to contribute to a disaster-resilient India. These clubs will serve as vibrant hubs for learning, innovation, and community engagement, moving beyond theoretical understanding to practical application.

Key activities of the DRR-CCA Club will include:

- **Awareness Workshops & Training:** On disaster preparedness, first aid, climate resilience, and humanitarian principles.
- **Simulation Exercises & Drills:** Practical mock drills for earthquakes, fires, floods, etc., to build muscle memory and confidence, in collaboration with the government disaster response teams.
- **Expert Lectures & Webinars:** Sessions by seasoned practitioners from RedR India's network of disaster management experts.
- **Community Outreach Programs:** Applying learned skills to conduct awareness campaigns in neighbouring communities.
- **Innovation Challenges:** Encouraging students to develop projects and solutions for local disaster risks and localized climate change adaptation innovations.

RedR India commits to supporting the participating universities by:

- Providing a comprehensive starter kit and a framework for club operations.
- Offering curated training modules and resource materials.
- Facilitating access to our network of experts for guest lectures and mentorship.
- Recognizing the outstanding contributions of clubs and student members.

By establishing a DRR-CCA Club, the university, college and other institutes of higher education will not only be fulfilling the UGC-NIDM advisory but will also provide a unique value proposition to your students, enhancing their employability in the growing sectors of disaster management, climate action, and sustainable development. It is a significant step towards fulfilling our collective social responsibility and creating safer campuses and communities.

We are confident that with your esteemed leadership and the enthusiasm of the students, the DRR-CCA Club at your institution will become a benchmark for others to follow.

We request you to kindly nominate a dedicated faculty coordinator to liaise with us for the swift establishment of the club.

If your institution is ready, register on: <https://www.redr.org.in/drr-clubs/>

For further information and to confirm your participation, please contact us at drrclub@redrindia.org or 9419007285 (Mr. Aamir Ali).

Thank you very much



For RedR India