

# **Disaster Risk Management, Step towards Sustainable Urban Management and Development and Community Resiliency**

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## **Abstract**

As we all may know the poor people facing poverty are more vulnerable facing disasters. This vulnerability not only limits the development of a city but also it causes the gradual destruction by means of social aspects. For empowering the people facing disasters, a disaster management context is needed which through that and through modern methods the city and urban spaces can be developed from different points of view.

In this paper at first we will explain how disaster management can affect the sustainable urban management. Then we will explain disaster management for generating sustainable urban management and development mean. The next coming up as a conclusion which will be lessons learnt explained as an experience that can be used in similar parts of the world.

## **Keywords**

Sustainable urban management, sustainable development, disaster management, poverty, planning.

## **Introduction**

In today's world the people facing poverty are extremely engaged and busy with in the process for earning their life, to just live very simple. For this they can not participate participating actions and process such as training and also education, for the most vulnerable for empowering them in facing difficulties specially the incidents and disasters where they are more vulnerable.

This is a truth as a fact that: the poorer the people are the more vulnerable they are in facing disasters. This is a paradox that the poorer, the less time they can spend to empower themselves. What is the clue and solutions? For this, for sustainable development through a disaster management context the planners and managers will go to the people and plan and manage the environment avoiding the harm to the people facing poverty way of life and to adjust their style of life and they will not wait for people coming to them because some of the people because of their special and critical situation for earning their life may not ever have the opportunity to participate the actions for empowering them in facing disasters because they are always engaged with earning the minimum standards in life style that some times there is no way even to achieve the least possible.

Most commonly the people facing poverty which are changed and shape them as the most vulnerable people will effect the others as well with a better situation.

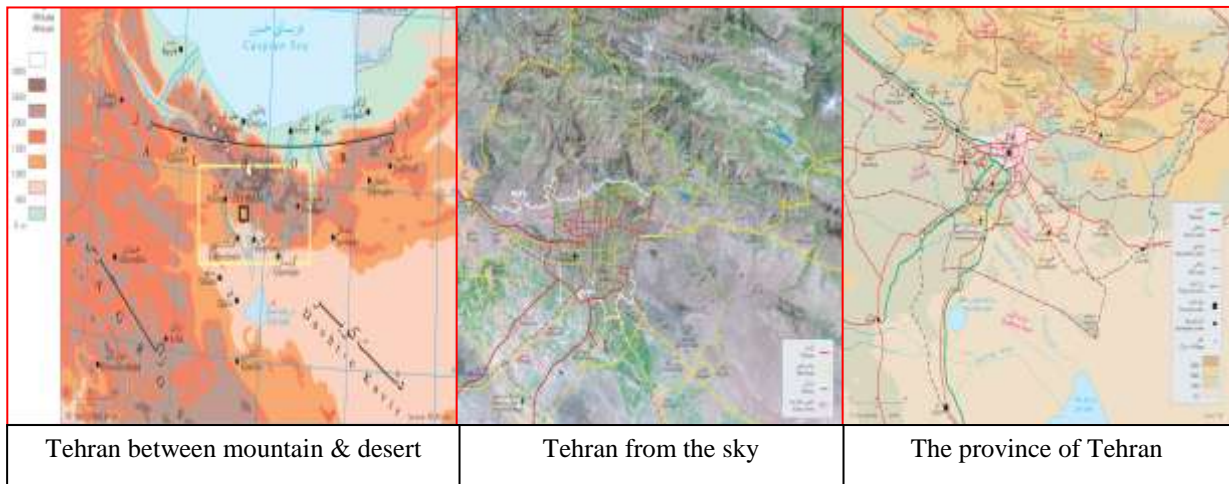
The facts that the most vulnerable face are as follows:

- 1- Not enough time to participate the participatory actions and activities such as training and education.
- 2- Not enough money and capital to spend to empower themselves in facing difficulties and disasters.
- 3- Less patience of the most vulnerable because of the longer process of participatory actions and activities.

### Study Area

Tehran metropolis is located at the southern part of Alborz mountain ranges. This city is located on the lowest part of the Alborz mountain ranges and covers an area of about 800 km<sup>2</sup> with the population of approximately<sup>1</sup> 13,422,366 people.

This city is highly in danger for the probability of occurrence of earthquake; volcano, flash floods, storms and also recently as previous times for sand storm mixture with snow, so as we may see this metropolis needs a Strategic Comprehensive Sustainable Disaster Management Plan (SCSDMP). Because of having different complex sites that consist of a large amount of people in a limited and concentrated land the epidemic disease is usually quickly expanded and if not under control it will end up in a disaster.



### Study Methodology

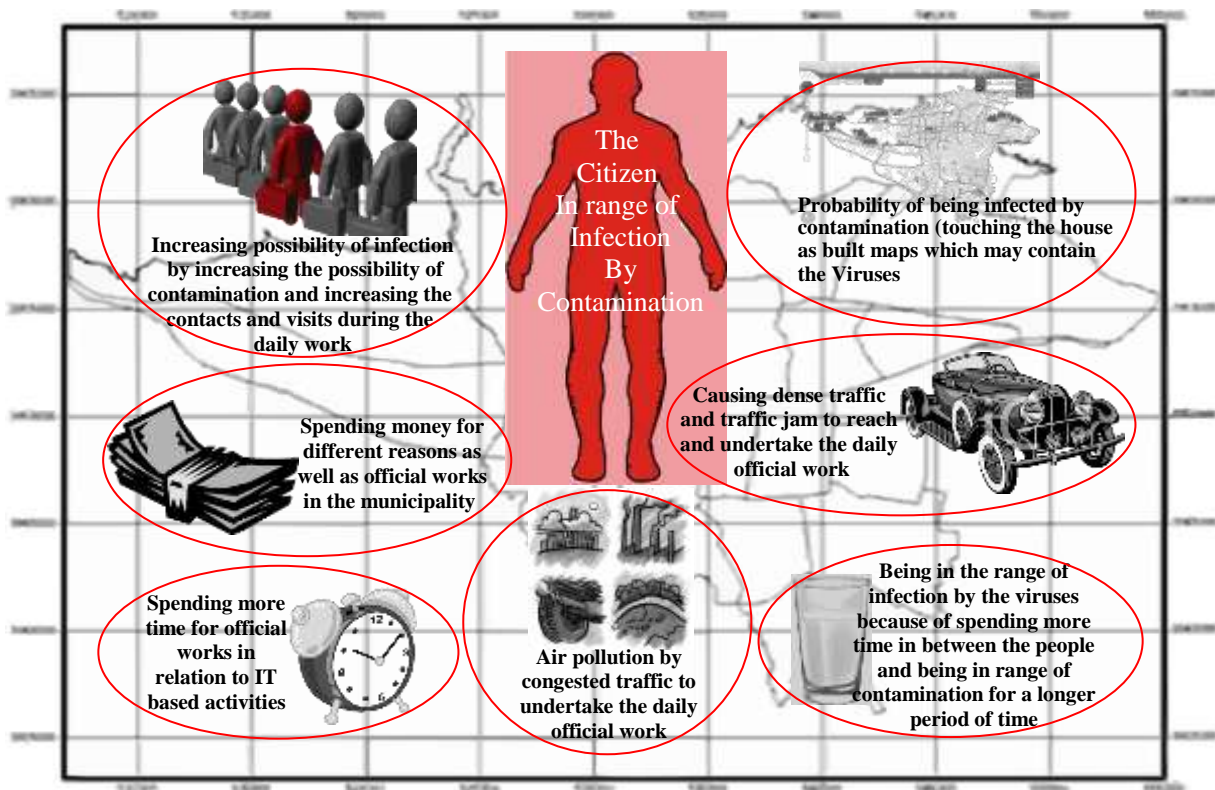
In this paper the main method of research has been the descriptive method and mainly the findings has been extracted and obtained through library studies. In some parts of the paper where needed the library studies have been completed through scientific and pre prepared interviews.

### Scenario

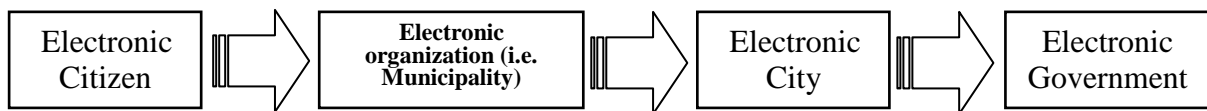
For example imagine a city facing an “A type influenza (H1N1)” as an epidemic disease situation. The best possible way for mitigating the epidemic situation of the disease is to avoid further physical contacts between the people. For instance imagine a person visiting the municipality’s urban planning deputy office for monitoring his own house status. In such a situation the person paying a visit physically will not only increase the possibility of contamination but also if he or she will be ill will increase the rate of contamination for the municipality staff as well.

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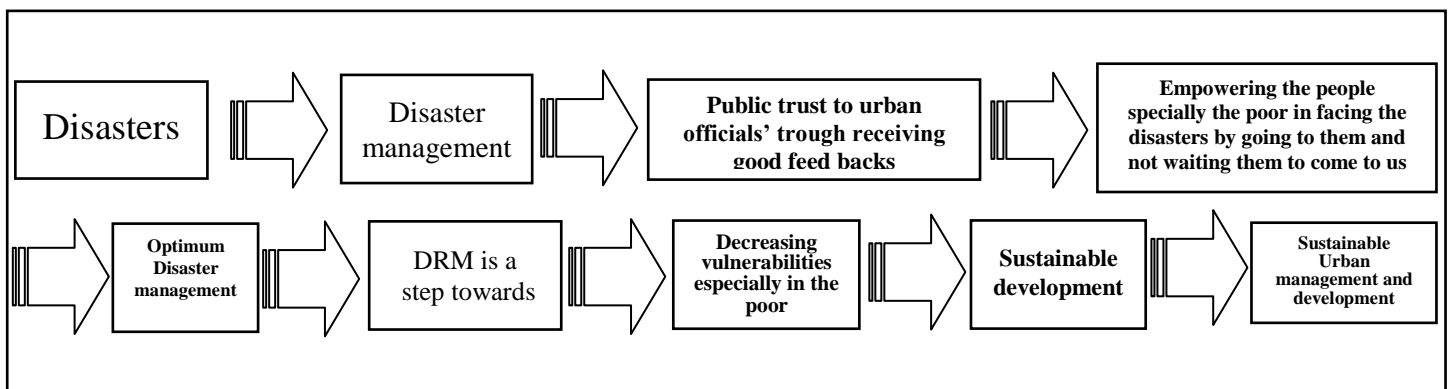
1- According to statistics released by statistical center of Iran-2008



Physical Visit



As mentioned before we can see that disaster management can cause sustainable development and through this sustainable development the next generation can empower themselves to face disaster. The process is easily and simply stress in the diagram below:



## Conclusion

When the people are empowered in facing the disasters, the disaster management process is being done and implemented optimally and in a sustainable development context which will increase community resiliency. By this process the people will know exactly how to act in emergencies and disaster situations. This can be done through preparedness process which one of them is education and training. So for this we can see that in this stage the urban officials will go to people to protect them in disasters and not to wait for the people to come to them, Because in today's life the people and the citizens are too busy to spend their time for education and training for empowerment in facing disasters especially in the third world countries because most of them are working to earn their life and usually more than one person in the household should work to earn a minimum standard of life. This fact will be more important when we see that the most vulnerable are the most poor people so empowerment of people will also empower the poor which by this means will help empowerment of the poor as well by going to them.

As we saw the disaster management process is a step towards sustainable urban management and development

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