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GOVT. COLLEGE, SANJAULI, SHIMLA -6, H. P.

WEB SITE: www.gcsanjauli.edu.in E-Mail Address: principalsanjauli@gmail.com

FAX/ Tel. No: 0177-2640332



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Report on Disaster Risk Reduction Day on October 14, 2024

Organised by

Department of Geography & Disaster Management Cell

The Disaster Management Committee and Geographical Society came together to commemorate Disaster Risk Reduction Day on October 14, 2024, with a focus on fostering awareness around the importance of disaster preparedness in daily life. In an era of increasing natural and man-made disasters, understanding and mitigating disaster risks is not only vital for survival but also for sustainable development. Recognizing this need, the committee organized a lecture titled “Disaster Risk Reduction: Its Importance in Everyday Life,” inviting Assistant Professor Lakhbeer Singh Dhiman from the Department of Environment Science, COE, GDC Sanjauli, as the keynote speaker.

The session began with a warm welcome note and an introductory speech delivered by Dr. Khyal, Assistant Professor of Geography. Dr. Khyal set the stage by emphasizing the growing relevance of disaster risk reduction (DRR) in light of recent global events, from devastating wildfires to severe floods, which serve as a reminder of the urgent need to be prepared. His address highlighted how, in addition to government agencies, communities and individuals play an integral role in minimizing the risks and damages caused by disasters.

Students from various disciplines, including geography, environmental science, and social studies, gathered to participate in the event, indicating a shared interest in building a more resilient future. Assistant Professor Lakhbeer Singh Dhiman’s lecture was highly interactive, engaging students through practical insights and real-world examples. He provided a holistic view of disaster risk reduction, underscoring its importance as a proactive measure to ensure the safety and resilience of communities.

One of the central themes of Professor Dhiman’s lecture was the integration of disaster risk reduction practices into everyday routines. He explained how simple measures, like developing emergency plans and understanding the risks associated with specific locations, could make a

significant difference. For instance, he pointed out that knowing the location of emergency exits, having basic first aid knowledge, and staying informed about local emergency contact numbers are simple yet impactful actions that can save lives during disasters.

Professor Dhiman also highlighted the importance of community-based approaches in disaster management. He shared success stories of communities that had taken proactive steps to mitigate disaster risks. He encouraged the students to engage in local disaster planning initiatives, suggesting that involving themselves in community preparedness programs could foster a culture of resilience. This, he argued, not only enhances individual safety but also strengthens collective readiness in times of crisis.

The lecture also addressed the broader environmental implications of disaster risk reduction. Professor Dhiman elaborated on how environmental degradation, such as deforestation and pollution, exacerbates the frequency and intensity of natural disasters. He highlighted that conserving natural resources and promoting environmental sustainability could reduce the likelihood of disasters like landslides, floods, and wildfires. By advocating for greener, more sustainable practices, society can lessen its vulnerability to disasters while simultaneously contributing to the health of the planet.

During the session, students were encouraged to reflect on their understanding of disaster management and assess the risks they may face in their personal environments, be it at home, school, or in public spaces. The interactive nature of the lecture allowed students to ask questions and discuss hypothetical disaster scenarios, which deepened their understanding of how they could apply DRR principles in their own lives. This collaborative environment fostered a spirit of shared responsibility and encouraged students to think critically about how they could contribute to creating safer communities.

The event concluded with a summary of key takeaways, where Ms. Mitali president geographical society expressed her gratitude to Professor Dhiman for his valuable insights and practical advice. She reiterated the importance of disaster risk reduction, particularly in a country like India, where a diverse geography makes certain areas more vulnerable to specific types of natural hazards, such as earthquakes, floods, and cyclones.





Ms. Mona Sharma (HOD)
Assistant Professor
Department of Geography
Sanjauli, Shimla-6

B. B. Sharma
Principal,
COE, Govt. College
Sanjauli, Shimla-6