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**Class XIth Subject Geography Date 21.1.2021.**

**CH: NATURAL HAZARD AND DISASTER**  
**CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES, AND MANAGEMENT**

This unit deals with

- Floods and droughts
- Earthquakes and tsunami
- Cyclones
- Landslides

**NATURAL HAZARDS AND DISASTERS**

*What is a Disaster?*

“Disaster is an undesirable occurrence resulting from forces that are largely outside human control, strikes quickly with little or no warning, which causes or threatens serious disruption of life and property including death and injury to a large number of people, and requires therefore, mobilisation of efforts in excess of that which are normally provided by statutory emergency services”.

For long time, disasters were considered as consequences of natural forces; and human beings were treated as innocent and helpless victims in front of the mighty forces of nature. However natural forces are not only the causes of disasters, but also they can be caused by human activities.

*What are the differences between disaster and natural hazard?*

1. **Natural hazards** are elements of circumstances in the natural environment that have the potential to cause harm to people or property or both.

As compared to natural hazards, **disasters**, which are caused by natural forces or activities of human beings, are relatively sudden and cause large scale, widespread death, loss of property and disturbance to social life.

2. **Natural hazards** may be swift or permanent aspects of the respective environmental settings like currents in the ocean, steep slope and unstable structural features in the Himalayas or extreme climatic conditions in deserts or glaciated areas. Any event can be classed as **disaster** when the magnitude of destruction and damage caused by it is very high. Every disaster is unique in terms of the local socio-economic factors that control it, the social response it generates and the way each social group negotiates with it.

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