

Paper name: Environmental Geography and Disaster Management

Paper code: GGY-HC-4016

Topic: Types of Hazards and Disasters

Environmental; hazards and disasters are normally divided into the following two broad categories on the basis of main causative factors and their mode of origin:

- 1) Natural hazards and disasters
- 2) Man-induced (anthropogenic) hazards and disasters

Natural hazards and disasters are further sub-divided into main and sub-categories as follows:

I. Natural hazards and disasters

1) Planetary hazards and disasters

A) Terrestrial or indigenous disasters

- i) Volcanic disaster
- ii) Seismic disaster
- iii) Tsunami disaster
- iv) Landslide disaster

B) Atmospheric or exogenous disasters

i) Abnormal or infrequent events

- a) Cyclone disaster
- b) Hurricanes disaster
- c) Tornado disaster
- d) Lightning disaster
- e) Hailstorm disaster

ii) Cumulative atmospheric disaster

- a) Flood disaster
- b) Drought disaster
- c) Cold wave disaster

d) Heat wave disaster

2) Extra-planetary hazards and disasters

- i) Collision of meteors with the earth
- ii) Mutual collision of meteors

II. Man-induced (anthropogenic) hazards and disasters

1) Physical disasters

- A) Reservoir-induced seismic (RIS) disaster
- B) Man-induced landslide disaster
- C) Accelerated soil erosion

2) Chemical disasters

- A) Release of toxic materials
- B) Large-scale leakage of petroleum from oil-tankers
- C) Nuclear tests and explosion

3) Biological hazards and disasters

- A) Failure of nuclear plants
- B) Eutrophication
- C) Insect swarms (such as locust swarms)
- D) Population explosion

4) Technological disasters

- A) Failure of nuclear plants
- B) Nuclear wars
