

**Paper name: Environmental Geography and Disaster Management**

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### **Topic: Distinction between Hazard and Disaster**

Hazard and disaster are closely related. A hazard is a natural event while the disaster is its consequence. A hazard is a perceived natural event which threatens both life and property. A disaster is the culmination of such hazard.

A hazard is a potential for a disaster. A hazard becomes a disaster when it hits an area affecting the normal life system. If a hazard like a cyclone hits an unpopulated area, say an unpopulated coast, it need not be considered as a disaster. However, it will be considered a disaster if life and property are seriously damaged. A hazard may be regarded as pre-disaster situation, in which some risk of disaster exists, because the human population has placed itself in a situation of risk.

Disasters are extreme events which cause great loss of life and/or property and create severe disruptions to human activities. They can be created by human actions, e.g., transport accidents and industrial explosions or natural processes like earthquakes. A hazard is when extreme events or process occur in an area of human settlement and could cause loss of life and damage to existing constructed resources or infrastructure.

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Disaster</b>
It is a dangerous situation that possess threat to human life.	It is an event that completely causes damage to human life and property.
Has less critical consequences.	Has more critical consequences
Takes it full shape after a series of events, which might have led it to happen.	Often happens in a short time, causing more severe effects.
For example, dust storm, <i>bordoichila</i> , etc.	For example, earthquake, tsunami, etc.

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