

Long Answer Type Question

1. What do you mean by vulnerability? What are the various factors on which vulnerability depends?

Ans. (a) Vulnerability is the measure of loss of lives and property which a community may bear in case of any disaster or hazard.

(b) Following are the factors on which vulnerability depends—

(i) **Location of the place of event:** - People of hazard-prone areas are likely to suffer more loss as compared to those living in relatively less hazard-prone areas. The vulnerability increases in case of people living in distant places where transportation and communication facilities are not available.

(ii) **Making of a house:** Vulnerability also depends upon the type of house people use to live in. If the houses are pucca, it will damage more to life or property but in case of a kachha house the damage is relatively less.

(iii) **Economic and social development:** People who socio-economically less developed, are likely to become badly-affected by the disaster. They lack means to protect themselves from the effects of disaster. They live in unhygienic conditions and have no opportunity for proper education and training.

(iv) **Age, gender and other factors:** Usually children, women, old people and handicaps are relatively more vulnerable to a sudden natural disaster.

(v) **Unplanned and unsafe growth of settlements:** The increasing population, urbanization, poverty, etc. are some causes which led people to develop settlements in an unplanned way and at unsafe places. In the event of natural disaster, such people become more vulnerable.

(vi) **Availability of rescue measure:** Sufficient and timely rescue measures may reduce the effect of disaster. This factor is concerned to the government and other social institutions.