

The Role of Literature in Disaster Management Specially with the Novel 'Lord of the Flies' by William Golding

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Abstract

Literature plays vital role in human life. This paper explores the significance of literature in disaster management with a focus on 'Lord of the Flies' by William Golding. Prevention and Mitigation of disaster management in present scenario not only possible through practical implementation but also the role of literature is very significant. 'Lord of the Flies' offers a profound exploration of disaster management with fictional microcosmic setting. The novel portrays a group of boys stranded on an uninhabited island and how they tried to establish, order and survival strategies in the face of their predicament. This paper analyses the disaster management themes in Golding's novel including, leadership, resource allocation, conflict resolution, and societal collapse while reflecting on its literary significance.

Key Words: Disaster Management, Literature, William Golding's Lord of the Flies.

Introduction

Disaster Management is a systematic process for reducing natural as well as man-made hazards through the phases like preparedness, mitigation and responses. It is really sustainable arrangement which tries to protect the lives and property during the disaster and help us to prepare for disaster; fighting effectively in such situation and ensuring the safety of life and also rebuild society from adverse events. While traditionally associated with natural or man-made disasters; the concept can also apply to social and psychological breakdowns which depicted in Golding's novel 'Lord of the Flies', this novel presents a hypothetical scenario of disaster. During an unnamed war time a plane crash in the Pacific Ocean in which a group of school boys are isolated on an uninhabited island, where they are alone without adult supervision. This novel is about a group of boys stranded on the desert island who are away from adults and without any checks. They develop their own miniature society, a microcosm of children on an island makes a great symbolic message about human nature, society and how grown-ups live and govern away from civilization, they revert to primitive behaviour. They evolve their own undemocratic rules and savage behaviour. The variety of personalities of the boys symbolize mankind as a whole. One of the boys in stranded is Ralph, he is the representative of rational but fallible mankind. He tries to establish and orderly society based on rules, authority and knowledge. but he has to struggled against the evil forces (man-made hazard) while Jack the counterpart is representative of emotion and savagery. He rules as a dictator, makes his own laws encourage savagery amongst his followers. This led to another disaster which spoil the atmosphere of the island. He deserts the democratic way of life. Golding conveys that the moral of the story emphasizes how the structure of society should rely on the ethical character of individuals rather than on political systems. Golding uses this microcosm to critique human nature or behaviour, governance and fragility of social system. He shows how literature portrays disaster and their management, emphasizing the human, societal and cultural dimensions.

Disaster Scenario in 'Lord of the Flies';

Disaster scenario has taken place on the unknown, inhabitant island when a group of boys stranded on a deserted island. It becomes a symbolic site of disaster. The state of stranding in this place, the group of boys' isolates from society due to plane rash. which depriving them from adult guidance and established social system. The scarcity is that, the boys must manage limited resources, including food, water and shelter; critical aspects of disaster management. The boys isolation and fear of the unknown on the island revolves around the boys terror of the beast, fear is allowed to grow because they play with the idea of it. The boys struggle to fully embrace the concept of a

“beast”, yet they are unable to dismiss it entirely. They whip themselves in frenzy i.e. psychological stress of mind, and their attempt to resolve their fear are too feeble to convince themselves one way or the other. The recognition that no real beast exists that there is only the power of fear, which exacerbate tensions; leading to chaos. This setting depicts how disasters test human resilience and adaptability.

Leadership and Governance in Disaster Management

The group of school boys stranded on a deserted land, among them one of the oldest boy Ralph. he represents order leadership and civilization. He tries to manage an orderly society based on rules, authority and knowledge, He has to struggle against the evil forces i.e. man- made hazards. Ralph manages as a leader, advocating for order; building shelters, and maintain the signal fire is on the mountain to call passing ships to their rescue while shelters- are constructed, His strong belief that someone will come to rescue the boys. These actions reflect basic disaster management principles like rescue operation via the signal fire as well organising resources as building shelters.

On the other hand, Jack's leadership create hazards. He gives the priorities hunting and power, representing the decent into chaos. His authoritarian leadership undermine the collective good illustrating how poor leadership can exacerbate or provoke all disaster condition. He lives for the hunt, rules and a dictator and guided by evil purpose. His action brings out the change in the story. William Goldings evaluates the competing leadership styles showing how the lack of cooperation and communication obstruct effective disaster management conflicts and breakdown of social orders. He focuses in 'Lord of the Flies' how disaster scenarios can inflates existing tendencies toward conflict and division. Resource conflict has taken place due to the boys' quarrels over the leadership, the signal fire and food reflect real world struggles over resource time allocation during crises. In the time of disasters, the division between Ralph's group and Jack's tribe symbolizes the fragmentation that often occurs in the lack of unified disaster management. The culmination of the violence reached when Simon and Piggy, who represents of truth vision and moral understanding, murdered brutally by Jack and his group's boys. Simon and Piggy's murder shows how fear and sadistic nature can lead to societal collapse instead of recover. Golding shows how civilization on the island breaks down and leads to anarchy and terrors. It becomes the reason of failing to manage conflict in disaster situation.

Psychological Impact Responses to Disaster

Fear of unknown beast on the island revolves around the boys terror of the beast. No real beast exists; that there is only the fear exists within all human beings which proves with irrational, savagery behaviour of the boys and seems to become more real beast. The boys psychological stress and trauma parallels the mental health challenges often observed in real world disaster scenarios.

Disaster Management and the need of Civilization

Golding implies that the loss of civility collapses the social structure in isolation. As civilization erodes, humanity regresses to more primal state, resulting in the breakdown of individual identity. The boys make use of mask to cover their identity and this allow them to kill and later murder this savagery reflects how prolong the disaster can erode societal norms and ethics. Golding painted very negative picture, through group of boys. The Children represents mankind, who are away from adult and without any check or restriction, they revert to primitive behaviour. The boys establish their own rules, adopt savage behaviour and even create their own deity i.e. Lord of the Flies. The need of civilization in disaster time denotes the significance of human values of life for sound and healthy society. Golding attempt is to provide lesson about basic human behaviour through the group of children.

Symbolism and its relevance to Disaster management

William Golding uses various symbols in 'Lord of the Flies', which proves helpful to rescue in disaster situation on in inhabitant island. Such symbols are conch shell, Piggy's glasses, signal fire, the beast. The conch shell is a powerful symbol of civilization and order in this novel. It effectively governs the boy's the couch's sounding is a means of communication; and a way of gathering the boys in such disastrous situation. One of the boys is Piggy, he is also intelligent, rational boy like Ralph, his glasses represent the power of science and intellectual endeavour in society. The boys

use his lenses of glasses to focus the sunlight and start the fire which would be helpful to attract the attention of passing ships that might be able to rescue the boys. Its destruction represents the breakdown of law and governance in disaster situation. The fire on the mountain is signal, which is a beacon of hope and rescue, it might be able to rescue the boys and return to society. The Beast is imaginary symbol, which inculcates fear among the boys, symbolizes the inherent evil present within every human being or in the core of humanity itself, that become the cause of disaster. So, Golding wants to say savagery act can be control through basic human values which is primary lesson of disaster management, preparedness. These human values inculcate in children through moral stories as well as any genre of literature, it helps them to prepare and aware mentally what is right or wrong.

Lesson for Disaster Management

William Golding offers several insights which is really applicable to disaster management. He shows how the existence of civilization allows man to remain innocent or ignore about his true nature. Man needs civilization, that is laws, rules, policemen and schools are essential to keep the darker side of human nature in line. When these institutions and concepts are neglected or ignored human beings revert to a more primitive part of their nature. Effective and cooperative leadership leads towards right path, which is essential for disaster preparedness, recover, rescue from disaster. In such situation, children, represents the mankind, are away from the authority or without any restriction, they revert to primitive behaviour and also taught us equal distribution can prevent conflicts i.e. resource management unified efforts essential for recovery and survival. Otherwise, fragmentation and individualism are cause of disaster. William Golding warns us we must remember that world with surround us is our island and we must feel and act responsibly toward it we have a responsibility to protect our civilization, its freedom and also mankind.

Conclusion

Lord of the flies is a compelling literary exploration of disaster management and its challenges. Through the boys' points of view decent into savagery, Golding examines disaster management in microcosm emphasising the need of order, leadership. cooperation and responsibility. While the novel depicts fictional scenario, its insights are profoundly relevant to real world disaster management and also highlight the need for unity, empathy and strong governance in the face of crises. The role of literature is very significant in Disaster Management, Golding, in his literary work, provides an outlook to overcome disaster situation. Truly it is, "Literature is a process of producing beautiful lies that tell more truth than any facts" said by Julian Barnes. By focusing on these aspects, the present paper can bridge the gap between disaster management and literary studies. And how literature provides new insight to deal with any situation.

References

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