

Answers to Questions by ADITI TYAGI

1. What brought you into the Emergency/Disaster Management field?

While pursuing my M.Phil. when my professor asked us, the students, to think upon an area of interest and a related problem, and discuss it with him for the dissertation purpose, whatever I had known of the recent major disasters in India and around, like Bhuj Earthquake, Himalayan Earthquake, Mumbai Floods and Tsunami was heavily etched over my mind and therefore, took this academic program requirement as an opportunity to understand the system, the institutions and the agencies who deal with these grave situations to bring back normalcy. There was no looking back thereafter.

2. What attracted you to the TIEMS organization and the TIEMS TQC & TQAC certification?

I had always been hunting for and desired to be associated with some meaningful organization substantially contributing to the initial phase of disaster as well as the integrated response mechanism so that my learning as a researcher and my belief in community strength could receive a platform for making a contribution. With no such certification known to be available in India, one of my mentors introduced TIEMS to me, and I found it to be just fitting in the bill.

3. How do you think the TIEMS TQC certification will benefit your future opportunities and career?

The TIEMS TQC certification has contributed immensely in enhancing my knowledge and widening my horizon of the field of emergency management. It will fetch me greater recognition as a disaster management professional, and I will now have a better chance not only at the national but also at the international platforms for enhanced opportunities in terms of research projects and policy studies. Besides, it has extended to me a network of related international community.

4. How was your experience with navigating through the TIEMS TQC & TQAC certification process?

It has been truthfully a learning process with an inbuilt rigorous but smooth exercise which capacitates you and suitably tests your mental make-up before initiating yourself with the demanding field of emergency management. The entire TQC Board was very supportive throughout. For me, the International Cooperation paper was little more challenging due to its expanse over multiple regional organizations. Nonetheless, the entire experience has been extremely enriching and well-earned. I personally believe that a paper on Community Resilience can add more value and wider spectrum to the entire process.

5. In your opinion, how does the TIEMS TQC certification compare to other Emergency Management certifications?

I have not known any such certification in India and the international arena was rather new to me; my knowledge of such organizations being rather limited to the UN and its allied agencies. Nonetheless, I find the TIEMS TQC Certification to be very fulfilling.

6. In light of Covid-19 and the war in Ukraine, where do you see the Emergency / Disaster Management field heading?

In the given scenario of the increased incidences and the intensity of such situations, it is important to be having more informed community which can immediately flung into meaningful action to be necessarily supplemented by institutionalized and systematic response teams with standard procedures and practices. Also, the political borders fast losing their meaning in the wake of such a situation in current times, emergency/disaster management calls for enhanced international cooperation and support. No fragmented approach and efforts devoid of sustainability can fetch good.

7. Is there anything else you like to tell about yourself?

I am a firm believer in united strength and teamwork, and my existence as a human being continually reminds me of this; always keeping me alert to the responsibilities I have towards my fellow beings and the larger system.