

B.Sc. GEOGRAPHY LAB MANUAL

6th Semester



Prepared By
Pure & Applied Science Dept.
Geography

MIDNAPORE CITY COLLEGE



MIDNAPORE CITY COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES
HANDBOOK FOR PROJECT REPORT
B.SC (HONOURS) IN GEOGRAPHY
SEMESTER – VI

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C14P: Disaster Management based Project Work

An individual Project Report based on any one case study among the following disasters incorporating a preparedness plan in the vicinity of the candidate's institution or residence:

1. Thunderstorm
 2. Landslide
 3. Flood
 4. Coastal / riverbank erosion
 5. Fire
 6. Industrial accident
 7. Structural collapse
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1. Project Preparation

At the Bachelor of Science (Honours) level, a learner is expected to acquire tools, abilities and knowledge that will qualify him/her to teach, carry out research, and perform as a professional. The dissertation project in disaster management, **C14P: Disaster Management based on Project Work** seeks to partially fulfil this requirement. The purpose of this dissertation project is to enable and encourage you to:

- Work independently and in-depth on a suitable theme of your own choice; and
- Produce a structured and documented piece of research work.

The dissertation project is worth two (02) credits of course work. This means that the dissertation work is near about four months process requiring about 40 study hours.

The dissertation process begins with the identification of topic and ends with the submission of a research document (including bibliographic references), which shows you have completed certain tasks. These tasks are:

- Identifying a research topic
- Reading relevant literature
- Constructing a dissertation proposal
- Collecting and evaluating data
- Analysing and interpreting the data in reference to the main aims of the study
- Presenting the work in an extended and coherent form

This dissertation is not expected to demonstrate a substantial original contribution in the field of research. However, it suffices to demonstrate research skills, though a well-organised and executed dissertation may result in useful and publishable findings.

The College encourages you to work independently on the dissertation. However, Academic Supervisor recognised by the Midnapore City College shall guide the dissertation work.

2. The Project Proposal

In order to complete the tasks listed above, it is important to have a specific research plan to help you in completing the project. Each student who undertakes dissertation project is required to submit to the Programme Coordinators, a short 'research plan' or dissertation proposal of

approximately 1000 words within one month from the date of starting Semester – IV class. The project proposal must include the following:

- A working title of the proposed project.
- A clear statement of the research problem to be examined.
- A very brief review of relevant literature to demonstrate the unique methodological and/or theoretical contribution of the proposed research to the discipline.
- An outline of the plan of research and methods to be used.
- An outline of chapter headings for the dissertation; and
- A preliminary bibliography of works relevant to the proposed research work.

The Faculty must approve the dissertation proposal before you begin work on the project.

3. The Project

The topic for the project should be a theme or a problem in an area of your choice. A list of priority areas for research work is given in Syllabus Section (C14P: Disaster Management based Project Work) of this Handbook.

Format of the Project

The project report should be around 5000 words in length (including the title page, acknowledgements and bibliographic references). Essential statistical and documentary appendices such as questionnaires, surveys, interview schedules or other data collection materials may be added to the total, but these should be kept to an absolutely relevant minimum.

- Dissertations should be hand written on A4 size paper.
- Notes and references should be in the prescribed format given in this Handbook.
- Your pages should be numbered sequentially at bottom-centre.
- The final submission should be well bounded between light plastic sheets (cover pages).
- A copy of the bound report should be submitted duly signed by the concerned teacher.

The sequence of the material in the final dissertation should be in the following order (as prescribed by the Midnapore City College):

1. **Cover Page** of the dissertation should state the title of the dissertation, the name of the student, the name of the Academic Supervisor, the Programme for which it is prepared, the name of the University and the year of submission.

2. **Title Page** should give the same information as on the cover, together with the statement: "This dissertation is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Geography of the Vidyasagar University", followed by the date (year) of submission.
3. **Certificate (s)** issued by the Academic Supervisor/Department/College Authority that the dissertation submitted by the candidate is his/her own work and that the same be placed before the examiner.
4. **Table of Contents** should list the contents of the dissertation by chapters with sections where appropriate, and page number for each, together with the page number for the bibliographic references and figures, tables and maps, if any.
5. **Acknowledgements** you may wish to acknowledge any help that you have received in the preparation of the dissertation.
6. **Main Text** comprises of the chapters (three or more), bibliographic references and appendices, if any. Each main heading (chapters, bibliographic references and appendices) should start on a new page; sections within main headings may continue on the same page. Numbering of the main text of the dissertation should be sequential. Bibliographic references should list all works cited in the chapters and other valuable sources used in the preparation of the dissertation.
7. **Dissertation Proposal** approved by the Faculty must be appended to the dissertation at the end.

Submission

A spiral bound copy of the dissertation should be submitted at least a fifteen days before the commencement of term-end examination.

Assessment

The purpose of the project report is to enable you to demonstrate your capacity to carry out a substantial piece of independent academic work on a selected topic related to disaster management. You will be assessed on your capacity to define a topic, to articulate a coherent scheme for examining this topic, to gather the necessary information, and to present and analyze this information in a way, which satisfactorily addresses the question, which has been set.

4. Academic Supervision

The role of the Academic Supervisor is to provide advice and support on all aspects of developing the dissertation project. In addition, he/she will approve and recommend the dissertation proposal to the Faculty as well as certify and recommend the dissertation for evaluation. The main help and support, which Academic Supervisor may provide, include:

1. Advising about developing the research question
2. Advising about review of literature
3. Advising about study design and methods
4. Suggesting additional sources of specialist advice and support
5. Giving practical advice to help with the implementation of your dissertation project
6. Give you letters of authorisation, which would enable you to make enquiry and investigations in different sources (offices, libraries etc.).
7. Supporting you to prepare a suitable timetable and meet key deadlines
8. Reviewing your progress
9. Commenting on draft of your chapters

5. Guidelines and Tips for Project Preparation

Choosing a Project Topic

- In choosing the topic, reflect on what has really interested you in your B.Sc (H) in Geography Programme so far. Are you interested in pursuing an in-depth project in risk and vulnerability analysis or medical and health response to different disasters? Or in the field of psychological rehabilitation or role of nodal agencies? Pick up a topic in an area, which really excites you, on a subject that you would like to spend more time exploring.
- A topic is not automatically a problem for investigation. Explore the topic or theme by conducting a specific survey of literature. Journals are other important source of information. They provide sharply focused information on recent events, discoveries and research. The World Wide Web is yet another valuable source of information. Use Internet search engines and subject directories to find material on the Web.
- Before you finalise the topic, decide what is practically possible in terms of the primary and secondary data, which would provide the basis for the topic.
- Choose a topic, which has some relevance to the contemporary problems or areas.

Project Themes

The Faculty has identified the following themes or topic as priority areas for research.

- Disaster Mitigation: A Study of Non-Structural Aspects of Flood Management in India
- Cyclones: Forecasting and Warning System in India
- Man-made Disaster Management: Role of Nodal Agencies
- Oil Fires in India: A Study of Causes and Impacts
- Risk Reduction Measures: Indian Railways
- Management of Road Accidents: A Case Study
- Management of Sea Accidents in India: Role of Various Agencies
- Effects of Man-Made Disasters: A Case Study of Air Pollution
- Risk Mitigation Techniques: A Study of Treatment of Industrial Effluents
- Management of Chemical Disasters: A Case Study of India
- Risk Assessment and Vulnerability Analysis: Case Study/Comparative Study
- Reducing Disaster Risk in A City/Village
- Physical Vulnerability Assessment: Identifying Building at Risk in an Area
- Disaster Risk: Observations, Perceptions-, Presentation and Identification
- Elements at Risk in an Area: An Analysis
- Role of govt. /Non-govt. functionaries in your locality in Disaster Management
- Preparation of Models of Disaster Resilient Structures
- Institutional Case Study on Disaster Response
- Communication facilities for disaster management
- Preparation of Disaster Contingency Plan

Executing the Research Project

Once the Faculty has approved your dissertation proposal, with or without modifications, the next step is to execute the research project. The execution of research project involves various steps, which include collection of data, analysis and interpretation of data and formulation of conclusions and generalisations. Here we will briefly introduce you to methods and methodology, which will determine how you will go about collecting data and analysing it.

The range of research methods available for designing, carrying out and analysing the results of research is wide and there are different ways of thinking about and categorising them.

- **General Research Strategy:** Quantitative or qualitative

- **Research Approaches:** Action Research, Case Studies, Experiments Surveys
- **Research Techniques:** Documents analysis, Interviews, Observations, Questionnaires, Survey

Analyse, Synthesise and Interpret Data

- In the analysis of quantitative data with the help of statistical techniques, the student is required to understand the concepts involved in use and applications of these methods. Their strength and limitations need to be understood so that there is no ambiguity in their use. Quantitative data analysis techniques include the use and application of various descriptive statistical measures:
 - i) measures of central tendency or averages;
 - ii) measures of dispersion or variability;
 - iii) measures of relative position; and
 - iv) measures of relationship.
- Qualitative data in the form of responses and narratives are analysed to study or discover inherent facts. These data are studied from as many angles as possible to explore new facts or to reinterpret already existing facts. Content analysis, inductive analysis and logical analysis are mostly used in the analysis of qualitative material.
- Once the data have been analysed, you can proceed to the stage of interpreting the results. The process of interpreting is essentially one of stating what the results show. There is always an element of subjectivity, which should be reduced to the minimum by the student while interpreting the results. In the light of interpretations of the results, you have to use all care and caution in formulating your conclusions and generalisations.

Planning Your Time:

Undergraduate students are expected to be able to organise time for work on the dissertation in a responsible way. Your success in managing the whole process will depend on how well you plan the work and monitor progress against your plan. The following is a suggested timetable. You should prepare your own timetable to suit your project and circumstances and you should discuss this with your Academic Supervisor.

First month	Identify dissertation topic/theme-Start reading.
Second month	Survey more literature. Interact with the Supervisor to finalise the Project Proposal.
End of the third month	Collect and analyse the data.
End of the fourth month	Start writing the project report even as you collect and analyse data.

Remember that the dissertation cannot be completed in a quick burst of effort over a few days. The best strategy is to do a little at a time over the whole period of time available for its completion! If you are in difficulty at any point with the dissertation, especially if you seem to be getting nowhere, consult your departmental faculty in the first instance.

References

Blaxter, Loraine, C., Hughes, & M., Tight. (1999). How to Research. Buckingham: Open University Press.

Burton, Dawn. (Ed.). (2000). Research Training for Social Scientists: A Handbook for Postgraduate Researchers. London: Sage.

IGNOU. (2003). Manual for Project Work. New Delhi: School of Education, IGNOU.

Mauch, E., J., & J., W., Birch. (1998). Guide to the Successful Thesis and Dissertation: A Handbook for Students and Faculty. New York: Marcel Dekker.

Declaration

I do hereby declare that the present Master thesis entitled '*title of your work*' embodies the original research work carried out by me in the Department of Biological Sciences, Midnapore City College, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal, India under the supervision of Your Guide Name, Designation, Department, College/ Institution name and address. No part thereof has been submitted for any degree or diploma in any University.

Date:

Place: Midnapore City College, Paschim Medinipur

(Your Name)

Declaration

Approval Sheet

This project report entitled (Title) by (Author Name) is approved for the degree of _____ (Degree details).

(Signature of Examiners)

(Name :.....)

(Signature of Guide)

(Name :.....)

(Signature of Principal)

(Name: Dr. Sudipta Chakrabarti)

(Dr. Pradip Ghosh)

Director

Midnapore City College

Date: _____

Place: _____

Approval Sheet

Acknowledgment

I would first like to acknowledge Dr. Pradip Ghosh, Hon'ble Founder Director, Midnapore City College, Paschim Medinipur for providing me the opportunity to study and complete my thesis work in this college. I am gratefully indebted to him for his very valuable comments on this thesis.

I would like to thank my thesis adviser [Dr./Mr.] [Name Surname] of the [Department name] at [College name]. The door to Prof. [Last name] office was always open whenever I ran into a trouble spot or had a question about my research or writing. He/She consistently allowed this paper to be my own work, but steered me in the right the direction whenever he/she thought I needed it.

I would also like to thank the other Faculties (Title, Name and Surname of all of the Other Faculties in the Department) and other non-teaching staffs for their support to carry out this research project. Without their passionate participation and input, the validation survey could not have been successfully conducted.

Finally, I must express my very profound gratitude to my parents (or any other person) for providing me with unfailing support and continuous encouragement throughout my years of study and through the process of researching and writing this thesis. This accomplishment would not have been possible without them. Thank you.

Author

[Name Surname]

Acknowledgement Format

