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**Communicating geoscience knowledge at the time of natural disaster-experiences from Manipal, southwest coast of India**

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The southwestern coast of India is geologically stable and of Achaean origin, with minimum geological events (eg earthquakes). Geoscience is not much taught at the school and college level here and the common people are unaware of the geological phenomena. This lack of knowledge of geology at times of occurrence of natural geological events (eg. minor faulting, sinkholes, landslips) in this region [1], [2], [3], did cause panic, anxiety and misinterpretation of the events among the public in the last two years. The common public then looked up to the geologists to explain these unusual phenomena and we geologists were in the limelight in the television, radio and newspapers, explaining the phenomenon and dispelling the fears amongst the public. We did capitalize this opportunity in the media to educate the public of this unusual phenomena and popularize the geosciences. This resulted in invitation by several schools, and public organization of lectures by geologists on this phenomena. This made the lay public crave for geoscience popularization and also felt the increasing need of geoscience education at school level. Manipal University also realized the increased importance of geoscience and commenced masters' course in geology from the year 2015.

*References:*

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- [2] [http://www.daijiworld.com/news/news\\_disp.asp?n\\_id=284847](http://www.daijiworld.com/news/news_disp.asp?n_id=284847)
- [3] <http://coastaldigest.com/index.php/news/77487-manipal-landslide-in-front-of-inox-cinemas-triggers-panic>

