

Geohazards and Social Disaster

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ABSTRACT

We are living in two worlds. One world is manmade World or Cultural and Materialistic World, another world is Natural World, we respect this world as 'Mother Nature' or 'Mother Earth'. What we excavate or deplete in the name of 'development' in Cultural Materialistic World, reflects after month in natural world that causes disasters or geohazards - Flood, earthquake, Landslide, Cyclone. The present paper is an effort to highlight social impacts of geohazards.

Key Words : Mother earth, Cultural, Social impacts, Gender inequality, Vulnerable group

INTRODUCTION

Nature and human race has symbiotic relationship to a considerable extent, Primitive Man nurtured in the lap of nature and that line nature worship was to secure and conserve mother nature. Geography has shaped social institutions and human nature. Soil, water, biodiversities has shaped human culture that was earlier known as 'primitive culture'. But with the advent of technology man has depleted his natural surrounding technically to the environment and damage nature, not always with wisdom or with advantage to his long term future. Profound alterations of our environment are now being caused by the growth of modern technology, particularly during the last 100 years and at increasingly accelerating rates at present.

Geohazards are byproducts of human civilization. Man has now the capacity to destroy the entire living systems of the world for the first time in human history.

Geohazards includes - earthquakes, volcanic activity, landslides, tsunamis etc. that may lead to widespread damages and also accelerate environmental problems, that causes harm for society.

METHODOLOGY

Methodology that has been used in this study is

observation method especially and secondary sources of information. In Social Science both are effective methods to study qualitative aspects of society.

ANALYSIS

Geohazards are not only natural Calamities but man-made disasters that have high impacts on society. Natural disasters are deviations from natural and these natural or Geohazards are of different types for examples.

Meteorological - Cyclones, droughts, snow storms etc.

Meteorologically related - Floods, avalanches, landslides.

Geographical - earthquakes, Tsunamis.

Some others - Locusts, Forest fires, epidemics.

Such type of natural hazards is not confined within the geographic boundaries but its impacts are multidimensional.

The events of earthquake of Utter Kashi (1991), Latur (1993), Jabalpur (1997) and Chamoli (1999) have very grimed memories but recently event of Joshimath (2021) revealed that these disasters are natural as well as man-made.

By scrutinizing geohazards we should high light what Ram Chandra Singh Deo has focussed that how policies and projects are not eco-friendly and even improper and

stupid that causes Calamities. He revealed through some case studies of lakes, that were treated as human relations like 'Mama-Bhanja' lake are on the verge of extinction due to unplanned urbanization and in Bangalore (Karnataka) many lakes are part of encroachment and leaving no place of water to move. Encroachment and Construction of dams leads to floods during the monsoon. Such floods are dangerous for human livelihood. Kale Vishwa's (1998) in their work noted widely accepted view among earth scientists that embankment Construction, especially in the alluvial plains has largely failed to provide flood control, they believe, have merely transferred trouble from one place to another, and given the people's as false sense of security.

RESULTS

Though the impact of natural hazards cannot be avoided but it should be mitigated by sustainable way of life. If we assess the past geohazards it has multidimensional impacts on society. Some impacts areas following.

Deaths - Any disaster ends with the end of thousand lives. Earthquake, Avalanche do not spare and time for people to save their life. Deaths are always unwanted and directly hinders family life.

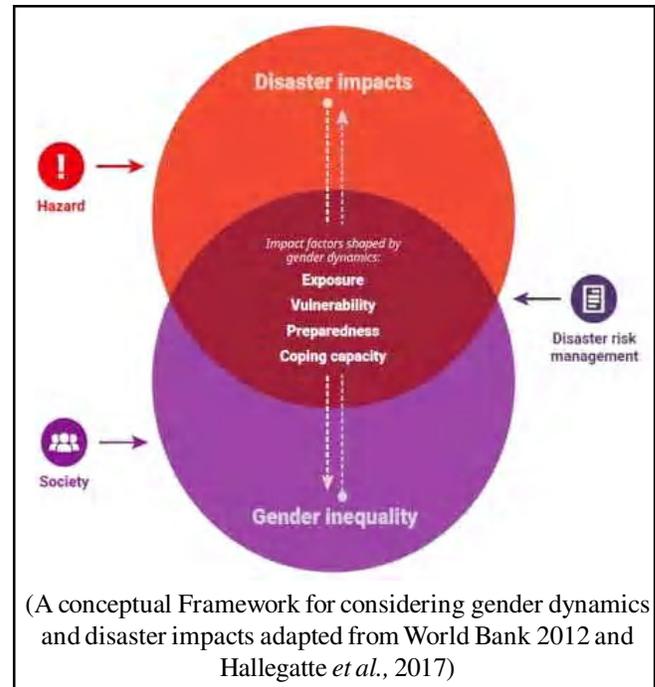
Physical Injury - Fortunately those are spare of often they become injured and physically handicapped that causes problem of family livelihood.

Unemployment - Unemployment are directly caused by disasters that leads people out from work force that they become poorer and women are forced to work in unorganized sector and if work is not these or if they are unable to get rid from poverty, they are forced towards gender based inequalities and malnutrition to food insecurity that leads many families, especially those who are vulnerable groups towards hunger and starvation and they deprived of their right to life and live with dignity. If disaster is like famine and drought, problem becomes more grave.

Environmental pollution is also highly sensitive area to study impact and assistant of disasters. Disaster waste in the form of dead bodies, animal's dead bodies, organic as well as inorganic waste causes environmental pollution.

Gender Inequalities Hazards are gender neutral, but their aftermath impacts multilayers of society. Men-women, boys, girls, elderly all are victim but most affected are vulnerable group of society like women and children

specially girls. Unemployment, child marriage prostitutions, gender discrimination, women education all are the outcome of such hazards and disasters we witnessed during Uttar Kashi earthquake in 1991.



As the conceptual framework shows disaster impacts in orange circle that depend on hazard type and intensity. Purple circle shows gender equality in society. The maroon area highlights gender inequality and disaster impacts that drive disaster impacts as a factor in itself so the disaster risk management policies should operate in overlay area by available tools for mitigating disaster impacts.

DISCUSSION

Post Modern thinker and eminent Sociologist Ulrich beck has stated three types of Modern Risk society.

(1) Man-made Risk (2) Health Risk (3) Inequalities.

No doubt some disasters and geohazards are man-made for example over mining of earth resources are liable for earthquake and landslide. Health Risk are due to over use of technology and inequalities are technological ridden as well as due to disasters. All these have disastrous impacts on society.

It is evident after the Disaster Management Act-2005 its implementation has very positive effects on society, NIDM teams are working in the line of Planning,

Mobilization, Relief, Rescue Rebuilding and Rehabilitation of victims of disasters.

Conclusion:

In today's socio-politico-economic structure of the society where the development wholly depends on scientific and technological augmentations, the attention of the scientists are getting attracted back to re-examining the traditional practices of India to search for some new possibilities against harmful post-effects of modern technologies and to assist the sustainability of ecofriendly concept of developmental programme. Interaction of human beings with the natural environment is concerned to environmental ethics. It aims to offer guidance about conduct and overexploitation of Bioresources, from individual creature to the level of the biosphere as all the organisms share a common and intertwined biological heritage. The possible solutions include understanding the power of environment and apply it for the benefit of human kind. Proper education about the implications of environmental issues and its benefits. Development of environmental biotechnology to clean up hazardous waste more efficiently and lastly awareness about conservation of Biodiversity.

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