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**Community Based Disaster Preparedness: A Case Of Western Ghats Kerala Region**

Disaster preparedness as defined by United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction “is the knowledge and capacities developed by governments, professional response and recovery organizations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to, and recover from, the impacts of likely, imminent or current hazard events or conditions”. It is necessary to decentralise responsibilities and resources for disaster risk reduction to motivate increased local participation along with improved efficiency and equitable benefits from local services. (UNISDR)

No one challenge remains alone, and no one organization or government is exclusively responsible. Support on each level, from individual to regional, and from people in public, private and non-profit sectors, is basic to effectively construct a resilient future for all. Clear vision, plans, competence, guidance and coordination within and across sectors with the participation of local community, is needed. Thus, Community-based preparedness and planning allow us to manage the potential hazards following a disaster event.

The foundation of the research is based on the critical study of the Western Ghats Ecology Panel Reports and the failure in implementing the proposed guidelines. Also, the need for an action plan including the affected community in long term disaster preparedness. How does community play a vital role in risk reduction of the region?

***Keywords:*** Resilience, Preparedness, Disaster management, Hazards, Spatial planning, Risk reduction, Community participation