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Micro Level Disaster Risk Assessment: Prioritizing Social Vulnerability

Disaster is a tragedy, claiming lives, livelihood and causing environmental losses to the affected community without a warning. It arises with the coincidence of hazardous events, elements at risk and vulnerability conditions. In developing countries, the loss of life is reported to be higher and the loss of capital is lower than the developed countries. But the overall impact tends to be significant on the sustainability. Though the Government shifted its idea of disaster management from a relief-centric response to a proactive prevention mitigation and preparedness-driven approach, the interventions are still limited to early warning system and post-disaster action plans. As per the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) initiatives of United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), analysing vulnerability factors and spatial mapping at community level is amongst the important actions for an efficient disaster mitigation. This study explores social indicator and its sub-indicators within the vulnerability factors in disaster risk assessment. The author also intends to explore the implication of the study of these indicators in disaster mitigation planning with case studies on Gender Mainstreaming and discuss the need for a framework that can be used at community level for risk assessment.

***Keywords:** Disaster management, Risk assessment, Social vulnerability, Mitigation mainstreaming, Impact assessment, Risk reduction, Disaster resilient cities, Mitigation plan, Pre-disaster management, Differential exposure*