

RC-11: Sociology of Environment

Nexus between Disaster Risk Communication and Community Disaster Resilience to Floods: Evidence from the Coastal Area of Bangladesh

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Abstract

Disaster risk communication is one of the main components of community disaster resilience as it transmits valuable information regarding disaster risk reduction. A trusted source of information is a vital resilient asset that any individual or group can have. However, the effects of risk communication to flood risk management at the community level vary according to the complex nature of formal and informal communication. Therefore, this study seeks to map out the communication and information-sharing mechanism and system (both formal and informal) in the coastal community and the role of information and local knowledge in shaping community resilience to flood-induced shocks and stress. The study area of this research was the Latachapili Union of Patukhali district, as it is a highly disaster-prone area of Bangladesh. An integrated quantitative and qualitative approach has been taken for this study. The outcomes of the investigation reveal that although local people consider formal sources of information more credible than informal sources of information, they still practice the informal mode of communication more often. They apply both institutional and local knowledge to manage flood risks. Furthermore, this study shows that close networks restrict information exchange in some circumstances, which prolongs flood-induced shocks and stress.

Keywords: Risk Communication, Community Disaster Resilience, Sources of Information, Modes of Communication, Local knowledge.