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"Vulnerabilities, Community Resilience in Disaster Risk Reduction"

Communities are defined as a group of people with diverse characteristics who are linked by social ties, share common perspectives, and engage in joint action in geographical locations or settings (MacQueen, 2001). Communities are also defined as experiences differently by people with diverse backgrounds. However, geographical location makes an important factor for the communities to face disasters. Thereby one has to understand the vulnerabilities according to their locations and hazards; for example coastal communities, hill communities, desert communities, fishing communities have specific hazards, vulnerabilities and also given their experiences, they also have traditional wisdom to cope up and survive, showing their disaster resilience.

Community Resilience (CR) is a process of linking a network of adaptive capacities to cope up and bounce back after any disaster. CR emerges from various sets of adaptive capacities- Economic development, Social capital, Information and Communication and community competence. However, to build collective resilience there must be risk reduction, reduce inequities and engage people in mitigation and create organization linkages and boost and protect social support (Norris et.al. 2008). There are intimate connections between disaster recovery and the resilience of affected communities that have become common features of disaster risk reduction programs since the adoption of The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015. Increasingly attention is now paid to the capacity of disaster-affected communities to 'bounce back' or to recover with little or no external assistance following a disaster. This highlights the need for a change in the disaster risk reduction work culture, with stronger emphasis being put on resilience rather than just focusing on the needs or mapping vulnerability.

Three areas have been identified to research on resilience, at conceptual level to identify resilient action, at operational level- to see at various levels- individual, group and community level, and third at empirical level- to gather data on resilience (Rose 2004). There are studies which have addressed issues of resilience as systems concept in social- ecological systems and have identified community strengths and building resilience through agency and self organization with social networks, culture, networks, governance, infrastructure, leadership (Berkes and Ross 2013). Though theoretically there are various models suggested by scholars. Tobin (1999) suggests three models; a mitigation model, a recovery model and structural –cognitive model exists as a framework in the US context, thus setting up standards and metrics to measure Disaster resilience.

Capturing the CR in the processes of long-term rehabilitation post disasters. This course will focus on the recovery and rebuilding process of the major disasters and analyze whether the CR has been enhanced or undermined. It is also important to examine critically the role the State and other humanitarian agencies, which can either facilitate or may even challenges the coping capacities of the communities. It has been documented that the traditional knowledge of the communities is often ignored. The later may further lead to unintended consequences and impending disasters (Reddy 2012). Long term rehabilitation and development often disrupts the sensitive social- cultural fabric. Instead of reducing disaster risk reduction, the technological solutions and indiscriminate developmental activities further increases environmental risks and vulnerabilities (Ibid). In disaster risk reduction (DRR) and disaster mitigation, some of the best practices need to be captured. What is

required is community- driven participatory solutions in collaboration with stakeholders, which can have beneficial effect in enhancing the resilience of communities.

This course will cover disaster discourse, both theoretical and empirical. It will revolve around the issues, concerns, challenges and the lessons learnt in the process of long-term rehabilitation and the best practices in mitigating disasters from the field. Since the social structures are hierarchical in nature, cutting across and the intersectionalities of gender, race, caste, class, religion or ethnicity at the community level, the vulnerability and the community resilience will be understood with this background. The social and cultural capital which also helps some to cope better than others will be understood over this course.

The course will be based on empirical research on the long term recovery and rehabilitation, across case studies in India and other countries. By identifying integrated approach in CR, one can understand the local context, social, political and economic concerns, especially in the stratified society. The course will also address the challenges at the local context to see how communities bounce back, and the coping strategies, adapted in the post disaster scenario, in any one of the major disasters occurred across India. Case studies will be drawn from Super cyclone Orissa, Tsunami 2004 in South East Asia, Bhuj Earthquake, Uttarakhand floods, Leh landslide, Kashmir earthquake, Mumbai- Kashmir-Chennai floods or in the context of annual perennial floods in Assam, UP, Bihar or cyclones in Andhra and Orissa in India and some examples from other countries like Japan.

Readings
Essential

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Oliver-Smith, A., & Hoffman, S. (2012). Anthropology and the angry earth: an overview. In *The angry earth* (pp. 15-30). Routledge.

Quarantelli, E.L. (ed.) 1998. What is a Disaster? Perspectives on the Question. Routledge, London, 312 pp.

Reddy, Sunita (2012). Clash of Waves: Post Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation in Andaman and Nicobar Islands" Indos Publishers Delhi.