

Participatory Mapping: A Case Study of Hazard Analysis in Panauti, Kavreplanchok, Nepal.

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SUMMARY

Participatory mapping - also called community-based mapping - is a general term used to define a set of approaches and techniques that combines the tools of modern cartography with participatory methods to represent the spatial knowledge of local communities. A hazard is any biological, chemical, mechanical, environmental or physical agent that is reasonably likely to cause harm or damage to human, other organism or the environment in the absence of its control. Identification of hazard is the first step in performing a risk assessment. In Panauti there is severe deficiency in mainstreaming disaster risks and preparedness in the development plans at central and local levels both politically and technically (UNDP/ERRRP, 2009). Earthquake hazard maps that delineate most risk prone areas can guide municipality in development planning for effective disaster risk management in the form of emergency response, relief and rehabilitation. Further flash floods in Punyamata River have claimed lives and destroyed properties.

It has been long trend that any project basically depends on technical issues that only depend upon the personal research and that don't involve the community people. So in this project we generated a map of Panauti-7 showing hazard area by involving the local community. The higher level of participation by all members of the community, the more beneficial outcome because the final map will reflect the collective experience of the group producing the map.

This paper tries to present the methodologies applied in the preparation of hazard map by participatory approach.