INCLUSION AND EMPOWERMENT OF VULNERABLE GROUPS IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (CASE STUDIES FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES)

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ABSTRACT

Vulnerable segments of society are more likely to suffer from calamities because disasters worsen weaknesses and social differences. Marginalized groups should be involved in disaster risk reduction as energetic representatives of change for resilience to be operative and equitable. The paper provides a glimpse of international framework and initiatives being taken by developing countries to move the discussion beyond the only idea that vulnerable groups need to be included within DRR policy. Through stimulating the cultural and socio-economic inclusion, as well as the political acknowledgment of ostracized individuals, this paper delivers models of where their involvement as active agents of change have demonstrated benefits for attaining equitable and effective resilience. These examples have been taken from developing countries like India, Nepal, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia and Sudan. These countries practically integrated needs of vulnerable groups in DRR and took initiatives to empower them. This evidence supported our recommendations for the inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable groups within DRR policies with special focus on developing world.

Key Words: Vulnerable, Inclusion, Empowerment, Disaster, Risk Reduction, Resilience

1. INTRODUCTION

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) is a methodical way to classifying, evaluating and decreasing the threats of hazards. It targets to diminish socio-economic weaknesses to disaster as well as face the environmental and other risks that generate them. It is the obligation of development and relief organizations equally. It should be an essential component of the approach such agencies perform their duties, not an additional or special practice (Madu, 2017). DRR is a comprehensive concept as its scope is much extensive and broad than traditional disaster management. There are prospects for DRR activities in just about each area of humanitarian and development initiatives (Kruger 2015)

The most frequently quoted definition of DRR is one stated by UN agencies such as UNISDR, also known as the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, and UNDP. According to them, DRR is the

theoretical charter of components deliberated with the prospects to decrease vulnerabilities and disaster perils all over the communities, to evade (avoidance) or to limit (preparedness & mitigation) the adversative effects of calamities, within the extensive framework of sustainable development (UNISDR 2009)

Thomas (2013) presented a definition of vulnerability for disasters, which is valuable in understanding this concept as it states that vulnerability is the physiognomies of an individual or group and their circumstances influencing their ability to anticipate, deal with, struggle and recuperate from the impact of a natural threat.

Vulnerability is one of the defining components of disaster risk.

Risk = Hazard x Exposure x Vulnerability

In last two decades, disasters cost more than $2.5 trillion, killed over 1.5 million and affected more than 4.5 billion people and in these statistics, an extremely high figure of women, children and other vulnerable groups can be observed (Georgiena 2015). Climate-related risks, such as storms, famines and inundations, are becoming gradually recurrent and damaging as an outcome of climate-change or global warming. In this new framework of unpredictability, societies and countries are facing complicated and interrelated hazards that can inverse years and at times decades of development.

Particular types of the people may confront a greater threat of catastrophes or climate change, linked to the place they are living such as flood prone areas or the crops they are growing, may have poorer preparation and handling ability because they have low assets to spend in adaptation or may have lower adaptation/resilience capability because of the absence of financial and societal support nets (Levy 2018). Risk management interventions need to be premeditated, planned and targeted with the strong knowledge of the social vulnerability profiles of different segments of beneficiaries. A number of problems and issues ascend in describing the socially vulnerable people within disaster risk reduction agendas. The range of factors used to define social vulnerability comprises, but is not restricted to, income inequality, age, gender, disability, literacy, family status or language (Sterrett 2013).

Those who are most susceptible to disaster perils have to cope with several and entangled segregations. Their socio-economic, cultural, political marginalization intensifies their weakness, partially by inhibiting them from taking part in decision making processes. Therefore, even in DRR planning, representatives of vulnerable groups are not methodically included and consulted and as a consequence, DRR policies tend to overlook the diverse requirements of these marginalized segments. The main reason for this exclusion is that these groups are usually seen as victims and cannot be considered as beneficial in enhancing the capacities to deal with disasters. These people are not even accurately informed about the hazards they may confront and it becomes much tougher for them to take appropriate decisions or course of actions in DRR mechanisms (Yanagisawa 2015).

2. OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH PAPER

The objectives of this research paper are:

- ✓ To increase the awareness about problems and necessities of vulnerable segments of society in disaster risk reduction process.

- ✓ To present a comprehensive roadmap for developing countries for successful inclusion and empowerment of marginalized groups in disaster risk reduction.

- ✓ To encourage these governments in designing capacity-development programs for vulnerable people and remove the barriers during implementation of these initiatives.

The global agenda for integration of initiatives regarding inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable communities is highlighted below to understand the practices done and future course of action.

3. THE INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR INCLUSION AND EMPOWERMENT OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

The Hyogo Framework, accepted by more than 150 countries at the 2005 international Disaster Reduction Conference on Disaster Reduction, can be presented as the most significant reference to vulnerable segments of society than any other global policy agendas for DRR. Para 13 (d) of HFA states that a gender outlook should be incorporated into all DRM strategies, policies and decision-making practices, comprising those connected to risk analysis, early warning, information management, and education & training. Para 13 (e) highlights that cultural diversity, age, and vulnerable groups should be prioritized when planning for disaster risk reduction, as applicable. According to Para 13 (f), vulnerable communities and local authorities should be authorized to cope up and decrease disaster risk by having accessibility to the important facts & figures, resources and power to take initiatives for disaster risk reduction. Para 16 (iii) (h) describes that community participation in DRR must be promoted through the implementation of particular guidelines, the development of networks, the planned supervision of volunteer resources, the designation of tasks, and the delivery of the needed consultancy. Para 17 (ii) (d) mentions that people centred early warning systems must be developed according to a specific arrangement whose warnings are well-timed and logical to those at danger, which are designed on the basis of the demographic, cultural, gender and livelihood features of the target audiences, containing direction on how to behave after dissemination of warnings.

Para 18 (i) (a) pronounces that comprehensible knowledge on disaster risks and protective measures must be provided, specifically to people in high-risk zones, to empower and facilitate people to take action to decrease threats and build resilience. The information should integrate appropriate conventional & local knowledge and culture legacy and be customized to various segments of target audiences, considering the cultural & social factors. Para 18 (ii) (h) articulates that the integration of disaster risk reduction information in related units of school curricula at all levels must be promoted and the utilization of other formal and informal networks to spread this knowledge to youth and children. Para 18 (ii) (m) says that equal access to suitable training and educational prospects for women and vulnerable communities must be ensured; gender and cultural sensitivity training as vital modules of education and training for disaster risk reduction must be promoted. Para 18 (iv) (p) expresses that commitment of the media in order to encourage a philosophy of disaster resilience and strong community participation in sustained public education drives and public discussions at all levels of society must be promoted. Para 19 (ii) (g) declares that the application of social safety-net approaches to support the underprivileged, the elderly and the disabled, and other populations affected by disasters must be strengthened. Recovery arrangements comprising psycho-social training platforms in order to lessen the psychological damage of vulnerable populations, especially children, in the repercussion of disasters must be enhanced. Para 19 (ii) (i) affirms that it must be ensured that that projects for displaced persons do not intensify their vulnerability to hazards. Para 20 (f) encourages that particular tools to involve the active participation and empowerment of important stakeholders, including communities, in disaster risk reduction, to build the spirit of volunteerism must be developed (HFA 2005)

In 2006, states acknowledged the absence of focus on vulnerable groups' requirements, issues and participation in DRR at the 61st General Assembly and presented resolution regarding the desire to stimulate the effort for integration of susceptible people's participation in DRR practices (UN 2006). Women, children, elderly and disabled persons' problems were debated at the 1st session of the International Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2007. The session concluding statement highlighted the fact that women and elderly persons perform an important role in creation of culture for disaster preparedness and mitigation, specifically at the community level, this was not well – acknowledged and, so, their ability to facilitate DRR was mostly neglected. The problem that vulnerable people face disproportional impacts of disasters was also defined. The summary ensured ISDR System affiliates to enhance awareness, initiate practices to reduce vulnerable groups'

difficulties in disaster risk, and encourage their leadership and contributions in DRR (UNISDR 2007)

The Manila Declaration for Global Action on Gender, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction accepted by 250 participants at the Third International Congress of Women in Politics, emphasized the absence of a gender sensitivity International agreements on climate change. There were 12 main commitments, involving the pledge that females and males must equally assist in climate change and DRR decision-making activities at community, national, regional and global levels; and that gender-sensitive budgeting must be followed by international organizations and governments to make certain appropriate resource allocation to improve women's skills, particularly the poorest and most disadvantaged, to develop their resilience to climate change and disasters (UNISDR 2008).

The Beijing Agenda for Global Action on inclusion of vulnerable people in Disaster Risk Reduction (2009) described the guidelines for implementation of DRR policies by international organizations and governments to create gender-effective disaster resilience at the local and national levels. It demands for political willingness to integrate vulnerable groups in disaster risk reduction and facilitate governments to conduct vulnerability, risk and capacity analysis and evaluation (UNISDR 2009)

Few case studies are discussed below to learn lessons from the best practices that have been adopted by developing countries to include and empower women, children, elderly and disabled persons in disaster risk reduction.

4. STABILIZING LIVELIHOODS THROUGH PARTICIPATORY COMMUNITY-BASED PREPAREDNESS – A CASE STUDY FROM INDIA (MALDA, WEST BENGAL)

Prone to inundations, tropical typhoon or famine nearly every year, Malda district in the State of West Bengal, in east India is also afflicted by low agricultural production and shortage of employments. This circumstances have intensified migration, malnourishment and other associated complications that proliferate vulnerability to catastrophes. Landless workers and marginal farmers, who create over 70% of the area's inhabitants, are the most affected. In February 2006, World Vision India, in collaboration with the Government of India and UNICEF, started a plan intended at strengthening community disaster preparation and mitigation, while delivering income diversification and wealth creation prospects. Aiming 15,000 vulnerable farmers and marginalized individuals, with an extraordinary emphasis on children, the scheme functioned to improve earnings as a disaster risk 'safeguard'. Dedicated support was delivered through the use of different approaches. Awareness of disaster preparedness and response methods was considerably improved through the circulation of learning resources to elementary school children. Local Relief Action Teams were established with village volunteers, comprising of females and youngsters, who are now skilled in first aid, rescue activities and synchronization with the local administrative bodies in times of disaster.

Livelihoods and infrastructure improvement was instigated to deal with some of the immediate fiscal and physical hurdles to disaster resilience. Vulnerability analysis were performed and fifty families were supported with access to revenue generation practices, incorporating women-headed family units. The venture also involved the public in ponds' repairs, tube wells' installation, road construction and the establishment of two relief centers. Functioning with children's groups helped to facilitate community participants in accessing disaster awareness resources and practicing drills. This strategy makes it certain that preparation spreads through all families, whether they are illiterate or literate. Connections have been developed with the local management through constant consultations and discussions on the project. This has highlighted the collaboration of the local administration and delivery of continuing assistance for community capacity-training sessions. The project's achievements are now being replicated in more than 90 villages, hence integrating poverty decline and disaster risk reduction in World Vision's program.

5. DISABLED PERSONS ORGANIZATIONS' EMPOWERMENT IN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS - A CASE STUDY FROM NEPAL (KANCHANPUR)

In Nepal's westernmost district of Kanchanpur, floods become regular disasters that create predominantly substantial problems for people with disabilities. Handicap International introduced a project in Kanchanpur funded by DIPECHO (European Commission Humanitarian Aid department's disaster preparedness Echo Program) in 2012 which was conducted by strengthening the capacities of local disabled persons' organizations (DPOs), which had no previous understanding of inclusive disaster risk management. Trained by disability workers from former projects in other regions, these DPOs then assisted in two kinds of activities: on the one hand, they prepared the broader community about the reasoning for involving people with disabilities. On the other hand, they consulted people with disabilities to deal with the obstacles to inclusion and to boost their confidence. Subsequently DPOs initiated vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCA) that incorporated vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, children, elderly persons and women. Villagers then established Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMC), who in turn utilized the VCA's findings to formulate strategies for preparedness and mitigation actions.

Persons with disabilities, associates of the CDMCs, were also promoted at the district level for funds provision, according to the Nepal's government rules. Furthermore, these DPOs worked with government organizations to make the connections smoother between district-level bodies and village-based teams. The people's determinations managed to gain many progresses: as persons with disabilities represented themselves and participated in planning, the relationships between people with disabilities and other residents started to change. Villagers acknowledged abilities of people with disabilities and became attentive to their particular requirements, whereas persons with disabilities sensed more empowerment. Due to the presence of emergency and mitigation methods, communities as a whole realize themselves as more hazard-resilient. Not only mutual cooperation among villagers has been strengthened, the better relations with external players such as disaster risk management (DRM) actors and the Nepal Red Cross also highlights that outside aid can be attained more effortlessly when required. One year after the initial VCA, the CDMCs participated in a refresher exercise and proved that they were capable to replicate the plan in other communities. With both local skills (CDMCs, DPOs) as well as a local DRM planning parameters, the activities for the replication of similar determinations in inclusive disaster risk management in adjoining hazard-prone places are being conducted.

6. PUTTING WOMEN AT THE CENTRE OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION - A CASE STUDY FROM MYANMAR (DEDAYE TOWNSHIP)

In Myanmar, womenfolk perform a sensible role in all affairs of society, though, gender discrimination is still common and there are inadequate prospects for women's leadership in all segments of life. Gender-based violence, generally against females, is prevalent, mostly in conflict zones. In the repercussion of cyclone Nargis, Oxfam initiated a program in Dedaye Township, which intended to reinstate primary production and income levels, create social safety networks, and encourage alternate skills-based earnings opportunities. The program followed two key methods: to recognize and help in reducing vulnerability and to nurture the improvement of women's incomes. These both approaches directly assist women, who are among the most vulnerable members of the society, and develops the capability of the entire community to endure natural hazards.

Integrating gender into disaster risk reduction (DRR) plans provides the chance to re-analyze gender relations in communities from different perspectives and improve gender egalitarianism in socioeconomic advancement. Before any interference, Oxfam collaborated with villagers to conduct analysis and generate strategies. Initially Oxfam team requested villagers to carry out a 'Participatory Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment' (PCVA). During the PCVA, all community members exchange dialogues and decide what strengths they have, who are the weakest members of

society, and what hazards they face. The PCVA process constructs a profile of the township physically and socially. The PCVA discloses that inhabitants consider that women, disabled and old people, poor and children are the most vulnerable. Villagers also discover that women do have a strong role in making village as a whole and have skills that are different from those of men. These capabilities add to the diversity and enhance the total resources present in the village. Through this enriched information about risks, about who is susceptible, and about their abilities, the villagers can launch an action plan.

As part of the plan to encourage more gender fairness, Oxfam selects women rather than men as representatives of their families. In this, women can become the key receivers with control over cash and decision-making. Oxfam's livelihoods ventures emphasize on supporting women in taking new responsibilities, both in business and farming.

Grain banks are an effective way to improve the food security of a village, especially in the aftermath of a disaster when food resources are scarce, whilst also promoting greater equality between the sexes. Oxfam encourages villagers to form committees or farmer 'user groups' consisting of at least 40% women, thereby ascribing women a more vital role with regard to the development of the village. Through managing grain banks, women become critical to their running and also improve their management skills. In addition, there is a greater chance that the whole family will be less vulnerable to malnutrition when women are given control over food security. By encouraging women to take up leadership positions in the various committees formed, other women in the community may aspire to similar positions. As the proportion of women who make decisions increases, the role of women as decision-makers in society becomes more visible and acceptable (Kyaw 2012).

7. THE POWER OF CHILDREN'S VOICE IN DRR: SCHOOL RELOCATION - A CASE STUDY FROM PHILIPPINES (SANTA PAZ)

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) carried out a risk assessment of landslides in Southern Leyte in 2006, highlighting that eight barangays were at great danger within the area of Santa Paz Sur and Santa Paz Norte, with suggestions to relocate affected households. These two barangays were places for elementary and a high school, both of which were determined to be extremely exposed. Subsequent discussions about whether and how to move the school, the headmaster opened the choice to a communitywide poll to involve a vote each for the student of the school. Mostly the children were in favor of the relocation and their parents against it, because the parents were worried about their kids having to cover a great distance to school in another community and the damage of livelihoods linked with the transfer of institution (e.g. loss of lunch business for local shops). Furthermore, various political associations of the headship in the two barangays directed a confusion debate over the precise threat communications of the MGB.

The children's organizations in the school (Supreme Student Council and Student Government Organization) launched an education campaign about the physical methods of landslides and a large number of students wrote to the School Division Superintendent communicating their wish to relocate. The student's application gained the vote by 101 to 49. Due to fear from the Provincial authorities, a more prolonged schedule for relocation was reduced to just two days following heavy showers. The tent school was established over one weekend with children and parents assisting to fix the tents and children burrowing drainage conduits due to the provisional school's site adjacent to a paddy ground). The tents, water supply and toilets were delivered by Plan Philippines, along with a scholarship program facilitating poor pupils to meet the expense of uniforms and schools' articles. The students described feelings of delight about the entire practice and did not show any repentance about the choice to relocate. They did highlight challenging circumstances in the short-term arrangement, mainly the heat in the tents, though the children assisted to cover the tents with banana leaves to cool them. The new school is now being built in Pasanon, a safer place a few hundred meters from the temporary school, with co-financing from Plan. The school now have

earthquake mitigation practices such as steel ties on the roof. Toilets are also being constructed in each classroom as preparedness technique for its utilization as an evacuation shelter.

8. BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES: STRENGTHENING DRR INFORMATION DELIVERY - A CASE STUDY FROM INDONESIA (DISTRICTS OF GUNUNG KIDUL AND SLEMAN IN PROVINCE OF YOGYAKARTA)

The organization Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland (ASB) initiated a plan on districts of Gunung Kidul and Sleman in province of Yogyakarta to deliver practical DRR information and measures to children with disabilities out of school. Training of trainers using existing government arrangements for the provision of DRR information was conducted. Government cadres, and disability persons' organizations, at the sub-district level were trained. These cadres then trained cadres at the village level that then trained children with disabilities, their care-takers and neighbors. Training included disability awareness, how to train, practical DRR methods, and simple research techniques and evaluation. Training at the community level included safe-room arrangements in houses and the introduction of earthquake drills and evacuation simulations.

Consequently, formal adoption of the established information delivery system (using the sub-district and village cadres) by local government was made possible. This practice is now in progress in both districts and the district of Gunung Kidul is incorporating the system in its disaster management action plan. The plan constructs the capacity of small DPOs: 32 (selected on merit) DPO affiliates and 70 sub-districts have provided DRR information and measures to village cadres; 690 village cadres have conveyed DRR material and procedures to children with disabilities; 929 children with disabilities out of school, 3,716 family members (approx.) and 3,716 neighbors of children with disabilities (approx.) have built a safe-room arrangement in their homes and have experienced evacuation drills. The venture enhanced awareness regarding disability and vulnerability at the district, sub-district and community levels (Villeneuve 2017).

9. ENCOURAGING WOMEN FOR DRR LEADERSHIP ROLES - CASE STUDY FROM CAMBODIA (TAKEO)

Takeo is Cambodia's province, located along the southern Cambodia Vietnam borderline and is prone to annual floods. Oxfam started a project Takeo Flood Mitigation Program in collaboration partner Chamroeun Cheat Khmer (CCK) in all townships of Takeo province. Gender fairness and women's leadership was the main purpose of this plan. This program consisted of carrying out a systematic and inclusive gender study and integrated specific actions to improve women's authority and gender equality. There was a broad sequence of negotiations with women and there were many possibilities for them to develop public administration skills and abilities. An atmosphere was shaped for women leaders to see each other, understand their experiences and cooperate with all. The idea also worked out with men to build their positive attitude in context of gender egalitarianism and conquer their support for women's participation. By following this practice, women's concerns were outstandingly addressed.

In Takeo, Village Committees for Disaster Management (VCDMs) were selected by their people. The committees mostly include five members, of whom three associates have to be women. The head must also be a woman however the deputy position is assigned to a man. In ordinary circumstances, the VCDMs meet once-a-month but in an inundation scenario they are recommended to gather at least two times in a month. Oxfam collaborated with CCK to encourage the community to frame VCDM's policies & main rules and to provide a structure to committee members for the effectiveness of the VCDMs. Additionally, this project enhanced the capability of the community to tackle disasters in a better way by strengthening houses' structures as defensive action from rainstorms and floods, identifying and constructing safe zones, and raising foundations of houses.

10. IMPROVEMENT IN FOOD SECURITY, LIVELIHOODS, HEALTH AND EDUCATION FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS - CASE STUDY FROM SUDAN (RED SEA STATE)

Red Sea State, in northeastern Sudan, undergoes the tragedy of periodic famines that are deteriorating the condition of the local Beja people. The Beja have to depend on rain for their water, but irregularity in rains and the time between dry spells has become shorter. Crop failure has followed, meadows have disappeared, and the necessities of grazing animals have led to ecological degradation and desertification. As a consequence, their livelihood has been affected and families have lost their sheep and journeyed to the suburbs of city centers. For more than 20 years, the Danish Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross have maintained longer-term planning of the Sudanese Red Crescent Society to decrease the vulnerability of the Beja and to look after, where possible, community resources in order to build their resilience. They have emphasized on food security and livelihoods, health and education, with a combined methodology of numerous interferences within the same community.

In 2009, a cost-benefit analysis was carried out to monitor these activities. These comprised of the following three livelihood involvements, all commenced by the Beja themselves. The first venture was of building farming terraces, aiming poor former herders forced to reside in the peripheries of Derudeib town, using the periodic run-off from nearby highlands, inlets and outlets letting water to stream through controlled agricultural areas. The outcome is fruit and vegetables, giving cash income to 3,700 otherwise needy families. It was their achievement that the participants have become a main supplier to the city, and have even started to save money. The second project was of building earth embankments to hold and control the water of seasonal rivers. Extended earth embankments were built along rivers to trap the water. The third project was of developing communal vegetable gardens, watered by pumps, to secure year-round fruit and vegetable production. The second and third projects are also helping the families in improvement of their social status. In short, these all plans are successfully facilitating the marginalized community and generating money for them to use on the improvement of their standard of living.

11. LESSONS LEARNT FROM CASE STUDIES AND A WAY FORWARD FOR ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

From the case studies of developing countries that have been debated above, two key areas can be identified in which policy designers and implementers both groups have to function to achieve the aim of vulnerable groups' inclusion in disaster risk reduction practices. These core areas are capacity development and vulnerability-based knowledge products.

The different stages of capacity development process deals with different strategies. In first stage, all stakeholders are engaged to reach a consensus to decide the objectives and methodologies to be adopted during the whole process. Second stage analyzes the requirements of weak segments as well as capacity assets present with both communities and the agencies formulating capacity building programs. In third stage, all capacity development strategies and techniques are developed and these approaches are practices in fourth stage of process. In last stage, the results of these strategies and programs are monitored and assessed in order to measure the success of program or to alter the designed course of action (Zutshi 2019).

Women and elderly persons are more than just victims as in current scenarios they are considered important agents of transformation. They have outstanding understanding and capabilities that perform a significant role in dealing with disasters based on their experiences. Enhancing participation level of women and elderly means safer societies for children, disabled and all because these segments if their capacities are developed in an appropriate way become more proactive in preparedness, mitigation and response and take suitable action in response to early warning messages. Capacity development process for vulnerable people must be commenced as a locally-

driven approach to bring change in whole society and must identify experts, organizations and societies that are able to play a significant role in the dealing with disaster management and disaster risk reduction. There is a requirement of substantial investment in training and skills-building of individual capacity especially susceptible groups in DRR and rehabilitation. However, training is only one method for capacity development and it cannot be conducted as an isolated intervention.

Vulnerable groups must be acknowledged as active stakeholders and decision makers in DRR activities. Empowerment of these segments is further accelerated when they are meticulously involved & well-informed and when their participation is sustained. This shows that eliminating hurdles for women, children, elderly and disabled persons is important to highlight their requirements and primacies, to access knowledge, capacity development chances, training and prioritization of formal and informal education on disaster risk reduction. This can be supported by

- ✓ The quota systems for vulnerable groups in DRR decision making practices and interventions must be institutionalized.

- ✓ These groups must be given equal access to information, including early warning, training, education & capacity building to strengthen their self-reliance.

- ✓ DRR education must be given to all vulnerable communities because it is the only way to make them feel that they are integrated and empowered.

- ✓ The legal rights of these segments and access to assistance and services in context to disaster risk management such as basic health facilities, compensations, cash distributions, social security, employment, insurance, loans etc. must be protected.

In short, language related to equal involvement of vulnerable people must be strengthened all over the world. Use of vulnerability indicators, study and goals must be set as key priority in formulation and implementation of DRR policies.

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