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Role of women in disaster risk governance

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Abstract

Since the frequency and magnitude of occurrence of natural hazards increased unprecedented within this century, policy makers, researchers and practitioners have endorsed on innovative disaster risk reduction measures towards enhancing resilience. In achieving this, disaster risk governance promotes innovative and accountable approaches enhancing their effectiveness. Multi-stakeholder engagement is a fundamental element of disaster risk governance. Many international strategies and frameworks have identified women as one of the key stakeholders in any disaster management efforts due to many reasons. Women play a significant role in disaster response and recovery stages specifically at household level. However, their roles in organizational decision making, particularly in disaster risk governance, is limited due to uncovered reasons. This has created equity and equality issues among one of the most affected communities from hazards. Therefore, this novel study attempts to explore and emphasise the role of women in disaster risk governance, risk governance efforts and to uncover the barriers that limit their role in disaster risk governance. Hence, the study conducted a substantial level of literature review. Accordingly, it reveals that the role of women in disaster risk governance as vital for an effective disaster risk governance and resilience. Further, the study identified socio-cultural factors, individual characteristics, legal and institutional factors and socio-economical factors as the barriers that limit their role in disaster risk reduction and disaster risk governance efforts.

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Keywords: disaster risk governance; women; disaster risk reduction
1. Introduction

Traditional disaster management approaches were based on different phases of the disaster cycle with different types of interventions; mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery strategies [1]. However, these emergency management efforts face many challenges. For example, lack of focus on all types of hazards, insufficiency in proactive measures, lack of coverage of all phases of emergency management and alike. [2]. As a result, number of disaster risk reduction (DRR) measures have been introduced with innovations in diverse areas of risk governance, risk knowledge, cost-benefit analysis and accountability [3].

Disaster risk governance (DRG) has received attention due to its ability of enhancing effectiveness of DRR and resilience efforts through participatory decision making [3, 4]. Risk governance connects horizontally with government ministries and departments, vertically with regional, departmental and local governments and set specific roles for related institutions. DRG is aligned with broader governance concept which deals with political interferences balancing different interests with political realities. Since, good governance ensures delivery of efficient and effective outcomes of economic, social and environmental decisions [5], it is necessity to strengthen risk governance with increasing disaster risks.

Since DRG ensures equal participation in decision making along with equity and equality, women must be represented in all types as well as all stages of DRR decision making [3, 6]. This was emphasized at the 3rd World Conference on DRR held in Sendai aimed at promoting gendered DRR since 2015. However, its implementation was not at a satisfactory level [7]. This has made it difficult to represent the needs of women affected by disasters in many different ways [8, 9]. Therefore, it is necessary to establish the link between roles of women in DRG. However, existing literature presents importance of risk governance keeping the role of women in isolation. Therefore, this study aims at making an interconnectivity of role of women in risk governance while highlighting its importance and identifying the barriers that limit their role towards risk governance. The next section presents the methodology used in the study followed by the analysis of the study in Section three. Section four presents the conclusions and the way forward of the study.

2. Methodology

This study is based on a literature review with the aim of identifying the role of women in DRG and the barriers that limit their role in DRG. The literature review has been conducted based on 21 peer reviewed journal papers, 5 books, 20 official reports produced by institutions, for example, United Nations, United Nations International Strategy Disaster Reduction and 10 official websites. This is an initial study of a PhD dissertation with the aim of proposing a framework to enhance the role of women in DRG and DRR efforts based on the barriers identified through literature review and interviews. Following table demonstrate the breakdown of the journal articles used in identifying the barriers that limit the role of women in DRG and DRR related decision making.

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<tr>
<th>Journal name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Journal of Asian African Studies</td>
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<td>Journal of Global Economics</td>
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<td>European Journal of Business and Social Science</td>
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<td>Sociology and Anthropology</td>
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<td>Journal of Public Administration and Governance</td>
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<td>International Research Journals</td>
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<td>Population and Development Review</td>
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دریافت فوری

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