

Effects of Earthquake on Marginalized Groups in the Nuwakot District

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A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Central Department of Sociology

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Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

March 2017

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

The thesis entitled "Effects of Earthquake on Marginalized Groups in the Nuwakot District" has been prepared by Ms. Rina Chaudhary under my supervision for her partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts in Sociology. I, therefore, recommend this thesis to be accepted for its evaluation.

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LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

The thesis entitled "Effects of Earthquake on Marginalized Groups in the Nuwakot District" has been prepared by Ms. Rina Chaudhary has been submitted to Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Tribhuvan University. The undersigned members of the thesis committee have approved it.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The dissertation entitled "Effects of Earthquake on Marginalized Groups in the Nuwakot District" has been undertaken into study for the Master Degree of Arts in Sociology. At this moment, I could not stay without remembering the individuals whose support, advice, enhancement and motivation have become an immense guidance to me. Thus, I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to all of them.

First of all, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to my thesis supervisor, Dr. Krishna B. Bhattachan, who offered me excellent expert guidance for my dissertation. Likewise, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Tulasi Ram Pandey, Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology, for his valuable suggestion. I am thankful to all the Professors, Readers, Lecturers and the administrative staffs of the Department for their kind cooperation.

I would like to thank to Rupa Paudel, staff of the District Office of National Federation of the Disabled-Nepal (NFDN), who helped, me to coordinate the Focused Group Discussions and also helped me to translate the sign language to Nepali while interviewing with disable respondent. I am indeed by grateful to all the respondents of Bidur-1 Bandre, Tupche-2 Akare and displeased people who setup their shelter on the bank of Trishuli River of the Nuwakot District for provided their valuable time and necessary information needed for my study. In fact, I could not have moved ahead in this dissertation research, without their help, cooperation and support. Most importantly, I heartily thank and my gratitude goes to my parents and family members for their unconditional support, encouragement and guidance. All the others, who were directly and indirectly, provided their help and support as needs for the successful completion of this dissertation research.

Rina Chaudhary

March 2017

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ABBREVIATION

CDO	Chief District Officer
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
HP	Health Post
I/NGO	International/Non-Governmental Organization
NDWA	Nepal Disable Women Association
NFDN	National Federation of Disable-Nepal
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPC	National Planning Commission
O.P.D	Outdoor Patient Department
PDNA	Post Disaster Need Assessment
PHCC	Public Health Crevice Center
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nation Development Program
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VDC	Village Development Committee
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WOREC	Women's Rehabilitation Center

CHAPTER: ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Natural disasters are becoming more frequent and threatening worldwide including Nepal. Nepal is geographically located in the 11th prone to earthquake zone in the world. Nepal is not only prone to earthquake but also a geographically vulnerable to other natural disasters such as flood, landslide, epidemic, avalanche, windstorm, hailstorm, etc. Loss of lives and property are regular phenomena of various natural disasters.

Historically, Nepal experience significantly dangerous seismic activity every seventy to hundred years in Nepal. The impacts of natural disasters are unevenly distributed among nations, regions, communities and individuals as a result of differential exposures and vulnerabilities (Clark et al., 1998). According to the Post Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA) report 2015, Nepal experienced most devastating earthquakes in, 1934, 1980, and 2011. The April 2015 earthquake destroyed human lives and property and also adversely affected the development process of Nepal.

On 25 April 2015, Nepal was struck by 7.3 Richter scale, a powerful earthquake, with its epicentre in Bardiya district. The country felt more than 300 aftershocks above 4 Richter scale (NPC, 2015). According to PDNA report published by the National Planning Commission (NPC 2015) shows that more than 8,790 people were killed and 22,300 people were injured because of the earthquake. Moreover, one third of the populations have been affected by the quake. This catastrophic natural disaster caused the great human loss and suffering due to the demolition of the houses and settlements. Most of the old houses and houses build without any safety measures were demolished and affected by the earthquake and hence houses that once used to be a place for safety turned out a death bed for many people.

The PDNA estimates that overall 609,938 privately owned housing units need to be constructed and 256,697 houses require repair and retrofitting in the course of the reconstruction program which could be likely tend to increase with the detail assessment done later on, with the scientific and transparent basis. According to the government study and assessment the recovery and reconstruction of the damages and losses estimated to be NPR 327,762 million (PDNA 2015).

According to UN Women's estimates, the 14 most affected districts are composed of approximately 318,000 female-headed households, 38,000 women with disabilities, 157,000 women over the age of 65 years, 738,000 girls aged 14 or under, and 765,000 women and girls who are illiterate (UN Women-OCHA 2015). According to UNFPA approximately 1.4 million women are in reproductive age. UNFPA informed that the disaster affect about 93,000 pregnant women, indicated 10,000 women will be giving birth monthly (UNFPA 2015).

Temporary camps have been built up but not much about the conditions experienced by women and girls are being known. Furthermore, 14 districts (Hill and mountain) were declared as 'crisis hit' for the purpose of the rescue and relief operations and 17 adjoining districts were partially affected (PDNA 2015).

The post earthquake assessment shows that women and people with disabilities are the largest disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and such disasters have most negative impacts on women and girl and people with disabilities' health, safety and work (PDNA 2015). Incidents of rapes and sexual harassments, violence on women human trafficking was recorded when families were forced to live out in the open for extended durations of time. There has also been an increase in the trafficking of women after the earthquake.

Women have been historically marginalized in Nepal as attested by their social, political and economic status in the society. The effects and impacts of any disaster on

marginalized communities can exacerbate their existing vulnerabilities. The PDNA report identified women as most affected by the earthquake. In the light of this finding, this research looks at the status of women and effects of earthquake on them in the aftermath of the earthquake. The research further goes through by focusing on women with disabilities who are further sidelined.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Disasters are natural phenomena, while natural disasters are indiscriminate in terms of their effects and impact, the level of damage may vary depending on demographics such as gender, age, ethnicity, and caste. As a result of the earthquake, large section of population from social and economic backgrounds cohabited in makeshift shelters in open areas. But the effects of disaster are social. The effects of disaster are very according to the people's economic status, socioeconomic status, gender, age, ethnicity, and caste. The coping and adaption capacity of the situation is different as per the demographics and socio-economic status.

The effects and impact the earthquake might have had on women, they were compelled to carry out their duties as primary caregivers irrespective of the circumstances. Despite the radical change in their living conditions and the lack of basic facilities, women tried their best to carry out their domestic duties. The pressing demands of their families coupled with the need to rebuild their homes and their livelihoods posed many challenges for women. Moreover, while women with disabilities and people with disabilities had similar challenges they also had to deal with their physical disabilities in unfamiliar surroundings.

It is visible from the onset to well established discriminations and inequalities in their daily lives. They become even more vulnerable during and after a disaster. But beyond solely their gender, there are other exclusion factors based on women's marital status such as widowed and single mothers, their caste, economic status, their

religion sometimes even dependent on their menstrual cycle that tend to intensify discriminations encountered (UN Women, 2015).

The scale of destruction in regards to housing and infrastructure was lower in urban areas compared to rural areas. As a result of the earthquake, large sections of the population took shelter in open areas under tents and makeshift shelters. One of the major challenges of such living conditions was faced by women as they struggled to maintain healthy levels of sanitation, hygiene and family care due to the lack of toilet facilities and water. The lack of safe and clean toilet facilities meant that menstruating women struggled even more.

Economic, cultural and legal status of women and men affect their resilience in a post-disaster situation (Trohanis et al., 2011). Moreover, the greatest challenge that has emerged for women after the earthquake is related with properly ownership to access for government support and aid for rebuilding their homes. In the case of Nepal, The total 19.71% households reported the ownership of land or house or both in the name of female (Census, 2011). To access support and aid for rebuilding houses, proof of property ownership is essential 'Earthquake Victim Identity Card' and is necessary while claiming for support and aid. . However, earthquake victim identity cards were only issued to the head of the household. Thus, it was difficult for many women to claim relief grants and any types of aids offered by the government of Nepal.

Nepal, in general, has not created public mechanisms or public spaces that are friendly to differently able people. In the event of a crisis, the lacks of such facilities become even more evident. For example, the public temporary shelters that housed most of the earthquake victims were not sensitive to the needs of people with disabilities. In this regard, some simple questions strike my mind. Hence, this research aims to seek the answer of the following questions;

1. What are the major effects of the April earthquake 2015 on women and people with disabilities? Concerned in Bidur -1 Bandre and Tupche -2 Akare.

2. What efforts did from community levels, I/NGOs and Government levels to mitigate the effects of the earthquake?

1.3 Objective of the study:

The general objective of the study is to analyze the effects of Earthquake on women and people with disabilities and to find out efforts made by community, I/NGOs and government to mitigate the effects. The specific objectives of the study are to:

- 1) Examine effects of the Earthquake on women in general and people with disabilities in Bidur-1 Bandre and Tupche -2 Akare.
- 2) To describe the efforts made by community, I/NGOs and the government to mitigate the effects.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Thousands of people around the world are affected from Natural disaster such as flood, hurricane, earthquake etc. It is necessary to study the effects of natural disaster. Hundreds of thousands people were affected from the April Earthquake 2015 in Nepal. Among them marginalized groups especially women, single women and people with disabilities are socially and economically excluded people were further marginalized and affected after the earthquake.

Women have less access in resources such as property, political power, economic. The earthquake destroyed their existing things thus they were further sidelining. Due to the access on the resources women and people with disabilities were further marginalized in the risqué relief and rebuilding. This study helps to know the effects of women and people with disabilities in the earthquake.

The study is equally significant for both theoretical (Academic) and policy implications. Theoretically, it contributes to subvert a history long notion of gender differences on property ownership and gender role and vulnerability of marginalized during and after the natural disaster. Certainly, the study will increase our knowledge on effects of the Natural disaster on women, women with disabilities and people with disabilities. Thus, it will be beneficial to the students and teachers of sociology, curriculum designers, textbook writers, social planners, prospective researchers and journalists.

The study will significantly important for the policy level to mitigate the effects of natural disaster. Disasters have significant effects on personal, social, economic, and cultural system. Thus, there is an urgent need to redress the proactive policies related to natural disaster, with emphasis on disaster preparedness, rescue, relief management and rehabilitation. Furthermore, the study will help to make effective policy to mitigate effects of the earthquake from government level.

1.5 Organization of the Study

This research has been organized in eight chapters. The first chapter is the introductory chapter, which has dealt with background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, and significance of the study. The second chapter has the review of literature that is organized in to some other sub-headings. The third chapter has presented research methodology including various methods of data collection and analysis including the limitations of the study and field experiences. The fourth chapter has dealt with introduction of research area (Nuwakot district). The fifth chapters have dealt with analysis and interpretation of data and identify effects of earthquake on women. The sixth chapter is focused on the effects of earthquake on people with disabilities. The Seventh chapter describes the effort made by community, I/NGOs and government to mitigate the effects of earthquake. Finally, the eighth chapter contains summary and conclusion of the study.

CHAPTER: TWO

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A literature review is a simple summary and synthesis of the source. It includes the current knowledge including substantive findings, as well as theoretical and methodological contributions to a particular topic. Without review of literature doing sociological research is impossible because Literature review provide a handy guide in a particular topic. It also provides a solid background and comprehensive knowledge for the research. In this chapter I will review the effects of the disaster and inequality, disaster and poverty and gender and disaster. Further, I will try to show the disaster scenario in Nepal and its history and effects. Moreover I will try to like the disaster with the poverty.

2.1 The effects of the Disaster and Inequality

The Post Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA) report prepared by National Planning commission (NPC 2015) shows that the geography, income and gender determined the level of inequality in Nepal. Poorer remote areas were badly affected in compare to urban areas. Poor people have vey less access to engineers who can advise them to build earthquake resilient houses both in and out of Kathmandu. Most of the infrastructures and houses of the urban areas were destroyed by the quake because of the non earthquake resistant houses, fair designed and not constructed as per engineers' instructions. Both inside and outside of the valley oldest houses, and houses constructed by unripe brick and mud, and stone and mud were mostly collapsed (Kantipur news 28 April 2015).

The earthquake hit Nepalese population as a whole with no discrimination among poor and rich, rural and urban, male and female but it affects after the earthquake on women, men and children and different age and social groups were different. Within

the women, particular single women, female-headed households, women with disabilities, older women and girls as well are in more risk after the earthquake. Due to onset of belief of Nepali society, women face discrimination and inequality in their daily lives and it make them even more vulnerable during and after emergency situation. More importantly, there are other exclusionary factors on women's marital status such as widowed, single women, their caste, economic status region and sometime menstrual period (UN Women, 2015).

Every natural disaster affects human lives and their living conditions however the effects and impacts may vary in different social groups. Rural, poor, single women were the most affected from the earthquake. Earthquake damage their homes, their livestock and their livelihood. In Nepal rural economy is based on agriculture. Especially women who relied on agriculture as their only source of livelihood have been left stranded as they do not have as many alternatives livelihood options as men.

2.2 Disaster and Poverty

In response to the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan in 2011, Elizabeth Maly in her essay, 'Towards a People-Centered Housing Recovery after the Triple Disaster', states that housing and livelihood are interlocked, that brings to light the struggle faced by the earthquake victims in reconstructing their homes across with their livelihoods. The cost of housing recovery has more effects on the livelihood alternatives available to earthquake victims based on their household income and budgets. Furthermore, Maly describe how disaster and vulnerability are interrelated with each other. The level of risk connected with the factors that contribute to vulnerability increases in the aftermath of natural hazards. The factors closely linked to the vulnerable disposition of people can be age, income, gender, caste, ethnicity or housing situation. Makly argues that, vulnerable people suffer more during and after natural calamities. Survivors those have low-income face the additional economic burden associated with reconstruction and recovery in the aftermath of a natural disaster. Moreover, women, mothers, old age people, people with disabilities etc.

face multiple forms of discrimination during natural catastrophe; they find themselves more vulnerable in times of crisis as they have to cope with the unpredictable shocks and stresses that have an impact on their economic and social well-being (Hobson, 2014).

Marginalization is a series of action where individuals and entire communities of people are systematically denied for full access to various rights, opportunities and resources that are normally available as a citizen of a state. Furthermore, a group of people or community who are deprived from the basic needs and benefits such as; access to education, health, administration, power and politics of the state can be referred to as marginalized.

The constitution of Nepal 2015 part 36 (1, m) defines marginalised as “...those who have been forced to fall backward politically, economically, and socially. Those who have been unable to avail services because of discrimination and harassment, and because of geographical disconnection, and those communities whose standard of living has been below the legal standard as specified in the human development indicators. It also signifies the ultra-marginalized and communities on the verge of extinction.” (Constitution of Nepal 2015 pg 142)

Thus, group of people those who are economically weak and have limited access to power and resources are known as marginalized group.

Krishna Bhattachan in his article published on 17 December, 2015 entitled “*Jo Hocho Uskai Mukha Ma Thulo Ghoch*” published in Esamata argues that, the earthquake show social and cultural structure, economic status, class and caste, Norms and values, security and social relation of Nepali society. Immediate after the earthquake government focused on collection aid for resettlement and reconstruction rather focusing on the primary needs such as rescue, relief and treatment of victims.

Bhattachan further says, the government and media only focused on Kathmandu valley and some transportation accessed areas and rescue and relief was town centred. Still some rural areas were deprived from relief. Minority groups are already marginalized and left behind, after the earthquake minority groups further marginalized because government's lacking on coherent and fair decision- making on relief distribution.

The rural, economically weaker people and marginalized groups suffer disproportionately during and after disasters than urban elite. According to the report published by Amnesty International in June 2015, in the aftermath of the earthquake in Nepal, (*Nepal: Earthquake Recovery Must Safeguard Human Rights*), the poor and marginalized groups are facing more discrimination on the basis of caste, gender and ethnicity and have unequal experience in disaster. Amnesty further recognized unequal unfair distribution access of relief and aid was evident and was partly related to remoteness of affected areas and inaccessibility to some communities. Women, women headed household, people with disabilities and elderly have unequal access on relief materials because of not focusing on deliberate discrimination and the practice of leaving relief items nearby road.

For the collection of relief, people had to walk long distances making it tougher for women, elderly and people with disabilities(Amnesty International June 2015) Moreover, there were news reports that stated that relief and aids distribution was politically manipulated in some communities (Himalayan times 2015). The Amnesty report further corroborated this claim in the report when it stated that, "The political actors competed for status through the provision of relief" (Amnesty International 2015, Pp. 10). Thus, relief distribution was lacking a coherent and fair decision-making mechanism.

Furthermore, senior citizens, people living with disabilities and female headed household have faced difficulties in rebuilding their houses because of limited access to resources as well as lack of manpower for reconstruction. At the same time families

with disabled members have had to provide the necessary care and medical attention at a time of crisis, increasing their economic and work burden, in the absence of special support extended by the government towards people with disabilities in the aftermath of the earthquake.

Similarly, caste-based discrimination is more prominent in poor and rural areas where communities still lack awareness regarding issues such as caste; the poorer the Dalits the higher the level of discrimination (Bhattachan et al., 2009) A Dalit community is traditionally discriminated against due to the caste-based stigma such as untouchability. Most of the Dalit families are land less and live under the poverty line. The level of existing discrimination against them was evident in the post-earthquake scenario where there were many Dalits who were blocked from receiving aid by community members who belonged to a higher caste.

In Record Nepal's article, 'Unequal power relations and extractive development are condemning Tamang communities to poverty', the author Sharddha Ghale (2015) argues that most of the vulnerability of marginalized communities in the aftermath of the earthquake is closely linked to dynamics of race, caste and ethnicity. More than 60 percent of the quake victims were from marginalized ethnic groups. Dalits were the worst hit in areas with mixed population, and majority of the victims belonged to the Tamang community. According to Recorded article, approximately 3500 people that lost their lives in Sindhupalchowk; nearly half of them belonged to the Tamang community.

2.3 Disaster and Gender

The 2010 UNDP report (Gender and disaster) state that, vulnerabilities is very among women and men, and belonging to the different age groups and socio-economic status. Gender, age group and socio-economic status played the vital role to shape their experiences during the disaster and their coping capacity too. Any disasters increase the pre-existing vulnerabilities of women and marginalized groups.

The April earthquake 2015 made women even more vulnerable and weaker; economically, socially and physically, while they were already victims and biased from the government and the society. At the meantime women and girls are responsible for unpaid labour for example providing care, water and food for their households and a natural disaster adds to the existing burden of labour. Moreover, ‘women are likely to be victims of domestic and sexual violence leading many to even avoid using shelters for the fear of being sexually assaulted’ (UNDP 2010).

Though women had difficulties in accessing aid, women also struggled with reconstruction of homes due to limited access on resources and lack of manpower. Meanwhile families with disabled members had to provide the necessary care and medical attention at a time of crisis increasing their economic and work burden. At the same time the absence of special support extended by the government towards people with disabilities in the aftermath of the earthquake.

CHAPTER: THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter has dealt with the research methodology used in the study. The following methods have been applied to understand the effects of the April Earthquake 2015 at women, and people with disabilities. And efforts made by community, I/NGOs and Government to reduce the effects of earthquake. The analysis is based on secondary resources and field visit.

3.1 Rationale of Site Selection

To get the lively and up to date information and understandings of Earthquake's effects at women and people with disabilities, I visited in Bidur municipality ward no. 1, Bandre village and Marre Ghaat(replaced people's settlement) and Tuphe VDC's ward no. 2, Akare village of Nuwakot district. The district is identified by the government of Nepal as the most severely affected district by the earthquake. In Bidur most of houses were destroyed, limited food, limited safety of drinking water and access to toilet. In case of Tupche also most of houses were destroyed, no safety of drinking water and limited access to toilet.

Bidur Municipality and Tupche VDC ward no. 2 were determined on the basis of effects of the Earthquake and the density with the mixed population 'low-caste (Dalit), indigenous peoples (Adivasi Janajati), Bahun and Chhetri. Furthermore; district office of NFDN is situated at Bidur municipality ward no. 1 and disability school and hostel is located at Tupche ward no.2. Akare Thus, Bidur-1 Bandre and Tupche-2 were regarded as the universe of sampling. From this universe, Bidur and Tupche were purposively sampled to include in the study as the unit of study in terms of the access road and transportation.

3.2 Research Design

Research design is plan of a research study, which define the study type and data collection methods. It shows the road map of study that has been created a framework to seek answer to the research questions. The research design for the study comprises descriptive research with qualitative design. Descriptive research design is applied to describe "what" question such as what are the major effects of earthquake on women, women with disabilities and people with disabilities in the aftermath of the earthquake and the to describe the efforts made my community, I/NGOs and Government to mitigate the effects of earthquake.

3.3 Nature and Sources of Data

The nature of data in this study is qualitative. The study has incorporated both the primary and secondary sources of data. Primary data were collected through fieldwork using observation, interview questionnaire, focus group discussions, key informant's interview and case studies. The secondary data were collected from various sources such as different journals, articles, newspapers, study reports, books, records, Act and Regulation related to Earthquake. Secondary data were used to strengthen the context provided by the primary data by extending and elaborating it.

3.4 Techniques of Data Collection

Data collection is a process of gathering and managing information for the study, which make possible to get answer of relevant questions and evaluate outcomes. We know that the reliability and validity result of any research depends on its techniques used for data collection. Hence, for every study, the data collection techniques are most important to obtain reliable information. In this regard, this study has used the following tools/techniques to collect the required data:

3.4.1 Observation

Observation is a basic sociological tool for the collection of qualitative data from fields. Thus, an observational has been used to collect the data related to the earthquake victims. My observation mostly focused on damaged houses / buildings, living condition of women and people with disabilities in the makeshift shelter and Disability hostel of Shree Chandeshowari Higher Secondary School. In the hostel, I observed living condition, food, living rooms, toilet, and surrounding environment. Moreover, I observed the settlements made on the bank of Trisuli rived that is called Marre Ghat. I observed their makeshift settlement, household activities in the makeshift shelter made by zinc sheet, tarpaulins and plastics too. Further I observed the environment of the Marre Ghat and food which they and their children were having as a lunch at the time of field visit.

3.4.2 Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

Focus group discussion is very compatible during the field survey and success to achieve reliable information. In course of the study, I conducted total eight focused group discussion in order to better understanding of effects of Earthquake. Three FGDs comprising of women from Bidur-1 Bandre and Marreghat and Tupche-2 Akare were conducted. In the same site two more FGDs were conducted comprising of women belonging to the Dalit community. One FGD comprising of women with disabilities and one FGD with men with disabilities were organized at the district office of NFDN and other one FGD with disable children conducted at Chandeshowari School's hostel. The main purpose of FGDs are to triangulate the information and collect more information in short period which help to understand the effects of earthquake on marginalized groups specially women and people with disabilities. Furthermore, I tried to understand how government, communities, and I/NGOs help to mitigate the effects of Earthquake.

3.4.3 Interview

Interviews were used as another tool to collect required data. Interview is one of the most important method/ technique of qualitative data collection in social sciences. It is combined with pre-determined set of open questions that provide discussion and provide opportunity to the interviewer to explore particular themes.

It is very difficult to get all information from the focused group discussions. People were heisted to talk openly in the group on their personal matter such as menstruation, family matters and other activities. Thus, some individual interviews also conducted with survivors. I interviewed with 10 people. The interview approximately took 20 to 25 minutes. The interview schedule was prepared with a list of guided questions that were asked to the respondents to obtain facts as primary data.

3.4.4 Key Informant Interviews

Key informants are those whose social positions in a research setting who have special knowledge about the research problem and can provide more extensive, detailed information than ordinary people. Thus, key informants are also important sources of sociological data. Total seven Key informant interviews were conducted with key individuals within the community or society who were working in humanitarian support, relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation in the aftermath of the earthquake have extensive knowledge about the effects of earthquake.

The key informants belonged to VDC chairman/secretary, Department of Women Children Development and social worker of Nuwakot district. Furthermore, I interviewed with Women's Rehabilitation Center (WOREC), a NGO working on behalf of women, organizations working for disability rights, namely, National Federation of the Disabled- Nepal (NFDN), Nepal Disable Women Association

(NDWA), the Abilish Foundation and Karuna Foundation. They were interviewed with a semi-structured interview schedule.

3.4.5 Case Study

Case study is another toll to collect necessary qualitative data. It is more about person, group or situation which has been studied over time. Some of the specific come of the cases related to effects of the April Earthquake 2015 on marginalized groups in terms of transportation and cultural practices were presented as a case in this study.

3.5 Limitations of the Study

Due to the constraints of time and resources, it is not possible to carry out a comprehensive study. Thus, this study also has some limitations. The major limitations of the study were as below:

- The study was limited only Nuwakot district's two wards that is Bidur-1, Bandre and Tupche-2 Akare.
- The study areas were purposively on the basis of the researcher's facilities and left behind the hill high of Nuwakot where less access of road and transportation.
- The study only focuses on only effects of Earthquake on women and people with disabilities.
- The study was completed in short time period.
- The study was carried out only for academic purpose.

3.6 Field Experience

The study area is a neighbor district of Kathmandu valley. However, I had various challenges to reach in the research area and collect information in Nuwakot district's Bidur-1 Bandre and Tupche-2 Akare because of the blockade. The blockade created

crisis of fuel because of this very few transpirations were available. At the time of meeting with the key informant I have face many challenges to reach the meeting point where they called. Some time I used to hang on the bus and tempo and some time I have to walk very long distance.

Very few buses were run at the time of blockade. The buses had over passengers from its capacity. I reached Nuwakot by standing in the bus. Travelling was much risked at that time. Thus, I am unable to reach upper part of Tupche VDC where Tamang majority and contacted with migrated people from high hills such as Salma and Valche and makeshift shelter at Marre Ghat.

At the time of interview with the dumb and deaf people, I have very difficult to communicate with them because of language problem. Rupa Paudel as staff of District office of NFDN helps me to translate the sign language. Likewise one of the respondent of Tupche -2 Akare, started to cry during the interview and difficult to go ahead.

CHAPTER: FOUR

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY AREA

4.1 Introduction to the District

Nuwakot is one of the districts of Central Development Region located 75 km north-west of Kathmandu, a historic town was once the capital of the valley in the days before the unification of Nepal. This district did not touch any zone and international border.

This district is situated from 83° 52' 21" eastern longitude to 28° 8' 16.44" northern latitude. It is spread 456-5144 meter from the sea level. As per the geographical division of Nepal Nuwakot lies in the hilly region and the district spread east-west and seems approximately like half moon in the geographic map of Nepal. The district covers total area 1,121 square kilometer with total population 277, 471 (CBS, 2011). The district comprises of 61 VDCs and 1 municipality. Bidur is the district headquarters of Nuwakot.

According to the household census of 2011, the district has 59,215 households having 277, 471 total populations to which 47.85 percent of the total populations are male. It has 250 sq km density of the population. The total literacy rate of the district is diverse in population composition in which Brahmin, Chhetri, Tamang, Gurung, Magar, Newar, Dalit and indigenous nationalities. In this way, the district is heterogeneous in terms of both caste/ethnicity.

Among the 14 most earthquake affected districts, Nuwakot district is one of them. The earthquake massively damaged houses, heritages and infrastructure with many casualties. Many people were died and injured in the earthquake. Many of them lost

their houses and started to live under the temporary tents. The table below present details of earthquake related information of Nuwakot District:

Table No. 1 Details of Earthquake Related Information of Nuwakot District

SN	Particulars	Number
1.	Total number of affected VDCs/ Municipality	62
2.	Total number of serious Affected VDCs	47
3.	Total number of Moderate affected VDCs/Municipalities	14
4.	Total number of affected households (HH)	59,184
5.	Total number of complete affected HH	55,184
6.	Partially affected HH	4,000
7.	Total number of Deaths	904
8.	Total number of injured people	1,300
9.	Total estimated affected population	1,40,700
10.	Total health facilities	59
11.	Completely damaged health facilities	31

Source: District police office of Bidur, 2015

Nuwakot district is badly affected from the April devastating earthquake among with 14 districts of Nepal. The massive and unrecoverable disaster occurred over all the 61 VDCs and Bidur municipality. Nine hundreds and four people died and 1300 people were injured, many houses have collapsed and damaged with loss of livestock and pets. According to the district profile of Nuwakot almost all school buildings, VDC buildings, agricultural centers, District Forest Office building and Health Centers and health posts and many other infrastructures collapsed and damaged.

The table below has presented the detail status of health facilities at Nuwakot District:

Table No. 2 Condition of Health Facilities at Nuwkot District

S.N.	Infrastructure	Total number of Health Centers	Magnitude of damage	
			Completely Damaged	Partially Damaged
1	District Hospital	1	1	-
2.	PHCC	6	0	1
3.	S/HP	52	30	20
4.	Ayurvedic Centers	Not Reported	6	2
5.	Other Private Clinics/hospitals	Not Reported	-	-

Source: Nepal Earthquake 2015; District Profile-Nuwakot

According to district profile of Nuwakot, the 50 beds district hospital had been severely damaged and patients were under tents outside. The emergency department building is partially operational and indoor hospital and the outpatient departments are not functional.

District profile shows that disturbance of the water supply and electricity supply, telephone and mobile network have also down, the markets disturbed and hotels have remained closed. Most of the road networks were obstructed due to the land slide. Some victims, houseless families have displaced to other village settlements. .

4.2 Bidur Municipality

Bidur municipality is the districts headquarter of Nuwakot. It is situated 68 km north-west of the capital Kathmandu. It spread across 34.55 square Kilometers, most of its geography is hill and some upper part is mountain. It was formed by merging Bhairavi, Trushili, Bidur and Tupche VDCs and divided into eleven wards. The

population of Cheetri is in the highest percentage that is 20 percent followed by brahmin 17 percent. Similarly, newar comprises 19 percent followed by tamang 15 and kumal 9 percent. The municipality has significant percent of Dalit populations that is 6 percent and among them almost 99 percent of them are Sarki.

4.2.1 Population

According to the household census of 2011, the municipality comprises total 6,270 households with 26,750 total populations. Among them 12,712 are male and 14,038 are female.

Table No. 3 Ward Wise Total Population of Bidur Municipality

Ward No	Total House hold	Population		Total Population	Percentage
		Male	Female		
1	374	792	802	1,594	6
2	269	479	561	1,040	4
3	797	1,612	1,710	3,322	12
4	1,104	2,223	2,195	4,418	17
5	492	1,087	1,215	2,302	9
6	494	1,106	1,174	2,280	9
7	487	1,105	1,217	2,322	9
8	648	1,325	1,558	2,883	11
9	1,217	2,226	2,743	4,969	19
10	251	483	585	1,068	4
11	137	274	278	552	2
Total	6,270	12,712	14,038	26,750	100

Source: Census 2011

As presented in the table above, the study area has 374 total households having 1,594 total populations. The table shows that the difference between the population of male and female is 10 having more female number.

Table No. 4 Details of Earthquake Related Information of Bidur Municipality

SN	Details of information	Number
1.	Total Affected Wards	11
2.	Total House Holds	8,050
3.	Total destructed house holds	7,300
4.	Total family members	33,110
5.	Total Death	65 (approx.)
6.	Total Injured	161 (approx.)

Source: District police office of Bidur, 2015

As presented in the table above, the study area was badly affected by the April earthquake. Most of the houses were destructed. As per the district profile of Nuwakot Municipality had limited safe drinking water and access to toilets.

4.3 Tupche VDC

Tupche VDC is located east of kalyanpur, Deurali and Bungtang VDC and west of Gerkhu VDC its northern borders adjoins to Kaule, Firuki and Manakamana VDCs and southern borders adjoins to Bidur Municipality. The total populaiton of this VDC is 5286 among them, the total population of male and female are 2401, and 2885 respectively. Ethnically, the VDC comprises 32 percent brahmin followed by chetri 32 percent. Similalry, the total percen of tamang populaiton is 20 percent and the total perct of dalit is 14 percent (6% sarki, 6% kami, and 3% damai.

4.3.1 Population

According to household census of 2011 Tupche has 1279 households having 5286 total populations to which 2401 are male and 2885 are female population.

Table No. 5 Ward Wise Total Population of Tupche VDC

Ward no	Total Households	Population			
		Male	Female	Total	Percentage
1	230	437	529	966	18
2	202	360	474	834	16
3	184	378	419	797	15
4	180	345	403	748	14
5	86	134	152	286	5
6	135	280	326	606	11
7	75	121	145	266	5
8	68	127	177	304	6
9	119	219	260	479	9
Total	1,279	2,401	2,885	5,286	11

Source: Census 2011

As presented in the table above, the study area has 202 total households having 834 total populations. The table shows that the difference between the population of male and female is 114 having more female number.

Table No. 6 Details of Earthquake Related Information of Tupcha VDC

SN	Details of information	Number
1.	Total Wards	9
2.	Total number of households	1,279
3.	Total destructed households	All most all houses

Source: VDC of Tupche

According to the district profile of Nuwakot, Tupche's almost all ward are affected from the Earthquake. The VDC had limited access of safe drinking water and access to toilets.

In case of Tupche 2, Akare (the study area), all houses, most of the schools and school hostels, health post were destructed in the earthquake. The VDC had very limited health facilities.

CHAPTER: FIVE

EFFECTS OF EARTHQUAKE ON WOMEN

The analysis, interpretation and presentation of collected data have been made in detail in this chapter. As the collected data were qualitative in nature, the qualitative data have been analyzed and interpreted descriptively in a narration. For the convenience of the presentation, the analysis has been made within different sub-headings.

Considering the plight of marginalized groups and how they might be further sidelined in the event of a disaster, the purpose of the research was to capture the specific effects of women. The main purpose of the research is to capture the various effects of earthquake. Following are the major effects of earthquake.

5.1 Effects on Women due to House Damage

Widespread destruction of housing by the earthquake made people homeless. Housing is the basic need of the human being and most of the activities of families and individuals were linked with it. According to the PDNA housing is the highly affected sector from the earthquake. “Nearly 500,000 houses were destroyed and more than 250,000 houses were partially damaged” (PDNA A 2015 Pp: 3). As per the field observation almost all houses were totally damaged in Tupche 2 Akare and in Bidur -1 Bandre, most of the houses were destroyed and some of houses were partially damaged.

Interviews reflects that, people those houses were damaged and those whose houses were not damaged also seek temporary shelter in the open sky. As per the FGDs conducted at Bidur 1 Bandre, people’s houses were collapsed by the earthquake and

their food grains and other kitchen and cloths were buried under the rubbles. They came under the open sky. One participant of the FGD said “On the first day we live in the bus of garage and next day we made a temporary shelter on the field and started living together in a group”. They were living in temporary shelter made by plastic and tarpaulins which they used to cover their grains in the field.

The FGDs conducted at Tupche reflect destruction of houses by earthquake made their life extremely challenging. Everything was buried under the rubbles and they were homeless. One respondent said “almost one an half month we live in the chicken house next to the damaged house which was safe after the earthquake with our family and the neighbor. She added, after a month slowly and gradually people started to make their own shelter.”

In the field observation most of the collapsed houses were made by unripe brick and mud. The loss of homes caused by earthquake made life extremely challenging for Women and Women with disability. Destruction of houses adversely effects to their household activities, health, hygiene and security.

5.1.1 Female-headed Family and single Women

Gender inequality is the most common problem in Nepal. Families with women as the head of the household and families and elderly struggle the most during and aftermath of the earthquake. “Women heading the family are already overburdened with their routine household activities, which include accessing basic services, and their contribution to the farm and other livelihoods. In such circumstances, any role in the recovery and reconstruction process will only add to their responsibilities and raise their workload to unsustainable levels” (PDNA B Pp: 14). Interviews and FDGs reflect female-headed families were suffered most in the aftermath of the earthquake. They have hard to receive relief and adequate assistance in the response. They were faced many problems in the aftermath of the earthquake because they tend to be a

food provider and caretakers of the family and also engaged in task building temporary shelter which is physically demanding.

Thus, they had depended on paid labour to build shelter in the absence of male member in the family. However, at that time getting labour is very difficult. Moreover, caused economic blockage creates scarcity of raw materials such as zinc sheet. As per the gathered information from FGDs and interviews proved that, female-headed family were suffered much more in the aftermath of the earthquake.

5.1.2 Food Security / Deficit

As per the PDNA, the earthquake wide sphere destroyed the stored crops particularly, rice, maize and millet along with the damage of houses. Interviews reflects, traditionally rural people used to store grain inside the house in traditional equipment such as Bhakari, which was destroyed in the collapsed of the house and buried under the rubbles. The damage of crops creates the food insecurity on household and family level.

Most of the respondents (FGDs and Interviews) unequivocally stated that all grains whatever they stored for consumption and seed were damaged from the earthquake. They tried to recover the grains from the debris but due to regular aftershocks they were unable. Respondents further said that they were dependent on the relief distribution because the recovered grain from the rubble was moulded, which was dangerous for consumption.

As per the FGD conducted at Marre Ghaat respondent says, most of the lands were cracked and village was prone to landslide after the earthquake thus, they obliged to leave their village. Two respondents Ritumaya Rai and Monika Tamang from Marre Ghaat says, “Our all grain whatever we stored rice, millet, and potato for consumption were buried under the rubbles of our house and get wet from rain. They added earthquake forced us to left our village because land cracked from the earthquake and

prone to landslides.” In this regards pregnant survivors (pregnant women, and Lactating Women and Children) did not have access to a balance diet as the food supplies were scare. The diet available was lacked in the required nutrients necessary for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children. The details are given below:

5.1.2.1 Effects on Pregnant Women

As per the FGDs conducted with women in Bandre and Tupche state that “Pregnant women need special care, enough food and nutrition during pregnancy for child’s development. They further said food stock was damaged along with house collapsed and they depended on the relief whatever received which is not sufficient. This had negative effect on pregnant women and their unborn babies.”

During the FGD at Tupche one of the respondents shared her experience, she had eight month of pregnancy and difficulty in mobility and sitting at that time she had to live under the tarpaulin as other people in the aftermath of earthquake. She further added she had not sufficient food and nutrition because all food destroyed by the earthquake and dependent on the relief and shared food in the mesh with other survivor. Due to lack of enough food and nutrition she had faced many problems during her delivery.

5.1.2.2 Effects on Lactating Women and Children

Lactating women shared their experiences during FGDs they have difficulty in breast-feeding because of lack of food and nutrition. Their houses were destroyed and stored grains were buried. However, lactating mother’s situation was more difficult than others because of their small children. They are surviving on the raw foods that include junk foods like beaten rice, Noodles and Biscuits sent as relief-package to them. Respondents added, food items that they received as a relief- package not contain protein, vitamins and minerals as much as a lactating mother thus, they had not proper lactation. With no proper lactation, neither they had any other good food to

feed their small babies. 200,000 pregnant and breast-feeding women were malnourished and 404,000 children were suffering from malnutrition state Sharmin Thapa in his article “Women’s and Children’s Vulnerability after the Earthquake” (Thapa, 2016).

FGDs Further show, women had extremely difficult to take care of their self and their children and provide necessary food and nutrition in the aftermath of earthquake. Moreover; food in group is not sufficient and not balance diet. The gathered information and evident proved that, lactating mother have difficulty in breast-feeding and the babies and children are victim of malnutrition because of the diet available was lacked in the required nutrients as necessary.

5.1.3 Work Burden to Women

The traditional division of roles of men and women tend to significantly increase the work burden of women in the aftermath of the earthquake. According to PDNA, since the female members of the families were responsible for most of the household chores, they were forced to tackle with problems such as lack of water and food supplied (PDNA 2015).

According to the FGD conducted with women in Marre Ghaat, their work burden of household chores were increased due to security of basic supplies such as food and water and created multiple challenges for women living in tents. Since they displaced at Marre Ghaat they depend on one source of water with in a settlement due to this women have to stand long line to get water for their families.

Most of the female respondents from Bidur-1 Bandre and Tupche-2 Akare say “grains and cooking devices were buried under the rubbles of houses which raise our worked load to ensure food intake for the family.” Similarly, FGDs conducted at Bidur -1 Bandre and Tupche-2 Akare exhibit, they have to perform their household activities in the makeshift shelter and had also engaged clearing debris of houses and recovering

grains and cooking devices from collapsed houses and accessing relief materials as well as engaged in the task of building temporary shelter. Interviews further reflect women are a primary caregiver within the family. They have to provide adequate food and other basic necessities to their children and other members of the family in the aftermath of the earthquake. As per the collected evident that earthquake significantly increased the work burden to women.

5.2 Effects on Women's Health

Health and population sector was heavily affected from the earthquake in all 14 most affected districts. As per the official report nearly 84 percent health facilities were completely damaged in the 14 most-affected districts. Consequently, vulnerable population; including disaster victims were further disadvantaged in access of health services in remote areas.

The earthquake destroyed public service infrastructures that offered basic social services including healthcare (PDNA 2015). This had adverse effects on people's health. The most vulnerable populations in the aftermath of the earthquake are; pregnant women, mother of new babies, and children.

5.2.1 Effects on Pregnant Women

The earthquake destroyed public service infrastructures that offered basic social services including healthcare (PDNA 2015). This had an adverse effect on pregnant women and their unborn babies. The destruction of homes, food stock and healthcare posts affected health, hygiene, security and nutrition of pregnant women. As per the FGDs conducted in Bidur-1, Bandre and Tupche-2, Ankara; pregnant women experienced multiple problems while living in temporary shelters made of tarpaulin and plastic.

Pregnant women are one of the most vulnerable populations in the emergency. As per the interview with Manu Bogati (pseudonym) a social mobilize of Tupche VDC state “Pregnant women need the regular attention and require adequate nutrition, sufficient medicine and antenatal care for deliver safely”. She further added, Most of the health care centers, village health posts and birthing-giving centers, and hospitals were totally damaged and rest are overcrowded with injured people. According to The Nuwakot District Profile, 37 health facilities were completely damaged out of 59 and rest were partially damaged. Due to this pregnant women and new mother have lower chance to get safe health facilities and adequate conditions for delivery and maternal care.

5.2.2 Effects on New Mother and Children

As per the FGDs conducted in Bidur-1 Bandre and Tupche-2 Aakare; new mothers experienced multiple problems while living in temporary shelters made of tarpaulin and plastic. The diet available was lacked in the required nutrients necessary for lactating mothers and children. They struggled to shield themselves and their new born babies from adverse weather conditions and were ravaged by mosquito bites and fear of animals. According to one of the participant of the FGD, “*The shelters were infested with mosquitoes and flies so, we were scared from malaria and diarrhea.*” There were many events of women and young babies suffering from fever and diarrhea due to poor level of nutrition and poor living conditions.

As Per the observation and FGDs conducted in Bidur-1 Bandre and Tupche-2 Aakare; people were live in the temporary shelters, which were covered with zinc. They were poorly insulated and the temperature inside fluctuated from extreme cold to extreme heat depending on weather conditions. Such extreme changes in temperatures contributed to the poor health conditions of new mothers, young infants and children. Moreover, those who fell ill either did not have the money to go to hospitals or the hospitals were too crowded due to the large number of victims who had suffered physical injuries.

As temporary shelters were covered with zinc, they were poorly insulated and the temperature inside fluctuated from extreme cold to extreme heat depending on weather conditions. Such extreme changes in temperatures contributed to the poor health of pregnant women, lactating mothers and infants. Moreover, those in poor health conditions struggled to receive medical attention as the hospitals were too crowded due to the large number of victims who had suffered physical injuries. Some did not have enough money to pay for hospital visits. Moreover, the hospitals were also running out of medical supplies.

5.2.3 Psychological Effects

According to several NGOs that work in emergency response and recovery with women, and women with disabilities they could notice the psychological impact of the earthquake on young girls and women and other survivors too. Most of the respondents complained about sleeplessness problem because of anxiety. They need counseling to come out from it and those who got disabilities from the earthquake need special counseling and rehabilitation. However, Survivors had very low counseling and rehabilitation.

5.3 Women's Personal Safety and Sanitation

Earthquake directly effects on the people's water sanitation and hygiene (WASH 2015). It damaged the basic things of WASH such as latrines, water etc... more than 1.1 million people were out of safe, hygienic and dignified means of sanitation facilities (WASH 2015).

According to interviews and FGDs more than 15 people or 4-6 families were living under the same tent. Aftermath of the disaster people had to face many sanitation problems. Especially, girls, women and disabilities were complained facing problems. Meanwhile, open defecation had added to the sanitation problem of the families and

community at the same time, dead animals not evacuated from the demolished houses had also made the area more vulnerable in terms of diseases.

5.3.1 Hygiene and Sanitation

FGDs conducted with women at Bidur and Tupche reflected that, the earthquake further affected women and adolescent girls to maintain desired levels of personal hygiene. Moreover, earthquake damaged the most of the toilet facilities and water sources, caused women and young girls suffered from a lack of proper facilities necessary for their social and physical well-being. The respondents further added the female members of the families were responsible for most of the sanitation of shelter, family and their children. In case of country like Nepal women were responsible for their household chores and forced to tackle problems such as lack of water, toilets and food supplies (PDNA 2015).

Women and girls during their menstruation had to suffer more because of the lack of safe toilet facilities, water and lack of sanitary supplies. During the FGD one woman from Tupche said, “I had menstruation period on the day of earthquake however, all the clothes and sanitary kits were buried under the collapsed house. Moreover, at the time of menstruation living on the group in a communal tent was very difficult to change pad and clothes.” Similarly, FGD conducted at Marre Ghaat, women state, we have faced many difficulties during the menstruation period because of sanitary pad. We rural women use cloth’s pad and it needed to washed regularly and dry on the sunlight. They further added, due to lack of sufficient water and living in make shift shelter and using common toilet for 5 to 6 households, women had little privacy and loss their self dignity. Thus, living in an open area with a large group offered women little privacy in washing and drying pads, is very uncomfortable for them.

Many respondents state during the FGDs, in the aftermath of the earthquake the entire family is and neighbor were sleeping together under the same tarpaulin. Women and girls’ further stated, changing clothes is really uncomfortable. Particularly during the

menstruation cycle changing pads inside the tarps and washing it openly is really embarrassing.

Thus, women were struggled to maintain their personal hygiene because they lacked basic facilities like water and toilets and did not have access on essential female sanitary products in the aftermath of the earthquake. The government gives little attention to these problems.

5.3.2 Safety and Security

The interviews reflect the effects of earthquake on the safety and security of people during the frequent aftershocks that followed the massive earthquake. People were worried about their self and families' safety and security. Living in the tent and tarpaulin was not safe and secure. Some respondents said the news of reap, and human trafficking made them scary.

The earthquake had considerable effects on the mental wellbeing of people with disabilities. The interviews reflected people with disabilities were worried regarding their safety and security during the frequent aftershocks. Most of the People with disabilities state, “We were worried about being able to come out of our shelter in time and who would help us to find the way to safe space of come out in safe place in the event of another earthquake or aftershock.”

5.3.3 Women and Violence

As Per the interview with WOREC reflect that the incidents of violence against women were noted in the open makeshift shelters in the aftermath the earthquake. Some of women were verbally abused and physically threatened in public places and in their own homes also. Moreover, women were threatened on a regular basis in the tents. However, the FGDs and interviews in Bandre and Akare did not reveal any specific instances of violence against women.

5.4 Effects of Property Ownership on Women to get Earthquake Victim Identity Card

In order to receive a victim's identity card, the individual was required to present property ownership documents that attest to his or her status as the head of the household. In most of the families, males are recognized as the head of family and are the legal owners of the property. While women with proof of property ownership and women who were the heads of the household in the absence of their husbands easily received the earthquake victim family identity card, single women without proof of property ownership or women unable to prove that their husbands were away struggled to receive the identity cards.

According to some staff members of WOREC, people had complained of irregularities during card distribution. Households with completely damaged homes ended up getting a card that identified them as owning partially damaged homes and vice versa. Similarly, multiple households living in one house as a joint family were only recognized as a single family whereas a single family ended up receiving cards that identified them as joint families, giving them access to more aid and support. These irregularities were linked to corruption and possible fraud in the distribution of relief materials and funds.

In the context of this paper, the case study below highlights the challenges faced by a single woman with disability in receiving the Earthquake Victim Identity Card. (Case 1; show the difficulties faced by disable single women in getting Earthquake affected Identity Card)

Case 1: Difficulty in getting Earthquake-affected Identity Card

Sarita (Pseudonym) had an eye problem. She got married and moved to Buddha Sing VDC. After two years she completely lost her eyesight. After she turned blind, her husband left her and remarried. Since then, she has been living with her parents. Though she had separated from her husband, they were not divorced. As she had no proof of legal separation from her husband she had difficulty getting an earthquake-affected identity card as she was not recognized as head of the household.

The April earthquake destroyed most of the houses in her community including her parent's house. Her parents received the Earthquake Victim Family Identity Card easily but it wasn't the same for her. She first went to Gerku VDC to claim her identity card but she was asked to go to Buddha Sing VDC instead as that was where she got her citizenship card from, under her husband's name. When she went to Buddha Sing VDC for the card, the VDC secretary told her that her husband had already claimed the identity card. Since she had no way of proving that she was separated from her husband, she was unable to get the identity card, which meant that she was deprived from receiving any compensation from the government. Sarita did receive some relief supplies such as zinc sheets from NFDN and sanitary kits from WOREC Nepal, but has not received any support from the government yet.

Source: Field Study 2015

Not all women struggled like Sarita. During interviews two women from Bidur- 1 said that their husbands were abroad however, they got the cards earlier than others households and didn't face any difficulties because their community gave priority to women-headed families with young children.

Similarly a single woman from Tupche-2, Akare said that even though she was unmarried and lived alone, she did not face any problems in getting the identity card.

5.5 Effects on Women in Rebuilding and Reconstruction of Homes

Families with women as the head of the household and families made up of the elderly struggled the most in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake. They were faced with the task of building temporary shelters which is physically demanding. They had difficulty accessing materials such as zinc sheets required to construct the shelters. They had to rely on paid labour to build shelters in the absence of male members in the family. The cost of the labour was high especially considering the destruction of their homes and their livelihoods. Moreover, the economic blockade which lasted for over four months created a shortage of supply of building materials. This caused a sudden hike in the prices of raw materials and daily essentials, adding to the already existing economic burden.

In some cases, women with male members in the family working abroad, fared better as they received money on a regular basis which helped them in rebuilding. The money offered by the government as immediate relief was not sufficient to cover the costs of rebuilding and the rising prices of building materials made things even more challenging. As gathered from the FGD and interviews, it is evident that the economically poor suffered much more because of the earthquake.

5.6 Effects on Women's Livelihood

In Nepal most of the rural people are more depended on agriculture for their livelihood. "The earthquake damaged the crop lands, physical infrastructure mainly small irrigation systems, poly houses, livestock shelter, agricultural tools, equipment and machinery" (PDNA B 2015 Pp: 79). Thus, earthquake pushed the poorer and vulnerable marginalized groups to be further marginalized. At the same time, large number of Nepali women, other disadvantaged groups are being dependent on agriculture as a source of income, have left behind and women have low livelihood alternative in compare to men (PDNA A 2015).

As per the FGD conducted with displaced people who setup their shelter at Marre Ghaat state that “we were engaged in agricultural work however, earthquake damaged our agricultural lands, kitchen garden and livestock and had displace from our village. We need employment to survive family.” Unlike Marre ghaat’s women, other responded who engaged in FGDs said they need employment rather than relief materials.

Most of the respondents unequivocally state that they need employment and need work to survive their family. They further added, distribution of relief is not a solution of the problem. As per the collected evident from interviews and FGDs reflects that most of the survivors are facing unemployment problems after the earthquake.

CHAPTER: SIX

EFFECTS OF EARTHQUAKE ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

While People with disabilities had to face the exact same challenges as other women and man, they were further affected because of the lack of disabled-friendly facilities. Most of the infrastructure such as social service centres, health centers and houses were demolished by the earthquake. Thousands of people were rendered homeless and had to live out in the open in tents. But, women with disabilities were more vulnerable while living in open areas that offered little or no protection. People with disabilities struggled with basic facilities such as toilets. The facilities were lacking or not disabled-friendly. In this regard this chapter tries to analyze the living condition, health situation, safety and sanitation of people with disabilities. This chapter further goes through the effects on women with disabilities and effects of inadequate supports, transportation and communication on people with disabilities, and challenges face by disabilities in rebuilding and reconstruction. Further details are given below:

6.1 Effects on Living Condition of People with Disabilities

People with disabilities unequivocally stated that they were dependent on their familiar living environment. Unlike other normal people, disable people also forced to move on temporary shelters faced many challenges in terms of mobility and their daily activities. During the FGD most of the respondent said “our house and surroundings was familiar for us but, makeshift shelter is completely new so, we cannot do anything without someone’s help and support.” They further added, due to the lack of disability- friendly toilet and infrastructure they had to ask help and support every time for every activity. Moreover, they also had to use outdoor in the absence of toilet which is very difficult and made them feel uncomfortable.

6.1.1 Effects on People with Disabilities Health

As per the interview with staffs of District office of NFDN and NDWA, Hospitals was very rush aftermath of the earthquake because of injury made by earthquake. Patients were under tents outside and struggled to receive medical facilities because most of the health facilities were damaged and running out of medical supplies leading to a scarcity in medication in the aftermath of the earthquake.

Moreover, those who required regular medical assistance were left without any access to healthcare. The Administrative Manager of NFDN, Manish Prasai, said during an interview, "People with disabilities who needed a special bed or needed support to get out of bed were neglected in temporary shelters. There was nobody there to help them with their daily activities in the communal tents."

During the FGDs people with disabilities shared their experiences how struggle to receive medical attention as the hospitals were too crowded. Unlike others they were also suffering from the temperature fluctuation which contributes to the poor health conditions.

6.1.2 Safety and security of People with Disabilities

The interviews reflected the effects of earthquake on people with disabilities regarding their safety and security during the frequent aftershocks that followed the massive earthquake. People with disabilities were worried about their safety and security.

Moreover, the earthquake had a considerable effect and impact on the mental well-being of people with disabilities. They were worried about not being able to come out of their shelters in time. Those with no eyesight were worried about finding their way to safety in the event of another earthquake or aftershock. Two respondents said, "We were scared of the aftershocks and worried about who would save us if our homes or houses collapsed."

6.1.3 People with Disabilities and Outdoors Toilet

Most of the People with disabilities unequivocally stated that all the toilets were destroyed by the earthquake and people were made temporary toilet which was not familiar to the people with disabilities. They further added the lack of disabled-friendly toilet facilities meant that people with disabilities had to ask for help and support every time they had to go to the toilet. They also had to use the outdoors in the absence of toilets which made them feel uncomfortable. In some places Water Aid built disabled-friendly toilet facilities but they were not enough to cater to the needs of all people with disabilities. Moreover, the people with disabilities were constantly concerned about their safety and security as they felt vulnerable in unfamiliar surroundings.

6.2 Effects on Women with Disabilities

During the FGDs, many women with disabilities claim to have undergone through many problems such as toileting, self protection security and risk of sexual violence. According to Nepal Earthquake Response 2015, women with physical disabilities were also more vulnerable to violence, both physical and sexual while living in open temporary shelters. Moreover, recent report of NDWA shows that 80% of women with disabilities face physical violence and 50% experience sexual violence in their life time (NDWA2007).

6.2.1 Household work and Women with Disabilities

In the after math of the earthquake disable women had very difficult to do their household work in the unfamiliar environment. They are used to their homes and carry out their daily activities like cooking and cleaning in their habitual spaces. However, the earthquake destroyed the homes of many people with disabilities and forced them to move to temporary shelters. They found it difficult to do their daily household work

inside communal spaces that were unfamiliar and lacked the facilities they were used to.

6.2.2 Effects of Water and Sanitation on Women with Disabilities

Two respondents Gitu (Pseudonyms) and Sarita (Pseudonyms), both women without eyesight, during the interview they shared their experience how they struggle to maintain their personal hygiene during menstruation period in the aftermath of the earthquake. Due to lack of water and disabled-friendly toilet facilities in the makeshift shelters made them uncomfortable. Moreover, they need support to maintain their hygiene which made them feel losing their personal dignity.

6.3 Effects of Inadequate Support on People with Disabilities

While there was no proof of willful discrimination against people with disabilities during the relief and rescue efforts, there were instances where discrimination happened due to lack of foresight and sensitivity towards their needs. Essential relief supplies such as food and material for temporary shelters were distributed to all; however neither the government nor the NGOs or INGOs were mindful of the specific needs of people with disabilities women with disabilities, such as wheelchairs that may have been destroyed by the earthquake. While the relief packages were being distributed, most of the people with disabilities in areas close to the relief distribution site had access to it. However, disabled people who lived far from the distribution site were either not notified in time or struggled to get to the site. Access to the distribution site by road was a major factor that determined whether or not someone with disability received the relief supplies.

According to interviews with NFDN and NDWA, many did not receive information about the distribution of relief materials and those who did, could not easily get to the site to receive it. People who managed to get to the site struggled with receiving the supplies as the distribution was not managed very well. The queues were not

organized and they often found themselves waiting in line. Even after they received the relief supplies some of them had to pay a porter to carry it for them.

Similarly, people with speaking or hearing difficulties who had to rely on sign language to communicate struggled to communicate due to lack of mediators in relief distribution sites. However, during the FGD there were people with disabilities who were helped by their families and did not have much difficulty in receiving the relief materials. Often, parents other members from their families went to receive aid on their behalf. There were also instances where some NGOs reached out to people with disabilities and took the relief materials to them.

6.4 Effects of Transportation & Communication on Disable people

Access of Transportation and communication played the vital role to get rescue and relief materials. Many roads across hilly and high mountains regions were damaged and interruption of communication also. It creates difficulties on providing immediate rescue and reliefs such as medicine, tents, food etc. (case 2; show the problems faced by a blind women in the aftermath of the earthquake)

Case 2: Experience of A blind women

Gitu (Pseudonyms) without eyesight. She went her friend's home Rasuwa for combined study. She has living with her friend since 4 days. The earthquake destroyed most of the houses in Rasuwa including her friend's house.

She faced many problems after the quake. Living far from the family members in new place with community without any shelter was very difficult for without eyesight. First two nights after the earthquake they spend their night under the open Skye. At that time she had to ask help and support every time she needed to go to toilet, which was very difficult for her.

Transportation and communication was totally disturbed by the earthquake. The situation of Rasuwa was very critical in terms of access on immediate rescue and reliefs such as medicine, tents, and food items because of damage, landslides and interruption of communication. Gitu was contactless from her family and worried about her family. On that situation living far from the family without any communication was very difficult.

After three days she had contact with her husband. Her husband talked with the district headquarter and army and said about her physical condition. After four days of the earthquake she was rescued by the Army by helicopter and able to meet her family.

Source: Field study 2015

6.5 Effects on People with Disabilities in Rebuilding and Reconstruction

People with disabilities were struggle the most in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake. They were faced with the task of building temporary shelters, which is physically demanding. According to the FDG with disabilities they had difficulty accessing materials such zinc sheets required to construct the shelters. Further, they had difficulty to manage the distributed zinc sheets. They need someone's support to go to take ration and relief material such as zinc sheets from distributed place to their home. Interviews further reflect they can't contribute their labor on making shelter unlike other. Thus, they had to rely on paid labor to transport essentials and to build shelters in the absence of physically strong member while it is very rare to get labour at that time. The cost of the labour is high especially considering the destruction of their homes and their livelihoods. Moreover, the economic blockage which lasted over four months created a shortage of supply of building materials. This caused a sudden hike in the price of the raw materials and daily essentials, adding to the already existing economic burden.

CHAPTER: SEVEN

EFFORTS DONE FROM THE COMMUNITY, I/NGOS AND GOVERNMENT TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE EARTHQUAKE

The April Earthquake 2015 had different effects at individual, family and community. Saving hundreds of people's lives was first priority after the massive earthquake thus, most of the community, I/NGOs and government first respond to rescue and relief operation. According the to the Key note speech of Krishna B. Bhattachan, every disaster government in the center to provide the urgent response for search and relief as well as rehabilitation and rebuilding. However, Government fails in immediate response as per the need.

To mitigate the effects of the earthquake community, I/NGOs and Government did efforts from their levels. Below are the major affords did by the community, I/NGOs, government.

7.1 Efforts Made by the Communities Contributions

Most recent aftermath of the earthquake, most of the communities were on their own before any external help and supports. Communities, families' relatives and neighbors afford their self to cope with the crisis. People live together and supported each other in rescued by retrieve from under the rubble. FGDs conducted at Akare respondents said, "Most of the things in the aftermath of the earthquake were done by us villagers. We did it together. We rescued people those were buried under the rubble and evacuate the death bodies from rubble. We arranged for food, shelter and sought for external help. Until the support arrived, we depended on the food crops from our damaged houses and continued to sleep in the chicken's home."

Similarly FGD conducted at Bidur-1 Bandre respondents said, “Our community and the locals did everything. Those houses were not totally had helped those who had lost their every things by giving grains and clothes.”

Therefore, the community more focused on the rescue, relief and shelter to mitigate the effects of the earthquake.

7.1.1 Efforts Made by the People Living in Abroad

Most of the respondents unequivocally states that in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake their communities member who lived abroad were main sources of support. FGDs conducted at Tupche-2 Akare, most of the respondent said, “if we did not get support and relief from our communities brothers and sisters who lived abroad, we will dead because we got first relief from people living in the abroad in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake rather than NGO/INGOs and Government.”

7.1.2 Efforts Made by Locals Elites and Businessmen

As per the conducted FGDs and interviews there were other actors from within the community who played a positive role to mitigating the effects of earthquake were local elites and businessmen. In this regard, those who had resources and willing to help their community were the major support in the aftermath of the earthquake to mitigate the effects. Local shopkeeper gave food items and local businessman gave tarpaulin and blankets.

7.2 Efforts Made by I/NGOs

The International Non-Governmental Organization and national and local Non-Governmental organization played very crucial role in mitigation of effects of earthquake. As I pass through interviews with the various I/NGOs reflects, Most of

I/NGOs working in Nepal were focused on delivery of rescue, relief materials and made safe temporary shelter for earthquake victims.

During the FGD at Bidur-1 Bandre and Tupche-2 Akare; there was no any facility and support to address women's essential requirement such as; sanitary pad during menstruation and diet for lactating in the temporary shelter Government did not pay any attention to such problems. They further said that very late, approximately one and half month after the earthquake WOREC, UNICEF and NDWA distributed sanitary kits in both Bidur and Tupche.

Administrative manager of NFDN said, "In some places we distributed relief materials focusing disabilities those were deprived from relief, and mostly we focused on distribution on relief materials such as food, trampoline, tent and jasta pata." However, there has been several irregularities has been reported in the media on the distribution of relief. For example, BBC Nepali service reported that there has been huge corruption in the distribution of relief and other budget on relief and rehabilitations.

A staff member of NFDN said that, in some places Water Aid, the INGO, built some disabled-friendly temporary shelter and toilet facilities but they were not enough to cater to the needs of all people with disabilities. He further added, they were constantly concerned about their safety and security as they felt vulnerable in unfamiliar surroundings.

Similarly two respondents from Marre Ghat says "We are getting relief materials; foods, health camp clothes, blankets, Jasta pata for temporary shelter from the various organization however we don't have any livelihood option." The long term rehabilitation strategy and plan seems to be deficit in the policy as well as practice level.

Most of the respondents from Tupche and Bandre say, I/NGOs and civil societies help them by distributing emergency relief including food and non foods; clothes and blankets, jasta pata. I/NGOs and civil societies further provided injury rehabilitation, emergency health-care, shelter livelihoods, water and sanitation too. Support provided by I/NGOs and civil societies was life saving for earthquake affected people and contributed to their long term recovery.

7.2.1 Efforts Made by Local Organization

As per the observation, Nuwakot Multiple Development Organization organized three days Health *Sibir* for earthquake victim which was supported by Aasam Medical Institution Caria and volunteer medical services provided by Asian Medical Center. The Health *Sibir* provide free services like free medicine, Dental, Video x-ray (US), general surgery, lab, O.P.D, Ear, Nose, Neck, Heart etc...

7.3 Efforts Made by the Government

The involvement of the district administration office was witnessed almost no role in the distribution of the relief materials except some security and other legal and technical aspects. The reason behind the absence of direct involvement of the CDO office is that the government had formed a separate entity - district disaster committee and all the coordination and collaboration was made and distributed through the committee to the local governing bodies. However, the CDO office has coordinated with private level relief distribution by recommending places to distribute in order to avoid the overlap.

Officer of Bidur Municipality state that the government did cabinet level decision to help the victims of earthquake and announced the immediate dispatch of immediate relief in the form of cash rupees fifteen thousand cash and relief packages to offer much needed assistance. However, the government also introduced the Earthquake victim identity card. To collect the name list of victims government mobilized local

government employees and other members of the community such as teachers, lecturers and distributed through the VDCs and Municipalities. Most of the respondent complains that collected name list was to ensure that the rightful victims received the assistance. Most of the respondents complain on the implementation of the identity card system had many irregularities.

7.3.1 During Search and Rescue

Government focused on the rescue and relief most immediate aftermath of the earthquake. Governments operated Nepal Army, Nepal Armed police and Nepal police force in search and rescue of victims. GITU said "I was trapped at Rasuwa, Nepal Army rescue me, than only I am able to reach my home Nuwakot". However, this was not relevant in case of Tupche, during the FGDs respondents of Tupche, said "we were our self engaged in evacuate the dead body death animals in our village we did not get any support during rescue".

7.3.2 During Relief Distribution

Most of the respondents were complained that the government did not provide immediate relief material after the earthquake. They further added approximately one month after the earthquake government's relief came. The quality of the relief materials distributed by the VDC and Municipality were not good quality for consumption. However, They further added Government provided cash relief for immediate construction of temporary safe shelters. Moreover, government also provides crimination cost to the victim family said Ganga.

The Administrative manager of NFDN, Manish Prasai said that during an interview, the most obvious shortcoming of the government during the assessment of the earthquake damage was that their data collection did not capture specific information related to people with disabilities. This means that the government failed to collect

crucial information that could have helped in devising a reconstruction plan which is friendly to people with disabilities.

7.3.4 During Rehabilitation and Resettlement

As per the FGDs conducted at Marreghat, respondents' complain government did not do anything for displaced people for resettlement neither get any rehabilitation. They further added, they still facing scarcity of drinking water and dependent on the relief distributed by the I/NGOs. Moreover, they said that we want to go back in our own village however, we did not getting any support and help from the government.

CHAPTER: EIGHT

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This chapter has dealt with a summary, conclusion and recommendations of the study. For the convenience of the presentation, the summary, conclusion and recommendations have been presented separately in three different sub-headings below:

6.1 Summary

The study entitled the Effect of Earthquake on Marginalized Groups intends to explore the major effects on women and people with disabilities and effort made by the community, I/NGOs and Government to mitigate the effects. Specifically, the study focused on the major effects of earthquake on women and people with disabilities living conditions, health and water sanitation and safety, and livelihood. Further, it aimed to find effects of earthquake at communities and effort done by the community itself, I/NGOs and Government to mitigate the effects of earthquake.

To achieve the objectives, descriptive research with qualitative design was used. The nature of data in this study was qualitative. The study has incorporated both the primary and secondary sources of data. Both Bidur municipality ward No. 1 and Tupche VDC ward No.2 were massively affected from earthquake with mixed population were purposively sampled as the unit of study. Observation, interview, focus group discussion, key informant interview, and case study were used as techniques of data collection. As the data were qualitative in nature, the data has been analyzed and interpreted descriptively in narrative style. The study found the following points as the summary of the study:

The Earthquake damaged peoples' houses and human settlement. Peoples' (individuals and families) basic need and activities are linked with their

housing and settlements. This directly effects to the women headed family. Women had worked burden and also effect to food and nutrition/defect because of damage of stored food items.

Damage of Health services directly affected to the people's health. Pregnant women, new mother and children, old age people disabilities had poor health condition. Also go through the mental trauma. Thus, people had difficulty to maintain designed level of their hygiene and sanitation, safety and security.

Moreover, Earthquake had negative effects on the people's livelihood; livestock were killed by the earthquake and traditional employment was also damaged. Furthermore, agricultural lands, seeds and fertilizer were damaged and also very difficult to get agricultural labor because people were busy in making temporarily shelter.

The effects of earthquake not limited on the women and people with disabilities communities also massively affected from the earthquake. Form the history women disabilities are low in social and economic status and earthquake made them more vulnerable. In the aftermath of the earthquake they face discrimination on getting aid. Moreover, transportation and communication played vital role in access of rescue and relief. Limited aid and access on it create inter conflict the communities. Community itself, I/NGOs and government try to mitigate the effects of earthquake by rescue and relief material distribution.

6.2 Conclusion

While the damage caused by the earthquake affected people irrespective of their social class, caste, gender or physical conditions, this paper aims to highlight the major effects of earthquake on marginalized groups. Through

interviews and FGDs the paper has gathered the major effects of earthquake on marginalized groups i.e. women, lactating women, women with disabilities and people with disabilities. The living conditions adversely affected pregnant women, women with children and people with disabilities and women with disabilities as they were compelled to tackle the burden of their housework in unfamiliar surroundings. The lack of healthcare facilities meant that women were unable to provide nutrition and proper care to their infants and children. Moreover, the lack of toilet facilities meant that women had concerns regarding their safety and maintaining their dignity. Threats of sexual assault and harassment plagued women living in communal tents. The low levels of hygiene and sanitation due to scarcity of water and toilet facilities affected women and women with disabilities more than men. The temporary living shelters were not designed to be sensitive to the needs of disabilities and women with disabilities, leaving them extremely vulnerable. Moreover; women and disabilities face various difficulties in building temporary shelter. In the communities have solidarity immediate aftermath of the earthquake. But, slowly and gradually starts inter conflict in the communities, because of the access on relief and aid of the government.

Transportation and communication played key role on getting the rescue and relief. in the case of Nepal where the topography makes many place hard to access because of many roads were blocked after the earthquake. Communities itself, I/NGOS and government did various efforts to mitigate the effects of earthquake.

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