



A BLACK SATURDAY IN NEPAL 2015: AN IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY OF EARTHQUAKES ON GENDER PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

Since time immemorial Nepal is witnessing increased number of disaster such as flood, fire, landslide, climate change, earthquake and so on. Among these disasters earthquake is more devastating event. According to Disaster Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Study Report by the UNDP, Nepal ranked 11th in terms of vulnerable to earthquake. In the past there were several disasters which killed hundreds of life and damaged physical assets. But on Saturday 25th April, 2015 at 11.56 am local time Nepal experienced an earthquake of 7.8 magnitudes. It killed nearly nine thousands of people and brought economic crises in the country. It had affected 35 of 75 districts and damaged Nepal's two urban centers one is its capital Kathmandu and another one is Pokhara. Looking into the disaster, Global Earthquake initiatives have named Kathmandu as one of the most vulnerable city of the world. In this disaster women and children have experienced more trauma than the others. Because women occupied traditional gender role having more disadvantages than their male counterparts. The most disadvantages women are widow, disabled, pregnant, divorced, childless, poor and illiterate etc. The main aim of this paper is to address the problems faced by women during earthquake such as health, water, sanitary measures,

housing and economic crisis etc. Looking into gender perspectives, Government of Nepal has announced different package system of money for men and women differently who are affected by the disaster which is lesser for women than men.

Key words- disaster, earthquake, gender

INTRODUCTION

Disaster is an unexpected event which happened without any signal to the exposing people to face at least in a prepared way. There are two types of disaster one is natural disaster which include flood, cyclone, volcanic, drought, landslide, earthquake etc other is man-made disaster. Nepal is a country which is exposed to multiple hazardous natural calamities like floods, volcano, landslide, fire, earthquake etc. Among these disaster earthquake is figure out more destructive and devastating for Nepal. It produce many types of losses including physical, socio-economic and cultural. Physical losses include lives, building and social infrastructure which directly affects victims other types of losses might trigger social unrest and poverty. Since time immemorial Nepal was confronted with various types of earthquake so UNDP of Disaster Vulnerability and Risk Assessments study report it is the most seismic prone zone of earthquake and ranked 11th in terms of vulnerable to earthquake. But among these earthquakes April 25, 2015 Saturday morning was a black day for Nepal, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake occurred on this day at 11:56 local time and the accompanied aftershock caused wide spread destruction of building, takes thousand of life and generally occurred vast devastation across the country. This is the most severe earthquake to have hit Nepal since an 8.2 magnitude earthquake in 1934.

The only event has been shackled the country's growth and affects significantly the growth of domestic production (GDP). The earthquakes took the lives of 8,659 and the number of female death is more than the male (**4,771female and 3,887male**) and injured over 100,000 people – 384 people are still missing. It has affected 35 out of 75 districts in the country. There are different records published on the casualties in different report. This earthquake brings out other disaster with it like landslide, further casualties, building damages, injuries etc. The Ministry of Health and Population has identified 14 districts severely affected, including Gorkha, Dhading, Rasuwa, Sindhupalchok, Kavre, Nuwakot, Dolakha, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Ramechhap, Sindhuli, Okhaldhungai and Makwanpu districts. This black day stand with it varieties of problems such as displacement,

homelessness, crops are destroyed which brought food crisis and unemployment etc. Serious injuries were caused by buildings collapsed and object falling from buildings or within buildings. Over half of injuries and deaths consisted old age person, child and women. Further debris of building and collapsed of the highway blocked the road way and access at many places. Medicals are damaged partially or fully which create the problem of accessing to medical facilities for serious injuries and vulnerable people. Most of people were homeless and live in shelter or open spaces for searching their families and relatives. Limited spaces in shelter and materials were insufficient for serving the homeless people.

Educational institutions and schools were partially or fully damaged. Remaining schools were used as shelter giving purpose for a long period of time which affects the educational system. Electricity system and water supply are damaged which affects drinking water and brings water born disease. Water trucks tried to move along with water in the dwelling places but due to damaged of roads and due to narrow streets hinders this access. Mountainous regions can only be accessed by air, mobile network are damaged. Telecommunication facilities stopped completely after the tragedy happened. Information was transmitted by satellite phone to the world. Newspaper building was moderate and printing equipment was suffered seriously. It is also aggravated by socio-economic vulnerability. This event also affected the history of country; it collapsed several historical monuments, tower etc.

Sl no	Place	Death Male	Death female	Injuries M/F
1	Gorkah	228	212	489/463
2	Dhading	393	339	433/302
3	Nuwakot	609	452	274/248
4	Rausuwa	310	286	394/377
5	Kathmandu	595	622	1218/3431
6	Lalitpur	109	73	182/1475
7	Bhaktapur	214	118	332/1075
8	Makwanpur	17	16	139/192
9	Kavre	189	129	631/548
10	Sindupalchok	1938	1491	724/844
11	Dolakha	85	83	310/333
12	Ramechhap	23	16	66/67
13	Okhaldunga	10	9	31/30
14	Sinduli	9	5	113/115

(Table-1)

This table shows the data of affected districts and casualties of male and female and injuries happened in 25th April earthquake of Nepal. The most affected district was Kathmandu, sindupalchok.

Earthquakes affect all groups in society directly or indirectly, with differential effects on males and females to varying degrees, based on their socio-economic backgrounds. While on this black Saturday women are more vulnerable because of their traditional gender role. Women play the role of caretaker, provider of food and unpaid labour who doing the household work. Fredric Engel in his book “family and private property” described due to patriarchy system women are dominated by male and they have not take share of the family ancestral property. Most of our society based on patriarchal system in which men are considered as bread earner so they are leaving out of house for job and women are present in house at the time of disaster. So the numbers of woman death are more than the man. The statically estimation showed the number of female death 4,771 and male death number are 3,887. Many women, especially the disabled, elderly and female heads of households, are at risk of being overlooked when it comes to accessing relief and recovery assistance in the aftermath of the earthquake. It made their life full of tragedy and brings psychological depression by taking the life of their dearer one. However, due to prevalence of pre-existing gender inequality, as evidenced through discrimination, violence and exclusion, during the times of the earthquake. Women and girls are facing the problems of displacement, overcrowded centers for the internally displaced, lack of privacy, lack of lighting, limited and un-segregate WASH(Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene facilities) hegemonic masculinity crises, sexual violence and other during the time of earthquake.

The main objective of the study is to explore, on based of limited sources of secondary data through the accessing jstor, newspaper, journals and net to address the problems of women due to earthquake, looking in to their gender role.

Background of the study area

Nepal lies between 80^o 4` to 88^o 12` east longitude and from 26^o 22` to 30^o 27` north latitude, with 26.5 million of population and covering the territory approximately 147,181 km² extend roughly 885km from east to west. It is a land locked country surrounded by India to east, west, and china to the north. It occupies 0.3% and 0.03% of land area of Asia and world respectively. Mt. Everest top of the world bring identity and glory for this Himalayan country. The country has based on varieties of topography which is reflected in

the diversification of climate and weather. Nepal has 3 major rivers from east to west- the Koshi River, the Gandaki, the Karnali. It is a country of multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-religious and multi-culture. According to 2011 census there are 123 languages being spoken and 125 castes and ethnic groups are identified. Nepali stands for the official language of the country.

Physiographical Nepal is divided into 5 regions and ecologically the country is divided into 3 regions namely –the terai, the hills, the mountains. Due to covering of deep forest, national park with wild life and conservation terai is known as “green basket” of Nepal. Abundant of water facility, fertility soil permits cultivation of wheat, maize, rice, sugarcane, vegetables, jute, tobacco and other several crops. The main occupation of people is domestic animals rearing, cultivation and work in small cottage industry. Nepal is predominantly rural despite an increasingly rapid rate of urbanization and a low income country with approximately 25% of the population living in poverty. The economy of Nepal is highly dependent on agriculture and forestry that contribute about a third of the GDP of the country, whereas the industry sector comprises a mere 15% of GDP (FY2014). Agricultural value adding depends very much on the monsoon pattern. This current large-scale disaster with mass destruction of transportation infrastructure may have a negative impact.

Family system in Nepal is mainly patriarchy in nature. Due to patriarchy family structures are identified in Nepal women and girls have traditionally been marginalized in many ways by Nepal’s largely patriarchal society. Economically, women are disadvantaged both in their homes and in their work. They have limited decision-making power in financial matters within their households and, until recently, had no legal right to inheritance. According to the 2001 census, the percentage of households with any female land ownership was just 11 per cent even though 84 per cent of all households own some land. Outside the home, women’s wages are lower than those of men both in the wage labour market and in better paying jobs. As indicated by the dismally low female adult literacy rates, women are also disadvantaged in their opportunities for education. The disparity in access to education is seen too in the significantly lower percentage of women that hold higher academic degrees compared to men gender based exclusion is also reflected in the limited accesses women have to positions of power in politics and civil administration. Women’s presence in civil service, however, has not improved significantly.

Earthquake profile of Nepal:

Nepal is in seismically active zone due to subduction of the Indian plate under the Tibetan plate capable of generating catastrophic earthquakes. According to the Ministry of Health Assessment the central plate of the country is estimated to be more susceptible to earthquake than the southern and northern parts although the entire country lies in a high earthquake intensity belt. Nepal has encountered many earthquakes throughout the history and havoc of lives, properties including damages of numerous physical infrastructures. It has recorded for the greatest loss of life since the 12th century when the king Abhaya Malla died in earthquake. Since then Nepal has encountered 16 major earthquakes including the recent devastating earthquake. Another major earthquake occurred in 1934 with 8.1 magnitudes was Bihar-Nepal earthquake is reported the most destructive earthquake which reported 8,500 casualties from Nepal and another some 7,500 in India. A major earthquake affected in Nepal on September 18, 2011 with a magnitude of 6.5 temblor which struck the north-eastern Indian- Nepal boarder in India's Sikkim Mountains, around 270 km east of Kathmandu. At least 112 people were reported killed by earthquake. Another devastating and more destructive earthquake happened in Nepal, magnitude 7.8 on Saturday April 25, 2015. The epicenter of the earthquake was located approximately 77 km northwest of Kathmandu, Nepal's capital city, and 73 km east of Pokhara, another major population centre. The depth of the earthquake was estimated at between 10 -15 kilometers (km). Around 60 aftershocks, of up to magnitudes of 6.6 have occurred and were concentrated in the region of the epicenter and up to 150 kilometers to the east, which resulted in an estimated 19, 000 casualties.

On 12 May Nepal experienced a second earthquake with a magnitude of 7.3. The epicentre of the earthquake was 76 kilometres east of Kathmandu and resulted in landslides, further deaths, injuries and damage to buildings. As of 13 May 2015, the government has recorded 8,219 deaths and over 17,866 people injured from the two earthquakes. UNOCHA estimates after the initial earthquake were that 4.2 million people have been affected and 2.8 million people had been displaced. It has affected 35 out of 75 districts in the country.

Major earthquake in Nepal

S.I no	Year	Time‡	Place	Fatalities	Magnitude
1	1255, 7 June		Kathmandu	2,200	7.8
2	1260		Sagarmatha	100	7.1
3	1344		Mechi	100	7.9
4	1408 August		Near Nepal-Tibet Border, Bagmati zone	2,500	8.2
5	1505, 6 June		Near Saldang, Karnali zone	6,000	8.8
6	1681 January		Northern Kosi zone	4,500	8.0
7	1767 July		Northern Bagmati zone	4,000	7.9
8	1833, 26 August		Kathmandu/Bihar	6,500	8.0
9	1869, 7 July		Kathmandu	750	6.5
10	1916, 28 August	06:39	Nepal/Tibet	3,500	7.7
11	1934, 15 January	08:43	Nepal/India/Tibet Nepal–Bihar	8,519	8.4
12	1966, 27 June	10:41	Nepal/India border	80	6.3
13	1980, 29 July	14:58	Nepal/Pithoragarh	200	6.5
14	1988, 20 August	23:09	Kathmandu/Bihar	1,091	6.6
15	2011, 18 September	06:29	Sikkim, India	111	6.9
16	2015, 25 April	11:56:26	Kathmandu/India/Tibet	8,922	7.8
17	2015, 12 May	12:38	Nepal(China/India)	213	7.3

(Table no-2)

Above table no 2 represent the picture of major earthquakes in Nepal. Nepal has experienced a lot of earthquake since past which tremendously impact the socio, cultural and economic sector overall.

Conceptual understanding

Earthquake:

Earthquake means trembling or shaking movements of the earth's surface. Most earthquakes are usually begin with slight tremors but rapidly take the form of more violent shocks and end in vibrations of gradually diminishing force called aftershock. The subterranean point of origin of an earthquake is called its focus; the point of the surface directly above the focus is

the epicenter. The magnitude and intensity of an earthquake is determined by the use of scales- the moment of magnitudes scale Richter scale and the modified Mercalli scale. Magnitudes of 3 or lower are mostly imperceptible but magnitudes of 7 or more cause damage over large areas. Earthquakes are recorded with a seismometer also known as seismograph.

Understanding gender and sex:

Sex

Sex is the biological characteristics that define humans as either male or female. These sets of biological characteristics are not always mutually exclusive, as there are some individuals who possess both male and female characteristics.

Gender

Gender is socially constructed and defines social and cultural expectations about what behavior and activities are allowed, what attributes are valued, and what rights and power one has in the family, community and nation. For example, in one society women may be expected to focus on the family's domestic needs while men engage in the formal paid sector. Gender determines what is expected, allowed and valued in a woman or a man in a given context. It determines opportunities, responsibilities and resources, as well as powers associated with being male and female. Gender also defines the relationships between women and men and girls and boys, as well as the relationships between women and those between men. These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and are learned through socialization processes. They are context- and time-specific, and changeable. Gender does not mean "women." However, given that women are often in a disadvantaged position in many developing, as well as developed countries, so the promotion of gender equality implies an explicit attention to women's empowerment.

Gender and disaster

Women, girls, boys and men belonging to different age and socio-economic strata have distinct vulnerabilities, and this shapes the way they experience disaster, and also their ability to recover from it. In countries where gender discrimination is tolerated, women and girls are particularly vulnerable to natural hazards; domestic abuse is also increase exponentially during and after disasters. Most disasters place an undue burden on women and

girls who are responsible for unpaid work such as providing care, water and food for households. Even at the time of decision making and relief distribution system in the period of disaster women problems are does not take consideration. However, if women and girls are left out of planning for disaster response or risk reduction measures, the special talents, skills and knowledge of 50 percent of the population are not capitalized upon and the needs of the most affected are unlikely to be met.

Causes of earthquake:

When the two blocks of the earth suddenly slip past one another, the surface where they slip is called the fault or fault plan. The location below the earth's surface where the earthquake is called the hypo-center and the location below the earth's surface of the earth are called the epicenter. A geographical event caused by shifting tectonic plates, triggered by a sudden release of energy in the earth's crust that creates waves and origin earthquakes which destroy a large assets of the country and killed thousands of life.

Problems faced by women during and after the earthquake

Natural disasters do not affect people equally. In fact, some people are more vulnerable than others in exposure and sensitivity to risk as well as inequalities in access to resources, capabilities, and opportunities systematically disadvantage certain groups of people, rendering them more vulnerable to the impact of natural disasters. Women and girls are more vulnerable to the impact of disasters because of socially and physically differences in roles and responsibilities of women and men which creates inequalities between them in access to resources and decision-making power. Women face many obstacles in the Nepal earthquake such as personal insecurity, unhygienic accommodation facilities, problems in getting compensation due to loss of identity card, sexual violence which further increase the problem of unwanted pregnancy, early marriage, sexually transmitted diseases and complications for reproductive health etc. Especially disabled, widow, female headed households, pregnant women, elderly, illiterate and poor socio-economic background women are face several obstacles due to lack of access of information, having to work for a long period to receive aid and incapable to walk and performing household chores etc. According to UN Women's estimates, the 13 most affected districts (which include Dhading and Rasuwa – Norlha's areas of work) 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.

Affected districts women population

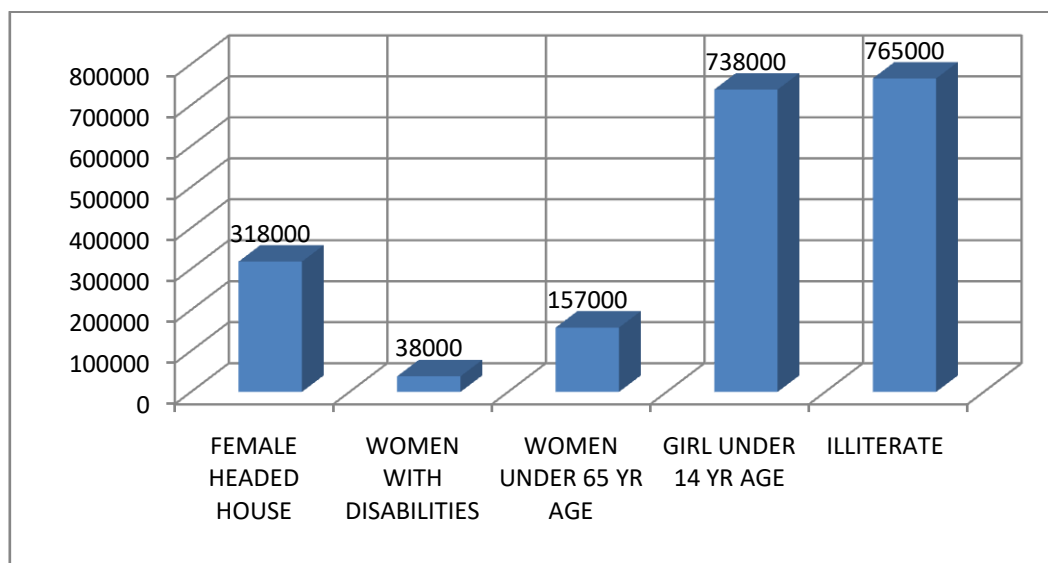


Table No- 3

This table showed that the total number of female population in 13 most affect district in which female are more exposure to the risk of earthquakes than others. Now the study analyses the impact of earthquake on women and discuss the major challenges confronted women during and after the earthquake. Physical and social disturbances are the major impact of earthquake in our community.

a. Physical impact:

Physical impact which includes casualties (deaths, injuries and illness), infrastructure damaged were includes.

i. Mortality

On Saturday April 25, earthquake of Nepal affect both men and women with greater impact. But the evidence showed the report that mortality rate is higher among women than the men. Such differential rates of mortality are the result of three causes- one is physiological and biological differences between men and women may disadvantage at the time of earthquake. Another cause is gender determines role and behaviours with their separate expectations and exposure to risk. Lastly due to earthquake the shortage of resources fierce the competition between individuals and existing gender discrimination become exacerbated new forms of discrimination. One explanation is the physiological and biological differences is that men

are strong and better equipped withstand at the time of disaster. This disadvantage severs especially in the case of pregnant women who less movable and self rescue like others. Apart the physical differences gender roles and behaviour also responsible for increase mortality rate of women at the time of earthquake.

Women's responsibility as a care taker hampers their escape. As a role of care taker she has the responsibility to escape their children from the danger. Another cause of high mortality rates among women was the dress codes can restrict women's ability to move quickly and behaviour restricts can hinder to relocate the consent of husband, father and brother. Gender based discrimination and gender inequality at the time of accesses to resources raise the mortality rates among women. In our society male are given preferential and treat well at the time of rescue. There is a good deal of evidence all over the world that in family at the time of cooking food male choices give prior response and give them more food than female. At the time of earthquake these traditions also continue. Beside it the traditional role compelled women live in the cell of well and do domestic work at house and men are work out of house. As per the Gender agency report in 2015, in Ruswa among the 251 cases revealed that 62% death and 59% injured were women.

ii. **Housing and property**

In 2015 earthquake of Nepal buildings are damaged like a pack of cards and as a mud huts. It put women on the verge of losing livelihoods and assets, as women's land and property rights were not acknowledged uniformly, and that affected women found it difficult to register and secure a title certificate for inherited claims. It also destroyed lakhs of houses and destroyed household assets which increase the problem of homelessness. Aftermath of the earthquake poor women are more adversely affect then other because they cannot afford the price to make a new house and take rent.

Reminiscences of the earthquake in **Haiti** were reflected in housing prices, which increased after the disaster. Some women, not having the same income opportunities as men, remained therefore excluded from housing.

b. Social impacts:

Social impact comprises with the psychological impact, political, health related problems, nutrition and food problems, Security problems and economical etc.

i. Health problems:

Earthquake struck hit in Nepal on April 25 Saturday affected two hospitals at the district levels, three Primary health care centers (PHC) and twenty five health posts have

been partially damaged and thirty three health posts have been completely destroyed or overcrowded by injured people. In this time most vulnerable population such as pregnant women or mothers of new born babies were confronted number of problems. Due to lack of access to safe and hygienic materials in the health care system of pregnant women, they are suffering from miscarriages, bleedings and living in a damp condition. From the most affected 14 districts, some districts showed the report of trauma of women due to earthquake.

In **Gorkha** district due to prevalence of child marriage increases early pregnancies means complication in the time of child birth and child mortality. Damage sustained in local hospitals and health care centres have limited women access to sexual and reproductive health services.

Another district in **Lamjunga** most of women are reported pregnant during the time of earthquake because of their partner not used contraception and the lack of access to contraception.

In **Dhading** district a crack was create in birth center and health post due to earthquake which brings risk to accessing proper medical support for new born babies, lactating mothers and pregnant women.

ii. Obstacle in marriage:

Earthquake of Nepal also created barriers in the field of marriage or create marital problems. When earthquake was happened higher percentage of people are orthopaedic injuries a lot of people got spinally impaired. And among those who become paraplegic, a huge number were young women, because they are work households chores at the time of earthquake. The paraplegic women were more vulnerable to the risk. When their families come to known that woman have loss the capability of bearing children because of spinally impaired and dependent and she will not able to earning. So she was abandoned and rejected for married.

iii. Food insecurity

Food is a basic requirement for all people but the pregnant women required neutralised food for their both. Earthquake lost agricultural field and crops of people which excavated the problem of food shortage and nutritional deficiency among the children, new born babies and pregnant women. Some women like elder, disable and girls are unable to lift heavy relief packages and could have difficulties to transport these to their home and shelter which further increase the problem of starvation and eating of unhygienic food. In our society women have

get the role of provider of food and caretaker in household area, so many time women give their intake to their child and which kept them hungry.

Sindhupalchowk, Dhading and Bhaktapur: Lack of access to nutritious food – including vitamins, green vegetables, and protein foods increases the risk of serious nutritional consequences for women, particularly those who are pregnant or lactating.

iv. **WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene):**

As for sanitation, due to earthquake the lack of clean conditions and hygiene items lead to increased the risk of infections which is required hygiene standards for daily life (such as menstrual hygiene) and the treatment of injuries and diseases cannot be properly met. Especially adolescent girls and women are infected by Reproductive Tract Infection (RTI) and Urine Tract Infection (UTI) due to unhygienic menstruation facilities. Disposal of sewage have been damaged by the disaster, so proper wastewater disposal not be ensured. Earthquake had damaged water supplies system, it increased women work load they are walk long distance to collecting water and they are collecting water from unhygienic spaces and this water containing several types of diseases.

In **Dhading** due to damaged of latrine and unavailability of latrine facility in camps for defecation women are walk further to access a covered spaces for defecation.

v. **Shelter and camp management**

Earthquake strike hard in Nepal's private buildings and public infrastructure such as roads, schools and hospitals etc which are partially or fully damaged. Because these buildings were not constructed under the engineers' guidance or poor materials are used to construct these building. This increases vulnerability of women for several reasons. Firstly it effects on women psychology due to loss of own places, secondly they are living in temporary places which is overcrowding, lack of lighting, lack of private safe pace and unhygienic living condition etc.

In **Dhading** district temporary shelters made of tarpaulins provide poor living conditions, food and sanitation facilities for lactating mothers, making it difficult to ask them to leave health institutions after giving birth. There have been reports of new-born babies dying in such temporary shelters.

In **Sindhupalchowk** there are not enough tarpaulins to meet the need, leaving more women in vulnerable situations

c. Personal insecurity:

i. Increased risk of trafficking:

After the earthquake of fast few days of disaster all are behaving like a good humankind than slowly the struggle of loom in the scarcity of food and shelter have seen which is stand with a lots of problems for women they are vulnerable the risk of trafficking and exploitation. Due to earthquake a large number of children lost their parents and some individual fake claimed that they were the parents of these children and some are giving false promised to at the adaptation of the children after the death of their parents. The evidence shows a large numbers of girls' children and women are selling at South Asia brothel house. April's earthquakes increase the rate of child trafficking.

In the end of September the UNICEF of Nepal report that 795 cases were registered of child trafficking among these 455 were women and girls. Many of the victims are from poor families that are persuaded by traffickers to sell their daughters by false promises of marriages, or employment. Parents are more likely to sell their daughters, since there is a cultural preference for boys. That is largely because girls are considered to be an economic burden since parents need to pay dowry upon marriage. One strong factor is due to a desperate economic situation due to earthquake which create more serious situation for women. As mentioned, since women have fewer suitable employment opportunities. This lack of a promising future helps to create discontent and pushes girls away from Nepal in search of a better future. When they went out in search of employment a large number of women caught in the hand of trafficker.

ii. Violence against Women:

After the earthquake the risk of violence against women increased in Nepal. Women's and girls' feeling threatened and abused in camps. Most parents with daughters became restless at night because any one can enter the temporary shelters easily at night. Many dunked boys and men were hanging around the tents teasing girls. There are concerns for young girls' safety after the death of parents, grandparents and other relatives who would normally protect them. Some are handed over their male relatives in where they normally feel insecure. Women, especially single women and girls, reporting fear of sexual abuse and physical violence in the temporary shelters due to men's increased alcohol consumption. Trafficking and forced labour are risks that increase during crises because women and children are more vulnerable in the aftermath of a disaster. Women and girls are

more vulnerable to sexual abuse in disaster situations and may be coerced into sex for basic needs such as food, shelter and security.

The sex industry often becomes part of the interaction between the refugee or displaced population and the local community. As with any humanitarian crisis, the risk of sexual abuse and exploitation by either civilian or military humanitarian personnel was high in Nepal.

Dolakha, Sindhupalchowk and Nuwakot areas are reports of traffickers entering temporary shelters disguised as relief workers. Sexual abuse, harassment and gender discrimination have been reported in **Kavre** district, with women facing discrimination and exclusion during their menstruation period in the camps. Kathmandu valley two gender-based violence (GBV) cases have been reported in Thankot and girls in transit homes need support.

In Dhading the WDO (Women Development Officer) receiving number of GBV cases from their local cooperatives, GBV women's groups and individual women. The World Cube Association (WCO) lacks the financial resources and logistic capacity to monitor the situation in all camp settings and assess the situation of GBV and trafficking risks. Psychosocial counselling services and GBV Watch Groups was provided in the 140 centres (10 service centres for each district).

Sindhupalchok and Kavre is witnessed the loss of dignity among five excluded groups of women i.e. female home-based workers, female migrant workers, female trafficking survivors/victims, conflict affected women.

d. Problems in obtaining compensation:

Due to earthquake a large amount of house and building collapsed with its assets and due to relocation to their own place lead the problem loss of identification card. At the time of compensation due to loss of identification card women were excluded to get the compensation.

e. Psychological imbalance

Psychological responses to disasters include short term effects such as shock, anxiety, sleep disturbances and guilt. There were differences between women, men, girls and boys in the nature of psychological impact. Greater proportions of women and girls report suffering from the emotional disorders, distress as compared to the men and boys. Women's dramatically expanded care giving roles following a disaster, and putting family needs before their own, may explain overall declines in emotional well being.

f. Economic vulnerability

While women were expected to continue performing traditional duties like childcare and nursing the wounded, those who had lost partners or parents must also take on the burden of providing financial support. Women are especially likely to work in agricultural industry or the informal economy, both of which heavily impacted by earthquake and due to their lower level of education and illiteracy levels, bring further the problem of unemployed. Due to their caretaking responsibilities, they are not free to relocate in search of work. As a result they are vulnerable to impoverishment, forced marriage, labor exploitation and trafficking. Economic status at the time of disaster sharply influences the pace of recovery. Poor families led by women have virtually no resources to draw on to rebuild their lives. When the head of the household is a woman, this covers loss of the dwelling itself, as well as household furnishings and appliances. If she runs a home-based workshop or micro or small business, the assessment should include its equipment and machinery, as well as any other productive property she owns. It should include her farm animals, fields and crops if she is engaged in activities in the so-called backyard economy.

Perception of risk and access to relief services

Gender differences may exist in the perception of hazard risks. It has been suggested that women perceive disaster events or threats as more serious and risky than men do, especially if they threaten their family members. Traditional gender roles are also played out in the response phase of disaster situations. Differences are also reported around post-disaster relief. Cultural norms have been found to inhibit women from visibly accessing relief centres, or they cannot leave their homes to go to relief centres due to child care responsibilities. In settings where women are forbidden to interact with male members of the community who are not their kin, they may have difficulties in accessing relief services from male relief workers. Further, where food distribution targets household heads, women may be systematically marginalized, as they would only be registered as household heads if no adult male was present. At this times, essentials like blankets, mattresses, and even food and water, have been distributed based on the needs of single adults, forcing mothers to share meager rations in order to feed their children. In other cases, women have been too intimidated to collect aid when the distribution of supplies is controlled by men. Government compensation for loss often completely excludes women in societies where only males are recognized as heads of households.

Suggestions

At the time of disaster Government, NGOs and other help added network should consider the need of both men and women equally. The opportunity, support should equally distribute between men and women to promoted gender equality. From the above data this study raise out with some suggestions for improvement of women's status before and after the disaster-

1. A gender balanced assessment teams should be setup and the staffs who engaged in relief and reconstruction support should aware of how to integrate a gender perspective into their actions.
2. Women of grassroots level should be identified and cooperated to access the relief. Equal representation and participation of women, girls should be ensuring in all phases of the recovery process.
3. Government should provide loans and financial help to make houses for more vulnerable section of women like the poor, widowed and divorced women.
4. Identify pregnant women in the area of concern and to be provided with skilled birth female attendant, medical supplies with better hygienic facilities. The illiterate pregnant women should be provided with proper nutritional diet, supplements and counselling about the health of mother and new born babies.
5. After the earthquake there is a still a major of concern for women to generate a safer and hygienic toilets facilities. It should be happened when the culturally appropriate menstrual hygiene materials are provided regularly and separate male, female latrines, showers and washing facilities are created. It can be help in reducing the violence against women.
6. Safer places not only provide security and privacy but create mental peace. To reduce the risk of sexual violence, proper lightening and safety places should be provided to the women and girls.
7. More vulnerable groups should be considered in food distribution and provided relief to those women's who are unable to move like women with disability, elderly women, pregnant women.
8. Take into account women's ownership if involved in arranging land parcels, ensuring that they are not titled with lower-quality pieces of land relationship with the reference person or sex.

9. In order to support women and reduce the risk of violence against women, self-defence training should be given which not only protect them but also empower them. It also challenges traditional gender norms.
10. Social media should be proved a vital way to eradication of violence against women through creating awareness about the impact of earthquake on gender perspective and gender needs by sending message to the world population.
11. Lastly, apart from the governmental efforts, people should be aware about the consequences of earthquake and help each other.
12. For generate awareness about the earthquake education play a important role, so in schools, community level via role play, visual aids, small dramas are very helpful to train the people for prepare themselves to face any type of disaster. It should develop “culture of disaster” preparedness.

Conclusion

Nepal’s earthquake on Saturday April25, 2015 was really a black day not only for the country but also for their citizens. It brings a great damage both public and private property as well as it destroyed the sculpture of country. It was slow down the economic development and long term poverty alleviation work for entire country. Women were witnessed more vulnerable and affected person then the others. After the disaster the secondary or indirect impact made women life worst so the UK department of international development refers this situation to the “double disaster” for women. This study especially focuses on women’s problem at the time of earthquake due to their gender role and found women and girls are bearing the burn of crisis.

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