

Urban Diagnosis of communities in Kathmandu Valley: Assessing vulnerability from the view point of spatial planning and management.

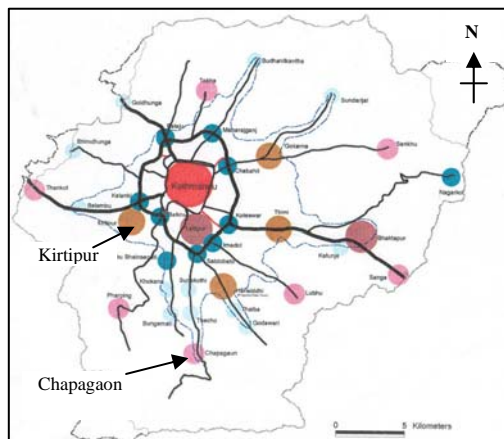
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Introduction

The seismic record of Kathmandu Valley, Nepal suggests that major earthquake of 8.2 Richter scale occurred every 75 years and the next devastating earthquake is likely in the near future. The high speed of urban growth with poor-quality of infrastructure and building construction is taking little account of this possible earthquake risk. In this context the study tries to make a diagnosis of urban communities within Kathmandu Valley with focus on spatial planning and management.

Methodology

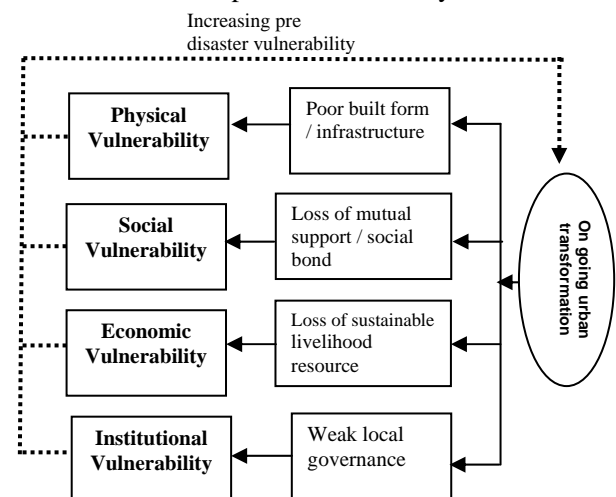
The study is based on case study of Chapagaon and Kirtipur area within Kathmandu valley.



Kathmandu valley with case study communities.
Map source (KVMP, 2001).

The study develops a framework to indicate the causes of vulnerability in the study areas. It gives some basic evidences of changes in physical components as spatial arrangement of buildings and infrastructure along with socio- economic components. The study tries to explore how the ongoing urban transformation in terms of the

physical, social and economic changes is leading to vulnerability of the area. It is observed that vulnerability arises from the interaction between these different components of urban system.



Framework of Urban transformation and disaster vulnerability.

Vulnerability not only includes how an urban place is exposed to natural hazard but also how people cope with the disaster. The study briefly mentions about the local knowledge and skill that existed within the traditional communities of Kathmandu Valley and how these are deteriorating at present.

Conclusion

In conclusion this study attempts to explain the status quo of vulnerability situation in urban communities of Kathmandu Valley as caused by the defects in spatial planning and management. With the understanding of this vulnerability situation potential measure to reduce vulnerability is also discussed.