

Revealing Households’ Vulnerability to Earthquake in District Ziarat, Balochistan

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Abstract

In the recent decades, natural disasters research has received considerable attention to the multifaceted vulnerability assessment, for which a number of scholars have proposed various approaches in order to measure vulnerability of any area. However, the objective of this study is to assess earthquake vulnerability in its four dimensions, social, economic, physical and institutional at the households’ level in district Ziarat, Balochistan. For which a sample of 193 households were surveyed using proportional allocation method. The paper illustrates the concept of vulnerability, its components along with their indicators and assessment by employing subjective weighting technique; and eventually developing each indicator’s vulnerability factor and component composite index. The overall aggregate vulnerability index revealed that there is not much difference in level of vulnerability among the four union councils in all dimensions. Nevertheless, union council Manna was more vulnerable in context of social and economic vulnerability, Union council Zaranda was more vulnerable in terms of physical vulnerability and Union council Ziarat’s vulnerability level was the highest in context of institutional vulnerability. Based on achieved results, it is suggested that the populations of the four Union Councils should be given various necessary social and economy generating preparations and trainings. Besides initiating essential training programs, spread of awareness and education regarding high seismic areas and high vulnerable situation of households is indispensable.

Keywords: Vulnerability, Earthquake vulnerability Assessment, Vulnerability Dimensions Subjective weighting technique, Ziarat.

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