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# Community Resilience and Disaster Response: Insights from Jajarkot and Rukum West, Nepal for 2023 Earthquake

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**Kanchan Thapa,**  
Researcher, Noble Shivapuri Research Institute (NSRI) Nepal  
Email: [kanchanraj3@gmail.com](mailto:kanchanraj3@gmail.com)

# Background

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- Globally, disasters impact hundreds of thousands of people, with over two hundred thousand deaths annually.
- Low- and middle-income countries, including Nepal, face a higher disaster burden due to insufficient infrastructure and inadequate response mechanisms.

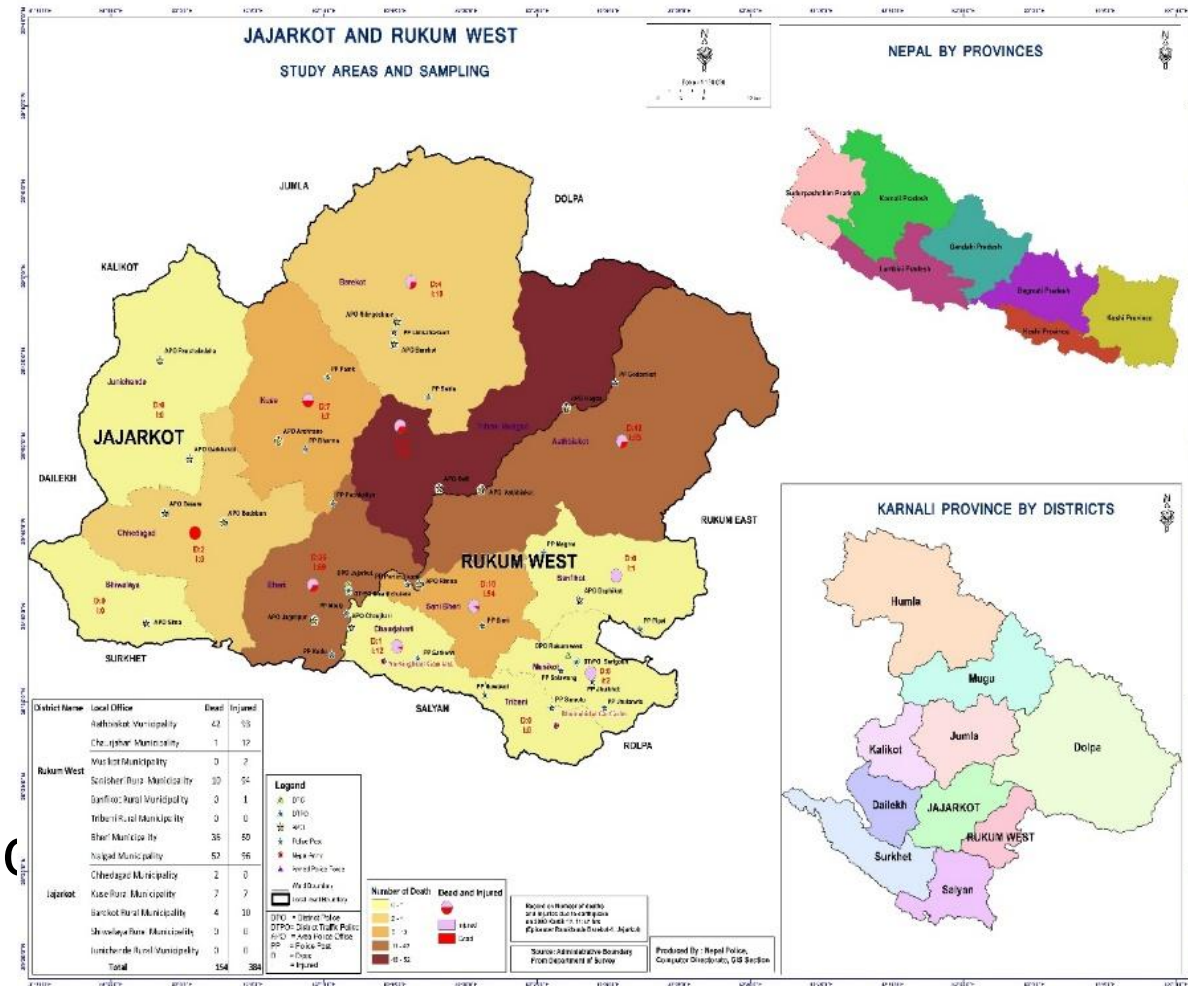
# Background

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- On November 3rd, 2023, a magnitude 6.4 earthquake struck Nepal, causing significant damage.
- A multi-sectoral approach was adopted for disaster response, with the Nepal Police leading alongside other organizations
- This study aims to explore the community perception and experience of community towards the disaster response

# Methods

- Design- mixed-methods study
- Study Areas- Jajarkot and Salyan District
- Participants- 660 residents and 20 key informants
- Descriptive analysis, Thematic analysis and content analysis



# Methods

- Quantitative data collection was done through Kobo-Collect
- Written informed consent was taken prior to the data collection
- An ethical clearance from (NHRC) and approval from Nepal police headquarters before the study

Participants	Number
Local level representative	4
FCHVs	4
Health workers	4
Members of disaster response team	4
Police who worked on disaster	4
Total	20

# Results

**Table. Socio-demographic of Participants  
(n=660)**

Characteristics	Frequency (f)	Percent (%)
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	363	55
Female	297	45
<b>Age (Years)</b>		
<25	91	13.79
25-34	196	29.70
35-44	184	27.88
45-54	115	17.42
55-65	53	8.03
65+	21	3.18
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Married	560	84.85
Un-married	69	10.45
Widow	22	3.33
Divorced	9	1.36
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Brahmin/Chettri	279	42.27
Janajati	213	32.27
Dalit	167	25.30
Others	1	0.15
<b>Religion</b>		
Hindu	631	95.6
Christian	27	4.09
Buddhist	2	0.3

# Results

**Table. Socio-demographic of Participants (n=660)**

<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Frequency (f)</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
<b>Gender</b>		
<b>Education</b>		
No education	43	6.52
<Primary	195	29.55
<secondary/SLC	252	38.18
Secondary	107	16.21
Bachelor	63	9.55
<b>Family size</b>		
≤4	179	27.12
5 to 10	473	71.67
10+	8	1.21
<b>Main source of income of family</b>		
Agriculture	456	68.57
Business	193	29.02
Service	122	18.35
Foreign employment	4	0.6

# Results

Table. Community perception towards the current response to earthquake (n=660)

Characteristics	Frequency (f)	Percent (%)
<b>Aware about the earthquake response measures implemented by the police force before the event</b>		
Very aware	271	40.75
Somewhat aware	233	35.04
Not aware at all	156	23.46
<b>Felt adequately prepared for an earthquake before it occurred</b>		
Yes	435	65.41
No	191	28.94
Not sure	34	4.66
<b>Rating of the communication efforts by the police force before, during, and after the earthquake</b>		
Excellent	347	52.58
Good	269	40.76
Fair	39	5.91
Poor	5	0.76
<b>Informed about evacuation procedures, emergency contacts, and shelter locations</b>		
Yes	306	46.02
No	320	48.12
Partially	34	4.96
<b>Police force's response after the earthquake</b>		
Very quickly	364	55.15
Quickly	269	40.76
Average	21	3.18
Slow	3	0.45
Very slow	3	0.45



# Results

**Table. Community perception towards the current response to earthquake (n=660)**

<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Frequency (f)</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
<b>Visible and active involvement in managing the aftermath of the earthquake in study area by police</b>		
Yes	636	96.36
No	19	2.88
Not sure	5	0.76
<b>Received some sorts of support or assistance from the police force during the earthquake aftermath (e.g., rescue operations, medical aid)</b>		
Yes	633	95.91
No	26	3.94
Not sure	1	0.15
<b>Effectiveness of community outreach programs conducted by the police force to educate residents about earthquake preparedness</b>		
Yes	397	60.2
No	239	36.2
Not aware	24	3.6
<b>Effectiveness of Outreach Programs</b>		
Very effective	546	82.73
Not effective at all	100	15.15
Somewhat effective	8	1.21
Don't want to answer	6	0.91

# Results

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## Experience of Disaster-

*[I have experienced earthquake, landslides and flood before in Jajarkot- [45 years, male, service holder, Jajarkot]*

## Community Response to Disaster

*The local communities are satisfied with the response, attempts and assistance provider for the disaster response [45 years, male, local level representative, Rukum West]*

# Results

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## **Helpful Aspects of Community Response**

*Due to the timely response  
activities, the probable mortality  
was reduced. [42 years, male,  
APF Police Officer, Rukum  
West]*

## **Community Recovery**

*After the disaster, the government,  
NGOs, and private sector have  
started providing relief materials  
and working together for rescue,  
relief, evacuation, and resettlement.  
[26 years, male, service holder,  
Rukum West]*

# Results

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## **Additional Areas of Response, Recovery and Preparedness**

*During the disaster the presence of the security personnel along with Nepal police for disaster relief, rescue, and distribution of relief materials provided a greater assistance. [65 years, male, local level representative, Disaster relief committee Jajarkot]*

# Conclusion

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- Highlights the effective role of the police in disaster response
- Positive perception of their efforts underscores their importance in recovery
- Enhancing disaster awareness at the local level and implementing targeted communication strategies can further strengthen trust and understanding of the police's role in public health crises
- This study further highlights the role of the community and other stakeholders in timely disaster response

# Acknowledgement

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- We would like to thank all the participants of this study
- Special thanks to Nepal Police Head Quarter and District Police Offices, Health Office and Local levels
- Special thanks to Nepal Health Research Council for timely ethical clearance
- Greatful to 11th National Summit of Health and Population Scientists in Nepal

# Bio - Kanchan Thapa

- **Education:** MPH (Epi 2012), Mphil (Population studies 2019)
- **Experience:** 15+ Years in Health Program, Academia and Research
- **Awards:** Assistant Research Fellowship (ARF 2014)- NAST-Nepal, Young Scientist 2015 NHRC- Nepal, UGC-Mphil Fellowship 2017- Nepal
- **Current Role:** Academic Editor- PLOS One, Research Advisor- NSRI

