

Earthquake Rehabilitation Efforts

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ABSTRACT The dawn of 30th September 1993 witnessed devastating earthquake in Maharashtra. It was for the first time in India that compensation was paid to individuals for a natural disaster through international funds. This aid package was a result of successful projection of the earthquake as a social disaster by the risk promoters. But this form of social construction forced the risk promoters to project the earthquake in terms of cost benefit analysis. This form of disaster management was politically neutral and bureaucratically efficient. However it resulted in marginalisation of some already marginal groups. The present paper focuses on one such category of people. Recognising social stratification and incorporating it within a planning strategy ensures more equitable disbursement of aid. But it requires more micro level efforts, and more discretionary power to the micro level planner. This is contradictory to the tenants of centralized bureaucracy. Hence the community participation within a centralized rehabilitation efforts is a contradiction in terms.