

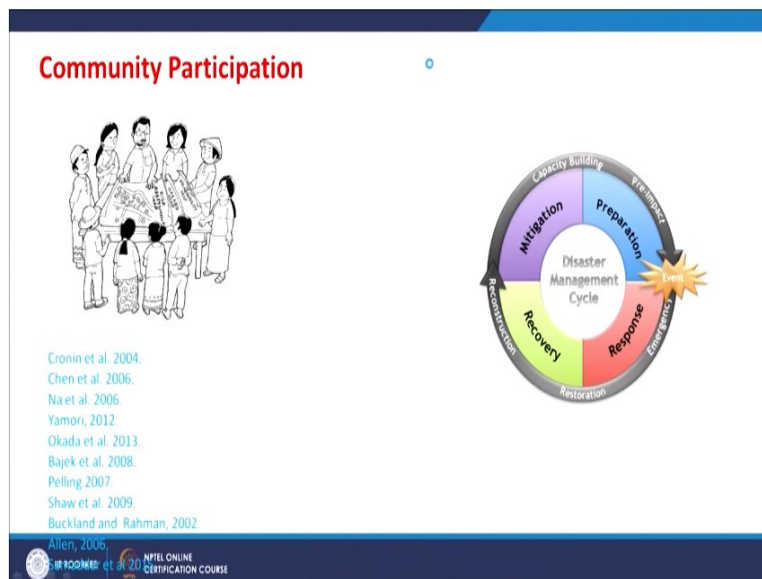
**Disaster Recovery And Build Back Better**  
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**Lecture – 14**  
**Community Participation in Disaster Risk Governance:**  
**Insights from Mumbai**

Hello everyone, welcome to the lecture series on disaster recovery and build back better. In this lecture, I will focus on community participation in disaster risk governance focusing on some case studies in Mumbai, India. I am Subhajyoti Samaddar from Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University. Community participation is a buzzword in disaster risk management in disaster recovery and reconstruction and rehabilitation.

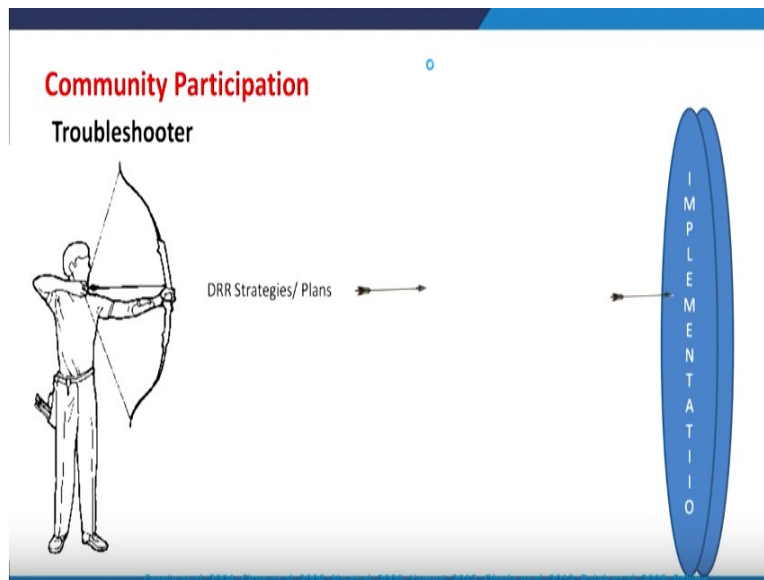
We have to involve community.

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Starting from the recovery, mitigation and preparedness, activities related to disaster right this is already agreed, and you can see there are so many citations we can give many more citations like that. Now it is a kind of trouble-shooter.

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If you have any problem to implement your strategies and plan you fail to do so, you incorporate community participations, involvement of community, participatory approach that is everybody who tell you okay it is a kind of trouble-shooter. It is like broccoli.

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Everybody would ask you to eat, it is a broccoli in planning in disaster risk management. Nobody would tell you do not eat. Everybody would recommend you to have community participation as a tool to successful implementations of disaster risk management. Now why it is so? that we know that risk is subjective, different stakeholders have different perceptions. So involving community is important in order to incorporate different perceptions, different ideas, needs, and concerns into the management process otherwise people feel that they are cheated.

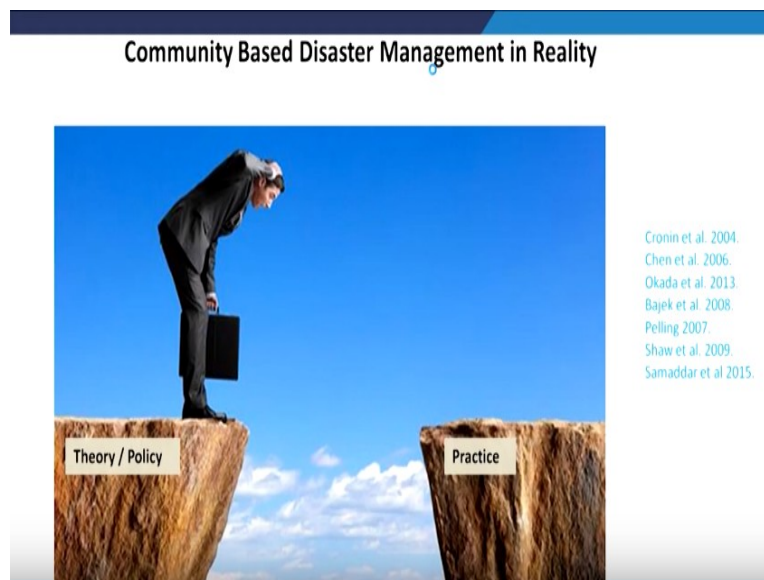
They are not really incorporated into the decision making process. Because they have the stake so they have the right to tell us that what they want what is the concerns they have because we know not only the risk but what is to be done when do we done, how it will be done, who will do it, these policy options are also contested.

So one is the assessment, finding the problem of the risk; another one is the policy options, for that we need community participation. Also in many cases we cannot rely simply on the local government we have to enhance the capacity of the local people. So that just after the disaster they can survive they can manage the situation okay and until and unless the local government or external agencies are able to reach to them.

Also for the sustainability issues, sustainable community we need to improve peoples own capacity. We need to enhance, empower their capacity so self-reliance and using a local knowledge are critical component in disaster risk management. So, therefore, we should promote community participation in disaster risk management. But in reality, there is a huge gap we are asking that okay we need to involve community into disaster risk management.

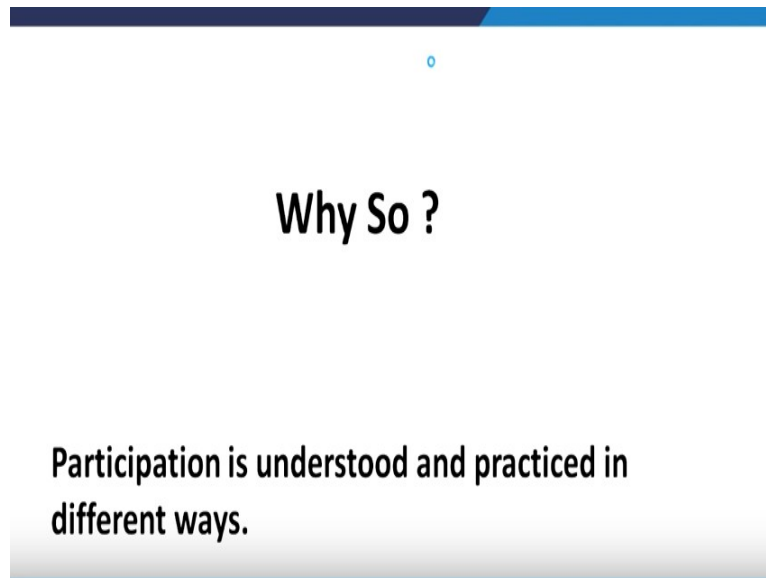
But actually it is not happening.

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There is a huge gap between policy and practice, theory and implementation why? Why after spending so much of time, energy and money, we fail to incorporate communities local communities into the decision making process. Why participatory disaster risk management programs they failed it could be in rehabilitations it could be for the preparedness whatever. So participation the one reason that participation is understood.

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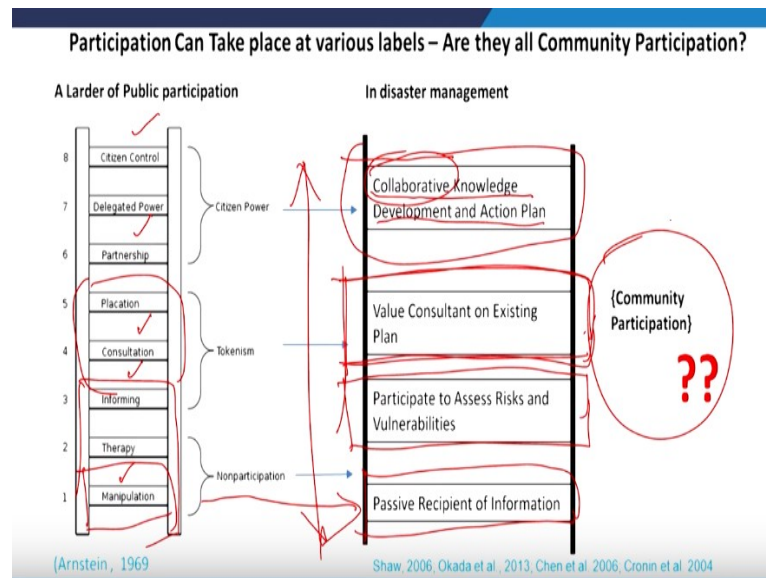
And practised in different manners there is no unique there is the one universal definition of participations okay.

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So how to involve the community into the process into the decision-making process, into the planning process, this understanding remains controversial. We have a lot of understanding of that various people understood participations from daily various perspective. This is one of the classical model developed by Sherry Arnstein.

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And talking about the types of participations a ladder of public participation. If you look into the left-hand side you can see there is starting from manipulations then informations, consultations, partnership, and citizen control. What is that? Let us look let us convert this model in disaster risk management context. When we are talking about manipulation kind of thing or only informations kind of thing okay it leads to that community is a passive recipient of informations.

We only provide information to the people telling them you do this you evacuate you raise your plinth level okay. These simple things that we experts know everything and we are passing telling the people what to do and they just get the informations, receive it, and they will follow our instructions okay. So that is a simple model that we follow. Another one is kind of tokenism okay or consultations.

Some people are saying in case of disaster risk management that our focus is not that people are not passive recipient, but what we do then we actually involve them in understanding the risk because we know people have different understanding of the risk. So we should simply ask them

to participate to tell us along with the expert that what are the risk they think they are vulnerable to okay.

So just for the risk assessment we involve them. In little higher level value consultations we not only involve them in assessing the risk, estimating the risk but we prepare a plan most of the cases in urban planning we prepare the plan and then those who are living in this areas those who are the citizens or the stakeholders we invite them, and we show them, hey we prepared this plan now tell us this plan is good or not.

They did not prepare the plan we prepared the plan experts, authorities, implementing agencies they prepared the plan, and they are asking common people that what are the gaps there what are the components to be incorporated into this decision-making process. This is still a kind of consultations, kind of question, a simply kind of question of consultations.

Some more radical people in participations, they are saying this is not even enough what we need, we need collaborative knowledge and action plan development collaborative, collaborative knowledge. In that process, the community and the local leaders along plus the experts or the external agencies they should sit together, they should share informations with each other. Community from their own experience, from own local knowledge, and the expert from their own expertise scientific understanding.

They would also provide input to the project and then both of them together by sharing and exchanging informations would develop first they would understand the problem what are the risk they are facing and how it can be solved and what are the options, tools and strategies that we can adopt. So this is another way of looking into the participations.

But starting from the bottom to the top bottom to the top, everybody is saying that I am doing community participations. Any project you open they would say that our project is participatory. But it could be just participatory means providing informations, or it could be just a value consultations with the people, or it could be at the collaborative knowledge or plan development. Then if all of them are participatory, then we are lost.