Evaluating the Efficacy of Community-Based Flood Disaster Resilience Capacity-Building Paradigms in Select Communities in the Lower Orashi Region of the Niger Delta

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SUMMARY

Flooding remains one of the most critical environmental challenges in select communities in the lower Orashi region of the Niger Delta. The low-lying topography, inadequate flood control infrastructure, and incremental, unplanned urban expansion exacerbate the issue. Notwithstanding the efforts of government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to implement adopted mitigation measures, the region continues to experience recurrent and severe flood episodes that significantly disrupt lives and livelihood systems. Due to the menace of flooding, community-based strategies have emerged as vital tools in reducing vulnerability and enhancing adaptive communal resilience capacities. This study investigates the effectiveness of community-led approaches to flood preparedness and response in selected flood-prone localities in the lower Orashi region. It employs a combination of spatial analysis techniques using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to map high-risk flood zones and qualitative methods, including interviews, surveys, and focus group discussions, to achieve the study's aim. These approaches engender a nuanced understanding of the geographic extent of flood vulnerability and the lived experiences of the vulnerable population. The research aims to identify existing community-based strategies, assess their effectiveness in mitigating flood impacts, and explore local perceptions of preparedness and engagement. By examining how indigenous knowledge and technology, social capital, and other informal coping mechanisms contribute to flood risk management, the study highlights the critical role of local agencies in disaster resilience. The findings are expected to proffer practical solutions to the menace of flooding, such as strengthening community-driven flood management systems and integrating them into broader planning and policy frameworks. This research contributes to the academic discourse on community-led climate resilience and disaster risk reduction strategies that support inclusive and participatory approaches tailored to the specific needs of vulnerable communities. The potential impact of the study's findings on future policies and planning decisions is significant, thereby underlining the importance of this research.
