

Capturing DRR Voices Since 2005



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southasiadisasters.net



Southasiadisasters.net: Capturing Disaster Risk Reduction Voices Since 2005

Mainstreaming the voices of those stakeholders who reduce risks since 2005 was not easy.

Maintaining rapid as well as environmentally sustainable growth remains an important goal for disaster victims of South Asia. This goal can only be achieved by effectively reducing the risk faced by these victims.

Though some excellent publications on disaster risk reduction (DRR) have come up from South Asia in the recent past, few have focused on capturing the voices on the essential needs of the victims and the vulnerable. In this regard, Southasiadisasters.net stands out as it has strived to capture such marginalized voices.

The needs and the demands of the victims and those who either work with them or for them are often not considered in shaping policies or implementing projects related to disaster risk reduction. In particular, the voices of the poor and vulnerable groups (like women and children) are most regularly ignored. Southasiadisasters.net has tried to make such voices heard.



Photo: AIDMI.

Voices on other significant DRR issues such as participatory DRR practices, the use of public resources in planning recovery and the need of economic growth after disasters often go unheard. Southasiadisasters.net has strived to capture and share the voices on these significant DRR issues.

One of the most important reasons for risk reappearance after DRR projects is the inadequate attention accorded to rebuilding the services structure

post disasters. Social services such as schooling and hospitals and physical services such as water, power and sanitation need to be restored immediately after a disaster. Southasiadisasters.net has listened to the voices recognized the importance of these services.

We at the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) aspire for a democratic and participatory DRR mechanism. We find that how we reduce risks is important. If we reduce risks through democratic processes, the results are broad-based and sustainable. Such a mechanism is only possible if every voice that arises out of the deep inequalities of society is heard and captured. Such voices need to animate public discussion and invite as many other voices as possible.

Since 2005 Southasiadisasters.net has captured such voices of those who reduce disaster risks. For, hearing and heeding these voices that arise out of the deprivation and inequalities of society is the most potent way of building resilience. ■

– **Mihir R. Bhatt,**

All India Disaster Mitigation Institute



Photo: AIDMI.

The Uniqueness of Southasiadisasters.net in Capturing Disaster Risk Reduction Voices

Introduction

The All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) has been spearheading evidence based advocacy and disseminating information about disaster risk reduction policies and practices through its newsletter called Southasiadisasters.net. The publication of Southasiadisasters.net started in May 2005 and ever since then it has created and maintained its position as a reputed newsletter boasting of contributions from some of the most respected academics, practitioners and organizations operating in the field of disaster risk reduction.

In November 2013, AIDMI published its 100th issue of Southasiadisasters.net. To celebrate the feat of publishing 100 issues, AIDMI has come out with a special 101st of Southasiadisasters.net. This 101 issue is a compendium of the previous 100 issues delineating the range of topics covered and extent to which they were researched. The 101st issue represents the entire body of work of Southasiadisasters.net and is aimed at increasing awareness and knowledge on issues from the field of disaster risk reduction.

In terms of reporting on important developments from the field of disaster risk reduction, AIDMI has taken a unique approach. The contributions in Southasiadisasters.net reflect this uniqueness for not only are there contributions from action oriented implementation agencies but from top researchers as well. Meticulously researched and lucidly written,

Table-1. Overview of the percentage wise coverage of all the priorities of HFA 1 in Southasiadisasters.net

Sr. No.	HFA Priority	Percentage Coverage in Southasiadisasters.net
1.	Governance	26%
2.	Risk Identification	13%
3.	Knowledge	17%
4.	Reducing Underlying Risk Factors	27%
5.	Strengthen Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response	17%

Southasiadisasters.net unlike other newsletters is not encumbered with jargons. It is written in simple and easily understandable language to facilitate the understanding of ordinary people on issues related to disaster risk reduction. All these attributes along with many others make Southasiadisasters.net unique and different from other newsletters covering issues on disaster risk reduction. The following attributes best capture the uniqueness of Southasiadisasters.net.

1. Comprehensive Coverage of the priorities of HFA 1

The sum of all the previous issues of Southasiadisasters.net represents a rich repository of knowledge on issues from the field of disaster risk reduction. Southasiadisasters.net is arguably one of the few newsletters that have given credence to all the five priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA 1) by covering them in the form of various themes.

The Hyogo Framework for Action is a seminal document which broadly outlines the important issues that need to be addressed at the global level to make the world more resilient to hazards of all kinds. Thus, by according coverage to all the five priorities of HFA 1, Southasiadisasters.net can thus be viewed as a compendium of various issues and themes associated with disaster risk reduction clubbed under the five priorities of HFA 1.

Table-1 gives an overview of the percentage wise coverage of all the priorities of HFA 1 in Southasiadisasters.net.

Table-2. Details of Various Disasters covered in Southasiadisasters.net

Sr. No.	Name and Year of Disaster	No. of Issues Dedicated
1.	Indian Ocean Tsunami, 2004	06
2.	Kumbhakonam Fire Tragedy, 2004	01
3.	Kashmir Earthquake, 2005	05
4.	Floods in Gujarat, 2006 & 2007	03
5.	Floods in South Asia, 2007	03
6.	Floods in Bihar, 2007	03
7.	Kerala Boat Tragedy, 2007	01
8.	Cyclone Nargis, 2008	01
9.	Leh Cloudburst, 2010	02
10.	Sikkim Earthquake, 2011	02
11.	Uttarakhand Floods, 2013	01
12.	Heat Wave in Bihar, 2013	01
13.	Cyclone Phailin, 2013	01
Total Number of Issues Dedicated		31

Table-3. Policy Discourses Shaped by Southasiadisasters.net

Sr. No.	National Policies	International Policies
1.	Disaster Management Bill, 2005	Sphere of Regional Recovery
2.	First India Disaster Management Congress (IMDC) 2006	Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)
3.	Second IMDC) 2009	Towards HFA 2
4.	District Disaster Management Planning	South Asian Tsunami Recovery Efforts
5.	-	NGO Impact Initiative
6.	-	Tsunami Evaluation Coalition (TEC) Recommendations
7.	-	Second Asian Ministerial Conference, 2007

2. Comprehensive Coverage of 13 disasters across 31 issues

Southasiadisasters.net has comprehensively covered a total of 13 disasters across 31 issues. All the practices and policies related with the aforementioned 13 disasters were ably captured in Southasiadisasters.net as articles and opinions. All the concerned articles are meticulously researched and highly informative

written in a clear and lucid style to facilitate easy understanding. Table-2 is a list of the 13 disasters and the no. of Southasiadisasters.net 31 issues dedicated to each.

3. National and International Policy Discourses Shaped by Southasiadisasters.net

Southasiadisasters.net has made considerable inroads in shaping the

policy discourse related to disaster risk reduction at national and international level. Table-3 is a list of the major policy deliberations that have been influenced by Southasiadisasters.net at the national and international level.

4. The Diversity of the Contributors and Articles in Southasiadisasters.net

Southasiadisasters.net has been enriched by contributions that have come majorly from action oriented and local level implementation agencies. At the same time, Southasiadisasters.net has been fortunate enough to receive contributions from some extremely reputable researchers and academics, as well.

Thus, Southasiadisasters.net has a healthy blend of policy and practical experiences from the field of disaster risk reduction in its repertoire. Table-4 lists the major sectors from which the contributors of Southasiadisasters.net hail.

Table-4. Sector-wise Classification of Contributors

Sectors	No. of contributors
Local Government Organisations	50
Local Non-governmental Organisations	68
International Non-governmental Organisations	74
United Nations Agencies	22
Universities and Educational Institutes	35
DRR Experts	15
Private Sector	07
Youth Interns	44
AIDMI Team Members	30
Total	345

5. Espousing a Global Perspective to Disaster Risk Reduction

Southasiadisasters.net espouses a truly global perspective to the policies and practices related with the field of disaster risk reduction. It has received contributions from individuals and organizations from many countries.

A total of 345 contributors from 33 countries of the world have contributed to Southasiadisasters.net.

6. Collaboration with reputable National and International Organizations

In advocating better and improved disaster risk reduction policies and practices, Southasiadisasters.net has collaborated with a host of national and international organizations that range from governments departments to educational institutions and from international NGOs to the private sector and the UN system. Table-5 is a list of the types of organizations that have contributed to Southasiadisasters.net grouped according to sectors. ■

Table-5. Sector-wise Classification of Contributing Organizations

Sectors	No. of organisations
Local Government Organisations	18
Local Non-governmental Organisations	40
International Non-governmental Organisations	81
United Nations Agencies	16
Universities and Educational Institutes	27
Private Sector	06
Total	188

southasiadisasters.net: From May 2005 to December 2013

Issue No. 100, November 2013

New Generation of Risk Reducers



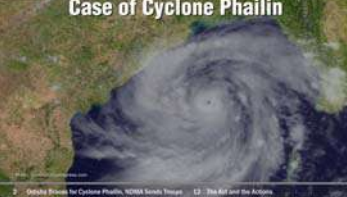
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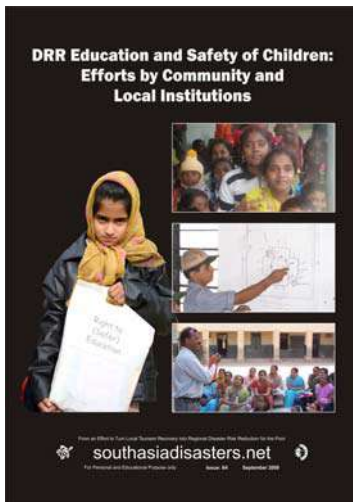
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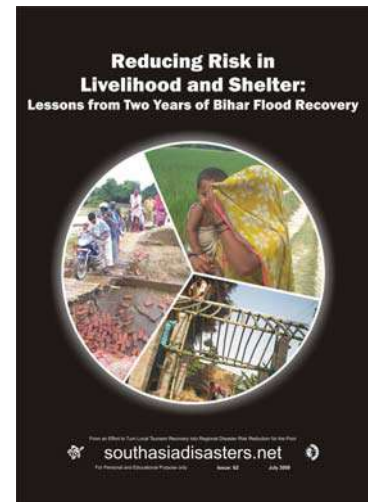
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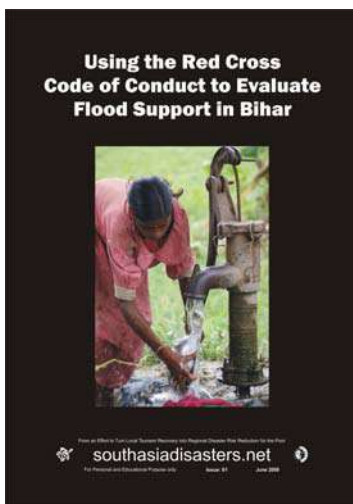
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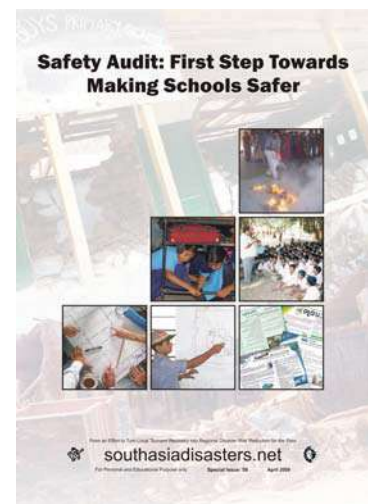
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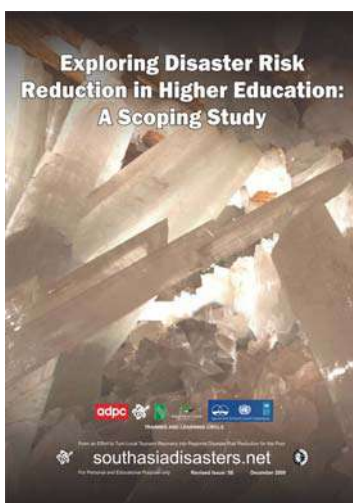
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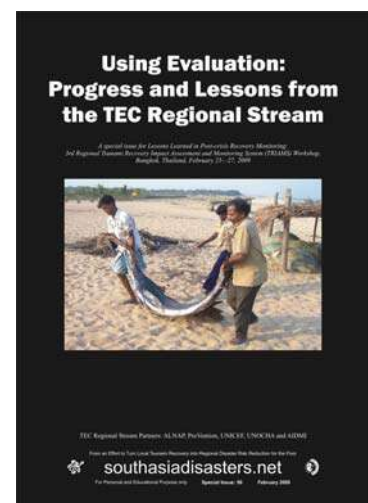
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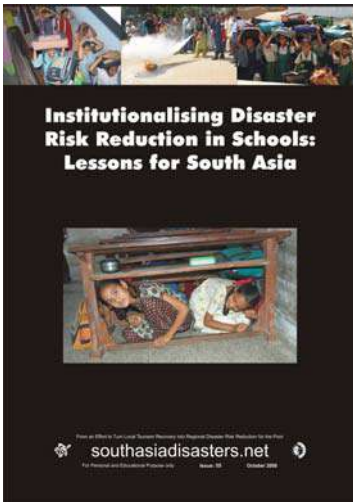
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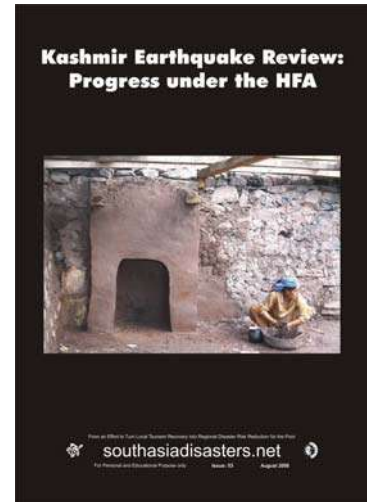
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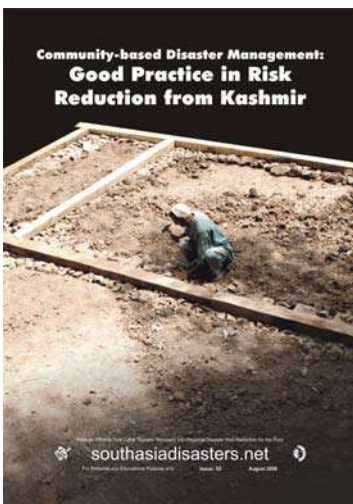
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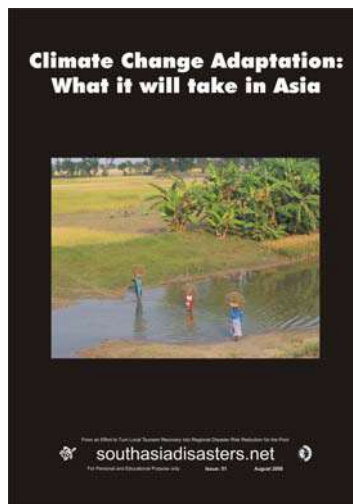
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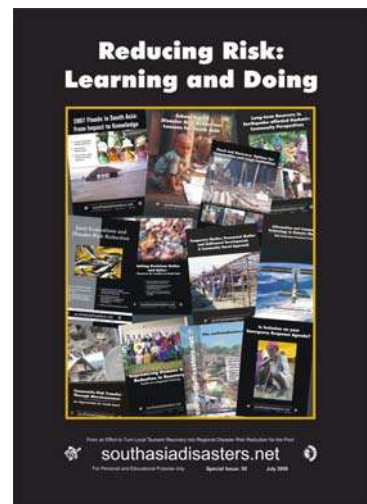
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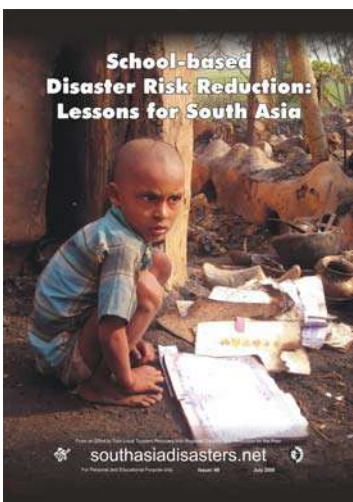
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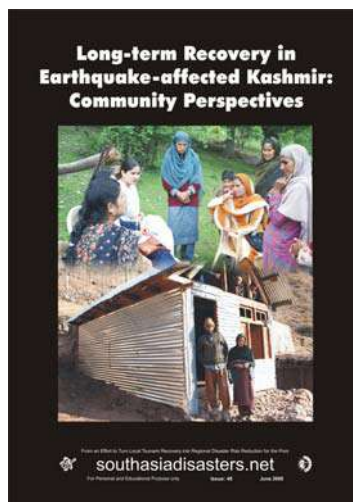
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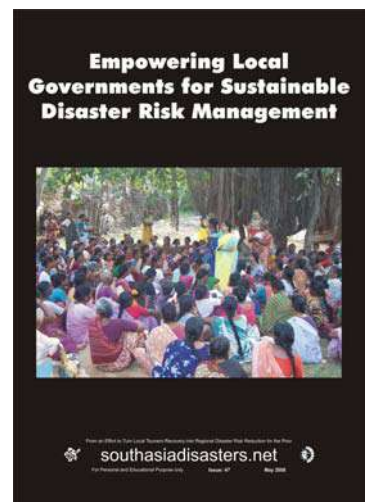
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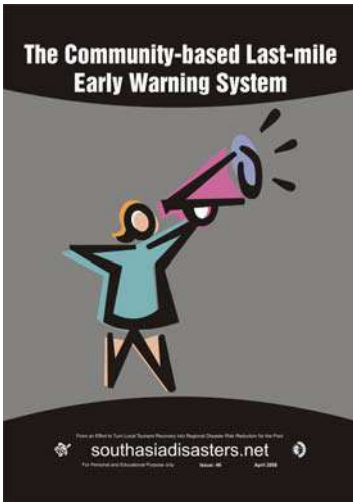
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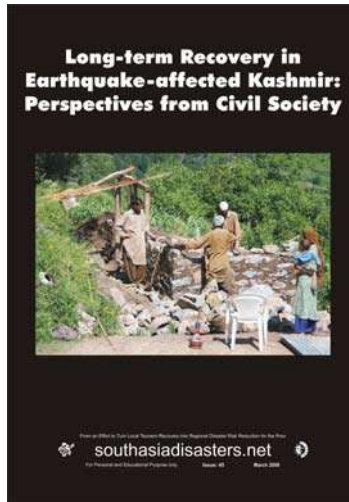
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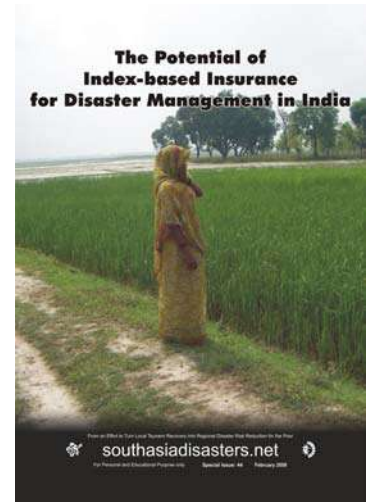
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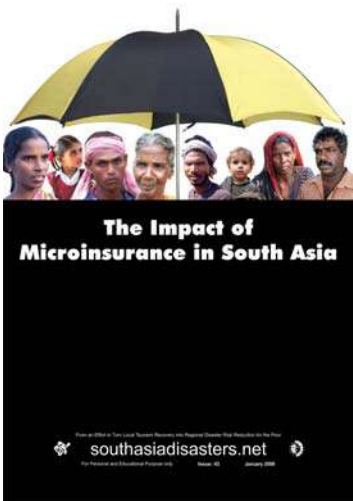
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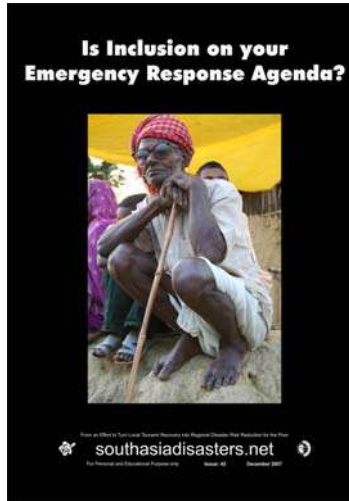
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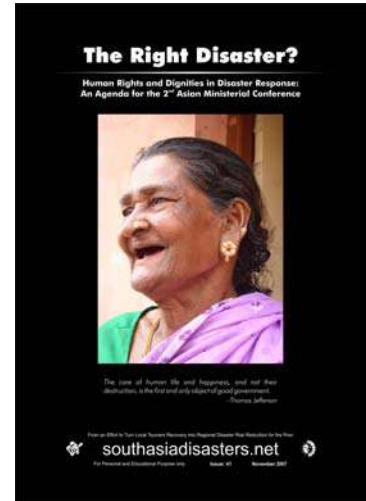
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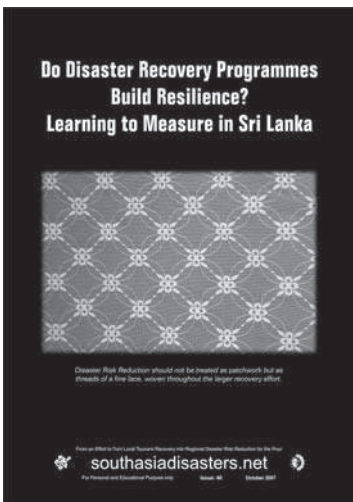
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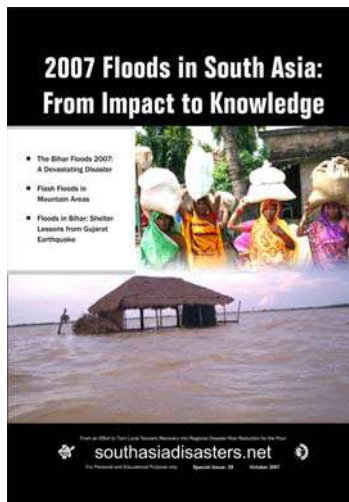
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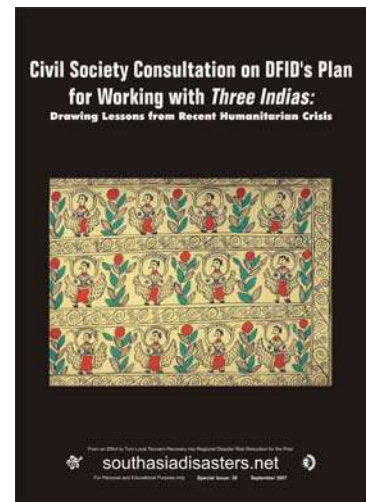
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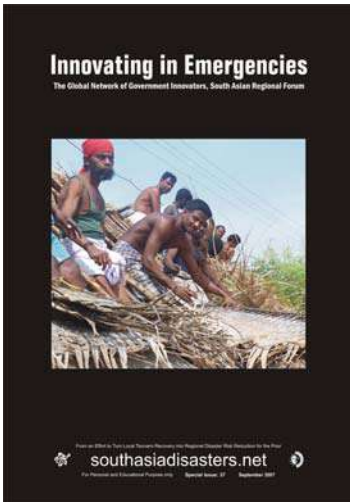
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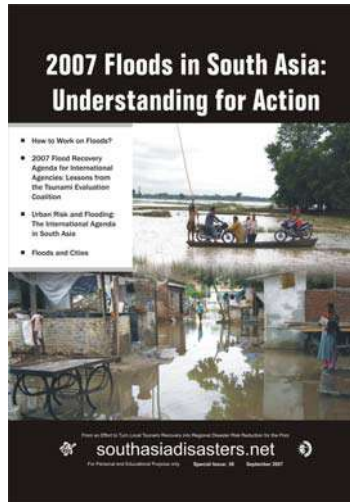
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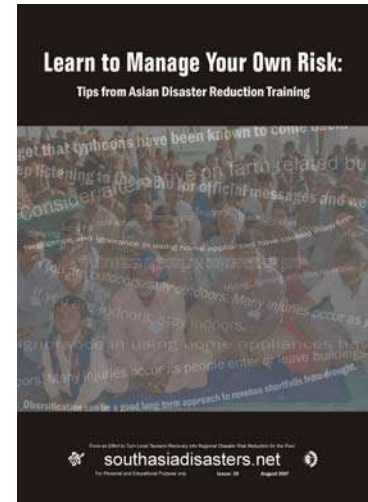
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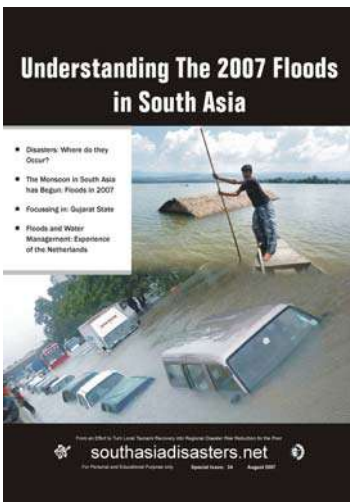
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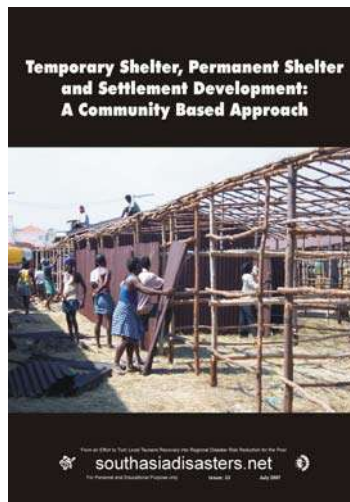
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35. Learn to Manage Your Own Risk



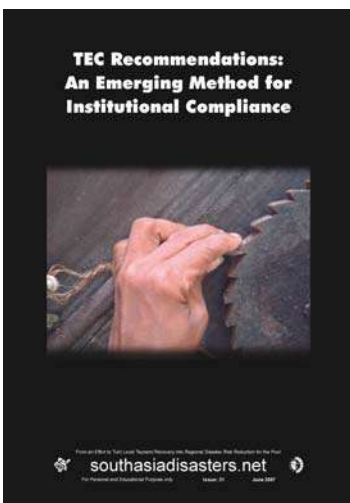
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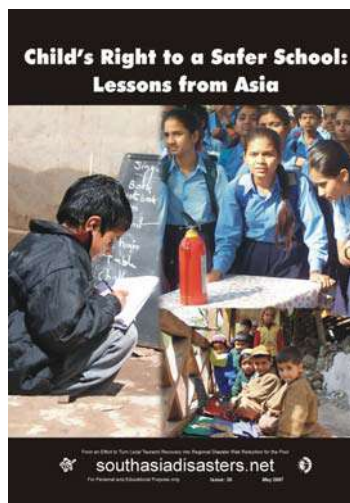
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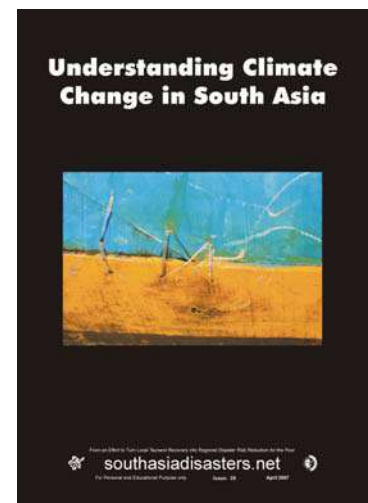
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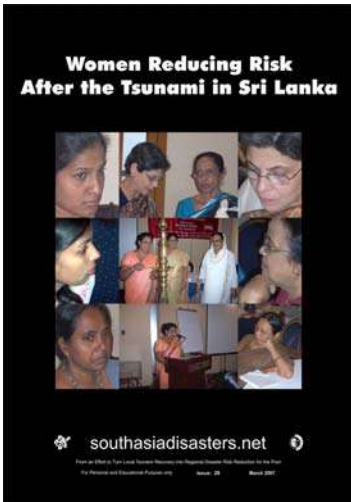
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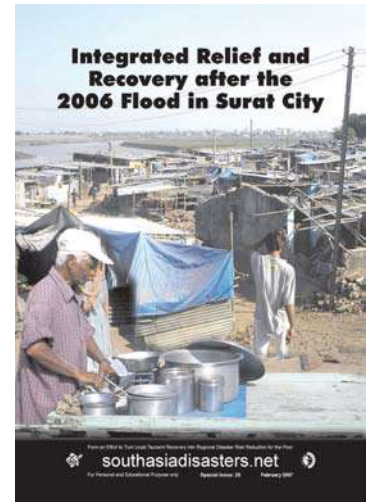
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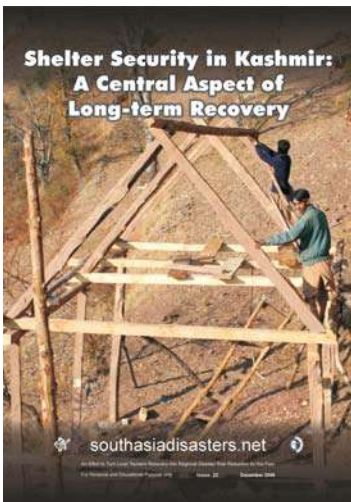
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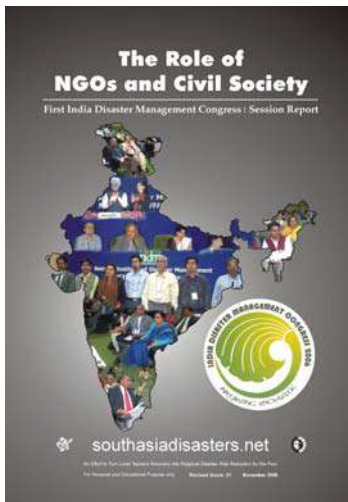
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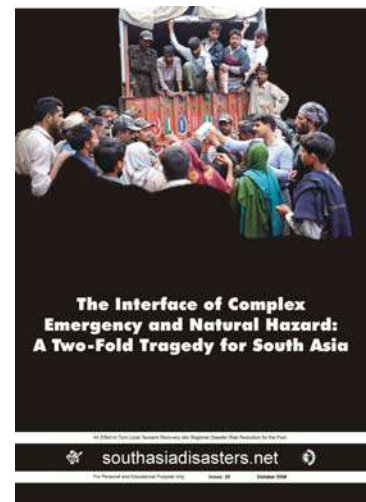
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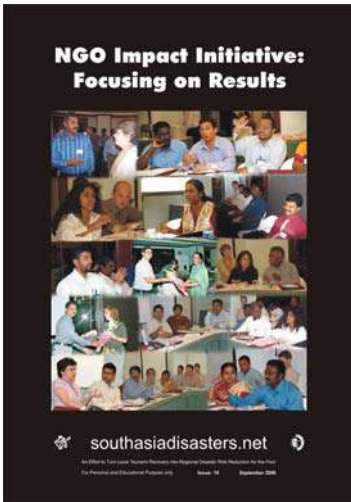
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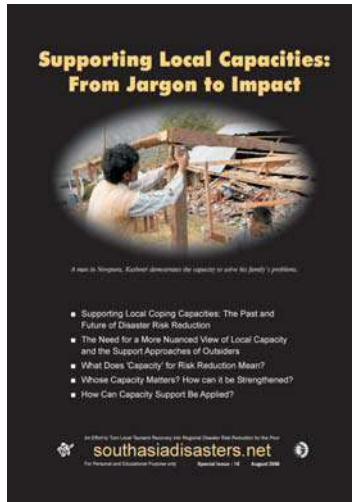
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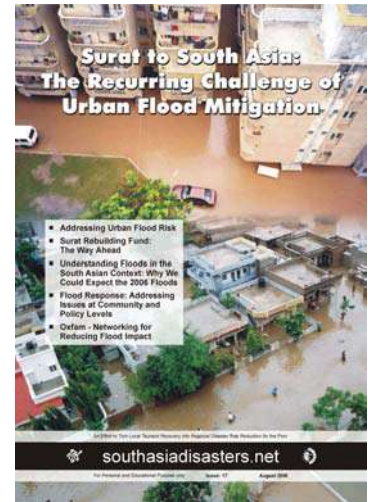
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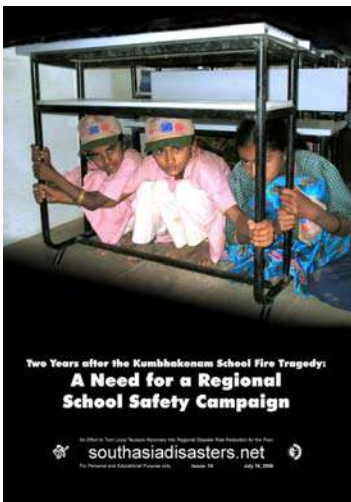
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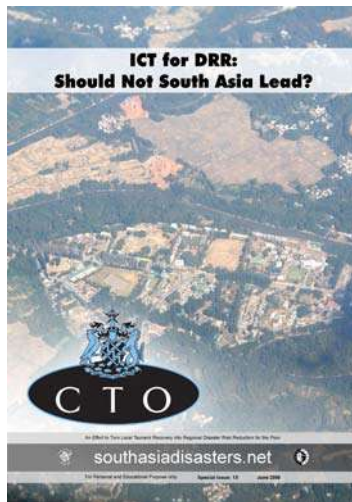
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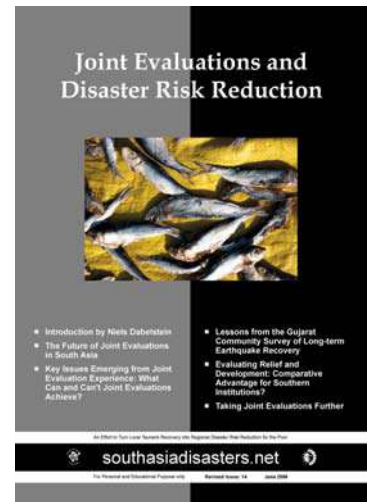
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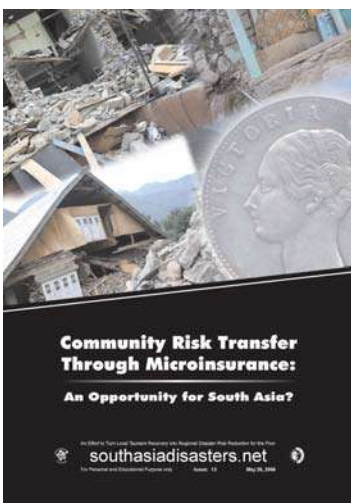
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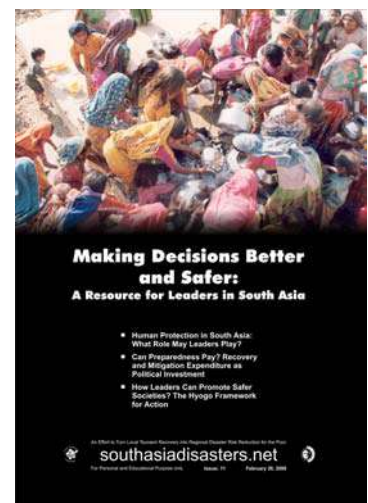
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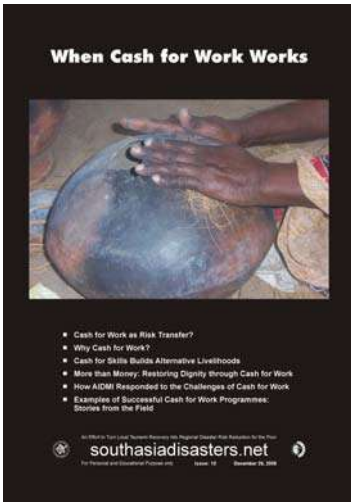
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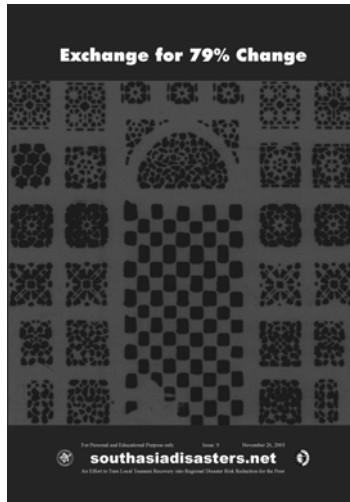
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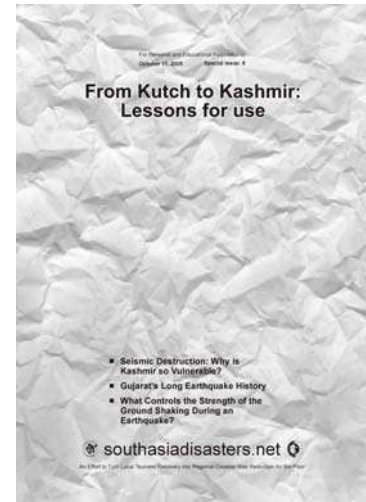
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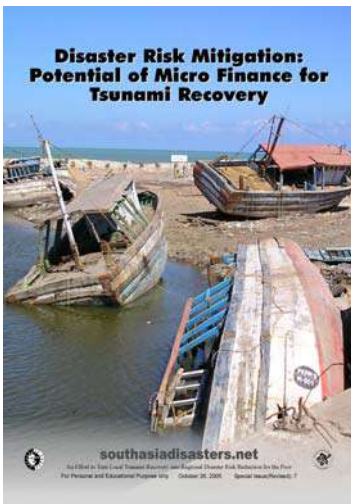
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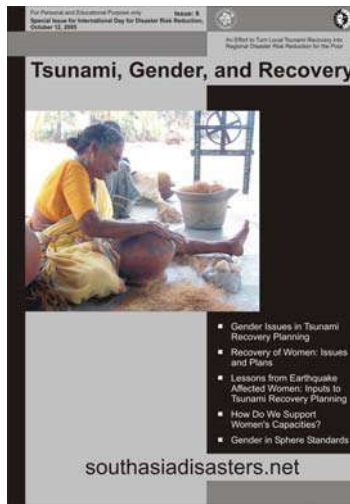
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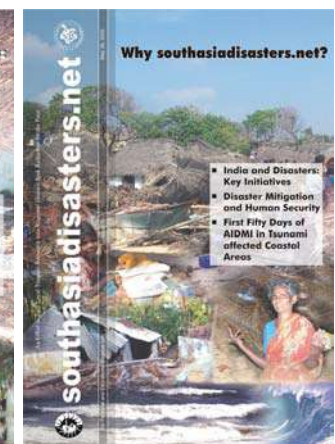
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Shaping HFA2 with focus on Gender and Risk Transfer Perspectives

Experience of 2013 Cyclone Phailin

Evidence from the grassroots is important to shape the global HFA process post 2015. AIDMI organised a round table with the poor working women of Puri district in Odisha, a coastal state of India, to meet Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction at United Nations International Strategy of Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) on December 20, 2013. The discussion focused on the key role of women in building resilience through livelihoods; integrating sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and climate change risk with the existing work on women's hand. During the discussion, it was also decided that more opportunities should be offered to women to take local action by organising the dialogue in Odiya, Hindi and English along with developing a series of case studies in the Mahanadi Delta of Odisha, India. ■



DRR promoters with Margareta Wahlström, UNISDR.

Photo: AIDMI.

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