Investigating the Role of Digital Divide and Social Media Use (SMU) to Improve Disaster Resilience in Vulnerable Communities

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ABSTRACT

Disasters are unexpected large-scale events accompanied by trauma, death, and destruction. Disaster resilience varies by location and can be significantly improved through effective management. Real-time information describing the on-site impacts of disasters plays an important role in managing disasters. Social media provides a convenient platform where users in disaster-affected areas can access disaster information, report local damages, and ask for assistance. However, a widespread spatially uneven flow in online activities requesting for food, shelter, and medical assistance among people in disaster-affected areas through social media is seen during any disaster. Digital divide Influences social media use. Before probing the social media data for inspecting the affected population and prioritizing the relief operations, the social inequality in the social media use has to be considered. In this study, we examine the role of digital divide and its influence in social media use with aim of improving disaster resilience in vulnerable communities.

Keywords

Disaster resilience, social media, digital divide, vulnerable communities

References are available on request