

Child-centered Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment Villages of Leh and Kargil villages of Ladakh



Engagement of children in DRR activities is one of the most important tasks in making India safer. Following is an example of children's participation in PVCA process. Children identified the following places as disaster prone areas in their schools and community during PVCA exercise in the villages of Ladakh:

- No speed breakers on the road near the school
- Broken railing of the bridge near the school
- No sign board to indicate that there is a school ahead
- Few feet of deep sewer ditch near the play ground
- A stream by the side of the play ground which children have to often cross
- School and several parts of village are exposed to natural hazards like landslide, rock falls, and floods



As Shri Fida Mahmood of Save the Children who led this process said, 'This PVCA is unique – it is for and by and with children. It is also unique for the very high altitude assessment'. Children's local knowledge systems can contribute greatly in the various stages of disaster risk reduction from risk assessment to implementation and children as DRR promoters with local communities. As Mihir R. Bhatt said at the launch of children and Disaster Risk Reduction platform in Delhi on December 5, 2011 'Who will make India safer? The children'.

- Vishal Pathak, AIDMI.