

A phenomenological approach to investigating the equity of International Partnerships in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) through a post-colonial and intersectional lens: Initial takeaways and insights from interviews conducted within the discipline.

Introduction

The journey toward effective Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) warnings involves intricate research, collaboration, and funding efforts, often including the formation of international partnerships between the Global North and South[1]. While these collaborations aim for equity and scientific progress, sometimes this is hard to achieve due to unconscious and conscious power dynamics and socio-political landscapes [2].

Insights drawn from 1-2-1 interviews with diverse professionals in DRR highlight the need for improved training and awareness. These partnerships were felt to have frequently lacked equity, leaving participants feeling ill-equipped and anxious [3]. Below is some insights and preliminary results from these interviews – **with an opportunity to reflect and contribute your own experiences.**

Preliminary Quotations

“I think [Global North Partners] wished that they just, like, hadn't bothered with the [International] partnership and just done it all themselves.” - 1005

“The funders will say what they want is equitable and coproduced, you know, non-extractive capacity building and etcetera... but in practise, the way that academic funding is set up makes it very, very difficult to actually do that.” - 1006

“I sometimes call it ‘enlightened dictatorship approach’ where you really want the best for the collaboration but simply, you don't have the time” - 1004

“I've been thanked for the British Empire when I've been in [Global South Country].” - 1004 & 1009

Discussion

An open and honest discussion in the DRR discipline is necessary and is evidenced by the invaluable lived experience of partners within these international partnerships. **Over half of the participants indicated that they felt their own international partnerships were not equitable**, with an additional third of participants with mixed experiences. There is an immediate need for additional support, training and learning in this area, within the DRR discipline.

Do you agree with the quotations below?

What are your own experiences of international partnerships across the Global North-South Divide? If you reflect on your own experiences, what would you (anonymously) share/add?

“It's almost inevitable that a partnership's going to be inequitable in some kind of way” - 1011

“I felt that many times [Global South] country offices were not aggressively silenced, but there is just this very nuanced power relationship that goes through in the way that decisions are made” - 1013

“I don't think I've ever been on a project where it has been fully equitable.” - 1001

“I do wonder sometimes there's a little bit of tick box exercising going on” - 1002

“You're not quite convinced that independently, a [Global South Partners] research, if they were left without continued support ... that they'll be able to have a realistic chance of publishing in the same journals.” - 1012

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