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## Impact of Joshimath's sinking on local women: A case study based on interviews with women of Joshimath

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### Abstract

Joshimath is located at over 6,000 feet in Chamoli district, in the Garhwal Himalayas. The heavy rains in October 2021, the people of Cantonment market were scared when they saw cracks in their houses. The cracks widened further during the rainy season this year. In this recent Joshimath tragedy, as well as many similar disasters, it has become increasingly apparent that women and children are often the most severely affected in such situations. After the study on the adverse effects on women after the disaster, attention has been started on the problems and challenges related to the disaster effect of women. The purpose of this paper is to analyse Joshimath sinking in terms of effects using a gender approach and propose new metrics that reflect women's disadvantageous position in crisis situations. Exploratory research methodology was used in the study. The researcher interviewed 25 local women of Joshimath for the research paper, out of which mainly 10 women's interviews have been written in the research paper. The discussion with Joshimath women will centre on the gender dimensions of the Joshimath disaster experience.

**Keywords:** Joshimath sinking, local women's, impact, government

### Introduction

Uttarakhand has a long history of natural disasters. In the period 1880-1999, more than 1,300 people perished in just five adverse weather events - earthquakes and landslides. Official data indicates that, between 2000 and 2009, 433 people were killed by landslides, cloud bursts, and flash floods. Some 400 villages have been designated unsafe for living during extreme weather events. 1,312 people have been killed between 2010 and 2020 (Biswas and Gusain, 2023) <sup>[1]</sup>. A study by disaster management official Sushil Khanduri found that more than 300 people were killed by landslides, flash floods, and avalanches in Uttarakhand in 2021. According to Mr Khanduri, these changes are mainly caused by changes in the weather regime and abnormal rainfall patterns, along with the indiscriminate deployment of humans in high-risk regions (Khanduri, 2022) <sup>[12]</sup>.

Joshimath is located at over 6,000 feet in Chamoli district, in the Garhwal Himalayas. It is situated on the middle slopes (Moraine) of a hill bound by Karmanasa and Dhaknala on the west and east, as well as Dhauliganga and Alaknanda on the other sides (Rautela and Bisht, 2010) <sup>[17]</sup>. Joshimath town of Chamoli district is the main stop for religious and tourist places like Badrinath, Hemkund Sahib, Valley of Flowers and Auli. It was the capital of the Chand dynasty in ancient times. Apart from being historical and mythological, being close to the China border is also important from a strategic perspective. This is the base camp for the army deployed on the border. Joshimath has a permanent population of around 20,000 and around the same number of soldiers are stationed here at all times. In this way, some 35,000 to 40,000 civilians and soldiers live in Joshimath. The number of pilgrims and tourists who stay here and pass through here every day is also in the thousands. After the heavy rains in October 2021, the people of Cantonment market were scared when they saw cracks in their houses. However, since the flood caused by the breaking of the Hanging Glacier in the Nanda Devi Biosphere area on 7 February 2021, he was feeling a change in the walls of the house. This series is still going on. The cracks widened further during the rainy season this year (Sajwan and Bhatt, 2022) <sup>[18]</sup>.

In the recent Joshimath tragedy on January 2023, as well as many similar disasters, it has become increasingly apparent that women and children are often the most severely affected in such situations. The impact of disasters on women can be significant and long-lasting.

The purpose of this study is not to minimize the trauma suffered by men, but rather to emphasize that inequalities and socio-cultural norms that exist in society almost always adversely affect women in such circumstances. In the aftermath of disasters, women face a number of challenges, including relocation and diminished opportunities for education, employment, and health care. The Uttarakhand flash floods in February 2021, for example, caused widespread destruction and loss of life, leaving many women traumatized and struggling to cope with the aftermath. Women who lost family members or their homes in the disaster may experience symptoms of grief, depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). They may also face challenges in accessing mental health support, particularly in rural areas where mental health services may be limited.

However, in our one-size-fits-all disaster management policies, neither women nor the specific problems they face are included. There are a number of reasons why women should participate in disaster management policies. Following disasters, women find themselves overburdened by not only traditional responsibilities of caring for their families, but may also have to take on whatever work is available in the event that their main male breadwinner has died or been relocated. It has been reported that many women have been stranded in their homes during disasters, unable to respond effectively in time as a result. It was found that women have difficulty accessing the information and resources they need to adequately prepare, respond, and cope with disasters, including access to early warnings, safe shelter, and bank accounts to protect savings, according to a World Bank report (Erman *et al.*, 2021) <sup>[9]</sup>.

According to Sanjukta Bhaduri, former dean and coordinator of the School of Planning and Architecture's Centre for Urban Disaster Studies, women's specific needs regarding sanitation and clothing must be considered during relief efforts. As women become increasingly aware of the importance of developing skills and capacities for new and alternative livelihood options, training programs are becoming increasingly important. Although women are generally not involved in the planning and management of emergencies, they are often involved in determining specific relief materials, their distribution, and building livelihood generation capacities. The role of women in risk preparedness has been recognized by various organizations, including the United Nations Women organization and government agencies, in recent years. There are many successful examples of women participating as leaders, key stakeholders, and framing long-term solutions to mitigate disaster impacts (Panicker, 2023) <sup>[14]</sup>. But it has been observed that women are not treated as separate categories, to the point of not being counted as women by the government. The approach makes women invisible in all respects, including their specific needs (For example, not including sanitary napkins in relief parcels) in all respects. According to Delaney and Shrader "pregnant and nursing women should also be considered during an emergency, both due to their poor mobility and due to their need for additional food and water following the emergency" (Delaney and Elizabeth, 2000) <sup>[8]</sup>.

The purpose of this paper is to analyse Joshimath sinking in terms of effects using a gender approach and propose new metrics that reflect women's disadvantageous position in crisis situations.

## Review of literature

As disasters are naturally constructed, not social, we examine some of the theories concerning gender in disaster studies. It is social conditions that increase people's vulnerability to disaster risks, not merely their exposure to hazards (FAO, 2016) <sup>[10]</sup>. There are two broad categories in the literature on gender and disaster which is ever-growing: a) those who hold that gendered social conditions are causally related to disaster vulnerability (Thus, women and sexual minorities are usually more at risk of disaster than others), b) those who consider women as the most appropriate target for interventions because of their gendered experiences and prior knowledge of the environment. As a result of both of these approaches to thinking, gender has tended to be understood within the framework of traditional gender roles, in which women are either victims or respondents (Gaillard *et al.*, 2016; Yadav *et al.*, 2021) <sup>[11, 19]</sup>. According to Delaney and Elizabeth It has been observed that women are more engaged and committed in short-term emergency response and rehabilitation activities than men. It was reported by many women, however, that men did not value these activities. Moreover, they noted that while men recognized their contribution during the emergency, they quickly forgot about it afterwards (Delaney & Elizabeth, 2000) <sup>[8]</sup>. According to Bradshaw, all the women in his study identified psychosocial or emotional consequences as a major problem. In general, women leaders expressed concern about the mental health of the population, as well as a lack of resources to address the issue. The majority of respondents also noted a feeling of insecurity on the streets, crime, drug abuse, the high number of teenage mothers and pregnant adolescents, as well as a sense that violence was pervasive after the disaster. There is a correlation between these social problems and the economic and emotional impact of the disaster (Bradshaw, 2004) <sup>[2]</sup>. The impact of disasters in societies by gender, age, or social class relations will also reflect these relationships, which results in different experiences of the disaster among different people. Men and women deal with crisis and emergency situations differently, as well as using different strategies to deal with them. Today, gender is acknowledged as key during times of crisis and emergency, both due to the different effects on men and women (Byrne, 1995; CAW, 1998) <sup>[4, 7]</sup>. Liberty Chee say in his study it is necessary to understand the contexts in which disasters occur in order to fully understand their impacts on social, economic, and cultural factors, particularly how gender plays a role in all of those factors. Women are disproportionately affected by disasters, according to numerous studies, and many claim that disasters exacerbate gender inequality and social inequalities already present in a society, which tend to highlight or exacerbate women's already subordinate position when they occur. It is important to look at how the social, economic, and cultural aspects of a society are gendered in order to understand the extent and means of disasters, as well as the means for addressing them. In addition, it is crucial to examine the lack of inclusion of women in disaster management and recovery strategies (Chee, 2018) <sup>[6]</sup>.

## Objective

The objective of study is to assess the impact of the sinking of Joshimath on the local women of Joshimath and to share the concerns and needs of Joshimath women in the context

of this disaster.

### Methodology

An exploratory research method has been used in the study. The primary and secondary sources have been used for the collection of data. Primary data has been collected on the study field through interviews, personal interactions and observation of the women of Joshimath. 25 local women were interviewed of Joshimath for the study, mainly interviews of 15 women are mentioned in this document. The discussion with the women of Joshimath focused on the gendered dimensions of the Joshimath disaster experience. Secondary data collected from various reports of Government of India, State Government of Uttarakhand, published material from various established agencies, newspapers, magazines and comments of authors have been used.

### Joshimath women's experience in disaster

Neha and Sunaina Saklani are the girls of the Saklani family in Joshimath whose house was the first to show cracks. The girls of the Saklani family say, "We are watching our house slowly falling apart as the cracks widen with each passing day. It is a horrifying sight." My father had submitted an application to the administration when the cracks started appearing. Officials said that the foundation of the house is not sound. My father was not taken seriously, for the reason he did not give any application. We were living in this situation for a whole year. After the intervention of media persons, the big officials started coming here and the officials shifted our extended family of 14 people to a local hotel. But during the day we have to come to our sunken house, where we cook food and graze our cattle in the courtyard. We do not want compensation; we want to shift our house in a safe and comfortable place. Saklani sisters also said that we are feeling that till the media people are coming here only till then these big officers will come. We will give assurance and only assurance will be given. After that no one will ask us.

Dhaneshwari Rana, a 70-year-old woman, shared, "I operate a women's sewing education centre, and I am landless; I don't own any property. The land on which my house stands was also generously donated to me by someone. The entire house in front of mine is on the verge of collapsing, and I am left wondering where I should go. Earning a livelihood at my age seems daunting. Now, who will provide me shelter? We are such impoverished individuals that we sustain our own lives. Joshimath's economy relies heavily on tourism."

"The government advised women in our community to start homestays. We took a loan from the bank and invested our money in establishing the homestay. However, the current circumstances make it challenging for us to repay the bank loan. We find ourselves unable to fulfil our expectations from the government. Despite this, our enthusiasm remains unbroken."

Dr. Jyotsna Naithwal, the in-charge of the Community Health Centre, stated that there are 84 pregnant women residing in Joshimath town, with 18 of them expected to deliver by February 15, 2023. A significant number of these pregnant women come from families whose homes have been affected by landslides. Unfortunately, amidst the ongoing disaster, the health centres in Joshimath lack both medical professionals and essential facilities. Consequently, pregnant women in Joshimath are not only concerned about

their own well-being but also about the future of their unborn children.

Vinita Devi's family is one of the families in the historic town of Joshimath whose houses have the widest cracks. Vinita Devi says, we had left our house some time ago and moved to a rented house. But our financial condition is not such that we can pay the rent every month, so we have left the rented house and come back to this unsafe house. Now she sits with her whole family in the room of her house with dozens of cracks.

Shashi Devi, a 55-year-old resident, laments the dire condition of her home, which is riddled with cracks. Desperate, she has resorted to storing her belongings on the roof, indifferent to the risk of theft, as there is no one left at home. Shashi Devi, accompanied by her two grandchildren, has taken a stand by participating in a dharna. Initially, the District Magistrate (DM) assured compensation of ₹3,00,000 when the roof collapses. However, the government has now proposed an increased compensation of ₹4,00,000. Despite this apparent relief, there is a disheartening revelation: the proposed compensation does not include the construction of even a basic toilet and room. This is particularly distressing considering the elevated cost of living in Joshimath, a mountainous region where necessities are exorbitantly priced.

Shashi Devi, who financed the construction of her house through loans from relatives and banks, is now grappling with uncertainty about the future. The prospect of rehabilitation raises questions about how the transition will unfold and whether it will be sufficient to rebuild the life they have cherished in this community. The current predicament leaves them pondering the feasibility of starting anew, casting a shadow over the continuity of the life they have known.

Monika Bisht, who is 21 years girl and lives in Chhawani Bazar, Joshimath, completed her graduation this year. She said that I do not have a father, but there is a mother. She also goes to work during the day and no one stays at home. We are brothers and sisters. I am very scared to live alone. Our accommodation has been arranged neither in the municipality nor in the Gurudwara. The ward member came and was secretly getting us to fill papers here and then the local administrative officials came here and started seizing our houses. Administrative officers are saying that grab ₹ 4000 and go on rent, even a room kitchen is not available on rent for ₹ 4000 and animal husbandry is an important means of our household's economy. We run our household by selling milk in Joshimath. But now where will we take our cows and buffaloes to that rented house. Now where will the money come from in our house? My mother also used to earn money by working in hotels and shops in Joshimath and I also used to earn some money by teaching tuition to small children at my home in Joshimath, but now we *get all* these means from some other place will not happen. Monika also said that she is preparing for the civil service exam and her dream is to become a civil servant. But now her dreams will not be fulfilled because her house has been snatched and the financial condition of the family has become so bad that now instead of studying, she will look for a small job.

The 11-year-old Somya from Joshimath has been living on the streets with her family in the freezing cold for the past few nights because of the massive cracks and cracks in her house. The family fears that the house could collapse in the middle of the night when they are sleeping. Somya said that this is our house, where I was born, which I have lived since

childhood, today we have to sit outside and study, we have to stay outside at night. If government gives us some land or the money hence also it will not be able to compensate for the house because what about the Job/Business of my father because my father is a contractor and I don't think so that in the outside like in Dehradun or Rishikesh someone knows him only relative knows my father so, what will business my father does outside the Joshimath and how will pay my school fee. We are going to our relatives' homes, but how many time we will spend, one month two months but not more than that. 7/Jan/2023 the chief minister came to Joshimath, they also spoke to my family, Chief Minister Pushkar Dhami ji said that. Please keep yourself safe and we will do something to help. This said, keep you be with your families, don't go anywhere else. Lastly, she says, "Government has always known everything but never acted upon concerns".

Kamla Devi ji who is 75 years old and she was 17 years old when she came to Joshimath from Chamoli after getting married. Today she was found sitting in front of her broken small house with thick glasses and a cot in her hand. The loss of those two rooms in a kutch house and the fear of becoming homeless, which may be just some compensation for the government or NTPC company, but for Kamla ji, it is like the pain of an old mother who loses her young child. For example, by losing young children, old parents slowly die. Seeing her small house sinking in Joshimath, Kamla ji wants to merge with her house in these mountains. Kamla ji says "Just like a small child cannot leave its mother's milk, similarly I cannot leave the land of Joshimath". For the people living in the mountain, the house is not only four walls, but the mountains, waterfalls, rivers, birds, animals, trees, fields are all around his village. 75 years looking at the elephant mountain of Joshimath, earning a living by selling milk on the strength of his only cow and then in that age of age where sleep and peace come only at home, when Kamla ji and her family passed away on February 9, 2023 When sent to the hotel, he had to stay in the luxurious room of the hotel for a few days under compulsion and due to fear. Those few days were the most suffocating days of his life. She missed her cow, farm and kutch house so much that she returned to her house covered in cracks instead of life in the hotel. Kamla ji says that her existence in Joshimath is older than the administration of Joshimath. Kamla ji cries several times, saying that "I have been here since Joshimath did not even have a municipality." Talking about voice also has value, whether that voice comes from a dharna or sitting at home.

Rishi Devi, 59-year-old lady, pointing to the crumbling houses and said "If Joshimath is safe, then the chief minister should see our ruined houses and sunken lands and then say that Joshimath is safe." Rishi Devi says, "First we were put in a government school, when the school opened, we were put in an animal shelter where mules used to stay until a few months back. The government is not able to see that we are humans and not animals. Our lives have been shattered. Right now, my family is living in hotel rooms paid for by the government. Earlier, the date for evacuating hundreds of people from hotels was March 31. It is extended until 30 April. Now there is concern about how long we will be allowed to stay in hotels due to the arrival of pilgrims in Joshimath.

Geeta Devi, a resident of Lamsi Gulabkoti, lives in a rented house in Joshimath. He settled here for employment. Earlier Geeta Devi used to work in the nursery and take care of her

family's life, but after the disaster, the government has authorized that nursery. Geeta Devi says that we currently have no facilities available. He is a tenant, so compensation has not been provided for him either. He is in the shadow of fear every day that if the landlord asks him to vacate the house, then where will he leave. She says that there are others like her and the government needs to pay attention to rehabilitate them too. So that their lives are simple and safe. Sureshi Devi is a resident of Ward 01 in Joshimath. Her building is completely damaged but her name is not there in the damaged related list of the administration. He is upset that all the houses in Ward 01 are in the category of damaged buildings, only his house has been deprived of it. She says that she is not only suffering from the calamity, but now she will have to run around the administration in this calamity.

Bharti Devi is a 65-year-old elderly woman who was waiting for a temporary residence after the building was damaged. She found a shelter made of tin and wood in which animals used to live before Bharti. It is also a threat to their hygiene as they may get infected with the disease. She, like hundreds of others, is waiting for compensation so that she can be with her family in a safe place. Rishi Devi is also a 59-year-old elderly who is disappointed with the lax attitude of the government and says that we need a safe place for a proper life. The government needs to pay special attention to this.

## Discussion

**Economic Impact:** When a man is financially independent, he provides strength to a family, whereas when a woman is financially independent, it inspires women in the whole society to be self-sufficient. Here more than half of the population is dependent on house rent, small grocery shops, agriculture and animal husbandry. The economy of the local population of Joshimath is mainly based on tourism and being a tourist destination, it is the main economic resource of the population there. Talking about the economic effects of the women of Joshimath, it was known that they keep their existence from the economic side. Most of the women here are directly related to employment. Since before, the women here were mostly involved in business and the disaster has taken away their business along with their home. Due to being on the travel line with shopkeeping, the women here used to get their houses constructed and run their livelihood from the rent received from them. But their breakdown has raised questions on the livelihood of women. Women say that our capital was these buildings which got damaged in the disaster. Our livelihood has already ended but fear has crept in their mind whether they will be able to recover the cost incurred in the construction of those buildings. Some women here depended on agricultural work and animal husbandry for livelihood. Climate change in mountainous areas has already affected agricultural activities badly, but the women here were producing their local products and manufacturing economic equipment in harmony with climate change. Apart from this, she was including small business-like milk business from livestock and poultry farm in the operation of her livelihood. But the disaster has created a situation of obstruction in their efforts related to their livelihood. Already the condition of women in the society is not good. But the women of Joshimath were trying to determine their place in the society by becoming self-sufficient, in which a crisis has arisen because now when the people of Joshimath will be settled in some other

place, then what will be their economic livelihood and means of earning. It is a big question because the new place where those people will settle, there will not be movement of tourists like Joshimath. These economic impacts can lead to increased poverty and reduced access to resources for women in the region. That's why the women there believe that they should be resettled on the Char Dham Yatra line itself so that they can be financially empowered again.

**Social Impact:** Studies show that natural disasters affect the poor more than the wealthy. People with wealth often build houses and buildings keeping disaster prevention in mind, but this does not seem to be true in the case of Joshimath disaster-prone area, because the entire Joshimath is affected by landslides, although the rich class is able to avoid this disaster. As soon as they got affected, they have been shifted to safer places, but the poor people do not have enough money to take shelter in other places and meet their inherent expenses. The class below the affluent class are still forced to live in disaster prone areas and they lack the financial resources and social impact factors to deal with the adverse effects of the disaster. Studies prove that women are at the top of the number of poor and gradually their number is increasing which is mentioned by Sylvia Chant in her research paper (Chant, 2006, pp. 201–220) <sup>[5]</sup>. On the other hand, in the mountainous region of Uttarakhand, women are seen to be economically empowered themselves, the mountainous region of Joshimath was also not untouched by this. But this landslide of Joshimath has put the women of Joshimath in the first line of poverty, the local women here were involved in agriculture, animal husbandry, tourism-related employment and commerce related works for livelihood, but after the disaster, their livelihood is almost destroyed. Is nearing its end. Women doing animal husbandry with their livelihood have an intimate relationship with their animals. The plight of their animals is also affecting their mental health.

Affected livelihood, the distressed women of Joshimath look towards their society for shelter, because by staying in an area for a long time, a social environment is created there, due to which women create an environment of social self-confidence and social concern. Which also provides them social security. Many women in Joshimath are single mothers and widows. Joshimath itself had an environment of earning their livelihood and social security, but due to the disaster of Joshimath, their social security, income, social concerns are being negatively affected. Sharing his experiences on this subject, he said that socially, in the new place where the temporary relocation of women affected by disaster has taken place, they are being looked down upon by the local people, due to which there is a need to create a new social environment. For that they have to reinvent themselves. For this, these distressed women will have to travel for a long time, this disaster is working as a double whammy for them, if they get social, economic and political support, then these women will be able to emerge quickly from this dark chapter.

**Psychological Impact:** According to Atul Sati, president of Joshimath Bachao Sangarsh Samiti and activist for environmental protection, there is a disaster in the making. Several of its consequences will surface in the coming days, including an epidemic of mental illnesses spreading throughout the town (PTI, 2023) <sup>[15]</sup>. Women are more likely to suffer from psychological problems than men,

according to research (Punamaki *et al.*, 2005, pp. 545-551) <sup>[16]</sup>. Since women tend to live at lower socio-economic levels than men, they may be more likely to suffer from serious mental disorders (Kumar *et al.*, 2007, pp. 99-101) <sup>[13]</sup>. Rishi Devi Said we are in a depression because our life is shattered "First we were kept in a government school, when the school opened, we were put in the animal shelter. The government is not able to see that we are humans and not animals.

**Other Impact:** As a result of disaster, women are at risk of abuse. It is almost impossible for women to access justice or other institutional mechanisms in temporary shelters. They offer little protection or facilities and diminish their quality of life. Rape and trafficking are common occurrences. Apart from this, the disaster also disrupted the education of girls, as the local schools were also badly damaged by this disaster.

The people live in shelter are use the lone bathroom outside the shelter therefor a woman who lives in the shelter said that "we afraid to go to the washroom at night, lest a snake or a bear comes. Children also stay inside at night."

### Suggestions

Disaster-based actions alone will not solve the problem of reducing the impact of disasters on women and girls. Women and girls are put in greater risk due to inequities on a daily basis, not just during disasters. It is therefore imperative to take action across the gender disaster development nexus in order to create lasting change. In order to reduce disaster risk for women, it is imperative not only to reconceptualize disaster to construct it as a development concern, but also to understand that reducing gender inequalities is an important step toward reducing disaster risk. The risk of a natural hazard becoming a disaster for women continues to be higher without such a fundamental change in how disasters are understood. Their material losses from the event itself will be compounded by longer-term losses in health and well-being, including violence, insecurity, and time poverty, creating a "double disaster" (Bradshaw & Fordham, 2015, pp. 233-251) <sup>[3]</sup>. As women in disasters are becoming increasingly recognized as having a dual identity, rather than resulting in a double response, adolescent girls find themselves falling between the programming gaps rather than being provided with a double response. It is important to note that the disaster for them will not only be measured in terms of the short or long term, but also over the course of their lives.

Local women also alleged the government had tried to mislead us. We received satisfaction from SDM sir that NTPC work has been stopped. But through our sources we have learned that their work has been resumed in the night. That's why the Uttarakhand government should take the local citizens of Joshimath into confidence. Because if there is a communication gap between the government and local citizens, mistrust will arise. This will make it become more difficult for the government to work in Joshimath.

Many solutions exist, one of which is to involve women in disaster management. Are they equipped to move in time from a dangerous area to a safe one, for instance? As opposed to waiting for help to arrive, which may not always be the case at times, they need the necessary skills and funds to build resilience in times of disaster. As well, more research must be conducted into what women require, how disasters affect them, and how they can be rehabilitated

quickly. This approach emphasizes the importance of access to shelter.

Providing women with the skills necessary to minimize trauma and risk during disasters requires serious consideration. Therefore, women should be at the forefront of disaster planning, relief operations, and risk assessments. However, their voices have not yet been heard at the high table. As climate events and man-made disasters are on the rise, this must change.

### Conclusion

Studies on impact of Joshimath sinking on local women's have concluded that women are often disproportionately affected by disasters and may face unique challenges in the aftermath of a disaster. Research has shown that women may be more vulnerable to physical and psychological harm during disasters due to pre-existing social and gender inequalities. Women may also face additional burdens which can have an impact on their physical and mental health, as well as their economic and social well-being.

After talking to the general public, it came to know that the government has provided financial assistance of 15 lakhs to the public. But the public here is not completely satisfied with this amount. They believe that this amount is not enough for them as their employment is directly linked to Joshimath city.

Women who were working in the tourism industry, which is a major source of livelihood in the Joshimath region, were also impacted as the disaster disrupted the industry and led to loss of income. In addition, women who were engaged in subsistence farming and livestock rearing also suffered losses.

Joshimath Sinking had a big psychological impact on women, many of whom were traumatized by the loss of their homes. They were also faced with the added burden of caring for children and elderly family members, in the absence of adequate support and resources. In addition, Joshimath Sinking can also disrupt the social support networks that women rely on, making them feel isolated and alone in their struggle to recover. Women who are already marginalized, such as those living in poverty or in rural areas, may be at greater risk of experiencing long-term negative impacts from a disaster.

Efforts to support the mental health and well-being of women in the aftermath of disasters are crucial. This can include providing access to mental health services and support groups, as well as strengthening social support networks and promoting community resilience. Addressing underlying social and gender inequalities can also help to mitigate the disproportionate impact of disasters on women and promote more equitable and inclusive recovery efforts. Efforts are underway to provide relief and rehabilitation to the affected communities, including women. However, the recovery process is expected to be long and arduous, and will require sustained support from government and non-governmental organizations to help women rebuild their lives and communities. It is crucial for the government and stakeholders to take measures to mitigate the impact of natural disasters on the region and to provide support to affected communities. This can include early warning systems, disaster preparedness planning, and sustainable development practices that take into account the unique ecological and geological conditions of the region.

Overall, the conclusion of studies on Joshimath sinking on local women's is that women must be prioritized in disaster

response and recovery efforts to ensure that their unique needs and vulnerabilities are addressed. It is important to take into account the needs and actions of people as well as their self-help strategies and actions while designing reconstruction programs from a gender perspective.

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