

PP-21**A Tragic Story of An Old Fisherman: Livelihood Risk of Life and Death**

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This study presents the poignant life story of Baliya Tharu, a 76-year-old fisherman from the Bheri River region of Nepal, illustrating the socio-economic struggles, risks, and vulnerabilities inherent in the livelihoods of traditional fishing communities.

Using a narrative approach, the research explores Baliya's deep connection with his environment and the traditional fishing practices he passed on to his family. Despite their resilience and skill, Baliya and his family were unprepared for the tragic flash flood caused by an unexpected cloudburst, which claimed the lives of his wife and three sons. The story of Baliya highlights the challenges faced by small-scale fishers in Nepal, including environmental uncertainties, the lack of early warning systems, and inadequate governmental support for disaster-affected communities.

This case emphasizes the urgent need for policies that address the socio-economic and environmental vulnerabilities of marginalized fishing communities, offering insights into the intersection of livelihood sustainability, disaster risk, and resilience building. The research calls for a re-evaluation of disaster preparedness and livelihood security measures to protect these vulnerable groups in the face of increasing climate-induced hazards.

Message: It is our collective responsibility to ensure that communities like Baliya Tharu's are no longer left behind, vulnerable to the forces of nature and the inadequacies of policy. Together, we must advocate for resilient and sustainable solutions to safeguard their futures. They are waiting for Blue Justice...

