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Disasters don't strike equally. Migrant communities bear disproportionate risks, highlighting a critical concern for risk reduction in diverse urban settings. Despite a vigorous expansion of literature, disaster risk communication research remains heavily rooted in Western perspectives (Agyepong & Liang, 2023). This creates a critical need for culturally informed research, particularly in super-diverse, migrant-rich cities like Auckland. Despite their small numbers, Auckland's Myanmar migrant community represents a significant and under-examined group, with limited visibility (Stats NZ, 2023). This qualitative study, based on semi-structured interviews, explores their flood/storm risk perceptions, information-seeking behaviours, and preparedness actions. Thematic analysis identified three main dimensions of Myanmar migrant disaster response: risk cognition (shaped by transnational experiences), cultural mediation (both facilitative and restrictive), and preparedness determinants. Results demonstrate the need for: (a) experience-based education (b) culturally nuanced programming, and (c) strategies to include migrant sub-minorities. Breaking new ground, this work gives voice to migrant minorities' untold risk communication experiences in a multicultural context, making a valuable contribution to social science research.

In this presentation, I will just highlight four crucial themes: diversity of risk perception based on experience, migrants' indigenous knowledge, the role of social capital in risk communication, and unintentional exclusion of sub-minority migrant groups.

Keywords

Risk communication, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Myanmar migrants, hazards, floods, storms

References

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