

Institutions Dealing with Landslides

Role of Public Agencies

In the hill areas of Pakistan, only union councils or cooperative societies exist. They can contribute to reducing the impact of landslides through public awareness and participation in programmes, if any, giving training about landslides and how to monitor them. These agencies should remain in contact with organisations concerned with research, training, and management of landslides.

Role of Research Institutions

Concerned research institutions are mainly in the universities or organisations such as the Road Research and Building Research and the National Highway Authority in Pakistan. Although these institutions carry out research on various aspects, very few institutions are really contributing research about landslides. Whatever research is carried out should be disseminated to other government departments and private agencies working on roads, townships, small dams, soil/conservation, and so on. There is a lack of coordination between researchers and decision-making personnel in different government and non-government organisations.

Role of Provincial and Local Governments

In developing countries like Pakistan, local and provincial governments have limited development plans due to lack of funds.

In the case of landslides, particularly ones which disrupt communication systems, emergency measures are taken to reconstruct and restore these routes. Wherever private land or houses are involved, little attention is given by provincial or local governments.

Role of NGOs and Scientific Societies

Developing countries in the Third World suffer from resource constraints. Governments alone cannot possibly promote sustainable development models. Therefore, NGOs have gained immense importance in these countries. Since NGOs are closer to the communities and, therefore, their representatives, they are more effective in providing basic facilities to the common man. They are also considered to be more flexible in terms of modifying their approaches and strategies according to local conditions and requirements. Unfortunately, in Pakistan, the role of NGOs has not been so effective, in spite of their increasing numbers. Initially, in most cases these (NGOs) enter into this field for the sake of earning a name or to cater to certain vested interests.

Scientific societies (e.g., Geological Societies) on the other hand, contribute by organising seminars and lectures on different aspects of geological, geotechnical, and environmental problems, including landslide hazards from time to time.