

The background image is a photograph of a steep, rocky mountain slope. A concrete retaining wall is visible, and a bamboo structure is in the foreground. The text is overlaid on this image.

NATURAL HAZARDS AND IM/MOBILITY

PHOTOVOICE IN BHOTE KOSHI VALLEY – NEPAL

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Supplementary Material for article: 'Monsoon mobilities':

moving beyond the binary of migration and 'trapped populations' in a vulnerable mountain community in Nepal

These photographs were created by research participants and are shared here with their consent. They are the property of the research project and must not be copied, shared, or distributed.

Thank you.

What will you photograph?

Answer these two questions with your pictures:

1. What does **risk** mean to you?
2. Why would you **leave** or why would you **stay**? What helps or hinders you from **moving** somewhere else?

Pick up to **3 pictures per question** to share (**6 total**). There are no right or wrong answers — choose photos that mean something to you.

नेपालीमा प्रश्नहरू:

1. तपाईंको लागि जोखिमको अर्थ के हो?
2. तपाईं योस्थान किनछोडेर जानचाहनुहुन्छ वा किन यही स्थानमा बस्न चाहनुहुन्छ? तपाईंलाई अर्को स्थानमा बसाई सर्न के कुराले सहयोग पुर्याउँछ वा के कुराले अवरोध पुर्याउँछ?

प्रत्येक प्रश्नका लागि ३ वटा तस्वीरहरू छान्नुहोस् (कुल ६ वटा)। यहाँ कुनै सही वा गलत उत्तर छैन—तपाईंलाई अर्थ राख्ने तस्वीरहरू छनोट गर्नुहोस्।

We were working at the health post.
The flood shook the entire area, like an
earthquake. It felt like we wouldn't
survive, looking at the river, how it was
hitting here. Downward of the hotel, it
looked like this. I was afraid, and then
we ran.

- woman, 26 years old

Hazard experience, staying during monsoon





The flood swept away the bridge. If this bridge isn't there, you can't go to Kathmandu. For about a week, the road was closed. At that time, there was fear. Fear and tension.

- woman, 30 years old

Hazard experience, impact on infrastructure and mobility

This is the border area. And this water destroyed all of this. When I was there, I felt grief and sorrow, but I also felt happy, because I saw the very beauty of nature from here. Nature destroys, but it also gives us a type of adventure. Nature gives us something new, it teaches us something. This time was an adventure to me.

- man, 46 years old

Hazard impact on infrastructure, masculine response to risk



[During last monsoon] the Bhote Koshi river, it went mad and grew large. Because of these floods many houses sunk. Also my house got damaged, and the steps to the entrance sunk. This caused sadness in my heart.

- man, 46 years old

Hazard experience, personally affected





The house was built through hardship:
whatever was earned, went into the house.
Now that it is sinking, in my heart, I do want to
live elsewhere. But all my investment have
gone into the house, so they have sunk too.
And elsewhere... there is no way for me to go
elsewhere, right?

- man, 46 years old

Personally affected, low capabilities to move

Not only the house, the garden and fields sank too. Earlier, there was a lemon tree. It took three years to grow it, three years until it bears fruit. But the whole garden got swept away during last monsoon. Now it's all covered with debris.

- man, 46 years old

Personally affected





Now, for what reason should I stay?
Compulsion due to situation is why we
stay here. Where else would we go?

- woman, 24 years old

Aspiring to move, but low capabilities to do so

Now, how can I go to Kathmandu?
Either I have to rent a room, or I must
stay in someone else's house for 3, 4
months. And the main thing is: my
husband's work is here.

- woman, 30 years old

Low capabilities to move, intersectional differences





This is the most important picture.
Because look, as you can see, the road
is what we need.

- woman, 24 years old

Importance of infrastructure for mobility
and rural livelihoods



Without the road, the comings and goings around the border have stopped. The people that work there have a hard time to eat and clothe. For poor people like us, when the road closes, it is sad.

- man, 39 years old

Importance of infrastructure for mobility
and rural livelihoods

We have lived here since we were small. Our land and our old house are here— we don't have anything in Kathmandu. I do want to go, but I am unable to leave this place.

- man, 39 years old

Place attachment,
low capabilities to move



If there is no road, there is no business.
No one going to the border, no one
coming here. This is very difficult for the
community. I want to continue this
business, but only if the border is really
open and in good condition.

- woman, 43 years old

Importance of infrastructure for mobility
and rural livelihoods





Why all these disasters? We say it is because of sin.

- woman, 43 years old

Religious coping with risk

When that flood came, when my life was in peril, I felt like "let's go away from here". During those times, those thoughts come. But now, when the floods have stopped, looking at the beautiful nature, the pristine environment, I feel like staying here.

- woman, 26 years old

Temporality in place attachment
and mobility aspirations





Like our forefathers said, this forest all around us, it provides oxygen, it's good for us. And because of the mountain air, you don't need to take medicine. In the morning, this mountain air is pristine. Kathmandu is a place with many people and much pollution. Here, because of these forests and hills, it is relaxing. It's a good place. But due to the grief of floods, it has come to a point where we have to flee.

- man, 46 years old

Place attachment, negative perception of city life,
aspirations to move

I don't want to stay in a quiet place like this. But it is our home, and all our income, everything is invested here. My husband does not want to leave, his father neither. I have to stay here because of my obligations.

- woman, 43 years old

Aspirations to move, low agency,
intersectional differences



The government? They should have organised everything. Where there was a collapse, they should have built a wall. They should have made a concrete bridge like the old one. The roads must be paved with asphalt. The river should have been managed.

- woman, 25 years old

Importance of infrastructure,
negative perceptions of government work





I don't think anything good will happen in the future. What's here? It's been already so long since winter has started. But until now neither the bridges downhill have been rebuilt, nor the roads have been repaired. There's nothing.

- woman, 26 years old

Importance of infrastructure,
negative perceptions of government work



If in the future the government does not build protection infrastructure and improve the road, it's not worth living here.

- man, 39 years old

Importance of infrastructure,
negative future outlook



(Tell her) that I feel my life will not be spent here. The children are small now, that's why we stay.

The place where you will go to, what would be different there?

In that place, there will not be a risk of floods and landslides. There won't be floods and landslides.

- woman, 30 years old

Aspirations to move related to hazard risk

This is the landslide we see from where we work and live. During the monsoon, it grows bigger. Of course, I get very scared. Everyone gets scared.

- man, 47 years old

Daily confrontation with hazard risk

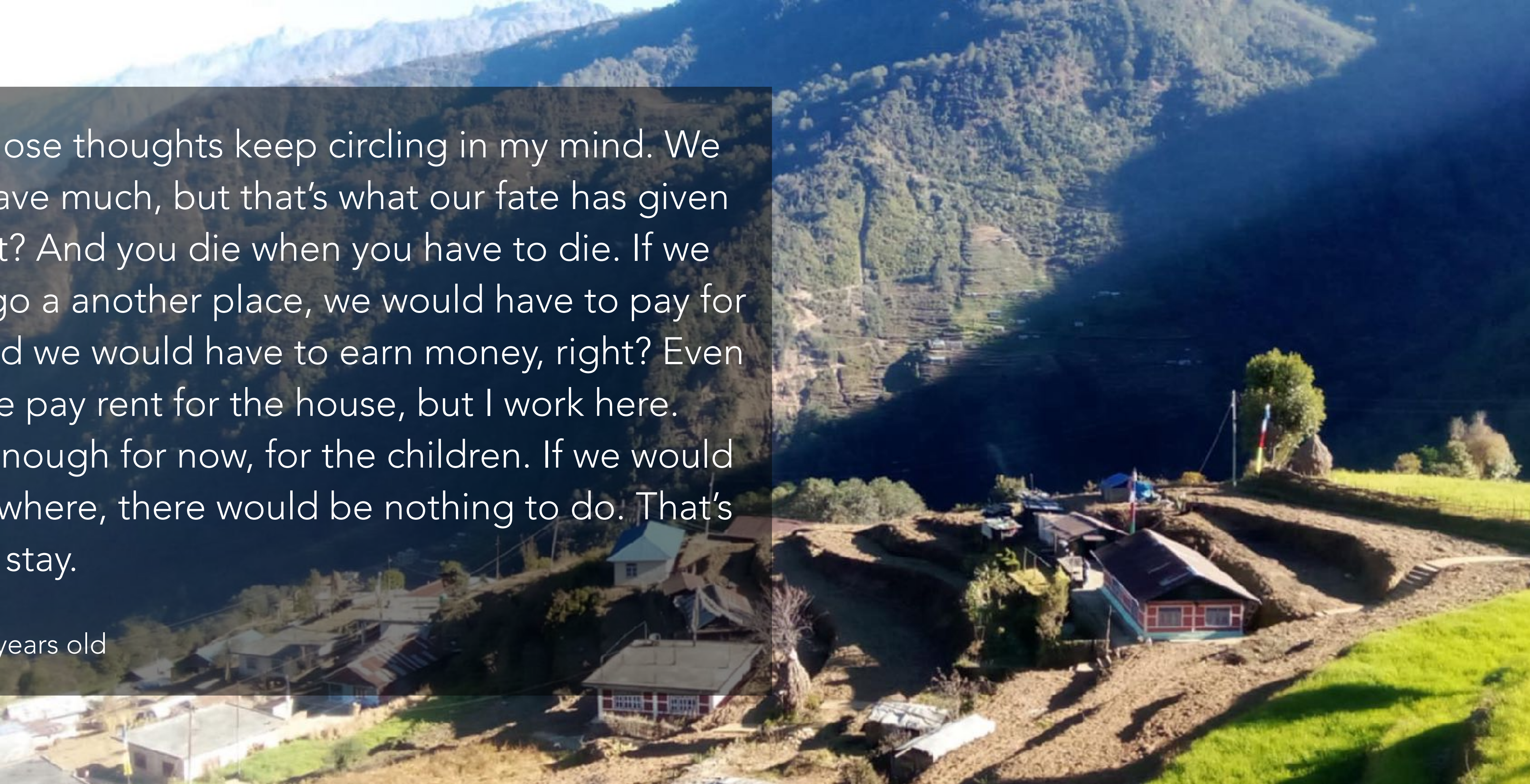




My mother-in-law's house is close to this landslide. Every time, when the monsoon comes, I go and watch it. I tell them: you don't have to stay here. But they say: "If we don't stay here, where can we go?"

- man, 47 years old

High risk awareness, low capabilities to move



Now, those thoughts keep circling in my mind. We don't have much, but that's what our fate has given us, right? And you die when you have to die. If we would go a another place, we would have to pay for rent, and we would have to earn money, right? Even here, we pay rent for the house, but I work here. That's enough for now, for the children. If we would go elsewhere, there would be nothing to do. That's why we stay.

- man, 47 years old

Belief in fate, low capabilities to move