

Religious Fractionalization and Crimes in Disaster-Affected Communities*

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Abstract

This study uncovers the role of religious fractionalization in crimes after the occurrence of a natural disaster. By using a unique survey data collected in Bangladesh, I show that following a natural disaster, individuals in fractionalized communities are more likely to be victims of crime than those in non-fractionalized communities. Moreover, the results are consistent with the hypothesis that this is caused by the misallocation of disaster relief programs in the fractionalized communities. However, the hypotheses of high economic inequality and inefficient risk sharing are rejected.

JEL Classification: O12; Z12; K42

Keywords: crime, religious fractionalization, natural disaster, Bangladesh, South Asia

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