



RUET GIS Club organized their first session at 10.00 PM 14 June, 2024 on “Disaster Resilience in Urban vs Rural Environments”. As our keynote speaker, we had Ahmad Mojtoba Riyadh, Graduate teaching instructor & PhD Candidate, Department of Geography, University of Utah, USA. The webinar is hosted by Asst. General Secretary, Towfiquir Rashid & Asst. Event Planning & Management Secretary, Rahat Raiyan Robin. Some of the important keynotes are pointed out below.

Strategies & Challenges of Disaster Resilience in Urban & Rural Settings

Main Disasters in Urban & Rural Areas

- The prime disasters in urban & rural areas are Cyclone, Flood & Drought. But the response from the urban & rural areas differs from each other as their structures are not the same.
- Disasters could be same in both areas but due to their infrastructure vulnerability, impacts are different.

After 90s cyclone, tropical cyclone Remal is the most disastrous

- During 90s, people are only prepared mentally. But now in the present time, people have early warning system. By using this, they can evacuate to a safe zone. Ultimately, it reduces the casualties by a huge margin.
- In coastal zones, there are CPP (Cyclone Preparedness Program). This organization is the collaboration between Bangladesh Government and Red Cross society. They train volunteers and provide relief to the affected people.

Plan for earthquakes in Dhaka city

- It is really difficult to implement earthquake resilience plan in Dhaka city right now, as it is already built up. The only thing we can do is, at least maintain the building code for new building constructions. Also, if we are prepared for quick response, the casualties might be reduced.

Implementation of Ward Level Disaster Management Committee

- It is really necessary to implement ward level disaster management, especially in rural areas.
- It can help people to inform about the future disaster and aware them about the impacts and vulnerability.

Disaster Resilience in USA

- In USA, some particular states like Florida, Luisiana, Texas etc. are in hurricane zone but not every states.
- Last severe hurricane (Katrina) in Luisana is very renowned. Although it was not that powerful. Only problem is that, there were lacking social resilience.

GIS in Climatic Analysis in Undergraduate Level

- For undergraduate level, important topics are Basic Remote Sensing, Vegetation Index etc. In the start, it is not recommended to directly go for machine learning or artificial intelligence. First start from the basics and then they can easily switch to AI or Machine Learning as per his requirements.

Journey From BUET to USA

According to the speaker, Ahmad Mojtoba Riyadh, he had planned for higher studies in abroad before coming to BUET. After completing his graduation, he successfully published his thesis and then he took IELTS, GRE exams.

CGPA & Research Suggestions

- For applying to higher studies, CGPA is an important factor but not the only factor. If someone has low CGPA, he can cover that with his research. So, almost everyone has the potential for applying to higher studies.

Where to go?

- At first, its really important to settle on which sector to specialize. Then for that particular sector or subject, find universities/ departments that offers those programs.

Conference Paper vs Journal Paper

- Obviously having one or two journal paper publications is a plus point for applying abroad but it's better to have a conference paper than nothing.
- Even if you didn't able to publish your paper but you have the documents ready, you can use that to convince professors that you have the skills and knowledge.

SOP

- SOP is not the description of your CV. You need to focus on "Why they choose you?" in your SOP.
- You also need to highlight your skills and interest in your SOP. Your research & publications will help to verify these skills.

Q&A

1. What are my scopes for urban planning apart from GIS in post-graduation?

Ans: Without GIS, you can sustain as an urban planner in USA but it is expected that you have the basic knowledge of GIS like, what is spatial data, how the analysis works etc.

2. How to approach professors for post-graduation?

Ans: Most of the time you won't get any reply from professors. Like if you send 100 emails, you may get response from 5-10 of them. But you have to have patience and follow some strategies. For example, send emails in their morning time and start of the weeks. Also give them some time to reply. After a week, you may give them a gentle reminder. Also don't make your emails too long. Keep it short and concise on what you actually want.