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Understanding Social Vulnerability

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1 Understanding Social Vulnerability

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CONTENTS

1.1	Chapter Purpose	1
1.2	Objectives	1
1.3	Introduction	2
1.4	Defining Social Vulnerability.....	4
1.5	The Dominant Paradigm	5
1.5.1	How Does the Dominant Paradigm Understand Nature, Chance, and Time?	5
1.5.2	How Does the Dominant Paradigm Understand Science and Technology?.....	6
1.5.3	How Does the Dominant Paradigm Understand People?	7
1.5.4	How Does the Dominant Paradigm Understand Society?.....	8
1.5.5	Shortcomings of the Dominant Paradigm	8
1.6	The Social Vulnerability Paradigm	10
1.6.1	Emergence of a Social Vulnerability Paradigm	13
1.6.3	The Framework of the Social Vulnerability Paradigm	17
1.7	A Resilience Perspective	20
1.8	Overview of Coming Chapters	22
1.8.1	Section One: Understanding Social Vulnerability.....	22
1.8.2	Section Two: Socially Vulnerable Groups	22
1.8.3	Section Three: Building Capacity and Community Resilience.....	24
1.9	Summary	25
	Discussion Questions	25
	Acknowledgments.....	25
	References.....	26
	Resources	29

1.1 CHAPTER PURPOSE

This opening chapter provides an overview of why understanding social vulnerability matters for the practice and research of disaster management. The chapter content contrasts the historically dominant hazards paradigm with that of the social vulnerability paradigm and concludes with an overview of upcoming sections and chapters.

1.2 OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this chapter, readers should be able to:

1. Understand basic terms relevant to social vulnerability
2. Understand the dominant hazards paradigm