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Landslide environment in Pakistan after the earthquake of 2005

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The earthquake 2005 in Pakistan engraved one of the worst natural hazards in the history of mankind. The main earthquake and after tremors gave rise to many landslides immediately after the event and continue to threaten the home-safety of public even today. Many landscapes in the earthquake affected region and even in neighbouring areas which were apparently non-affected by the event in 2005, show signs of future landslides. The mass destruction caused by nature in several parts of Azad Jammu Kashmir is revisited with available information. Several visits were paid to the most affected areas of the region, especially Muzaffarabad, to collect data on debris flow patterns, loss of vegetation, instability of the surface structure and buildings, impacts on social structure etc. Influences of pre-slide activities, both natural and manmade, on the pattern of landslides and triggering factors were investigated. The major landslide catastrophe that took place in Attabad in January 2010 is discussed as a case study. The patterns of impact and outcomes of these extreme events observed in Pakistan have been compared with others pertinent to this one. Attempts were made to correlate observations elsewhere with data collected pertinent to 2005 earthquake in Pakistan. The ultimatum is to propose guidelines to prevent or at least minimize such disasters in the future and/or minimize property damage and loss of life in such an event.

Keywords: earthquake 2005, debris flow, fault line, landslide, Pakistan,

