

Role of citizens for strengthening SDI in developing nation

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Abstract

Spatial data infrastructure (SDI) is an evolutionary concept related to the facilitation and coordination of the exchange and sharing of spatial data and services. Since conception phase citizens/users have been considered as one of the integral components in SDI. The enhancement in internet technology, rise of web 2.0, cheap GPS enabled smart phones have empowered citizens to collect and share geospatial data. This user generated geospatial content has been termed as Volunteer Geographic Information (VGI).

The role of citizens now has dramatically changed from conventional consumer of data to producer of data. However many SDIs have not addressed on the changing role of users and still focused on conventional methods. This paper conducts review and assess different VGI based projects active at Nepal. Also this study analyzes scope and gaps of VGI as a resource for SDI in Nepalese context. Finally, recommendations for government and non-government agencies to excel citizen volunteered spatial information for building SDI are explored.