



## **Mobile Application for Safer Houses**

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Your mobile phones will now be useful for building safer houses. The National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) has introduced Surakshit Ghar app in order to build earthquake resistant safer houses. The app provided technical information and awareness on reconstruction as well as new construction.

The app is available for free throughout the country. The app will be quite useful for those affected by the earthquake. The houses damaged by the April 15 earthquake are on now the phase of reconstruction. NRA has started disseminating as much information as possible on earthquake reconstruction after the process of reconstruction couldn't take a desired leap. NRA has now introduced a mobile app along with the information on earthquake reconstruction aired through radio, newspaper and other media.

One can access information on earthquake resistant house reconstruction, NRA messages, important audio and videos as well as NRA policy guidelines by downloading the app in their mobile phones. Likewise, the app also contains information on government approved house designs.

The app has been developed by an international non-government organization called Build Change for NRA. Uttam Pudasaini, Geomatics Engineer of Build Change informed that the app also contains information on house designs, skilled mason list and contact information of the technical staff from various departments.

The app can be used even without internet after downloading from any smart (android) phone. The users can also send their queries through app messenger or toll free hotline 16600119876. Their queries will be answered by a technical team of structural engineers, civil engineers and architects.

It is important that the notices and guidelines issued by the NRA regarding safer reconstruction reach its target groups. NRA believes that the app will help lessen the confusion created during the process to certain extent. In fact, the app has been launched after the earthquake affected people were found to be unaware about the earthquake resistant house designs and construction practices. According to NRA, the app will serve as a two way communication tool between the affected people and NRA. Prof. Dr. Govinda Raj Pokharel, CEO, NRA said, "Not every earthquake affected people have access to smart mobile phones and internet. So the app may not be suitable for all, but the NRA has been trying to disseminate information through various other media such as radio, television, newspapers, posters and pamphlets so that everyone can have easy access to information on earthquake reconstruction."