



# Economic Loss Caused by the Gen Z Movement in Itahari Sub-Metropolitan City: A Case Study of a Ward

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**Abstract--** In Ward No. 6 of Itahari Sub Metropolitan City, the present research aims to investigate how much economic loss is generated by the movement of Gen Z. Demonstrations on 23 and 24 September 2025 led to acts of vandalism, setting public buildings on fire, looting State property and closing down administration. I employed a qualitative descriptive research design and data were gathered through interviews, observation, focus group discussions, and review of official municipal documents. The report indicates that infrastructure, technical equipment, official documents and service delivery systems have been largely destroyed. Direct and indirect costs, such as repair works, replanting new plants, inconvenience to services and higher security costs, were all reported. The research concludes by noting that although youth movements may be able to challenge governance, the damage of public property creates serious financial and institutional costs. Recommendations include measures to improve security including the introduction of digital backup systems, insurance of public assets as well as constructive engagement between youths and local authorities

**Keywords--** Gen Z movement, Economic loss, Public Property Damage, Local Governance, Political Movements

## I. INTRODUCTION

Youth-led movements have sprung up around the world in recent years, often clamoring for transparency, accountability and good governance. In Nepal, the Gen Z movement in September 2025 was a major youth led activism. Protests in several parts of the country turned violent (The Annapurna Express 2025). Likewise, 'Vandalism and road blockades have paralyzed normal life in eastern Nepal,' according to Makalu Khabar (2025).

The town of Itahari, one of the cities in Koshi Province with extensive commercial activity. In Ward 6, the protesters reportedly committed arson and looting of government property. Public offices not just act as service providers but are also the physical space for citizens; destruction of public offices thus simply means radical attack on welfare related matters in communities. The objective of this study is to evaluate the economic loss due to land movement in Ward No. 6 and its implications on municipal area

### 1.1. Statement of problem

This is a problem because the destruction caused by violent protests not only damages public infrastructure and steals vital resources, but also has long-term negative effects on the economy and governance. The financial burden of repairs and replacements often falls on taxpayers, diverting funds that could have been used for community development and public services. Moreover, the disruption of technological systems like computers, CCTV, and biometric machines hampers administrative functions, affecting the delivery of essential services. The loss of public trust and confidence in the government's ability to maintain order further undermines institutional stability, delaying progress and eroding the effectiveness of governance. This cycle of damage, both physical and economic, creates a barrier to achieving sustainable development and social harmony

### 1.2. Objectives of the study

- 1) Assess the extent of physical, technological, and economic damage caused by violent protests.
- 2) Evaluate the indirect economic consequences, including financial burdens, repair costs, and delays in development.
- 3) Propose strategies to mitigate future risks, including digital backups, enhanced security, insurance, dialogue, and emergency preparedness

### 1.3. Rational of the study

The reason behind conducting this research is that there is an urgent need to know how violent demonstrations can have a multifaceted effect on the social setup, economy, and government. Being more than just disruptive to the day-to-day business, these protests cause both long-term financial and institutional problems. This paper aims to bring out the magnitude of such damages- both in the physical destruction and in terms of technological losses- and the huge burden imposed on the budget by people. Evaluating these effects, the research will contribute to a significant amount of information about the necessity of actions that are proactive in nature, including improved security, backup systems and insurances of the assets belonging to the population.



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Moreover, the research recommends the positive interaction of the youth groups and the local governments, providing the remedies to lower the rate of such occurrences and neutralize their impact. The results will eventually be used in the formulation of future policies, minimizing the chances of disruption in the future, and have more efficient and resilient governance.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Political reforms in the governance structures have been inspired by youth initiated political movements. But when protests become violent, they quite regularly do enormous economic harm. "In Nepal, the Gen Z protest was mainly mobilized due to anger over corruption, lack of governance and social media blockage," states Wikipedia (2025). The demonstrations included attacks on government buildings and clashes with security forces, the protests were said to have entailed.

Ratopati (2025) described Gen Z as politically apathetic, but now keen to hold government accountable. At the same time, dead were reported and property damages incurred on account of battles between protesters and security forces (The Annapurna Express 2025).

Academics assert that when public property is destroyed in protest not only does it cause direct economic impacts, but indirect ones as well. Direct costs include repairs or replacement, indirect costs are related to service interruption and administrative delays, as well as negative attendant consequences arising from damage to public confidence (UNDP, 2015). Hence, economic damage should be systematically assessed for the policy reforms and prevention strategies.

## III. METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Research Design

This research uses a qualitative descriptive and exploratory design. The descriptive dimension enabled recording and documentation of the damaged pattern's nature and extent, but the exploration dimension facilitated development of a thicker description of financial and managerial meanings.

### 3.2 Study Area

The study was confined to Ward No 6, Itahari of Sunsari District. The ward is inhabited by various ethnic groups and is an administrative structure for civil registration and the delivery of social security, as well as local government services.

### 3.3 Data Collection Methods

Materials and Methods Data collection Primary and secondary data sources were included:

*Data collection Primary Sources:* Interviews with Wad chair, employees and security guard Observation of affected places Focus group discussion

*Secondary Sources:* Municipal records, official reports and media coverage including Makalu Khabar and The Annapurna Express.

### 3.4 Sampling

A non-random sampling method was followed to include informants who were directly appraised damages and the associated management efforts. These were warders, administrative and security staff

## IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1. Results

*4.1.1. Physical Infrastructure Damage* The damage of physical infrastructure. The research demonstrated that there was a great loss of the physical infrastructure with a number of losses being evident. Three air conditioners were entirely ruined making them unusable. The numerous cupboards and racks that were used as storage were either shattered or badly damaged. Various window panes were broken and this interfered with the security and operations of the premises. Moreover, one of the government motorcycles was burnt down deliberately, and hence it was completely destroyed. Concerning furniture, some were stolen or they were destroyed beyond restoration which included revolving chairs, tables, sofas and plastic chairs. These losses did not only affect the daily running of the operations but also led to the general worsening of the state of the property.

*4.1.2.* This research exhibited significant destruction of technological and communication gadgets that comprised of six computer sets, one laptop, and six printers. CCTV machines and cameras were stolen or destroyed and biometric machines that were vital in security and identity checks were destroyed. These digital systems were destroyed, which greatly affected the administrative functions by disorienting the office operations to a great extent. Such crucial equipment was destroyed and ruined resulting in huge delays in the provision of various services to the citizens, which presented a burden on the workers and hindered their work performance.



4.1.3. Another important point in the study was the fact that important official documents lost their value, and it had severe consequences regarding data security and credibility of the government. Critical documents such as contracts, social security applications, registration documents and official stamps were stolen or burnt. This loss undermined administrative records integrity and was a great threat to the security of data. Loss or destruction of these documents as well raised some concerns regarding the possibility of misuse of sensitive information which undermined the trust that citizens had on the system. Moreover, restoration and re-establishment of such records would take a considerable amount of time and resources to achieve and this would add to the already huge burnt presented by the ward.

4.1.4. Indirect economic losses as a result of the damage also were identified in the study and their effects were far-reaching to the finances of the ward. Such losses were in terms of the temporary suspension of services, which impacted the provision of critical services to the population and was inconvenient to the local population. The cost of emergency repairs was also experienced to repair the spoiled infrastructure and equipment, which imposed additional finances unexpectedly. There were also higher security expenses to avert additional attacks and administrative losses in the delay of key technological equipment and personnel disturbances. Though determining the actual monetary cost of such losses was highly challenging; officials said that such financial losses incurred were a heavy burden on the annual development budget of the ward which diverted the resources that could have been used in the planned projects and development activities.

#### 4.2. Discussion

However, as Gen Z movement aimed to encourage accountability and governance change, the results indicate that violent types of protests caused significant economic and institutional harm. The public property during these protests resulted in a huge financial liability to the tax payers since it would have to be diverted to other important services and developmental projects. Also, this demolition led to stalls in currently underway development efforts, suppression of development in areas which were critical to the welfare of the community.

The results are in line with the global studies, including the UNDP (2015) report that indicates that violent protests are likely to increase the amount of money spent by the society, as governments need to use money to repair and expand security forces.

In addition, these activities tend to destabilize the institutions, making people lose faith in the administrative system and making it more difficult to execute the required changes.

#### V. CONCLUSION

The paper comes to the conclusion that the Gen Z movement in Ward No. 6 of Itahari had a significant economic loss, both direct and indirect. Damage of infrastructure, technological interference, and official documents lost had a great impact on the delivery of services to the people. Though youth activism is a significant issue in the democratic societies, they cannot destroy the property of the people since it is harmful to the community.

#### VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to solve the problems with the latest incidents and avoid the destruction in the future, it is possible to use the following strategies:

6.1. *Digital Backup Systems:* Adopting the use of cloud-based data storage would ensure that the official records and sensitive documents are not stolen or destroyed. This will guarantee that important data is kept safe and is easily taken back online in case of an emergency.

6.2. *Greater security:* The use of better CCTV systems, alarm systems and the presence of greater security force would help to control and safeguard the properties of the people. This would serve as a preventive measure to vandalism and theft and would be quick to respond in the event of security breach.

6.3. *Public Asset Insurance:* Both movable and non-movable public property such as infrastructure and equipment should be insured by the municipalities. This would offer financial security and alleviate the financial pressure of taxpayers in case of harm or destruction.

6.4. *Positive communication:* It is important to promote frequent engagements between young populations and the representatives of the local government to resolve complaints without violence. Debating platforms can be used to minimize the chances of violent demonstrations and achieve mutual understanding and collaboration.

6.5. *Emergency Preparedness Policy:* It should be established that clear guidelines are developed to guarantee quick and efficient reaction to incidents in future as a result of damage evaluation and compensation mechanisms. This would contribute to reducing the inconvenience of having to interrupt the normal services in the area, and will also contribute to faster recovery of any damage done.



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All these measures will help municipalities to keep a better guard over their possessions, promote peaceful interactions and improve their ability to react effectively to future adversities.

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