

Rhetorical Analysis of an article discussing ways to prevent urban flooding

I chose this research paper because I wanted to discover things in the field of civil engineering. Also, I did not have any prior knowledge about the topic of the research paper. In this rhetorical analysis I will be discussing how the authors organized the research paper, who the intended audience are, what's their purpose for writing this paper and the tactics used to convey the reader.

I think the intended audience has to have some background knowledge and know some key words. The text does not provide sufficient explanations about the charts and concepts they used. So the audience cannot be any average person, then maybe it's for experts, people who are staying in this field and government officials. Since it's about Mumbai, India and the authors are Indian, the audience is probably Indians. The authors of the text are A.T. Kulkarni, J. Monhanty, both are from Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. Also, T.I. Eldho who is a professor and Civil Engineering, IIT Bombay and author of few other published researches, E.P. Rao, a PhD student and B.K. Mohan. It is pretty clear from the text that urban flooding is a huge issue across the world so to tackle this issue they are developing tools and in this research they are explaining the usage of it. The text is discussing a webGIS, which can be used to send early alerts about floods and an average person is capable of running this simulation. This article was published in 2014. The text is influenced by the urban flooding in Mumbai, India. The paper does follow the IMRaD format but also has many sub-headings to make some concepts more clear so that the audience can find what they want easily. For instance, the paper titled the subsections as Web GIS server, Integration of IFAM tool within web gram server software, study area etc. The authors are creating a research space by filling gaps of knowledge, as the research

paper is explaining a Web GIS model which is much less complex. For example, the second paragraph of the introduction states that “As a result, stakeholders cannot fully benefit from advancements in geospatial technologies and high resolution data unless they are provided in a suitable form (Kulkarni, 2014).

The use of ethos and logos can be seen almost in all the sections of the research paper as it uses credible sources to support its ideas and provide examples of cases. The usage of sources can be found mostly in the introduction, such as (Guhathakurta et al), (Al-Sabhan et al., 2003) etc. Also it used pathos by making people feel pity about the floods around the world and some other data to convince the readers why the study was important.

From analyzing this paper, I learned the motive of the authors for conducting this research paper. The tactics and rhetorical devices that the authors used to convey the text and how they made it important to the readers . Also helped me to know the intended audience of the paper.

References:

Kulkarni, A. T., Mohanty, J., Eldho, T. I., Rao, E. P., & Mohan, B. K. (2014). A web GIS based integrated flood assessment modeling tool for coastal urban watersheds. *Computers & Geosciences*, 64, 7-14.