

Official Statement

Cyclone Persuaded Human Behaviors and Responses: With Special Reference to Cyclones in India

In the recorded history of cyclones in Orissa province of India, the Super Cyclone of 29-30 October, 1999 was undoubtedly the most intense one. It had some of unique features such as rapid intensification, small radius of eye-wall confining the large surge close to the point of landfall and relatively long life after landfall. Climatologically, there is a high frequency of dissipation of cyclones in October because of strong easterly winds aloft. Cyclone genesis usually terminates at the stage of marginal cyclones. Occasionally development of cyclones to hurricane force winds and higher occurs in September and October as it happened in 1831 and 1885 (Orissa Govt Reports 2000).

The official death toll was 9,893, but there were difficulties in making accurate estimates and local people insist the final death count was much higher. The cyclone has also significant impact on livelihoods of the coastal farming communities; it saturated more than 1 million hectares of crop-land under salty water and killed 406,000 livestock. The cyclone struck just three weeks before the harvest; almost all the plantations in this mostly agricultural community, paddy fields, sugar cane, and vegetable crops were destroyed. About 11 million people, nearly a third of the state's population of 35 million, were estimated by the UN agencies to be directly affected, having lost their shelter, crops, cattle and livelihoods. These also resulted in some impacts i.e. physical destruction, saline inundation, flood, psychological trauma.

The impact on human behavior depends upon the damage and damage capacity caused to the community. The damage to life was zero as because of everyone was prepared for and the way preparedness was undertaken for averting effects of Phailin 2013. This was reflected in the form of confidence to face any other disasters. Hence the villages required psychoanalysis to prevent the impacts being carried by next generation. There was fear among people when the sign of still air and temperature fluctuation was observed. Due to installations of DOPPLAR radars, the degree of accuracy of Indian Meteorological Department has increased. This accuracy in forecasting helped a lot in reducing the level of paranormal behavior of the victims. Proper preparedness, awareness among community people, accuracy in forecasting, technological

intervention etc are a few of the factors that reduce the degree and magnitude of the paranormal phase. The level of paranormal of the victims are determined by various stages of human behavior like shocking stage, suggestive stage and recovery stages and the behavior of victims of Phailin has been determined by normal and abnormal in nature which has been elaborately explained in the full length of paper.

To triangulate these statements, a comprehensive case study has been conducted in four coastal blocks in Paradip areas of Jagatsinghpur districts with help of Paradeep Phosphates Limited. The study is purely qualitative in nature. This empirical study has revealed the corporate intervention as on how it helps reducing the level of psychological trepidation of the victims. The full study has also suggested a model where CSR, preparedness and psychological aspects of victims have been taken together for a healthier solution.

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