

## Odisha Vikash Conclave towards Resilient Odisha

The devastating flood in Kerala in the month of August - 2018 swept away every possible livelihood assets and infrastructures of natural capital, physical capital, human capital and social capital. 1999 super cyclone, Tsunami 2004, Bhuj earthquake – 2001, Utarakhand flood 2013 and the recent devastating flood in Kerala 2018 are stark reminders of nature's destructive potential making millions of people to hunger, diseases and death.

Natural disasters can destroy the outcomes of years of work and investment by communities, governments and development organizations. That is why the conscious efforts and initiative of the disaster resilience is central and core issue to address in coming days and years on a holistic manner with the participation and contribution of all stakeholders. These efforts are to be achieved not just for most people, but for everyone. The recent flood in Kerala indicated that even the people in multi-storeyed building are not safe as far as nature's fury is concern. Therefore our motto would be 'leave no one behind' in pre, during and post disaster situation. The planning for resilience should be both robust and comprehensive. Early warning systems should reach everyone likely to be affected. Food, water or shelter should be swiftly available, even in the most remote areas.

The one day workshop "Towards Resilient Odisha on Disaster and Climate Change" organized on 25<sup>th</sup> of August with the support and contribution of both developmental and academic institutions was to cater the above need and objectives and develop a road map for building a resilient Odisha.

The program was mainly divided into three parts one Inaugural ceremony followed by inaugural address by the chief guest, guest of honours and dignitaries in the dice. Second was group discussion on three different themes such as **Risk informed development, financing for Resilience building and Sustainability of Action at community level** and third was plenary discussion on the three core issues.



A.Suchitra, Director, School of Disaster Management extended a grand welcome to the guests on the dice and all the participants gathered in the workshop and appealed the august gathering to whole heartedly take part and contribute towards a resilient Odisha. Mr. Akshya Biswal Chairman IAG invited the guests to inaugurate the workshop welcoming them to nurture the plant giving water for life.

The guests on the dice were

1. Akshya Biswal, Chairperson IAG Odisha and Regional Manager – Oxfam India
2. Dr. Komal Lochana Mishra, Deputy Director, Water Resource Department, Govt. of Odisha
3. Prof. Vinod Sharma, SSDMA
4. Prof. Vinod Menon founder member NDMA
5. Ms. Ila Pattnaik Prof. National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP)
6. Dr. A. K Gupta Joint Director Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
7. Dr. Gourav, HOD, RMNH

Prof. Vinod Sharma while addressing the august gathering emphatically said that Disaster Management is not the subject or issue to read from the books and address. If the developmental players want to know the disaster and its risk reduction measures he or she will have to go down to the communities and NGOs and learn about DRR intervention.

Disasters may not occur in all the states at a time, when one state has been hit by flood or cyclone, the other neighbouring states must take it as opportunities to learn from the devastation and get prepared for their own state.

- Prof. Sharma cited saying when Tamilnadu got hit with Tsunami what did Kerela learn for its own preparedness and risk reduction measures? Let us learn from one another strength and weakness.
- Let us not wait for the disaster to happen and then prepare for, no! we should be wise before the event that to become wise after the event.
- He reiterated saying Sikim has been real Environment Centric Development, it works day in and day out to make sustainable development.
- The state as of now has not been hit by any natural calamities and even if hits people of Sikim are well prepared to respond to future hazards.
- Climate Change is very much felt in every family, community and state at large, we are not called to study alone rather to start some action to mitigate.
- Japan is the best model for all, they have built resilient infrastructure, resilient environment and all community people and students are well equipped with all required skills and techniques of know how so as to respond to all possible hazards.
- Everywhere we see cemented floor, hardly any chance for the rain water to get absorbed in the surface which would increase in ground water.
- Time has come for all the stakeholders to intensively and extensively be sensitive to the environment we live in and respond to it with our activities and behaviours should be eco friendly.

Dr. Gutpa reiterated saying Climate Change is a continuous process which all have to be aware of and respond to it with our changed behaviours.

- When there is an extraordinary thick cloud in the sky, it is a sign and symptom incessant precipitation which may lead to havoc in any region.
- Metrological Department should be sensitive enough to inform to the people of that region to get ready and be prepared for any eventuality.
- Every year more than 2 lakhs of people die due to air pollution and this pollution is due to emission of carbon dioxide. This has been one of the biggest hazard/ disaster which need to be respond to it with all our diligent behaviour.
- Solar light has only 1 or 2 years of guarantee but there should be solar light which should last long for 5 to 10 years.

Ila Pattnaik in her deliberation said that Financing for resilience building is not a sector to think separately but it can be incorporate in every aspect of planning process.

- There should be contingency fund for meeting relief and response need of all eventuality.
- Fund should be allocated sufficiently for pre disaster activities so as to prepare and get equip for withstand.

Prof. Vinad Menon in his opening remark said that there was no adequate early warning system prior to Kerela flood.

- Grain bank, seed bank and emergency fund are inevitable to life sustenance immediately after disaster.
- Youth in Kerela played stupendous role in relief and rescue operation.
- Youth should be invited more in numbers for this kind of workshop so as to get motivated and work forward with acquired knowledge and information.

- Risk reduction measures is not the task of either govt or non govt organizations, it is the collective efforts of all stakeholders to address
- In many case there is a man made origin for natural disasters Global warming is one of such example. Thus every human being needs to change in his or her monotonous behaviour so as to combat and control the present hazardous situation.

Mr. N. M Prusty warned the gathering that district disaster management plan meant for addressing pre, during and post disaster situation are only in pen and paper. It has not much link with community owned and managed plan program.

- We need to develop core capacity of facing upcoming hazards.
- Global thinking and local action are the call of the day. Think globally and act locally are the fitting quote for DRR
- Contribution of communities on CMDRR is to be acknowledged and replicated.
- Working on public private partnership is need of the day.

Dr. Komal in his address reiterated saying Phailin has been well marked as the best disaster preparedness and response work by dint of which there was zero death and within a 24 hours of time more than 10 lakhs people were evacuated to the safer places.

- Odisha has been learning from its past experience of facing multi disasters and hazards and this gives a better knowledge to respond to hazard in well equipped manner.
- Odisha has advantage of owning 20 units of ODRAF
- More than 220 fire fighting units
- NDRAF is also close to our door step
- Odisha has community contingency plan of more than 10 thousands villages.
- Rainfall during winter season is theoretically 120 days but actual rain fall today is of 49 days.
- This has been a serious concern as because of this there could be un natural phenomena occurs with destructive effect and impact.

Dr. Gourav, HOD, RMNH in short highlighted that when we cut trees here, people elsewhere may suffer. Because of my act of wrong doing the innocent ones are suffering.

#### **Group Discussion on sustainability of action at community level**

**The group discussion was facilitated by Mr. Basant Mohanty and N. M Prusty and minuted by Jaya Krishna Behera, CUTM**

- Knowledge built or gained through institution may not be sustainable but through community driven may be sustainable.
- Assessment of the community and its vulnerability through community participation is more feasible, realistic and functional than done on their behalf.
- District and block level coordination committee meeting in pre, during and post disaster situation is very important for community sustainability.
- There needs to be assessment on the needs and issues of all tribal habitants across nation.
- Recharging rain water and its conservation is a scope for sustainability of natural resources.
- Organizing Pallisabha and Gramsabha with the participation of all stakeholders will help the communities to identify the real needs and develop plan of action for community development.
- Promotion and plantation of mangrove in the sea coast line are very important measures for protection of coastal regions.
- There should be locally made rescue materials made available in every community for search and rescue in pre, during and post disaster situation.

- Promotion and propagation of flood resilient seeds is another feasible measure for sustainable cropping pattern.
- Discourage red bricks as it damage top soil of the land and pollutes the environment with the carbon dioxide.
- Traditional seeds should be preserved, conserved and promoted for soil health and human health.
- Promotion of vermin compost by every family and govt. must provide incentive to those who use vermin compost.
- Use public transport rather than using personal vehicle so as to control air pollution.
- Disaster Management activities should be inclusive of all stakeholders for better preparedness and response.

The three group representatives led by panel members on the dice shared their points on the three aspects such as Risk informed development, Financing for Resilience building and Sustainability of actions at community level.

### **Financing for Resilience building**

Possible Solutions that group came up with:

- Skill Development
- Infrastructure Development – Disaster-proof development
- Departmental Integration
- Risk-informed development
- Life insurances
- Green Climate Fund
- Creation of knowledge platforms
- Proper Implementation of policies and acts
- Community-lead approach
- Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat
- All plan should be properly implemented.



### **Risk Informed Development :**

The session was chaired by Prof. Sharma and Ms. Itishree Kanugo, Country Representative, Climate Parliament. The other members in the group were Mr. Durga Madhav Panda, Mr. Haraprasad Das, Mr. Prashant Kumar Mangaraj, Mr. Dhruva Jyoti Ghosh, Mr. Mayank, Mr. Biraja Prasad Pati, Mr. Prasenjit Roy and Mr. Jagganath Chatterjee.

The session covered briefly on risk development, the learning opportunities, EIA (Environmental Impact Assessments), Assessments of vulnerability to risks, identification of projected risks, Volume of Risk VS resource allocation, proper planning – risk minimization, Child centric development execution, coordination between inter states, community responsibility towards development, Quality information sharing and broadcasting and investments on GPDP.

The focused areas of the overall conclave track were disaster preparedness and responsiveness, actions for bringing convergence and alignments between disaster management machineries and climate action machineries in the state, implementation of Disaster Management Act, Disaster Management Plan, Climate Action Plan in an accountable manner at district and sub district levels, Actions to



gear up non – coastal regions to deal to deal with disasters, preparedness for industrial and urban disasters in Odisha, reducing state’s vulnerability to disasters, CSOs to be more effectively involved in GoO’s disaster mitigation architecture, Corporate contributions towards disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation though CSR intervention gets enhanced, and effective realization of Odisha’s climate action plan and disaster management plans.

**Jaya Krishna Behera**  
**Assistant Professor – DM**  
**Centurion University**