

# Reducing Relocation Risk in Urban India Site Report for Urban Risks and Resettlements

**Section IV**  
Transcripts and Interviews



**Credits** by Teja Malladi; Garima Jain; Sushmita Ramoji; Sunil Kraleti; Aishwarya Balasubramanian; Mohan Raju JS from Indian Institute for Human Settlements

July 2016

**This document is an output from a project funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Netherlands Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) for the benefit of developing countries. However, the views expressed and information contained in it are not necessarily those of or endorsed by DFID, DGIS or the entities managing the delivery of the Climate and Development Knowledge Network, which can accept no responsibility or liability for such views, completeness or accuracy of the information or for any reliance placed on them.**

The Research project Reducing Relocation Risk in urban areas is carried out by The Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU) at UCL, the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) the Latin American Social Science Faculty (Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), and Makerere University.

This report is downloadable for free from: **[www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/reducing-relocation-risk/](http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/reducing-relocation-risk/)**

The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed here do not represent the views of any organisations that have provided institutional, organisational or financial support for the preparation of this paper

**Designing Support** by Pallavi Sharma and Nawaz Khan

# Reducing Relocation Risk in Urban India

## Site Report for Urban Risks and Resettlements

---

### **Section IV** Transcripts and Interviews

#### **Authors**

Teja Malladi; Sushmita Ramoji; Sunil Kraleti;  
Aishwarya Balasubramanian; Mohan Raju JS

#### **Reviewed by**

Garima Jain; Amir Bazaz; Rohit Jigyasu

#### **Edited by**

Shyamala Suresh



---

## Table of Contents

---

|                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Interviews .....                     | 7  |
| • Berhampur, Ganjam District, Odisha | 7  |
| • Ganjam District, Odisha            | 13 |
| • Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh      | 30 |
| Focus Group Discussions .....        | 49 |
| • Berhampur, Ganjam District, Odisha | 49 |
| • Ganjam District, Odisha            | 53 |
| • Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh      | 64 |



## Interviews

### Berhampur, Ganjam District, Odisha

Interview: Community Leader, Khaja Sahi, Berhampur

**Location:** Khaja Sahi, Berhampur, Ganjam, Odisha;  
**Date:** 30th September, 2015; **Language:** Hindi; **Interviewer (In):** Garima Jain; **Translator:** Garima Jain;  
**Documenter:** Garima Jain; **Responder (Re):** Community Leader, Khaja Sahi

**(In):** I am part of a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements from Bangalore. We are studying the impacts of cyclone Phailin and the related resettlement programmes in Odisha. Is it okay if I could take about 30 minutes of your time for some questions? The material will only be used for research purposes and your identity will not be disclosed to anyone at any point. You can choose not to answer anything that you do not wish to, and you can stop the interview at any point. (Visiting card is shared)

**(Re):** Sure.

**(In):** How long has this neighbourhood been around?

**(Re):** We have been living here for over 25 years. We all came from different locations in the city and settled here. We are one big family now. We take care of each other, there's not one day when a family goes hungry. We know when a person is ill and not able to go to work – we know they won't have food that night – and so we help each other all the time. We take care of each other.

**(In):** What are the challenges of living here?

**(Re):** Housing. We need housing. We have been asking the government to help with housing for a very long time; people come and do surveys, but nothing has been done yet. That's our only need. Apart from that,

this area gets flooded every time there's slight rain. Mosquitoes are breeding here. We are currently living on top of the city's open drains. People dump their garbage here which causes unbearable bad odour.

**(In):** Are there any health problems you all face here because of these?

**(Re):** Yes. Fevers are common. But we do not have malaria, typhoid, or any other water borne diseases.

**(In):** What is the source of drinking water here?

**(Re):** We get water from a pipe. There's one outside, we all go there and fill water.

**(In):** Could you tell us what happened during Phailin here?

**(Re):** Everything got destroyed. All our houses were completely gone. We were evacuated a day before the cyclone by the city officials and taken to a school close by. But when we got back, there was nothing left here.

**(In):** What were the challenges you faced while you were at emergency shelters?

**(Re):** The school was safe, but one big problem was all men and women were sleeping in a common room, which is not very comfortable for us. The children were defecating everywhere as there were very few toilets. That also created problems and bad odour. Food was provided, but it was difficult to cook in that school.

**(In):** How did you rebuild your damaged houses when you got back?

**(Re):** The Muslim Trust helped with everything. They provided money, raw material, and labour and helped us rebuild what we had lost. But if this kind of event keeps happening, even they may not be able to help us every

time. Besides, this is government land, and if any day the government comes and evicts us or destroys our houses, they may not be able to help again. So we need houses.

**(In): Did you all get compensation or any other help from the government or private agencies?**

**(Re):** Yes. We all got Rs.500 and 50 kg rice in the first week. We also got Rs.1900 per household later. Some people came and gave us tarpaulin sheets, solar lamps, biscuits and food items.

**(In): Did you have other problems – regarding water, toilets etc. in those days?**

**(Re):** We did not get water from the pipe after the cyclone then some agency came and distributed water packets for a few days. But soon water was restored. Defecation was a big problem. Women could not go as far, as they usually do because of water logging and fear of getting bitten by snakes. So they went close by. Those were very difficult days, and we took almost one month to rebuild.

**(In): Where and what kind of houses would you like to have?**

**(Re):** We would like our houses to be located 1-2 kms from here as most of us work in this area. Most of us are rag-pickers, household helpers, sweepers, etc. and depend solely on daily wage work. If we move too far, we may not be able to get work there, and even if we do we may not be able to afford the transportation cost. Also, as many of us work with rags, and heavy material, it will be nice to have single storey structures as we have now, or at the most ground floor with first floor. We would all like to live together. We are a big family, and understand each other well. We do not want to be separated.

**(In): Why aren't your people able to get more stable jobs with better salaries?**

**(Re):** We are not educated. But we are trying to educate our children as much as possible so that they can get better jobs.

**(In): Do the women here also work?**

**(Re):** In our culture, married women do not work. But of course, if they are widowed, or if their husbands are sick, they work. They usually work as cooks or household helps in the neighbourhood.

**(In): Do the anganwadis or self-help groups help in any way?**

**(Re):** There is a self-help group that taught people how to use computers. Children go to the anganwadi for food, but the food is not that good and is also irregular. So some people have stopped sending their children there.

**(In): Do you know about the Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) programme? Who do you approach for housing or any other needs?**

**(Re):** Yes. We are in touch with Slum Improvement Officers in the city government through our Muslim Trust leaders. They had come about six months ago and conducted a survey here. But since then we have not heard back from them.

**(In): Do you know they are considering Somnath area for providing housing to you?**

**(Re):** Yes. We were told that recently. Although that location may be a bit too far, but we will still take it, because we need housing.

**(In): Are you aware of the schemes the government is offering?**

**(Re):** No. We know there was a Zero Balance Bank Account scheme. Some banks came and got us to open accounts. But it's been five months, and we still don't have any money in those accounts. We don't trust those accounts.

**(In): Why don't you use these accounts?**

**(Re):** Some people had kept some money for their child's wedding in the account, then someone called and told them that they would get some government benefits if they shared their ATM number. Once they did, they were looted, and since then, no one uses their accounts. We don't save much, but whatever little we do, we keep with us for everyday needs.

**(In): Do you know about the Pradhan Mantri Bima Yojna (PMBY)?**

**(Re):** I do not know.

(Another onlooker) I know about it and have also got it for my family. There are two kinds, and we have got both kinds now. My mother-in-law gets the widow pension. I keep going to banks and find out about new schemes. We also got a gas stove recently. My husband and I both work, and have educated our two sons. They have both completed B.Com. We want them to get jobs in a bank.



**(In):** You can go to your banks and ask them for the PMBY which is priced at an annual premium of Rs 12 and Rs.35. These will help you get insurance if you are ever in need. For this, you also have to use your bank accounts regularly. Even if it is a small transaction, let's say for your gas subsidy, you must use your account every month.

**(Re):** Many surveys have been conducted here, but no one has ever told us anything about how we can help ourselves. No one has really understood our problems, and this is the first time someone has given us their card. We are very happy to have spoken to you, and if there's anything you could do for us and take our issues to the government, you will be bestowed upon by god. God Bless!

**Interview:** Ward Councillor, Canal Street

**Location:** Canal Street, Berhampur; Ward No. 24;  
**Date:** 29th September 2015; **Language:** English and partly Hindi; **Interviewer (In):** Aishwarya Balasubramanian; **Translator:** Sunil Kraleti; **Documenter:** Sunil Kraleti; **Responder (Re):** Ward Councillor

**(In):** We are part of a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements from Bangalore. We are studying the impacts of cyclone Phailin and the related resettlement programmes in Odisha. Is it okay if I could take about 30 minutes of your time for some questions? The material will be used only for research purposes and your identity will not be disclosed to anyone at any point. You can choose not to answer anything that you do not wish to and you can stop the interview at any point. (Visiting card is shared)

**(In):** How did you come to know about Phailin?

**(Re):** Government alerted us. An emergency meeting was called and I attended it as per District Collector's order.

**(In):** What did you work as before being a councillor?

**(Re):** It's almost 15 years since I became a councillor. Before that, I was a lawyer for two to three years. I also had interest in politics. At that time Berhampur was a Municipality, and during elections few seats were allotted for female candidates. It was then I decided to pursue my career in politics. With my husband's support, I stood for the ward councillor election and won. In the last two elections, I stood as a general candidate and won.

**(In):** Pertaining to your ward what kind of development challenges do you face?

**(Re):** Though this place has many kuccha houses (asbestos roof) which require revamping, they do not fall under the slum category either in RAY or other schemes. So the way these programmes are structured is a problem and I am unable to provide assistance. The Government should come up with other schemes for such households.

**(In):** Can you remember what happened during Phailin?

**(Re):** During Phailin windows broke in my house and my neighbour's wall collapsed. I saw few houses collapse and sheltered the people in my house. We were all awake that night and there was unprecedented rain for eight days.

**(In): Who all were relocated in cyclone shelters?**

**(Re):** Not all of them, but people who were living in kuchha houses and people whose houses got damaged were moved to a school nearby.

**(In): What supplies were distributed to the people in your ward after Phailin?**

**(Re):** Food; Water; Candle; Matches; Halogen tablets

**(In): During our interactions with people here, we were told many lost livestock. What kind of help did you provide to them?**

**(Re):** After the cyclone, the department of animal husbandry has announced that they will provide a compensation of Rs.15, 000 per animal. Many people in my constituency have applied but they have not received any compensation yet.

**(In): How do you help families who need financial assistance? We heard that you have been very helpful in providing small micro-financial assistance to people in the community?**

**(Re):** I helped them by starting Self-Help Groups. The SHGs made incense sticks and paapad to sell. But most of the SHGs are dysfunctional now, because there were no markets to sell goods that were being made. There was no help from higher authorities. Apart from that, I also helped them get loans.

**(In): What assistance did people get after cyclone?**

**(Re):** Tarpaulin Sheets, Rs.1500 cash and a 25 kg bag of rice.

**(In): As a councillor what kind of challenges do you face?**

**(Re):** No big challenges, but while distributing relief materials, upper middle class people whose houses were not damaged also collected the relief materials.

**(In): What was the administrative work flow for disaster preparedness?**

**(Re):** Step 1: Emergency council meeting was called (Chaired by the District Collector and attended by all the council members, heads of the departments, Berhampur Municipal Corporation etc.)

Step 2: Then the councillor alerted the Anganwadi and made announcements in her locality, which was financed by the DC's office.

Step 3: Councillor went door to door and informed people about the cyclone.

Post disaster, the Commissioner, Tahsildar, Mayor and councillors have worked for 15 days after the cyclone to bring back normalcy in their jurisdiction.

**(In): What was the flow of work for calculating the loss and getting assistance for the damage?**

**(Re):** Step 1: Revenue inspector came in for calculating the loss. He calculated loss for every household took photographs of damaged houses and told a few families to visit the revenue office for compensation.

Step 2: People will go to the Revenue Department office and apply for compensation. The revenue officer then sanctions money for the loss.

Step 3: After being sanctioned the money will be transferred to the bank account directly.

**(In): How many people in your ward faced losses due to cyclone?**

**(Re):** Total population of the ward is 5000 and nearly 2000 people faced loss.

**(In): According to you what should be done to improve conditions?**

**(Re):** Government should come up with special programmes for these areas.

**(In): What kind of grievance redressal system was available to people from your ward?**

**(Re):** My office is open from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., so anybody could drop in their requests. We are helping people get their new ration cards and trying get compensations for losses to house and livestock.

**(In): Did any family get money for construction of toilets under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan ?**

**(Re):** We helped many families with application procedure and did apply for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan toilets in my locality but we are still waiting for the funds.

**(In): How many Anganwadis are there in your locality and how are you connected to them?**

**(Re):** There are five Anganwadis in my ward and I often visit the angawadis. The Mamata Yojana scheme is running at Anganwadis and I often check the progress. I also attend a few of their workshops and events.

**(In): Do you inform the public about Anganwadi programme?**

**(Re):** Anganwadi workers take care of that. I offer support.

**(In): What are your specific duties?**

**(Re):** Protection of the public; Cleanliness; Water supply; Mother and child care; Executing all government supported programmes under my jurisdiction

**(In): If a needy person from your jurisdiction comes and asks for help will be you ready to help him?**

**(Re):** If the demand is right and justifiable I will pursue it with the government to help the needy person.

**(In): How do you manage time at work and home?**

**(Re):** I prioritise my workload on who requires my immediate attention and work accordingly. But end of the day I am a “Public Servant”.

**(In): What problems do you want to work on the most?**

**(Re):** Education for kids; educating women; development of my locality

**(In): What work does the Anganwadis do?**

**(Re):** Mother and child care; Halogen tablets; Phailaria Nutrition and food supply to children

**(In): What do you do if someone makes a negative remark on your or your work?**

**(Re):** I am sure that I cannot please everyone. But I work on it and will try to help the person.

**(In): Are you aware of the ODRP infrastructure programme in urban areas?**

**(Re):** No, but recently an infrastructure programme was announced by the Chief Minister which will help the city with a new water supply pipeline for places which fall under the Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BMC).

**(In): That's all for now madam, Thanks a lot for your time. Do you have any questions for us?**

**(Re):** No, but please do share the results of your study. Thank you!

Notes from the Interview at the Anganwadi (pre-school) in Ram Nagar Odiya Sahi

**Location:** Ramnagar Odiya Sahi, Berhampur; **Date:** 29th September 2015; **Language:** English and partly Hindi; **Interviewer (In):** Aishwarya Balasubramanian; **Translator:** Sunil Kraleti; **Documenter:** Sunil Kraleti; **Responder (Re):** Ward Councillor

On 29 September 2015, Aishwarya Balasubramanian and Sunil Kraleti visited an anganwadi in Ram Nagar Odiya Sahi as a part of their field work. The Anganwadi is situated in Ram Nagar, opposite the railway track. Every Anganwadi has an Anganwadi Worker (AWW) and an Anganwadi Helper (AWH). For a population of around 1,700 in this area, around 10 kids of between the ages of 3 to 5 are sent here. The timings of the anganwadi are 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. from Monday to Saturday.

The eligibility criteria for becoming an AWW are:

- Matriculation pass (10+)
- Resident of the area
- Work experience at a school or anganwadi

The eligibility criteria for becoming an AWH are:

- Primary pass
- Resident of the area
- Work experience at a school or anganwadi

Widows, SC/STs, differently abled women are given special considerations for both posts during the selection process.

Every AWW has 6 packages which include:

- Immunisation
- Pre-school
- THR – egg + *chatuva*
- Health check-up
- Food nutrition
- Health training

The AWH goes to every kid's house to pick them and brings them all to the anganwadi. The AWH cooks food for the children and assists the AWW. The AWW follows a specific syllabus given by the State of Orissa. The children are taught various subjects like painting, numbers, Odiya, crafts, etc. Every anganwadi within the state follows the same syllabus. They also follow a timetable for daily meals and they are:

Monday and Thursday – Dal and rice  
Tuesday – Rice and soya bean  
Wednesday – Egg with rice and dal  
Friday and Saturday – Egg with rice and beans. Every morning the kids are given a healthy snack.

The AWW attends a monthly meeting to update about the functioning's of the anganwadi. The AWW is also expected to maintain accurate records for all the expenses that are being made for the anganwadi. Coming month's expenses are also budgeted in the monthly meeting. A ward contractor and the AWW have a joint account to which money is disbursed by the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) office. There is no fixed time for disbursements of money because it depends on the availability of funds and requirements of the anganwadi. At times of emergencies, AWW sometimes invest their own money and later get it reimbursed. The anganwadi conducts nutrition week and breast feeding week for mothers twice a month. They teach mothers about the kind of nutrition a child requires and how they can provide it. And once a month, the government provides ANM vaccination for measles and special immunisation for DPT, polio, etc. Every month, there is an Urban Health and Nutrition (UHNT) day, where there is a weight check-up for children and regular health check-up for pregnant women. Under the Momata Yojana Scheme, *Chatuva* is given to mothers from the 7th month till after the child is born. Then from 7th month till 3 years of age the child is given *Chatuva* and two eggs per week. And after the child is 7 months of the kid, as a part of 'Anna prashana' (first food eating ceremony) the child was given a bowl and spoon which was stopped later. There are certain eligibility criteria to avail the Momata Yojana Scheme, they are:

- Mothers with two or more children are not eligible
- Mother has to live in the same area
- Family working for Public Sector Units (PSU) are not eligible

If there are cyclone warnings, the AWW and AWH, Orissa Health Department (OHD) and ICDS are called for a meeting at the CDM office, after which the AWW passes on the information to the people. Before Phailin, people were given allergen tablets and post Phailin, a Diarrhoea Prevention Program was conducted in the neighbourhood. The Anganwadi bridges the gap between the government and the people.

Interview with Resident, New Lakshmipuram, Berhampur.

**Location:** New Lakshmipuram, Berhampur; **Date:** 9th September, 2015; **Language:** Hindi; **Interviewer (In):** Garima Jain; **Documenter:** Devi Kalyani; **Responder (Re):** Resident (RAY Beneficiary) New Lakshmipuram, Berhampur.

**(In): What kind of damages did you face in the last cyclone?**

**(Re):** 1999 event was a major cyclone and caused severe damages. It took years for us to rebuild after 1999. People built their houses with their own funds incrementally. In 2013 Phailin and 2014 Hudhud, Berhampur did not face much damage in comparison to other areas. People took about 2 months to re-build/repair damages after the cyclone Phailin. Government gave Rs 1900/- for each HH after one year of Cyclone Phailin

**(In): Can you give us some information about New Lakshmi Nagar?**

**(Re):** I am 50 years old, I was born here. Behrampur developed in front of my eyes, I have witnessed how the area has changed. There is a radio station and electricity office that is surrounding our basti now which were not there earlier. New Lakshmipuram area has about four groups and each of them are from different backgrounds and from different castes. I work in the court. People in the basti work as maids, as labours in agarbatti factories, in construction sites etc

Behrampur is a very small town, they call it corporation. As per records the population of Behrampur is 7,30,000/- but in reality the population will be only 4,00,000. When household survey is done, we inform all the members in the family and they take counts. But children may be studying or working in other cities are also counted and because of which the population count is higher compared to what it is. The city government does not have capacity to have even 20 corporators, but today it's a corporation with 40 corporators.

**(In): Do you want a new house?**

**(Re):** Who is RAY for? Who does it benefit?

Government is giving us only 275 sq.ft per HH, and that is not enough. The area varies on the family size. We met sub-collector, District Collector etc and spoke to them that we do not need house, we can't build our own house as and when we can. We don't need RAY houses.

Government plans to demolish these bastis and build high rise/stalk one family above the other. I am a Brah-



min, why should or why will I like to live with other HHs above or below me. Our culture and practices are different from other.

We all have lease patta. Government itself has given us this lease documents. Now why are they changing the plan?

Some people want to stay in the basti, some want to go to the new location/houses allotted by government. So the choices of people are not the same. People from nearby villages rent houses here. They come in search of small livelihood opportunities and education for children. Certificates have become mandatory to get livelihood opportunities or recognition. Incase of Behrampur about 10% of the population have access to education, work and housing whereas the rest 90% still suffer. This is my understanding. Most of the people who are able to invest in the city today either work in IT sector, their children earn well either working in other metro cities or other countries too. Rest all suffer.

Signatures of some of the HHs (consent for RAY) were taken and the papers were given to NGO, who in-turn sent it Government for approval. We had to fight to get that back. Most of them are illiterates. What if someone signs the document without knowledge of what it is? Will they implement RAY without all our consent?

The general practice is the money from the project are shared by various stakeholders such as NGOs (40%), Broker/local Goondas (30%), officials and ministers (30%). Hence they all show interest in a project like RAY. Where is the funding coming from? Other countries, international agencies? Why do we need it?

Can we aspire to buy and today? Land price here today will be around 80,000 to 1,00,000 (land price of my house). What we expect from government is not housing, we want them to provide livelihood opportunities for both literates and illiterates.

Medical facilities are currently available within 1.5kms, about 7 mins on 2 wheeler. We have both primary and secondary education access around us. We have all facilities within 1 km radius. Then why should be accept to change or leave?

**(In): What kind of problems you face living here?**

**(Re):** We don't have a sanitation facility here, we defecate in the open. We don't find a need for a toilet. The waste water is drained into the open drain.

**(In): Thank you for taking time and sharing all this information.**

**(Re):** Thank you.

## Ganjam District, Odisha

Interview: Ex Managing Director, Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA), Odisha Disaster Recovery Project (ODRP), Ganjam, Odisha

**Location:** Bhubaneswar, Orissa; **Date:** 27th April 2015; **Language:** English; **Interviewer (In):** Teja Malladi, Aishwarya Balasubramanian; **Documenter:** Teja Malladi; **Responder (Re):** Ex Managing Director, Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA)

**(In): We are part of a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements from Bangalore. We are studying the impacts of cyclone Phailin and the related resettlement programmes in Odisha. Is it okay if we could take about 30 minutes of your time for some questions? The material will be used only for research purposes and your identity will not be disclosed to anyone at any point. You can choose not to answer anything that you do not wish to, and you can stop the interview at any point.**

**(Re):** Sure.

**(In): Can you tell us about the ODRP Project on how did it start and what was the trigger?**

**(Re):** Though we were successful in saving many lives in cyclone Phailin by evacuating nearly a million people to the cyclone shelters, there was significant amount of damage to livestock, houses and livelihoods. Immediately after the cyclone, we have requested government for providing *pucca* houses to all the families who lost their houses in the cyclone. We have also released a policy guideline for identifying beneficiaries for the project and for the design of houses.

Government of Odisha responded positively and The World Bank came forward to fund the project. We didn't want families to get affected again if there is a cyclone next year (2014). So we have taken this on a mission mode and wanted to complete the houses within one year before the next cyclone season.

Initially we proposed this as a contractor driven project, where the houses will be built and allotted to the beneficiaries. However, few months after we have proposed owner driven approach, where the money will be directly credited into the beneficiaries bank accounts in tranches and they will be responsible for the construction of the houses. To motivate the beneficiaries in construction of the houses, we have associated with Gram Vikas, a local NGO which is working in the areas for the last 30 years as socio-technical partner for this project. They have a lot of trust within the community and we wanted

mobilize people in participating in the construction process.

**(In): What was process followed for beneficiary identification?**

**(Re):** As part of the project we wanted to provide *pucca* houses to all the families living in *kutcha* houses within 5 kms from the coast line in the districts of Ganjam and Puri districts and for Khordha we considered the villages located within 5kms from Chilika Lake boundary. However because of the political reasons, we have excluded Puri district as part of the project. Irrespective of the kind of damage in the cyclone, whether it is complete or partial damage, we have decided to provide housing to all the families living in *kutcha* houses.

So based on the assessment done by the block development officer, the first list of beneficiaries were prepared. The list is then approved by the village committee and consent was taken from all the families. Some families who were not included or left out from the list approached the district administration to include them in the beneficiary list and they were either included or rejected based on their eligibility.

**(In): How did you identify beneficiaries for relocation and for providing house in-situ?**

**(Re):** The houses in Ganjam are typically long and narrow without any provision for windows. The spaces are very congested and dark in these houses. So as part of this project, we wanted to provide dignified housing to all the beneficiaries. So we have proposed to provide them with a house of 250 sft and a plot of 100 sft. The proposed design has provision for windows on all sides and space for extension in the future. The foundations are also designed for expansion to one more floor. Along with these we are also providing toilets, access roads, drains, water and electricity supply to all the houses.

Whoever had a plot of 1000 sft (min – 25' x 40') were given an option of in-situ house, and for those who don't have the land, relocation was proposed. We have identified the available government land around the villages and the final location was identified in consultation with the beneficiaries. We want them to live in these houses and improve their quality of life. So we tried our best to relocate them to the nearest location so their social life and livelihoods are not affected by the project. In some cases we converted forest land to residential use for construction of these houses. There are also instances, where the land is unavailable and we had to relocate people to far locations.

**(In): Can you give us an example of such site?**

**(Re):** New Golabandha was one such site, where the complete village, both families that got affected and families living in *pucca* houses also had to be relocated. This is the second time the families are being relocated. The families were evicted initially as the land they were living on was allotted to the Army Defense College. Army officials were initially against the relocation at the proposed site is adjacent to missile dump yard, but after public consultations and with special request from the government, they agreed and are now also providing financial support for the new approach road (under construction in March 2015) to the village. The new settlement is few kms to the existing settlement but is located near to the coast. The current access to the old village is from the military site, but once completed, they have to take a longer route to reach their village.

**(In): Can you tell us about some of the implementation challenges you faced during the project?**

**(Re):** Identification of beneficiaries was a major challenge. We had to make sure that there are no conflicts in the village because of the project. So only after the village committees have agreed to the list we have proceeded with the project in the villages. As most of the beneficiaries do not have bank accounts, we associated with banks and opened bank accounts to the beneficiaries. After the identification was done, motivating them to participate in the project was a challenge. Initially they were not willing to participate, but gram Vikas and the District Administration have conducted many meetings in the villages and have motivated them to participate. Although some families have got together and given the contract for the construction of the houses to the contractors, but we had to make sure that the quality and the design of the house is maintained. Continuous monitoring was done to maintain the quality of the construction. Since we are building more than 15,000 houses at a time, we had to make sure that there is enough supply of materials, man power at all times. So we have organized mason training programs in the beginning to the beneficiaries so they can work in the construction of their houses. As the material demand would be higher, we have had meetings with local suppliers and made sure that there is continuous supply of material and also at the standard prices.

**(In): Thank you for taking time and talking to us Sir.**

**(Re):** Thank you. You should go and visit the sites and talk to the beneficiaries to get a better idea about the project.

Interview: Community Mobilisers, Gram Vikas and Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA), Odisha Disaster Recovery Project (ODRP), Ganjam, Odisha

**Location:** Devinagar, Ganjam; **Date:** 2nd October 2015; **Language:** English; **Interviewer (In):** Garima Jain; **Translator:** Garima Jain; **Documenter:** Garima Jain; **Responder (Re1):** Community Mobilisers (OSDMA); **Responder (Re2):** Community Mobiliser (Gram Vikas)

**(In): I am part of a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements from Bangalore. We are studying the impacts of cyclone Phailin and the related resettlement programmes in Odisha. Is it okay if I could take about 30 minutes of your time for some questions? The material will be used only for research purposes and your identity will not be disclosed to anyone at any point. You can choose not to answer anything that you do not wish to, and you can stop the interview at any point.**

**(Re):** Sure.

**(In): How long have you both been associated with this project and this work?**

**(Re1):** I have been working with Gram Vikas and OSDMA for last 1.5 years, as an employee of OSDMA but placed in Gram Vikas. I have worked in Agasti nagar, Sana Noliya nua gaon, Bada Noliya Gaon, Konama, Mattikhao, Aryapalli, Bada Putti, Kalipulli, Payika Pauda, Ramyapalli, and Lakshmipur. I have also been involved in raising funds for various Gram Vikas projects. Initially, I was involved in the mason training programme for Gram Vikas, and not so much with construction of houses.

**(In): Can you tell about the history of the mason training programmes conducted by Gram Vikas?**

**(Re1):** Gram Vikas has been doing mason training programmes for last 35 years, and many of the masons trained by them end up going out of the country to work. Owing to their experience in this field, OSDMA chose to partner with Gram Vikas as their technical partners, and included mason training in the delivery of what was otherwise a housing project. Best example of this mason training being successful is the Anganwadi centre built in Narayanpur's Rangeilunda Block, funded by Utkarsh foundation.

**(In): What is working in this programme in your opinion?**

**(Re1):** There are usually 40-50 people in one class, and about 10-15 of them are women, and some differently abled people are also trained. The criteria for selection

is that candidates to be within the age group of 18-45 years in men, 18-40 years in women and that have to be unemployed. Priority is given to ODRP beneficiaries, so that they can build their own houses. Owner driven self-construction was one of the main focuses of the ODRP project, and nearly half the beneficiaries have built their own houses.

In the mason training programme conducted in Gajapati district, there were 43 students in class totally, out of which 15 were very good. They were trained by masons who had 10 years of experience. There were more than 150 women in the nine training sessions conducted in the Chatrapur block. Our job was to mobilise these women to attend the training.

**(In): What are the challenges of this mason training programme?**

**(Re1):** This programme offers a stipend and food for the people. NREGA offers Rs.150 per day, and here they get Rs.200 per day. Many people see this as an opportunity, and even people studying currently in the 12th grade end up joining the programme and lie about their education status. Such people are often irregular for the training and probably come for the stipend and not the training per se. Many women who look like they might be 60 years old also join; but have ID cards (Adhar, Voter ID, etc.) which show their ages to be much lower. Our job is to inform people about the benefits of this programme and ask people to not attend it if they are studying currently or are physically weak, as this could create problems.

Many villagers do not want the programme to happen in their villages unless all the trainees are from that village. But since we have a policy of not having more than 50 participants per village, it becomes a problem. Trainings have been cancelled four times so far, due to such conflicts. Our job is regularly mobilise and inform the villagers about these programmes, along with the ward members. We have carefully identified local nodes, i.e. people who are respected in each village and affect leadership and inform the others through them.

Many people trained under this programme are also migrating for work now. They are earning between Rs 500 and 700 per day. Although mason training has reduced migration – some people who were unskilled migrant labourers, have come back to take training. Many of them are capable of earning more now. There are lots of livelihood opportunities in this area, so they are also staying here. Their wish of working and living in their own village is being fulfilled. Women who were unskilled labourers and earning only Rs.100 earlier are earning a lot more now.

**(In): What are the other challenges you faced during the process of relocation?**

**(Re2):** There are many challenges. Every village has unique issues. For instance, when families from Ramayapalli and Lakshmipur villages were to come together in one new relocation site, they could not reach a consensus on the name for the longest time. Even in records, the name has been changed several times. When we delved deep into it, we realised there was one person who was getting in the way of decisions being made. We reached out to him individually, and negotiated on various names. Then the villagers finally chose a name.

But the other overarching challenges are as follows:

- On site vs. relocation. In many cases, when there was not enough space in the existing village a new site was identified and people were allocated housing at a relocation site. Plots were allotted in such short notice that many took allotments at that time. Later the allottees realised that some others got in-situ housing and therefore they are trying to get the same. Construction process. Those who decided to give the work to contractors wouldn't come to the site to check the quality of construction. Even if they did, they wouldn't stay for long. There were issues with the material used and its quality. We mobilised them to come and check on a regular basis, but more importantly to work as labourers on their own houses. In many cases people did that and the contractor paid them for their labour.
- Shortage of material and labour. Almost 2300 beneficiaries started construction simultaneously across the district. Although mason training programme was conducted to add more masons, people from neighbouring districts also came to work. Even then five houses per mason to build were not achievable. Procuring material and labour became hard, especially for those who started construction late., Many people gave in to get contractors.
- Costs different per house. A fixed amount of money was being disbursed at each level of house construction. The initial rates were excavation at Rs.30,000, foundation at Rs.60,000, super structure until lintel at Rs.1, 00,000, toilet at Rs.12,500 (Swatch Bharat), lintel till roof at Rs.80,000 and roof casting at Rs.30,000. But as time passed, prices increased. Rates of big stones required for the foundation increased from Rs.1000 to Rs.2500; transport for each round of materials increased from Rs.200 to Rs.800. Getting bricks became harder (people would wanted

bricks and not cement blocks even if they were of bad quality and not sufficiently baked). Many of those houses where the plinth was meant to be higher than the land was uneven and the costs of laying foundation were much higher than the money they were getting. In many cases, people took loans to complete their foundations, and used subsequent money disbursements to pay the loan interest. Now many people have loans to pay off.

- Psychological problems. In 1999 there was a super cyclone, in 2013 there was cyclone Phailin, and then in 2014 even though cyclone hudhud came everyone was safe. But now they are afraid of this 10th month. They create their own notions. Many people have started giving names to a cyclone that they are certain is going to hit this October. Many people have started evacuating and going to nearby villages. Some are telling others that government is giving free train tickets to leave. It is hard to tell them that there is no formal news as yet.
- People are never satisfied. Indra Awaas Yojna was providing only Rs 35000 initially, then Rs 75000 and now Rs 90000, and this programme is providing housing for 3 lakhs. But people are still dissatisfied with a few things. Quality is maintained very rigorously, and they are getting houses which will save them from disasters.

**(In): What are other social problems you face here?**

**(Re2):** Many of those who have land here are migrating; due to monkey menace their plantations are being affected. Something needs to be done about that immediately. Other challenges are of alcoholism. We are trying to mobilise people to not drink, but it's very difficult to change their habits. Maybe more skills trainings are required for longer term financial sustainability than just providing housing.



Interview with In-situ beneficiary, Ramayapalli, Ganjam District.

**Location:** Ramayapalli, Ganjam District; **Date:** 9th September, 2015; **Language:** Telugu; **Interviewer (In):** Teja Malladi; **Documenter:** Devi Kalyani; **Responder (Re):** Resident (Beneficiary – In-situ upgradation – ODRP) Ramayapalli, Ganjam District.

**(In): Thank you for taking time and talking to us. We are part of a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore. As a part of a research project, we are here to study the impacts of cyclone Phailin, post cyclone and other resettlement, relocation projects in Odisha. All the material and information collected will be used for only research purposes and your identity will not be disclosed to anyone at any point. You can stop us at any point during the discussion and ask us if you have any questions and you can choose not to answer if you do not wish to.**

**(Re):** Yes

**(In): How long have been living in Ramyapalli and how many of you live here?**

**(Re):** I moved here when I got married. I am originally from Thoolur near Berhampur and after marriage I moved here. My husband died 20 years back because of excessive drinking. We have two daughters and my elder daughter is now married and lives in Berhampur. Currently me and my younger daughter live here. My younger daughter has completed her metric education and is also trained from an Industrial Training Institute (ITI). Her marriage is fixed and so she is not going for work now.

**(In): What is your livelihood?**

**(Re):** We have farm in which we grow Kevda plants, coconut trees and vegetables. Each kevda flower sells at eight rupees in the market. We get flowers three times a year in summer, winter and monsoons. We get approximately 10000 per year from the farm. I also work in the TATA factory as labour for the last two years, for which I get Rs.150 per day as daily wage. TATA promised us jobs in the steel plant, but they have not started the operations yet. We now work as contract labourers for plantations etc.

**(In): Do you own the land you cultivate?**

**(Re):** Yes. We have about two bernalas of land now in which we grow the crops. Earlier we had 4 bernalas, of which TATA steel acquired 2 bernalas in the 90's. We used that money for our elder daughter's marriage and younger daughter's education.

**(In): How do you save?**

**(Re):** We have opened a bank account because of the new house. But we just use it for receiving money for construction of the house. Otherwise I save with the local women's group.

**(In): Do you get any government benefits?**

**(Re):** I have a BPL card, so every month I get 25kg rice from that. I have also applied for window pension and submitted all the documents, but haven't received any pension so far.

**(In): What kind of problems did you face during cyclone?**

**(Re):** Our house was completely collapsed. We were evacuated to cyclone shelter and we came back after two days. We had a thatch roof, which got blown away and some of the HH items were also damaged. All our crops got damaged in the cyclone. We are still recovering from the damage. Our trees are yet to grow for them to start giving us produce. And we also face problems regularly with monkeys. Our crops, especially kevda plants get destroyed by monkeys. We have to guard our crops through the day.

**(In): What kind of compensation did you get after phailin?**

**(Re):** All of us got Rs.500 and 50 kgs rice as compensation after the cyclone. Then after damage assessment, we have received extra money and they also given us a house. As I have land next to my house, government gave us a house in-situ and for those who didn't have land were relocated to devinagar.

**(In): How many of you got a house in-situ and how many of you got relocated?**

**(Re):** There are nearly 80 Hhs in our village of which nearly 25 HH were relocated. About 11 of us got houses in-situ as we have land in the village.

**(In): Thank you for taking time and talking to us.**

**(Re):** Thank you for visiting.

Interview with Relocated Household, Ramayapalli, Ganjam District.

**Location:** Ramayapalli, Ganjam District; **Language:** Hindi; **Date:** 9th September, 2015; **Interviewer (In):** Garima Jain; **Documenter:** Devi Kalyani; **Responder (Re):** Resident (Beneficiary – Relocation – ODRP) Ramayapalli, Ganjam District.

**(In): Thank you for taking time and talking to us. We are part of a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore. As a part of a research project, we are here to study the impacts of cyclone Phailin, post cyclone and other resettlement, relocation projects in Odisha. All the material and information collected will be used for only research purposes and your identity will not be disclosed to anyone at any point. You can stop us at any point during the discussion and ask us if you have any questions and you can choose not to answer if you do not wish to.**

**(Re):** Yes

**(In): How long have been living in Ramayapalli and when did you get relocated to Devinagar?**

**(Re):** Our family is originally from Guntur but my grandfather moved from Guntur to Orissa and I was born here. We were relocated in January this year (2015).

**(In): What is your livelihood and did it get affected after relocation?**

**(Re):** In the old village we used to grow vegetables in the land available around our house, but the new location the soil is not conducive for growing vegetables. We used to grow Paddy, Moong Dal, Tur Dal etc which is completely stopped now. We still grow some kevda plants and sell flowers. Some of us work now as contract labourers in TATA and some work as farm labour. The labours working for TATA earn around Rs 200/day and farm labour will fetch around Rs 300/day. The nearest place for livelihood option is Behrampur (22kms), Chattarpur (15kms), Gopalpur (7kms). The nearest market to sell kiya flowers is Gopalpur.

Tata has bought around 200 acres of land from our village, 20 years back promising that the steel plant will create job opportunities Tata promised to employ the people who sold land to them, but the rest of the agriculture labours who used to work in others farm/land who did not own any land were not given any job opportunities. . This has badly affected our livelihood opportunities since the steel plant operations has not started and there is no land for us to cultivate. The land is locked and kept unused currently.

Now families go in search of livelihood to Tamil Nadu, Raipur, Hyderabad, Goa etc as helpers or construction labour. 75% of people migrate out in search of livelihood and only 25% of people will be left behind in the village (old people and small children).

When we migrate, we get work through agents, contractors or fellow villagers. Sometimes people are even cheated at work. After promises of payments people work and end up not getting payments, food etc.

People who live in the village manage to earn around Rs 6,000 per month. Saving is possible only we have all or more than one family member working in a HH. This varies in every HH.

**(In): What were the criteria for beneficiary selection?**

**(Re):**

- should be the resident of the village during the event/phailin,
- should possess land records,
- should have proof residence (certificate from Tehsildhar)

Those who had lost their patta/documents during the cyclone had to contact the revenue inspector to avail a copy of the patta. Residents who did not possess land were denied of housing post phailin. Some people who have been living here for the past 25 years, but due to lack of documents, they were denied house under the ODRP scheme. We all have been living as one, we all contribute and share costs during village festivals. So denial of houses to some people have saddened all of us. People who had land here got houses in-situ, but who didn't have specified amount of land were relocated, Because of which again there is a split in the community.

**(In): Are you happy with the new house?**

**(Re):** Government supporting us with housing is a good initiative but the new place has no livelihood opportunities and therefore people still travel 5-6 kms to the old village every day. We have to walk every day to the old village for livelihood and night we go back to the new location just to sleep. Right now we are given occupation patta and the government said that this will we will get patta after 10 years if only we stay in the relocation site. So we go to the relocation site everyday. We still would like to retain our old house.

Residents in the village now buy vegetables which is sourced from market, rather than cultivating our own.

**(In): What is the cost of new house?**

**(Re):** World Bank has allocated Rs 3 Lakh for each household. The money is released in installments based on the different levels of construction. Cost for toilet comes from Swachh Bharat abhyan which is Rs 12,000 per toilet for each HH. We hired a contractor for construction of new house.

**(In): What are the services and benefits do you get from government?**

**(Re):** We have a PDS card which was done by my father. We are 3 brothers and we are still sharing the same card. We haven't been able to make new cards. In a month we avail 2 litres Kerosine (Rs 50), 25 kgs rice (Rs 25) and 10 kgs wheat (Rs 70). We haven't been receiving sugar post Phailin.

We need to go to Chattarpur or Gopalpur for health services. Our concern is private hospitals take money but they attend to the patients need immediately. In government services we do not know when the doctor will be available especially in odd hours, emergencies such as accidents etc, it does not help since they are either in accessible or deny services. Malaria, Jaundice, Typhoid are the most common diseases. We have about 37 cases this year which were reported due to water contamination. Cost for medication varies and depends on the nature of illness. At private hospitals it varies from Rs 3000 to even Rs 30,000 for delivery or bigger illness.

The Iodine content is high in water in the new site. The tank in the new site is open and doesn't have a lid/cover. We have shifted only 2 months back and don't stay there all the time, most of the eating and drinking happen during the day when we are out on work in the old village so we haven't yet had cases of illness due to water in the new site

Sanitation in the new site is through a 2 pit system. The pits are 1 metre deep. The pits are concentric concrete rings laid one above the other, it doesn't have a concrete flooring, its covered with a concrete slab

People in the village have bank accounts these were opened during MNREGA. Govt is offering job even now through this program but the work is physically very demanding and doesn't pay (wages -Rs 170/day) much compared to other work, hence the choice of work by the villagers for MNREGA is less. Bank accounts were earlier under limited account and Gram Vikas helped the villagers to convert the same account to general account for the fund transfer for housing (Rs 3 Lakhs)

We cook using fire wood. Some have and are availing the LPG gas but we don't know how to use it still. I have

a HP gas which I got 10 days ago. I paid Rs 4000 for it. Not used it yet.

**(In): Thank you for taking time and sharing all this information.**

**(Re):** Thank you.

Interview: Village head, Markhandi

**Location:** Markhandi, Ganjan District, Orissa; **Date:** 05th October, 2015; **Language:** Telugu; **Interviewer (In):** Garima Jain, Sunil Kraleti; **Translator:** Sushmita Ramoji, Sunil Kraleti; **Documenter:** Zohrab Reys Gamat, Sushmita Ramoji, Garima Jain; **Responder (Re):** Village head, Markhandi

**(In): Namaskar, we are a part of a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements from Bangalore. We are studying the impacts of the cyclone Phailin and the related resettlement programs in Odisha. Could we take about 30 minutes of your time to answer some questions?**

**The material will be used only for research purposes and your identity will not be disclosed to anyone at any point. You can choose not to answer anything that you do not wish to, and you can stop the interview at any point.**

**(Re):** Sure

**(In): What kind of differences do you see after the cyclone Phailin?**

**(Re):** We heard that there is a Tsunami alert now, so there is a sense of fear in the whole village. There is a huge reduction in fish catch after Phailin.

**(In): Your village has faced two major cyclones; one in 1999 and the other in 2013. What issues has your village faced after these disasters?**

**(Re):** It took us years to recover from losses. 10 years ago, there was a fire accident in our village. The fire destroyed the whole village, and it took years for us to reconstruct our homes. This was followed by the cyclone Phailin, which destroyed our homes again, we are still building our village and now there is a Tsunami alert, so we all are tensed.

**(In): What were the aftereffects of Phailin on the village?**

**(Re):** There were strong winds in the village and houses started collapsing and roofs blew off.

**(In): Were people staying in the village during the cyclone?**

**(Re):** We moved to Berhampur. Most of the villagers evacuated and moved to safer places. A few people stayed back in the village. Nearly 50 of them moved to the village temple and took shelter in the temple until the storm receded. A few moved to the cyclone shelter in Tulu, a few to a nearby school. We didn't have access to

food during the cyclone. Flattened rice was distributed at the cyclone shelters and we had to adjust with minimum facilities. We had tough time for those two days.

**(In): What kind of losses did the houses face after the storm?**

**(Re):** Each house faced a loss of nearly one lakh and government has helped us a bit. We received a stand-ard compensation up to Rs8,000, a few of us received Rs10, 000 over which we invested in rebuilding our houses.

**(In): For how many days was your fishing activity disrupted?**

**(Re):** For nearly 4 months we did not venture in to sea.

**(In): Why did it take so long for you to return to sea?**

**(Re):** We were in a situation where we had nothing left; t no light, no food, and we had lost our homes. We made some makeshift homes and discussed how to recover from the loss. The Government supplied food for a few days. Since the sea was too rough to enter at the time, we were given a compensation of Rs2000 which we used to buy food. The seas stabilised by the time we ran out of stocked food, it took us nearly four months to return to sea.

**(In): What kind of losses did people practicing agriculture face?**

**(Re):** The trees uprooted and people dependent on agriculture faced extensive damage. Pomegranate, Cashew, Kevda flowers and paddy fields faced huge loses. Nearly 50 per cent of their farms were completely damaged. The government has assessed damage but compensation has not been received yet.

**(In): Were they able to recover from the loss they faced?**

**(Re):** Not completely. They have planted Kevada again in their farms and the plants have started blooming this year, but now we have a Tsunami warning.

**(In): How did the World Bank allocate housing for your village?**

**(Re):** The government has conducted assessment surveys in our villages. The Revenue Inspector was here at the time of the surveys. They went door to door and assessed damages. The assessment took nearly a month.

**(In): How did the World Bank communicate to your village about the project?**



**(Re):** They first conducted a surveyed and then they came back and said they will be providing financial support for constructing houses.

**(In): Have the people in your village discussed the proposal after the project was announced?**

**(Re):** Yes we did. All the village heads discussed the pros and cons of the proposal, the project began before we finished our discussion. . We were also convinced with the proposal as we lost our houses.

**(In): After verification, a few names were removed from the beneficiary list? Can you please explain why?**

**(Re):** During the damage assessment survey, people got their survey done twice. And later during verification, errors of double counting were corrected.

**(In): Did anyone from the village approach you because their name was removed?**

**(Re):** Depending on the individual case, we took it up with the leaders of the village and then sent a request to the RI to include their names on the list if possible.

**(In): How was the site for the construction decided?**

**(Re):** The RI approached us and gave us a few site options and asked our opinion. Then we, the village heads, discussed our site options for a month and decided that the site adjacent to the village as the one that would be most comfortable for construction and informed the RI. We then cleared the land and started construction. Since it was government land, it was easy for us to negotiate the location for reconstruction.

**(In): Residents of Markhandi were allocated in three different sites; one adjacent to the village, one at the start of the village where construction is happening for agricultural communities and one for the SC and ST population in the village. Can you please explain why such division took place?**

**(Re):** It was because we had land available here that we asked for an allocation here. In the same way, the Reddys were allocated at the start of the village and the Beharas on the other side of the village. The allocation was based on the availability of land.

**(In): What kind of livelihood activities are the Beharas and Reddys involved in?**

**(Re):** The Reddys are involved in agriculture and the Beharas in pisciculture and most of them have govern-

ment jobs. The village is predominantly occupied by the fishing community.

**(In): What was the response from the government when you asked for houses in these new sites?**

**(Re):** First, we approached the government and asked for in-situ upgradation, but then the officials said that it would not be possible, as the place wouldn't be sufficient for in-situ upgradation, we then agreed on the new sites. The fishermen's site belongs to the revenue department and Behara's site belongs to the forest department and the Reddy's land is a seasonal forest.

**(In): To whom does the original Markhandi land belong to?**

**(Re):** It belongs to the Government.

**(In): Before initiating the project did the World Bank or the government ask you what your requirements were?**

**(Re):** No, nobody asked us what we want, but they told us that they will finance the reconstruction of our houses. Most of the houses in Markhandi are *kutchra* houses and we were facing issues owing to repeated cyclones, we were in need of a good house, which is why we didn't refuse..

**(In): What was the total time taken by the government to initiate construction activity in the village?**

**(Re):** Damage assessment, looking out for land and other discussions included, it took nearly 4 months for the government to initiate work in our village.

**(In): Are you happy with the allocation or is there any disapproval?**

**(Re):** We are happy for the houses, but we don't any livelihood opportunities in the current site. In a year we can only fish for six months, the rest of the year we migrate out for work. This is because the mouth of the sea closes as the stream draining in to the sea is seasonal. So, if there is a mini port here it would help us as migration affects our kids' education. We have approached the government many times, but no action has been taken till date. After Phailin we have seen a steep reduction in our fish catch which has in turn reduced our monetary flow. Before Phailin, we had trouble entering the sea; now, there is a reduction in the quantity of catch as well.

**(In): If the government approaches you and asks you to choose between constructing houses or a port, what would you choose?**

**(Re):** We would request for a port. We can live in our thatched-roof houses, because if we can go on fishing all year round we can feed ourselves and we can be happy.

**(In): Has the construction activity been delayed? If so, what kind of problems are you facing as a result?**

**(Re):** No, the construction activity is on schedule, but construction activity has resulted in us not being able to fish regularly, which is a loss for us. If the flow in the stream reduces, we will not be able to enter the sea, and then we will migrate to a different place for work.

**(In): Is the quality of construction good? Are you confident that the house can withstand a storm like Phailin?**

**(Re):** Yes, the quality of the houses is good and we feel that it can withstand strong winds.

**(In): The Gram Vikas NGO had offered a mason training program. How many from the village have participated in it?**

**(Re):** Nearly 150 people from the village participated in the training program and around 50 of them have mastered the skill and are actively working in the construction of the village.

**(In): Is anyone from the mason training program working outside the village in other construction activities?**

**(Re):** No, we are not allowing them to go out and work as we have sufficient work in our village for them.

**(In): Did any women from the village participate in the Mason training program?**

**(Re):** Yes, women participated in the Mason training program.

**(In): What kind of improvements do you suggest for the ODRP project that is happening in your village?**

**(Re):** Apart from housing, electricity and other basic services could be improved. It would be help if employment opportunities were provided for the youngsters in the village, who are educated but without a job

**(In): Do you think the three lakh rupees allocated for a single unit if house is sufficient?**

**(Re):** No, in addition to the three lakhs rupees we are spending from Rs50,000 to Rs60,000 on the house. We are spending from our pockets on columns, roof beams

and mostly on the structural aspects of the house. Our construction costs were over Rs.3,00,000—around Rs.60,000 up to the plinth level, Rs.1,00,000 up to the lintel level, Rs.2,80,000 for the roof and lintel level, Rs.20,000 for plastering and wiring.

**(In): Why have you built conjoined houses?**

**(Re):** We save nearly Rs.10,000 on the shuttering cost when we build this way. The people in the village decided to build conjoint houses and requested the government to build such houses and the government also agreed to it. The village committee took up the responsibility of resolving issues owing to conjoined houses, if any were to arise in the future.

**(In): If the government were to ask you what the three most important things your village needs other than a port, what will you ask for?**

**(Re):** A port is our most important requirement given that we are fisher folk. Other than that, we require a good educational institution here.

Interview: General Manager and Team Leader ODRP, OSDMA

**Location:** Bangalore; **Date:** 10th December, 2015;  
**Language:** English; **Interviewer (In):** Garima Jain;  
**Responder (Re):** General Manager and Team Leader ODRP, OSDMA

**(In):** I am a part of a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements from Bangalore. We are studying the impacts of the cyclone Hud-Hud and the related resettlement programmes in Andhra Pradesh. Is it ok if I take about 30 minutes of your time to ask you some questions? The material will be used for research purposes only. You can choose to not answer any or all of my questions, and you can stop the interview at any point. *(Visiting Card is shared)*

**(Re):** Sure.

**(In):** What were the triggers that motivated the ODRP project?

**(Re):** The project was triggered by the suffering and helplessness of the people who were affected, particularly in the three districts of Ganjam, Khorda and Puri. It was first an administrative decision, and then went through the political process. Finally it was approved, and with the help of the World Bank, this recovery project started in 2013.

**(In):** What were the roles that different individuals played in this?

**(Re):** Different people have different cultural biases, different livelihood options and economic backgrounds. This project was limited to a radius of 5kms from the High Tide line, so 70–75 per cent of the people are fishermen and fisherwomen, and most of this area is saline land. We decided to build disaster resilient housing for the affected persons with the help of the district administration—Collector, Additional District Magistrate, Block Development Officers (BDOs), Tehsildars and we, the Project Management team at OSDMA would just monitor and guide them. This was the decided leadership model.

**(In):** When it started, what was the process followed, where did the funding come from, and what were the other processes?

**(Re):** First of all there was a tripartite agreement between the Odisha Government, the National Department of Economic Affairs and the World Bank. It's a loan by the World Bank. This was signed prior to the start of this project; in early January or February 2014. I joined later in 2014 (by when construction of houses had already

started). Immediately after the agreement was signed, beneficiary identification started. It started based on the data given by the Tehsildar and then rectified by the *Palli Sabha*/Gram Sabha. This was the process that was followed.

**(In):** What were the beneficiary selection criteria that were listed in the policy?

**(Re):** The criteria for selecting beneficiaries were based on the extent of damage that the individual's house had suffered during Phailin. This was determined by a set procedure and they would receive funds for rebuilding their house as a beneficiary of this project. No other criteria of caste, or class or creed was involved. Even a government servant was eligible under this project, if their income was within the allowed limit.

The policy made by the OSDMA and approved by the government, has many innovative aspects to it. It stated that 1000sqft of land would be given to the landless beneficiaries, but it was not codified in the Odisha Government Land settlement Act. So landless beneficiaries in Odisha get 4 decibels of land. In today's context, no one knows what a decibel of land is. But 25'x40' is the common understanding. So, it was decided in the policy to give land patta in the names of both the husband and wife.

**(In):** Were some groups of people given priority over others during selection?

**(Re):** Households headed by women headed, distressed women, senior citizens and physically challenged people were given preference in the *Palli Sabha*. OSDMA is not deciding that, but the *Palli Sabha* itself decides who in the village should be a beneficiary. So we are only silent observers to their decisions. This is a bottom to top approach and not top to down one.

**(In):** Were the beneficiaries identified first, or was the funding fixed first?

**(Re):** A bird's eye view estimate of the number of houses damaged was approximate 30,000, but funding was fixed before the actual beneficiary identification happened. This number was based on data provided by the Tehsildars. The house damage reports were surveyed by the Tehsildar during the damage assessment to provide temporary shelter, food, and compensations. After the tripartite agreement was signed, it was decided what amount of loan the Odisha Government should accept, and how much the World Bank can provide. A 3 lakh house was proposed by the World Bank and our Engineers in order to provide a dignified living to the persons, so the total budget came to almost 900 Crores.

**(In): How was the decision to give Rs3 lakh per house under this project, which is much higher than any other rural housing schemes of the past, arrived at?**

**(Re):** There are two components in this; the first one is disaster resilient features—in a house costing Rs75 thousand for instance, 12mm rod may not be used; and the second is dignified living. It was decided by both the Government of Odisha and the World Bank to provide dignified housing, to ensure that the beneficiaries do not feel like they are not on par with the others in the locality.

**(In): What challenges were anticipated before the project started, and what steps were taken to mitigate them in the design of the project itself?**

**(Re):** Beneficiary selection was our first challenge. There are a lot of grievances, and even if the beneficiary selection happens in record time, we are not sure where to get material, masons and labour for 16,000 houses all at once. Finding government land to relocate the affected population and give them dignified living conditions was a challenge. Otherwise all could have been in-situ houses with 6' width and 100' depth, where one cannot live a decent life. So we had to think of shifting them nearby, no more than 500mts or maximum 1–2kms from the original habitat, to which they also agreed. If we get houses built without first checking if the affected population was willing to live there, it is a wasted effort. Once they agreed, and the *palli sabha* passed the resolution (signed the agreement) committing that they would shift to the new location identified by the government. The collector identified the government lands, cleaned the land, and made it available for building houses. Project implementation was made possible with the help of district administration and the intention of our Managing Director to hand over the houses within one year. Just like justice delayed is justice denied, giving the affected population houses after 5 years, it not useful. So the motto of the now ex-MD was to give most of the houses within one year, and he did it. At least 1000 houses were occupied within his tenure i.e., by March 2015.

**(In): You mentioned that land identification was a big challenge. So how were these locations identified? Was it simply based on land availability, or were there instances where the villagers themselves were involved in identifying locations?**

**(Re):** Both ways. The revenue authorities were directed to identify lands most suitable to the villagers, and the villagers also accompanied them to find the most suitable lands for themselves. There are several land options available with the government, but some are likely to be flooded, and are not suitable for relocation or habitation. Finally all the village members and the revenue authori-

ties, together found the most suitable locations for themselves, and these are not far from the original locations.

**(In): Could you also talk about the mason training programme?**

**(Re):** As I said before, we had perceived a threat of shortage of masons in building 16000 houses. This locality does not have skilled masons. So, we requested the Gram Vikas. Although they got engaged only after October 2014 with an agreement with OSDMA that they will act as socio-technical partners. However our ex-MD's insight that this would be a problem, forced them to start working much before they signed a formal agreement. From June 2014 they started mason training both on and off field. Now the Mason training programme is closed, but the programme would have trained 2300 masons in the field. From these, nearly 60 per cent of them must be working in the field, and the rest, elsewhere. Masonry is an alternative livelihood for them for years to come, and not just ODRP. ODRP will go on for next 2–3 years maximum, but their livelihoods are ensured even after.

**(In): How are women included in these programmes?**

**(Re):** A lot of women were included. This is because most of the training was held in sites and most of the men were out fishing. In families where the women were involved in drying and collecting fish were mostly available for training in these sites during day time. So we found that in sites like Patinsounpur and Kotturu in Chikiti block, and Keertipur site in Rangeilunda block, most of the participants were women undergoing mason training, and I think it's a great achievement.

**(In): What was the imagined insurance plan within this project?**

**(Re):** Insurance was very much a part of the ToR guidelines. It was a provision of 10 years of multi-hazard insurance for each beneficiary, with about 200–300 rupees per house. However, like when you buy a motorcycle, or vehicle, the insurance value comes down every year. But my intervention converted into a better insurance policy. I did not want that the Beneficiaries in my project get a 3 lakh house today, and after 10 years are left with a 10 thousand rupee worth of insurance value. If their house gets damaged in the tenth year, they would only get 10000 then. So that would not be of any help. So I discussed with four government insurance companies, and all of them opined that there is an RBI Policy that the appreciated value is taken for giving insurance, but you have to pay more. So I don't care, because it's a loan, and the government and the World Bank will definitely accept that slight increase. So, this RBI Policy



was accepted by our MD, and the World Bank. We are giving 1200 rupees per house. Now the beneficiary will get their house valued in case there is a disaster, and the house gets damaged, the appreciated value of the house and the land will be evaluated. So they could even get 10 lakh after 10 years. So my small interventions could at least change these kinds of policies. The World Bank is also very happy with this intervention, and they have already replicated this policy in their World Bank Project in Uttarakhand.

Besides this, the World Bank has also approved rental allowance for those building in-situ housing and shifting allowance for persons moving from their old sites to the new ones, 12000 in total. Further to that, they have also approved 6lakh or 12lakh host village development plan, where the village will submit a proposal regarding their requirements—e.g. a school expansion when not sufficient, water pipe plan, etc. The *Palli Sabha* can decide what they want. The sum is dependent on the number of households in the village—upto 100 HHs 6 Lakhs, more than 100 HHs 12 Lakhs. This is an intervention by us and the World Bank that will benefit the villagers on completion of the project.

**Interview:** City Project Coordinator, Gol-UNDP Project on Climate Risk Management in Urban Areas, OSDMA

**Location:** Bangalore; **Date:** 10 December, 2015; **Language:** English; **Interviewer (In):** Teja Malladi; **Documenter:** Kunal Deshpande; **Respondent (Re):** City Project Coordinator, Gol-UNDP project on Climate Risk Management in Urban areas, OSDMA

**(In): As part of a research project, we are here to study the impacts of cyclone Hud-Hud, its after effects and other resettlement and relocation projects in Odisha. All the material and information collected will be used for research purposes only and your identity will not be disclosed to anyone at any point. You can stop us at any point and ask questions if you have any and you can choose not to answer any question if you do not wish to.**

**(Re):** Yes

**(In): Can you please tell us about the Odisha Disaster Recovery Project and the trigger to start it?**

**(Re):** Odisha Disaster Recovery Project started in 2013, just two days after the cyclone Phailin. Managing Director and Additional Chief Secretary, OSDMA, had written to the Chief Minister of Odisha, asking to build disaster resilient houses for those affected by the cyclone. The severity of damage compelled us to initiate this project to provide disaster resilient houses to the affected families and thereby reduce vulnerability of people living in coastal areas. The project is funded by the World Bank Group.

In the rural component of this project, the landless or families with very little land will get 1000 sq. ft of land, and a disaster resilient house of 254 sq. ft. The houses provided are cyclone resilient, earthquake safe and flood resistant with high plinths.

We have followed the owner driven approach for the construction these houses. To make beneficiaries feel it is their own and we have mobilized them to build the house with care and make it stronger.

**(In): Can you tell us about the process followed before the project actually started?**

**(Re):** The families which lost their homes in the cyclone Phailin were the beneficiaries of this project. The first list of beneficiaries were prepared by the Gramsabhas (local village committee-s). This list was then submitted to the block level authorities. The block officers visited the damaged houses for verification and the ineligible families were removed from the list. The list was then verified by the District Collector and the final list was submitted to OSDMA. After which final list was then made public

on the OSDMA website for a few weeks to see if there are any objections.

After the list of beneficiaries was finalised, a project management unit was setup at OSDMA and District Project Implementation Unit was setup at the District Collectorate. Block Development Officers are the real implementers at the ground level for this project and the District Collector manages the project at the district level.

**(In): How are locations selected for the project?**

**(Re):** There two kinds. A bottom -up approach has been followed in this project. The site for relocation was decided by the community and the government. The process was facilitated by the district administration.

There two options for housing - in-situ and relocation. If the beneficiary had land of minimum 1000 sq.ft. The houses have been built on their own sites. For the beneficiaries who do not have the land, relocation was proposed. The relocation site was selected such that the livelihoods of the beneficiaries dos not get affected. A large number of beneficiaries in our project are from the fishing community and do not wish to move away from the coast.

**(In): Can you give us an example of where this process was followed?**

**(Re):** Podampeta is a fishing village, where are the families live on the coast. As land was not available next to the village, we have relocated them 1.5 kms inland, where the coast is still easily accessible. We have also provided road access to the coast. The relocated village was provided electricity, drinking water supply and sanitation along with the housing. In this way we have reduced the risk of cyclone for that community and made sure that their livelihoods are not affected by relocation.

**(In): What are the eligibility criteria to be a part of the ODRP project?**

**(Re):** Whoever lost their house in cyclone Phailin were eligible for a house under the project and that was the only criteria.

**(In): Were the beneficiaries identified first or the assistance from the World Bank sought first?**

**(Re):** The project started immediately after the cyclone. Government of Odisha, through the Government of India requested the World Bank for financial assistance. Based on the request World Bank along with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government. of Odi-sha, conducted Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment study in the cyclone affected districts in Odisha.

Simultaneously, District Administration a conducted household damage assessments survey to identify beneficiaries for providing compensation. It is hard to say which started first as both of these processes were happening simultaneously.

**(In): How was the design of the house and unit cost decided?**

**(Re):** ODRP houses were deigned incorporating disaster resilient features and local cultural features. For example, in Ganjam and neighbouring districts, toilets are not attached to the main structure of the house. So we have followed the same principle in the ODRP house design as people will not accept it otherwise. The cost of the house was mainly based on the design of the house and local site conditions. The decision was taken together by the local engineers, World Bank officials, OSDMA and District level authorities

**(In): What were the challenges in implementation perceived before the beginning of the project and what steps were taken to mitigate them?**

**(Re):** Initially the project was designed based on the contractor driven model and tenders were called for. None of the contractors bid for the project. Then we changed it to an owner driven model. The availability of masons became a challenge. As most of the beneficiaries are from the fishing community, getting masons for building nearly 20,000 houses was a major challenge. So we have done mason training programmes as part of the project. Availability of land near the villages was another challenge. But all of these were resolved with proactive steps taken by the government.

**(In): Thank you for taking time out and talking to us.**

**(Re):** Thank you

## Interview with Program Manager - Gram Vikas

**Location:** Bhubaneswar; **Date:** 28th April 2015;  
**Language:** English; **Interviewer (In):** Garima Jain, Teja Malladi and Aishwarya Balasubramanian; **Documenter:** Aishwarya Balasubramanian; **Responder (Re):** ODRP Program Manager, Gram Vikas

**(In): We are a team of researchers from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore. We are studying the impacts of cyclone Phailin and the Orissa Disaster Recovery Project (ODRP) project. We are also interested in studying the role of Gram Vikas in the ODRP project. The material will be used for only research purposes.**

**(Re):** Sure

**(In): How did Gram Vikas become a part of the ODRP project?**

**(Re):** After the cyclone Phailin in October 2013, OSDMA with the support of the Orissa State Government and the World Bank signed the ODRP. OSDMA went behind the ODRP contract. The World Bank suggested that OSDMA must tie up with a socio-technical expert. Mr. Tara Datta (former MD, ODRP project) was a friend of the founder of Gram Vikas and moreover Gram Vikas has a good reputation and are experts in the field of habitat planning and water sanitation. Hence Gram Vikas was chosen as the socio-technical partner for this project. The pre-contract phase was from July to October 2014.

**(In): As a part of the ODRP project, what are Gram Vikas's roles and responsibilities?**

**(Re):** Gram Vikas has five different tasks to accomplish and they are

- *Habitat Planning:* For habitat planning, Gram Vikas had to constantly hire engineers and architects as they did not have enough of them on board already. They got the revenue map to make the layout. For 10 to 15 sites, they came up with RI sketching. They were planning to start with 30,000 houses. 107 villages were planned with roads, and other basic infrastructure. Spaces were allocated for anganwadis, community centre, etc. Ganjam district alone was planned to have 16,000 houses. The size of the plot is 1000 sq.ft and the built up area is 300 sq ft with a provision for extension. People in the future can also build one storied house. However, in the Kalikote region, plots were not 1000 sqft. There were 21 engineers from Gram Vikas and 21 engineers from OSDMA. Each engineer supervised nearly 350 to 400 houses. The present status is that 107

villages are constructed and 60 per cent of the project is done.

- *Mason training:* To build the number of houses that they have planned, they required enough of masons. So they decided to provide beneficiaries with mason training. It was a 60 day training program for 2000 people. The first 30 days were spent on training them to do the layout, excavation, stone foundation, brick masonry etc. In the last 30 days, they constructed bathrooms and toilets. Every mason training had two master trainers and one supervisor. 85–90 per cent of the trainees are still working with ODRP. Beneficiaries who attended the training and who are building houses get almost Rs 200 per day.
- *Community mobilisation and motivation:* One of the requirements of the project was mobilising and motivating people at every stage of. During the mason training process, beneficiaries were initially not interested in taking part but with motivation from Gram Vikas, people started taking part. As most of beneficiaries are fishermen and fishing is a seasonal occupation, this training greatly benefits them. Young people were interested in this training. Post this, people started taking extra efforts to beautify their houses and they were happy to build their own house. This gave them a sense of ownership. This made the project successful.

A house with a lobby, moderate bedroom, kitchen, toilet and bathroom might not be sufficient as the family might grow. So Gram Vikas motivated people to invest some more money to build one more room. Houses in Chikiti block extended at the back. People in Ganjam extended in the front as they have a habit of relaxing in the veranda.

People needed to be motivated to relocate as they were not ready to relocate; in addition, the fishing community had a problem staying with the farming community. Gram Vikas had to explain to them that their existing localities is prone to natural disaster and that it is unsafe for them to continue living in those settlements, moreover, the new houses will have better infrastructure facilities. Land related issues and encroachment, district level authorities knew that they will not be able to mobilise people so they had to get help from Gram Vikas. However, during the process, the staff of Gram Vikas was threatened to include/exclude certain beneficiaries.

- *Management Information System (MIS) development:* Gram Vikas developed a software to update information of beneficiaries, include maps and pictures of houses built, etc. This is still in

process. It is not sure if this information will be publicly available due to security reasons.

- *Project documentation:* Gram Vikas is also preparing a 200 page document on the ODRP project. They are also planning to make a documentary film on the mason training process.

**(In): What are the key features initiated by Gram Vikas in this project?**

**(Re):** *Water sanitation initiative:* Most of these communities never had toilets before. They either used public toilets or mostly defecated in the open. However, both the government and Gram Vikas made sure that each house will have a toilet and a bathroom; where the toilet and bathroom are separate and not together.

*Piped water:* Gram Vikas suggested that every village must have a village committee and one especially on the village water sanitation committee which is a registered body and will take care of water and sanitation needs of that particular village.

*Corpus Funds:* Every family has to contribute Rs.1000 towards maintenance of the infrastructure provided.

**(In): What is the organisational structure of Gram Vikas under this project?**

**(Re):** Each coordinator has one block which had 20 villages. Under each coordinate there was a community mobiliser who will take care of 300 houses. There is also a program manager and staff from OSDMA.

**(In): Would you like to share any other piece of information with regards to the project?**

**(Re):**

- As this project was one of its kind, a few foundations donated money towards building community centre, anganwadi, etc. (eg: Narayanpur). Schools and hospitals are not yet constructed. They are in the plan and then students will continue to go to schools in their existing areas.
- Land availability was an issue and depending on where land was available and nature of land, the plinth of toilet was raised to 5ft or more. People are provided with open drain toilets as closed drains would require maintenance.
- 70 houses of 100 houses were totally damaged. Hence, 70 were relocated and the remaining 30 were in-situ. They also developed a grievance redressal system.

- Most people had bank accounts and Rs3 lakhs was directly transferred to their accounts by the government.
- OSDMA and Gram Vikas had a very good rapport. Gram Vikas also had 40 years of expertise in their field.

**(In): Were there any features that were not included in this project?**

**(Re):** Yes! And some of them are as follows:

- Solid waste management was completely overlooked
- No thought on water replenishment
- For electricity, solar energy could have been thought of
- Few communities in villages lived as groups while others lived separately. During allotment, people were not provided houses based on the communities that they earlier used to live. But maybe we could have allotted houses based on their previous living style.

**(In): Are there any challenges in the newly built houses?**

**(Re):** Yes there are some and they are

- Space crisis
- The fishing community might not have enough space to dry their nets.
- They are unaccustomed to living in rows
- Though people were involved in the construction process, they were not involved in the planning process.

### Interview with Community Mobiliser, Gram Vikas

**Location:** Markandi; **Date:** 05th October 2015; **Language:** English; **Interviewer (In):** Aishwarya Balasubramanian; **Documenter:** Aishwarya Balasubramanian; **Responder (Re):** Community Mobiliser, Gram Vikas

**(In): We are a team of researchers from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore. We are studying the impacts of cyclone Phailin and the related resettlement programmes in Odisha. The material will be used only for research purposes.**

**(Re):** Sure

**(In): What are your roles and responsibilities as a community mobiliser?**

**(Re):** A community mobiliser and junior engineer each from Gram Vikas and Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) are responsible for one village or three relocation sites. A community mobiliser is responsible for:

- Resolving social issues amongst the villagers
- Formulating a village development committee
- Drafting a village development plan/infrastructure development plan.

**(In): Did you undergo training before you started your field study?**

**(Re):** We underwent a four day orientation by OSDMA on how to mobilise people. This was very helpful.

**(In): Which villages do you supervise? What are the issues that this village faced during Phailin?**

**(Re):** I supervise Markhandi village along the sea. It's a huge fisherman settlement. The ODRP project has three relocation sites with 77, 36, 510 beneficiaries. The site which has 510 beneficiaries has a mix of both contractor based and owner based construction. 90 per cent of the people living here are Telugu speaking. One can draw a parallel between caste and profession; the Reddys are agriculturists, the Beheras usually take up government jobs or involve in Pisciculture while the lower caste telugu are involved in fishing. The new site is 90m from the sea and is very close to the existing settlement. During Phailin most houses were damaged and many haven't been reconstructed yet. Post Phailin, Gram Vikas had done extensive mapping and the beneficiaries were chosen. Later, they were also trained in masonry.

**(In): Were people willing to relocate? How did you mobilise people?**

**(Re):** People were not ready to relocate and the fishermen community had a problem living with the farming community. The Gram Vikas workers had to explain to people that their existing localities will be prone to natural disaster and that it is unsafe for them to continue living in those settlements, moreover, the new houses will have better infrastructure facilities. Regarding land related issues and encroachment, district level authorities knew that they will not be able to mobilise people so they had to get help from Gram Vikas. However, during this process, the staff of Gram Vikas was threatened to include/exclude certain beneficiaries.

**(In): How long does it take to finish construction of houses?**

**(Re):** Each house takes almost 8 months to finish. Each household gets a sum of Rs3 lakh. After moving in people are given Rs12,000 from the Swacch Bharat Abhiyan to construct a toilet.

**(In): Are there any specific problems that people face in this village?**

**(Re):** Fishing is a seasonal occupation, during off season fishermen have to migrate for work. Most of them are not willing to migrate. The quality of education isn't very good.



## Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

### Interview with the Collector, Vizag

**Location:** Visakhapatnam; **Date:** 20th November 2015;  
**Language:** English; **Interviewer (In):** Garima Jain;  
**Documenter:** Teja Malladi, Aishwarya Balasubramanian;  
**Responder (Re):** District Collector, Visakhapatnam.

**(In):** We are part of a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements from Bangalore. We are studying the impacts of cyclone Hud-Hud and the related resettlement programmes in Visakhapatnam. The material will be used for only research purposes. Could we take about 30 mins of your time to ask you some questions? The material will be used for research purposes only. You can choose not to answer anything that you do not wish to, and you can stop the interview at any point. *(Visiting Card is shared)*

**(Re):** Sure.

**(In):** What were the preparations by the district before Hud-Hud?

**(Re):** The people were evacuated from coastal areas, to schools, hospitals, and cyclone shelters. Food resources were made available in these shelters before time.

**(In):** What were the interventions for immediate response and long term recovery?

**(Re):** We have already started constructing houses using the funds received from the Centre and the State, and other aid money. Now we are in the process of selecting beneficiaries, and by end of December we will be done with application process and by end of March, construction of houses will be completed. We are expecting to receive more than 50,000 applications. We are building a system for holistic application process for housing schemes. This will involve linking of the Aadhaar card, ration cards, property tax information, and their below poverty line status, etc. This way, anyone who is not eligible for a house (if they have received a house before, or if they already own a house, or if their family member owns a house, etc.) leakages can be minimised. Those who have been identified as people affected after the cyclone will be eligible for the housing made for cyclone affected families. Special preference will be given to SC, ST, other minorities, and road evictees (more than 60%). These housing will have a bank loan component where people cannot sell the houses unless they pay money to the bank.

**(In):** Now that the houses are already being constructed before beneficiary selection, who decides where people will move to?

**(Re):** In the application form, there is a space provided for people to give their preference of locations and we will try our best to move people to their preferred locality. At least to one of their top three stated preferences.

**(In):** What has been the history of various housing programmes in this region?

**(Re):** The housing board for the state was formed in the year 1977 after the cyclone hit and many people in the state lost their houses. One of the first development housing schemes in the State of Andhra Pradesh were introduced in the Mid 90s called the Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) housing, but was then succeeded by the Rajiv Gruha Kalpa which started in 2005. It was decided by this time to not give houses within the city due to lack of land availability and sufficient funds. It was also decided that only group houses would be provided and not individual houses. JnNURM was also announced in 2005 by the centre to build houses in key cities till 2012.

Most people in urban areas have encroached government lands. In order to allot houses for the most deserving, we conducted a physical survey. More than 2000 people had duplicate ID and Aadhar. So the system we are building now will hopefully help improve our right beneficiary identification across all these schemes.

Most of these housings are built by the State Housing board, and the land is identified by the revenue department at the state level. We at the collectorate help identify the beneficiaries.

**(In):** What was the idea behind housing for the cyclone affected people, and were other interventions considered other than relocation?

**(Re):** There was a lot of interest from the private sector to help rebuild affected peoples' houses. Many companies like Infosys came up, as well as many film stars and high income individuals. So it was decided to use their funds, and the state government agreed to match that fund to build housing for the cyclone affected people. Immediately land was identified and construction started. We are now in the process of construction, and hopefully will be able to provide this housing to 10,000 households by March 2016. We are hoping to have the housing application system also completed by then.

**(In):** How are the beneficiaries being identified?

**(Re):** The Mandal Revenue Officers along with Tehsildars go around in various affected locations and identify the affected families. This was done right after the Hud-Hud and people were given some compensation as well. However, we are not able to provide housing to everyone affected, so only those whose houses were fully or

severely damaged will be considered through the application process. Many fishermen's houses have been badly damaged near the coasts.

**(In): What is the process of allotment?**

**(Re):** There is a application process through which allotment is made. Once people apply and provide their preferred locations from the selected housing stock, they are then checked for their eligibility and allotted housing. In many cases we also require them to pay part of the money.

**(In): How the locations are decided for relocating cyclone affected people?**

**(Re):** That is decided by the State Revenue Department based on the availability of land. Since 2005, new housing construction has been going on in the areas of Madhurvada and Kommadi areas.

**(In): What are the various challenges in this context of post-disaster long term recovery?**

**(Re):** People's livelihoods also suffer. Many other losses also affect them. Loss of life is only one part of it, but losing their homes can deeply affect the long term recovery. This is why the State authorities decided to provide housing to cyclone affected families.

Interview with Chief City Planner, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation.

**Date:** 21st November, 2015; **Language:** English; **Interviewer (In):** Garima Jain; **Documenter:** Aishwarya Balasubramanian; **Responder (Re):** Chief City Planner, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation

**(In): We are part of a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements from Bangalore. We are studying the impacts of the cyclone Hud-Hud and the related resettlement programmes in Visakhapatnam. Could I take about 30 mins of your time to ask you some questions? The material will be used for research purposes only. You can choose not to answer anything that you do not wish to, and you can stop the interview at any point. (Visiting Card is shared)**

**(Re):** Sure.

**(In): Which are the most affected places during Hud-Hud and what are the initiatives to support those people?**

**(Re):** Jalaripetta is a badly affected place in Visakhapatnam. It's a fisherman colony. People are not willing to relocate to far off locations where the other housing is being built so they will be mostly moved within 1–2kms from where they currently live. Their local MLA is very active, and spoke to them to convince them to move to a close by location. Surveys were also done earlier in 2015, but final decisions are still pending. Eventually the Urban Community Development Department at the GVMC helps identify the beneficiaries and helps in allotments.

**(In): What are the locations where new housing schemes are coming up?**

**(Re):** Most of the housing schemes are being built to the north of Visakhapatnam in the areas of Madhurvada and Kommadi. Construction of new houses in that area has been on-going for last ten years or so. These are meant to rehabilitate people mostly living in slums in the inner city areas.

**(In): How are these locations identified?**

**(Re):** It is simply where government land is available. In many cases land is bought also, from other government agencies, but since the state has identified a lot of land for housing development in Madhurvada and Kommadi areas, those are being used to construct all the houses.

**(In): Are people involved in identification of these lands?**

**(Re):** No not really. It is based on the availability of land.

**(In): Do you not think this can create problems in terms of people moving to these new houses, as they may be very far from their original locations, and connectivity with their work might be difficult?**

**(Re):** Of course it is big challenge, but the problem is land availability. Once that is decided, the State Housing Board goes ahead and builds the housing stock from the funds demarcated. In fact many people who live in those areas already are being allocated housing even further. It could have been a lot easier if at least those people could continue staying there, and other pieces of land could be identified more suitable to people's working locations. There's very limited action that the planning office at the GVMC can take in this regard.

**(In): What happens to the people who are living on railway land, example on ASR Nagar?**

**(Re):** Initially people moved into ASR Nagar as a part of a transit camp as labour and later they permanently settled there. Railways allowed it initially but when they require land they find it difficult to evict people out of these lands. This is when railways require GVMC's help but there is no dedicated team to work on this issue. Railways at one point needed some of their land for expanding their stadium, but it was occupied by these slum dwellers for many years that they were finding it very difficult to vacate them. At one point when GVMC needed some of the railway land elsewhere for road expansions, they agreed to trade land in the ratio of 1:2 with the GVMC, but also wanted GVMC to help clear up this occupied piece of land. Since GVMC had no other option at this stage, we helped them to get the land we required.

There are a total of 2000 to 2500 families living on railway land. Dharm Nagar is located on railway land which is of 16.5 acres with 2000 housing units. However in the case of ASR nagar, the land is only 1 acre and the railways wouldn't require the land.

**Interview:** Assistant Executive Engineer, Pudimadaka, Andhra Pradesh

**Location:** Pudimadaka; **Date:** 23rd November, 2015; **Language:** English; **Interviewer (In):** Garima Jain; **Responder (Re):** Assistant Executive Engineer, Pudimadaka.

**(In): I am part of a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore. We are studying the impacts of the cyclone Hud-Hud and the related resettlement programmes in Andhra Pradesh. Is it ok if I could take around 30 minutes of your time for some questions? This material will be used for only research purposes. You can choose not to answer anything that you do not wish to, and you can stop the interview at any point. (Visiting Card is shared)**

**(Re):** Sure.

**(In): Could you describe the days when Hud-Hud was expected—before and during the event?**

**(Re):** On Friday and Saturday, two days before Hud-Hud, all of us, including the police and other officers, evacuated people from the coast, and got them to safer places, like cinema halls, schools, etc. Food was arranged for everyone. People who lived in huts, houses with tiled and AC sheet roof came, and people with RCC roof slabs didn't come. We did not insist on getting the others as we didn't have space for everyone. Some people from huts also went to their relatives' houses close by.

On Saturday, in our offices, there was no water to drink, no food to eat till the following day. We had taken some rainwater to drink. After 9 am on Sunday, even we left to go to our own houses. Hud-Hud struck from 8am to 5pm on Sunday.

**(In): Till where did the water come during surge?**

**(Re):** The water came till the Hanuman Temple; about 3-4 feet high. (Showing a point about 50m from the coast). Many houses close to the coast got submerged.

**(In): So did the houses with *pucca* roofs also submerge?**

**(Re):** Yes. Even *pucca* houses closer to the coast got water inside their houses. The houses closer to the coast got water inside, but not the ones which are in the middle or the other end away from the coast. Tiles and AC sheets above houses were also blown away in many cases. After that, the government also gave some compensation to those whose houses were damaged—up to Rs.5000. As long as there was some damage—para-

pet cracks, etc., even though they live in concrete roofed houses, also got the same amount of compensation. Additionally, Rs.4000 was given for household asset damage.

**(In): Who conducted the damage survey for assessing compensation?**

**(Re):** The district collector asked the CM to deploy people from other districts [which hadn't got damaged] like Krishna district. They came and helped us conduct the surveys

**(In): After how many days were these assessments done? And after how long was the money disbursed?**

**(Re):** The survey and assessment was completed within a week of Hud-Hud. After a month people's bank accounts were directly credited with the compensations. As long as the account numbers were correct, they got the money. For those whose account numbers were not correct, or those who did not have bank accounts to begin with, it took up to 5 or 6 months to get the money credited to their correct accounts. The day it stopped raining, 20kgs of rice and 1kg dal per family was also given by the Mandal Revenue Office of the state government.

**(In): Was this food given to everyone or only those who were affected?**

**(Re):** Food was given to everyone irrespective of whether their houses or assets got damaged or not.

Other NGOs and private agencies also came and helped a lot, with rice, dal, vegetables, milk, bread, etc., but here there were more difficulties unlike other places. People are uneducated, and they drink so they do not listen. Even at the time of the survey, there were many disturbances. These are problems associated with the fisherman villages in the district.

**(In): Are all the people living here involved in fishing, or are there other professions also? What are those professions?**

**(Re):** It is mostly fishing. Of the 4000–5000 people who live here, only about 50 or 100 are involved in other work. Some have ration shops, grocery stores, etc. Some fishermen also work as labour. Only old people are fishing, none of the young people are learning or practicing fishing. Younger people are getting educated, and are interested in working with private companies. They are not interested in fishing. Even their parents do not want them to fish. Here they have small boats, unlike in Vishakapatnam, where people have big boats and are able to travel a few kilometres into the sea to get big

catch. Here they do not catch that much fish, and so do not earn as much. Here they are able to go only a few meters into the sea.

**(In): What is the season for fishing?**

**(Re):** Only August and September they don't fish, rest of the year they do. The fisheries department (Fisheries Development Officer at the Mandal level) gives these fishing families rice for those two months. This is to make sure they don't go out fishing during this time to help fish reproduce.

**(In): Do they have ID cards?**

**(Re):** Yes. Everyone involved in fishing have a card, per boat (8 members per boat).

**(In): Are these boats owned by the people in the community or outside also? And are they owned individually or in groups?**

**(Re):** Yes. Mostly individuals in the community own these boats. Some labourers from the community work on these boats as well. The produce is shared among them, such that the owner of the boat gets two shares, and remaining is shared among the others, including those who own the boats.

**(In): The new housing that is being built, could you tell us for who are those being built?**

**(Re):** 618 people were identified in total, but those who are in the middle of the settlement and are being excluded. So a net of 600 households are identified.

**(In): What are the selection criteria?**

**(Re):** They will have a hut, or tiled or AC sheet roof. They must be living very close to the sea. They should have a white ration card. They must not have availed housing under any housing scheme previously.

**(In): At the time of allocation, were some groups of people given priority over others?**

**(Re):** Those who are working in private companies are allocated housing farthest from the sea (site 3 Infosys housing). Housing closer to the sea will be given to those who are fishing.

**(In): Can you describe the housing project?**

**(Re):** There are two phases—Phase 1 and 2. Phase 2 has two layouts of 200 houses each and is going to come up closer to the sea than the Phase 1, which has 200 houses being built by Infosys. Phase 2 will be built by the state government.

**(In): What is the ownership status of the existing houses?**

**(Re):** People don't have patta. It is government land (Revenue Department, under the control of the Tehsilar), and the houses are built by the people themselves.

**(In): How long have people been living here?**

**(Re):** People have been living here since their forefathers.

**(In): Will the families that move to the new houses allotted to them continue to keep these houses?**

**(Re):** The collector us, we are not interested in keeping them here. If we give them a chance to stay here, they will not go to the new houses. They will give those houses on rent to others.

**(In): In the new houses, will they get any ownership and title?**

**(Re):** We will give them occupation certificates there, along with allotment letter. This is like a title only.

**(In): Are they allowed to sell that? How would you monitor that?**

**(Re):** Houses allotted are not eligible for selling. At the time of allocation, were some groups of people given priority over others?

We will take an action if any complaint comes. (From the response, it also seemed that the monitoring could be done only until the project is on, and not necessarily in the long term).

(Met some local villagers for a conversation. That conversation is documented separately).

### Sonia Gandhi Nagar Resident Interview

**Location:** Sonia Gandhi Nagar, Thatichettlapalem, Visakhapatnam **Language:** English; **Date:** 24th November, 2015; **Language:** Telugu; **Interviewer (In):** Sushmitha Ramoji; **Responder (Re):** Shanti (name has been changed for privacy) is a resident of Sonia Gandhi Nagar Beneficiary, Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) on-site house programme., Visakhapatnam.

**(In): I'm from Bangalore. I'm part of a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements. We are here to study the processes of the pre and post on-site development and the challenges faced by you (being a beneficiary) so far. Also, we would like to know about the problems you faced during the 2014 cyclone Hud Hud. This interview information will be used only for project research purposes and it will not be disclosed to anyone. If you are okay with this, can I take 20 to 30 minutes of your time for this interview? You can choose to stop the interview at any point. Can I please start the interview?**

**(Re):** Okay.

**(In): How long have you been living here?**

**(Re):** I have been living here for more than 50 years. Earlier, this area used to be a part of the ASR colony. Prior to this development, a part of land of the ASR colony belonged to the railways and rest of the land belonged to the government. My house is located on government land. Officials would often threaten the people, living on the railway land to move out of the place. After many years, railways constructed a wall as an obstruction. Now the railway land is left to the ASR colony. Due to caste and other conflicts people who were living on government land separated and formed another colony. This was when VAMBAY housing was proposed in ASR colony. During this process, ASR colony people protested against allocation of houses for us – because it's government land, allocation was easy. VAMBAY houses constructed on the government land were later renamed as Sonia Gandhi Nagar.

**(In): What is the source of income in your family?**

**(Re):** I used to work as a domestic maid. Now I'm 65 years old. I cannot work now. It's been more than 10 years that I stopped working. My family depends on my older son's income. He used to work as a construction labour. A Few years ago, he took training in welding work. Since then, he is into welding work. My younger son is still studying.



**(In): When did you hear about the on-site development proposal?**

**(Re):** I did not take it seriously when government officials informed me about the VAMBAY house - that they will provide a *pucca* house for us in the same place. Few months later a meeting was conducted to convince all our colony members. This meeting was held in the presence of the colony people, government officials and bank officials. In the meeting we were told that the bank will provide a loan. We could clear the loan after receiving the flat. They also told us that to pay Rs.23, 000 in instalments for registration and clearance certificate.

**(In): Why did you accept the on-site house allocation?**

**(Re):** I was informed that we will be allotted a G+1 house structure and that all our colony people will be accommodated in one place. All my neighbours agreed. I felt very happy and agreed as well on the basis that I would get a *pucca* house- with patta in the same place. I believed this house would be safe from high winds and cyclones, as this city is prone to these natural calamities. I felt that I no longer needed to worry about my well-being. Also I could not afford a house in the future. So, I vacated my house in two months.

**(In): How was the flat allocated? Are you happy with this?**

**(Re):** I got allocation on lottery basis. My neighbours got the flat in another block. The only good thing about this new atmosphere is that we won't fight much. Here, it's difficult for older people to climb stairs. Now they stopped coming down to interact with people.

**(In): Where did you stay when the project was being implemented? Did the government provide you with any kind of assistance when your house was being constructed?**

**(Re):** I stayed in a temporary *kutcha* house within this site. It took me a week to construct the house. For that I spent around Rs.40, 000–50,000 on construction I didn't receive any support or aid from the government. I borrowed money at 5 per cent interest from a money lender. I'm still repaying that debt.

**(In): What are the problems you faced while you stayed in a temporary house?**

**(Re):** There was no power supply connection for two years. I used to walk till VAMBAY house construction location to fetch water – which used to be far. We used to defecate in the open but due to construction work we were unable to defecate. There were no street lights and we used to get scared as the place felt unsafe.

**(In): What kind of problems did you face as soon as you moved in to the on-site house?**

**(Re):** I received a flat after 3 years. There was no power connection, no street lights and they didn't provide water to people living on top floors. Most of the services were not available when we moved. It has only been a year since I got the water connection.

**(In): What lifestyle changes have you experienced after moving here?**

**(Re):** I used to spend more time with my neighbours. I used to get groceries for them when I went to the market and they used to help me as well. We used to help each other. Whenever I went out they used to take care of my house and kids. Now everyone is scattered - staying in different blocks. Now we won't meet much. It took us more than two months to adjust to this new place. No one will talk. They won't come out. People living in top floor won't come down. Now we don't have the bonding that we had earlier. Yes, sometimes I miss them.

**(In): Are you happy with the space and ventilation provided?**

**(Re):** My son got married two years ago. After his marriage we could not adjust in one room. I have to stay outside during their private time. How can two families adjust in one house? My son cannot afford to pay rent and stay separately. Sometimes whatever he earns is barely sufficient for survival.

**(In): How much did you pay to get the house certificate? How are you managing?**

**(Re):** I will get the house certificate only if I pay Rs.35, 000. It's been more than 5 years that I got this house. Till now I haven't opened a bank account to start the process of repayment. I'm not even sure whether there would be a yearly interest on Rs.35, 000. My neighbours told me that we might get loan reimbursement from new government. I'm waiting for it. Now I cannot start process. Our whole family is dependent on my son. If he cannot gather the required amount to get the certificate – we shall borrow money at 5 per cent interest from a money lender. I have debts to clear. I'm still paying interest every month. If I won't pay the monthly interest, the money lender whom I have borrowed from will not give me money from next time.

How can I pay Rs.35, 000? Should I clear my debts or spend money on house patta or should I spend on survival?

**(In): What kind of problems did you face during Hud Hud?**

**(Re):** Not much. We stayed in this house (VAMBAY house). But, few household items which were outside got damaged. But, there was no power supply for two weeks. The hand pump got damaged – we got water from outside. I didn't face any problems. Before it used to be worse – when I stayed in a *kutchha* house – every year disasters used to cause damage to the house – we always used to worry about what will happen? Now this house is safe for us. But, in this house (VAMBAY house) – walls will get damp during heavy rains. This house is not of good quality.

Interview with the Project Director, Andhra Pradesh State Housing Corporation, Visakhapatnam.

**Location:** Visakhapatnam; **Language:** English; **Date:** 23rd November, 2015; **Interviewer (In):** Garima Jain, Teja Malladi; **Documenter:** Garima Jain, Teja Malladi; **Responder (Re):** Project Director, Andhra Pradesh Housing Board, Visakhapatnam;

**(In): Good morning Sir. Thank you for taking time and meeting us. We are part of a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore. As a part of a research project, we are here to study the impacts of cyclone Hud-Hud, post cyclone and other resettlement, relocation projects in Andhra Pradesh.**

All the material and information collected will be used for only research purposes and your identity will not be disclosed to anyone at any point. You can stop us at any point during the discussion and ask us if you have any questions and you can choose not to answer if you do not wish to.

**(Re):** Yes

**(In): Can you tell us about the housing program for the families affected by the cyclone Hud-Hud last year?**

**(Re):** After Hud-Hud, The Government of Andhra Pradesh decided to build houses for the families affected by the cyclone. The Chief Minister requested donors across the world to contribute towards the Hud-Cyclone Relief Fund. The government announced that it will match the amount received from the donors and use it in the construction of houses and other relief programs. Approximately Rs.280 crore was received from the donors and the government matched the amount.

The government decided to build 10,000 housing units across the three affected districts—Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam, of which 6000 were allotted to the Visakhapatnam district.

**(In): We saw that there is pre-fab technology being used for the construction of the houses. Can you tell us more about that?**

**(Re):** The state government decided to build these houses with pre-fab construction techniques instead of conventional Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) structures. The reason was that the pre-fab construction would take only six months from beginning to end, whereas the RCC structures will take 18 months for end to end construction.

The cost for pre-fab construction is higher (Rs.1350 per sft) compared to RCC (Rs.1300 per sft). With the intention of giving houses to affected families at the earliest, pre-fab techniques house was chosen for construction under this program. In most of the site the construction has already started.

**(In): What is the status of housing in Jalaripeta?**

**(Re):** The main livelihood of the families in Jalaripeta is fishing and related activities. As relocating them would affect their livelihoods and with intervention of local elected representative Mr. Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu, government decide build the houses within Jalaripeta.

As the Jalaripeta falls under coastal regulations zone, special permissions from Coastal Zone Management Authority (CZMA) were also acquired after the site was identified and a technical team from Andhra University who were consulted for structural design. As the cost of construction for the proposed design (based on the soil conditions and the high wind pressure) is very high, the government decided against it. Identification of a new site is in process, one that is safer and also acceptable to the community.

**(In): What is the process of site selection for these houses?**

**(Re):** We are not involved in the site selection process. We request the revenue department for the land required for the housing. Based on the allotment of the land, we call for tenders and supervise the process of construction.

**(In): How do you identify the beneficiaries?**

**(Re):** Beneficiary identification and allotment is done by the district administration and the local representatives. At the first stage a list is prepared by the district officials based on surveys and beneficiary selection criteria decided at the beginning of the project. This list is then verified by the local Janmabhoomi committee which consists of local representatives, district officials, and community representatives. The Janmabhoomi committee's role is to screen and remove the ineligible beneficiaries at the initial stages of the process. Once the list is verified by the Janmabhoomi committee, it is sent to the District Collectors office.

Depending on the number of houses available and the number of eligible beneficiaries, the district administration prepares the final list of beneficiaries by a lottery process. The list is then sent for approval to the local elected representative. After it is approved by the local elected representative, allotments are made to the beneficiaries.

As most of the beneficiaries prefer houses at particular location or houses on the ground floor, the allotment of houses is done on lottery basis.

As part of the Janmbhoomi program, it is compulsory for all the officials to spend one specific day in year with the community to know understand their problems and issues and report the same to the government. New programmes or modifications to the existing programmes are made based on the inputs given by the officials.

**(In): What are the other various housing schemes for the poor?**

**(Re):** Mainly, there are two types of housing programmes. One is the group housing type and another is the scattered housing type. In the group housing type, the government constructs multi-storied houses on government land which is then allotted to the beneficiaries. In the scattered housing type, the government provides money for the construction of house, if the beneficiary has land possession or entitlement certificate.

There were many housing programs launched by the past and current governments, at the state and at the central level. Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) Housing, Indiramma Housing, Rajiv Gruha Kalpa, JN-NURM, RAY were some of the housing schemes. NTR Housing scheme and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Housing for All) are the two new schemes introduced by the current government. We currently do not have the complete details of the new programmes.

The beneficiary identification/selection criteria, unit price and the beneficiary contribution are different across schemes and across urban and rural areas. Beneficiary contribution is mandatory in all the schemes, so the beneficiary has some sort of belongingness towards the house. The housing department in liaison with banks for provision of loans for the beneficiary contribution. But as the beneficiaries were unable to pay these monthly installments, the government has reduced the installment to Rs.500 per month. The beneficiaries will only get the entitlement after the completion of loan repayment.

**(In): Thank you for taking time and speaking to us.**

Interview: Project Director and Assistant Project Director, Urban Community Development Department, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC), Visakhapatnam.

**Location:** Visakhapatnam; **Date:** 21 November, 2015; **Language:** English; **Interviewer (In):** : Garima Jain, Teja Malladi, **Documenters:** Garima Jain, Teja Malladi; **Responder (Re):** Project Director and Assistant Project Director, Urban Community Development Department, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation ( GVMC), Visakhapatnam.

**(In): We are part of a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore. As a part of a research project we are here to study the impacts of the cyclone Hud-Hud, post cyclone and other resettlement, relocation projects in Andhra Pradesh.**

All the material and information collected will be used for only research purposes and your identity will not be disclosed to anyone at any point. You can stop us at any point during the discussion and ask us if you have any questions and you can choose not to answer if you do not wish to.

**(Re):** Yes

**(In): Can you please describe the role of the Urban Community Development (UCD) department in various housing projects in the city?**

**(Re):** The UCD Department was constituted in 1979. The role of the UCD department is to identify eligible beneficiaries for various social programmes implemented by the government.

From 1979 to 2000, the UCD department was involved in the rehabilitation of over 26,000 households and 143 colonies. From 2000 onwards, they have rehabilitated 22,000 households in the city. These include both in-situ and relocation.

In 1988, the Department for International Development (DFID) funded slum relocation and resettlement program was one of the first relocation program implemented by the department. Slum dwellers from various slums in the city were resettled at Arilova during this project. From 2000 to 2005 over 8000 households were rehabilitated under VAMBAY scheme. From 2008 onwards 14000 households were rehabilitated under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JnNURM).

**(In): Can you tell us where these families were relocated from and the reasons for the relocation?**

**(Re):** The colonies that we relocated were the ones that are either located in flood affected areas in the city or the illegal occupants on government lands or on private lands.

For example, Sewanagar near the railway station was located on land owned by the railways. We have relocated them to Madhurwada, which is located in the north of the city under the JnNURM scheme. Omkarnagar and MSM colony were located in low lying areas next to drains. During monsoons they were affected by floods. They were also relocated under the JnNURM scheme.

Under the Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) scheme families from Rajiv Colony, Lakshmidewi peta were relocated to Madhurwada area. Dayanandnagar, Kobarithota, Prasad Gardens, Poorna Market were some in-situ housing projects. Along with these families from other categories like families affected during road widening, those affected by HIV , those who are disabled, and people living in huts also get houses through these programs.

**(In): What are the on-going and future Economically Weaker Section (EWS) housing projects in the city?**

**(Re):** The current government announced nearly 2 lakh houses under various programmes. 1. 12 lakh houses under the NTR housing program, 0.8 lakh under Indra Awas Yojana (IAY) houses, 0.1 lakh for the cyclone affected families and the number of houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is yet to be announced. These numbers are at the district level, and we are responsible for the houses that fall under GVMC.

**(In): What are the problems faced by the department during beneficiary identification and relocation projects?**

**(Re):** Identifying eligible beneficiaries is one of the major challenges. Everyone wants to create an asset and it is a good opportunity for them during such projects. Even those who have got housing before re-apply again under new schemes. Identification of such applications is the main challenge. There is also political pressure for allocation of houses to a particular community or specific people. No one wants to leave their house and move to a new location. Most of them want in-situ development. That is only possible if the land is available. We try to motivate people to relocate and explain the benefits of the new houses. Sometimes it works and in some cases they have to be relocated by force.

**(In): Thank you for taking time and talking to us.**

**(Re):** Thank you

Interview: Town Planning and Building Officer, Bheemunipatnam Division, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC), Visakhapatnam.

**Location:** Visakhapatnam; **Language:** Telugu and Hindi; **Date:** 19th November, 2015; **Interviewer (In):** : Garima Jain, Teja Malladi, Mohan Raju JS; **Documenters:** Garima Jain, Teja Malladi; **Translator:** Teja Malladi, Mohan Raju JS; **Responder (Re):** Town Planning and Building Officer, Bheemunipatnam Division, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC), Visakhapatnam;

**(In): Good evening. We are part of a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore. As a part of a research project we are here to study the impacts of the cyclone Hud-Hud, post cyclone and other resettlement, relocation projects in Andhra Pradesh. All the material and information collected will be used for only research purposes and your identity will not be disclosed to anyone at any point. You can stop us at any point during the discussion and ask us if you have any questions and you can choose not to answer if you do not wish to.**

**(Re):** Yes

**(In): Can you share your experiences from the cyclone?**

**(Re):** We are not originally from here. I saw a beach for the first time after moving to bheemli for work. I liked this place until we were hit by the cyclone. It was one of the scariest moments of my life.

We received cyclone early warnings from the city commissioner a few days in advance. We took shelter at the local government school was the officer in-charge. I personally went around, especially the families living on the coast and the families living in temporary structures and warned them about the severity of this cyclone and requested them to move to the cyclone shelter. However, most of them were reluctant and some were making jokes that I should come and sit with them on the coast and enjoy the cyclone. Some families were reluctant to move as they wanted to guard their belongings. I went back many times, even till the evening before cyclone hit us.

The officer-in-charge of the other cyclone shelter nearby had to come from Visakhapatnam, which is nearly 30kms from here and requested me take charge of the other cyclone shelter also. With the kind of response I got, I was not expecting more than 100–150 people in the cyclone shelter, and I had made arrangements for 200 people on the safer side. As the wind speeds were getting higher by the hour, people got scared and

started moving into the shelter. By midnight, there were more than 600 people in the shelter. All the food that we had stocked up was over in no time and there was no food available even for children.

I don't know how I got the idea, but with the help of my spouse and few others, we went out in the heavy rain and wind to the nearby shops, broke open the locks and brought whatever food we could find, biscuits, chocolates, water, soft drinks. With that food we managed to survive that day and the night. After a few days, once the situation was back to normal, I went to all the shops to pay for the food that I had taken during the cyclone. I paid them from my pocket. It was a life changing experience. I prayed to all the gods and promised offerings to save all of us in the cyclone. Thankfully not a single life was lost in the cyclone.

**(In): What were the damages like?**

**(Re):** All the houses with thatch and asbestos roofs suffered severe to complete damages. According to our survey 8049 houses were reported to have suffered damages from the Bheemli division. The compensations packages for the damaged houses were

- Rs 5000 for Huts
- Rs 25000 for completely damaged *kutchha* house
- Rs 5000 for severely and partially damaged *pucca* house
- Rs 6300 for severely damaged *pucca* house
- Rs 5000 for partially damaged *pucca* house

The compensation was directly deposited to the back account of the beneficiaries within 10 days of the damage assessment process. The damage assessment was done by a team comprising officers from the housing department, the block revenue officer, the mandal development officer, the panchayat development officer, the village revenue officer and a Janmaboomi committee member. It was decided the officers of the inspection team in each mandal are from different mandals.

Bheemli is nearly 400 years old. It is very surprising to see the most of the structures from then have not suffered any damage during the cyclone. The damages you see in these heritage structures are because of poor management, not because of the cyclone.

**(In): What is the status of housing for the cyclone affected families?**

**(Re):** There is no clarity at present on the housing available for the cyclone affected. Along with the hud hud cyclone affected housing program, two new schemes—Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and NTR housing programs have been announced by the government. Currently we are conducting a survey to identify all the



homeless and families with damaged houses in the Bheemili area who are eligible for housing. From this survey, we will get the total number of houses required. Allotment will be done on the basis of number of houses available and the eligibility criteria.

**(In): Thank you for taking time and talking to us and sharing your experiences.**

**(Re):** Thank you

**Interview with the Resident's association President of ASR Nagar**

**Location:** ASR Nagar, Thatichettlapalem, Visakhapatnam; ; **Language:** Telugu **Date:** 24th November, 2015; **Interviewer (In):** Sushmitha Ramoji; **Documenter:** Sushmitha Ramoji; **Responder (Re):** ASR Nagar Residents Association President, Visakhapatnam.

Mr. Ramulu is the president of ASR colony. He runs a Pan shop in the colony. Earlier, he used to work as a waste picker. He said that he belongs to the Chenchu caste. His family migrated from Bobbili to ASR colony during his father's generation when he was a child. He claims that it has been more than 45 years since he settled here.

**(In): Sir, we are a team of researchers from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore and are here to study the problems and challenges you faced after the cyclone Hud Hud. . We require your consent to conduct the interview, which will take 20–30 minutes; you can choose not to answer our questions and stop this interview at any point.**

**(Re):** Yes sure.

**(In): What income generating activities have you and your family been involved in?**

**(Re):** I don't go out to work. I run a pan-shop in this colony. My elder son is a waste picker. I have six daughters, who are all married. My younger son is studying and he aspires to work with the police service. Another son is involved in business.

**(In): How many households does this colony have? What income generating activities are the members of the colony involved in?**

**(Re):** There are approximately 600 households in the colony. Most of the men are involved in waste picking, gas stove repair, making broom sticks and hair wigs, and daily wage labour. A few of them collect iron materials and papers from households and sell them in wholesale shops. Women manage household work and are engaged in income activities like selling groceries, broomsticks and hair wigs, and a few of them are involved in domestic work. The income activities we are involved in don't need a market place. We sell them to contractors who come and collect from here. Otherwise, there are many wholesale shops around, where we can sell the plastics, paper and other materials that we collect.

**(In): What was the condition of your house post the cyclone Hud Hud ? Did you receive any compensation from the government?**

**(Re):** My house was damaged. I didn't receive any compensation from the government. We were told that we all will receive Rs.5000 as compensation after Hud Hud. Only a few people in ASR nagar received compensation. Many people couldn't recover from the damage and their houses are still damaged. After the cyclone, an NGO has helped us by supplying asbestos sheets to everyone in the colony. I had spent my own money and I borrowed some money from a money lender for house construction. It cost around one lakh rupees for me to construct this house.

**(In): What is the interest for the money borrowed? How do you manage to pay?**

**(Re):** For every thousand rupees I need to pay Rs.4 as interest. It is high and I can't repay immediately or anytime soon. I need to pay him every day. It has been a month since I borrowed money for constructing my house.

**(In): What were the after effects of the cyclone Hud Hud on your house and other assets?**

**(Re):** Most houses were completely destroyed and some suffered partial damage (house walls and roof). You can also see that a few people have not been able to recover from the damage. I had lost everything in my house like TV, fan, utensils, food, etc. Fortunately, there was no loss of life. Now, I have invested on this house because I can't afford to spend money on reconstruction every year.

**(In): Where did you stay during the cyclone Hud Hud?**

**(Re):** I got to know about Hud Hud a day in advance. I did not take it seriously. I thought it would be like a regular cyclone, so I did not move. Once it started, it was intense. I got scared and moved to nearby government shelter where I stayed for five days.

**(In): Were you promised alternate housing by a government official?**

**(Re):** Recently, government officials said that they would provide us house here. A few years back, they asked us to move to the Kommadi and Maduravada relocation site. Everyone resisted this suggestion, but, in the year 2005, a few people moved to Kommadi. After 2 years, they came back and started living here. They said that they couldn't survive because of security and safety issues. They did not find any work. Although these people had moved to Kommadi, they used to come to town for work.

**(In): What kind of problems did they face at Kommadi? What has happened to their houses now?**

**(Re):** I don't know much about the problems at Kommadi because I have not gone there. I did not want to move from here because I can't survive at Kommadi or anywhere else.

**(In): Why didn't you move to Kommadi?**

**(Re):** The main reason is the lack of employment opportunities in Kommadi. There is no hospital nearby, if one came down with a fever or suffered from an illness, by the time they reach a hospital in the town, they might die. Above all, there is no market or employment opportunity at Kommadi and this is going to be the case in the future as well. Here everything is near and we can easily access market and hospital.

**(In): How many days did it take for your house to be reconstructed after the cyclone Hud Hud? When did you manage to construct the house?**

**(Re):** It took me one month to clear the damage and make temporary arrangements. Some people who had asbestos sheets did not reconstruct their house because they didn't have enough money. I used to live in a *kutchra* house. After Hud Hud, I was so worried about my house and other belongings. When an NGO helped us and gave asbestos sheet, I and many other colony members spent some money to construct a house using asbestos sheets to build the roof.

**(In): Were you relocated to Sonia Gandhi - VAMBAY housing?**

**(Re):** I did not want to move 15 years back, the railways department said that they will evict us but we resisted it to some extent. Officials said that this land belongs to the railways and that they couldn't provide us with houses here. After few years, during the Congress regime when YS Rajashekar Reddy was the Chief Minister, officials agreed to provide us houses in ASR colony, but the people from the railways department objected to the proposal and this halted the government.

When the VAMBAY allocation happened, we did not ask for allocation in that colony. That colony is different. That colony houses a different caste and community. We want a separate colony for us as we don't want to live in the same space as them.

**(In): Did you approach any one for house construction? What was the response?**

**(Re):** I approached the MLA, MP, and Collector. They said that they will help us get a sanction for a *pucca* house, but they haven't responded yet. In case they provide us housing here, all we need is a patta for the same house. If I have patta, I will have a right on it. If we are given patta, we will construct houses whenever we

get money and in this case the government need not provide us housing. We won't live in fear of eviction in future. A house with asbestos roof is enough for us. In case I decide to construct a *pucca* house, I will need money, for this I will end up taking money from a money lender, which I can't afford.

**(In): Where do you want your house?**

**(Re):** We don't want a house anywhere else. We can't survive, we are poor and at times we survive only on one meal per day. We have to come to town to work and in case we relocate, we may have to spend Rs.100 per day on travelling. How can we spend on a daily basis when we earn so less? At times we may not even make Rs.100 per day.

**(In): What kind of house do you want?**

**(Re):** We want individual houses. If there is not enough space then we are fine with ground plus one structure. Water scarcity makes it difficult during summers, especially if there are too many people in a small place like Sonia Gandhi Nagar. They face lot of issues. Apart from this, ladies who need to fetch water cannot climb stairs every day. Families headed by old people will also suffer. The women living in Sonia Gandhi Nagar have been facing problems while fetching water. We don't want to be like that. We just need an individual house.

**(In): What do you need as a community?**

**(Re):** We need financial support to start a business. If we want to experiment with alternate employment opportunities we need money. We don't have enough money to spend. We can't afford to take loans as the interest rates will be very high. We need better sanitation facilities especially for women. The government school is inaccessible as it is far and because of this, kids have not been going to school. We need a school nearby. We also need *pucca* houses with a certificate (patta).

Interview–Ujwala Bharati Mahila Samaikya (UBMS) General Secretary, Paradesipalem.

**Location:** Paradesipalem, Visakhapatnam; **Date:** 21st November 2015; **Language:** Telugu; **Interviewer (In):** Sushmitha Ramoji; **Documenter:** Sushmitha Ramoji; **Responder (Re):** General Secretary of UBMS (NGO)

**(In): Sir, I'm part of a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore. We are here to study the processes pertaining to pre and post disaster resettlement and the challenges faced by people. All information from this interview is confidential and will be used for the purpose of research only. I require your consent to conduct this interview, which will take 20–30 minutes; you can choose not to answer my questions and stop this interview at any point.**

**(Re):** I consent to being interviewed. You may begin.

**(In): Can you tell me about what UBMS does and what is your role in UBMS?**

**(Re):** I am the General Secretary of Ujwala Bharati Mahila Samaikya (UBMS). I have been associated with this organisation for the last 15 years. UBMS is a non-profit organisation which supports people belonging to the below poverty line segment in the city. UBMS has been active since it has been set up and has been in the field of supplying monthly basic needs, promoting capacity building and skill development programmes, free of charge. It also offers vocational training programmes and provides financial assistance to those who want to start their own enterprise.

**(In): How did this initiative start?**

**(Re):** During the NTR regime (1983–1989), people across the city, facing issues with housing approached the government for help. These people lived in *kutcha* houses, were unable to pay rent, were homeless, migrants without proper housing or lived in slums. Representations were made by associations formed based on their income activity and caste or community. There were associations led by a group of watchmen called 'watch association', another by a group of auto drivers called 'auto association' among others. .

After the failure of many of these representations made to government, they approached our NGO, by then we were active in helping people with basic necessities. In 1993 when the government decided to identify beneficiaries for house allocation, the state development housing corporation took an initiative to conduct an enquiry into the housing and living conditions along with the livelihood status of the people living in this area. In the

year 1994, beneficiaries were identified. Between 2002 and 2004, beneficiaries received the flats.

**(In): What did they consider in the enquiry?**

**(Re):** The enquiry was applicable for people who were staying within the city limits. It studied if a person had documents such as a white ration card, voter ID card, etc., which would validate their identity. Along with identification details, housing status was one of the key aspects in enquiry—to know if the person lived in a *kutcha* house (here semi *pucca* houses with asbestos roof are not considered) or if the person owned a house, etc.

Types of assets were another aspect of the enquiry. A survey was conducted to study if a person had a gas stove, vehicle, television, furniture and other assets related to work. This was done to understand their living conditions and level of affordability to decide whether they were in need of aid.

**(In): What were the livelihoods of the people surveyed?**

**(Re):** Most of them are auto drivers, daily wage labour, barbers, cobblers, butchers, domestic workers, etc. Most of them are self-employed and depend on daily wages.

**(In): Why did they want a new house and what motivated them to move?**

**(Re):** As these people consider houses as important assets, they wanted a new house. Moreover, most people here cannot afford to build a house and they decided to move to the new settlement. These people have lived through challenging conditions like floods during the rainy season and migrants have had to struggle every day to earn enough to sustain themselves and their families. There is a need to own a house with a legal claim on it and without the fear of eviction give their fight to survive in the city.

**(In): Have all the houses been occupied? If not, what are the reasons for the same?**

**(Re):** Not all houses are occupied, vacancies are due to the following reasons:

- Many people are self-employed and work in the city, lack of proximity from the relocation site to their place of livelihood is a concern.
- Most of them earn Rs.150–200 per day and can't afford to spend Rs.70–100 per day on travel.
- Those who live in rented houses, pay rent on an annual basis or have lease agreements, where

payment is made in a lump sum and not each month.

- The relocation site has no government school, and private schools expect donations that some cannot afford.

**(In): Could you please tell us about the cost of each house and the amount paid by each beneficiary?**

**(Re):** The cost of a single house under the JNNURM scheme is Rs.1,65,000. A beneficiary is supposed to pay Rs.5,300 to confirm their allocation or as beneficiary of the JNNURM house allocation. The beneficiary needs to pay Rs.15,000 to get the clearance certificate. Then, after receiving the flat, the beneficiary needs to pay Rs. 46,000 in instalments, through a bank deposit, to receive the house patta (legal certificate).

**(In): What will happen if they don't occupy?**

**(Re):** Three notices will be sent to the beneficiary in case the allocated place is not occupied. In that case, the beneficiary is answerable to the zonal commissioner. The commissioner then uses his discretion to determine the validity of the issue presented by the beneficiary and accordingly directs the government to cancel the allocation without the consent of the beneficiary, prior notice or confirmation. After the cancellation of allocation, even the money paid until then won't be refundable to the beneficiary.

**(In): What documents were sought to identify the beneficiary?**

**(Re):** The voter ID card is an essential verification document followed by the ration card, which is a secondary but mandatory document that has the beneficiary has to submit.

**(In): Did people face any problems during the process of getting patta for the house?**

**(Re):** Beneficiaries need to complete documentation procedure to open a bank account so that they can pay instalments. The Aadhar card has to be submitted to complete the documentation procedure. Those who don't have an Aadhar card find it difficult to complete the process.

### Interview with a Resident of Paradesipalem

**Location:** Paradesipalem, Visakhapatnam **Language:** Telugu; **Date:** 20th November 2015; **Interviewer (In):** Sushmitha Ramoji; **Documenter:** Sushmitha Ramoji; **Responder (Re):** Resident, Paradesipalem, Visakhapatnam

Rao (name changed) is a resident of Paradesipalem (A JNNURM relocation site) which is located at Madhuravada, Vishakhapatnam. It has been 6 months since he moved to the relocation site from Akkaiyapalem. He says that he had lived in Akkaiyapalem for over 45 years with his wife and two sons. His sons were married five years back. He says that he has been repairing watches for a profession for over 35 years. He also works at his son's shop when he has the time. He has built strong networks in Akkaiyapalem over the last 20 years, and his main source of income is supplying dry fish.

**(In):** Sir, I'm part of a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore. We are here to study the processes pertaining to the pre and post resettlement and the challenges faced by you (being a beneficiary) so far. We would also like to know the problems you faced during the cyclone Hud Hud in 2014. All information from this interview is confidential and will be used for the purpose of research only. I require your consent to conduct this interview, which will take 20–30 minutes; you can choose not to answer my questions and stop this interview at any point.

**(Re):** I consent to being interviewed. You may begin

**(In):** How did the process of consulting government officials start? What was their response when you approached them? What problems did you face in this process?

**(Re):** In 1983, when NTR formed a new government, I and a few others made a representation to the government officer at the district regional office voicing the concerns of the housing conditions of the people living in Akkaiyappalem. We believed that NTR would solve our housing problem. At that time we didn't know whom to approach. After several unsuccessful attempts, I and my supporters from the watch repair profession formed an association to discuss issues pertaining to our income status and living conditions. We then made several representations to the district collector through the watch repair association with details of our housing condition.

A few months later, Girijana Samaikya Sangam (NGO) helped us meet the Mandal revenue officer (MRO) and reach the Municipal Corporation. However the meeting wasn't successful. Finally, we wrote a letter to the Chief Minister. Although we didn't get a response immedi-

ately, a meeting was organised by government officials to meet these people a year before elections. In 1993, the government passed an order to conduct an enquiry on the housing status through the city; this took 2–3 months. In 1994, the Government announced housing allocation through JNNURM and confirmed the beneficiaries.

**(In):** When did you receive the flat? When did you move here?

**(Re):** I received the flat in the year 2003, I moved here six months back. I couldn't move immediately because there was lack of basic amenities like water supply, power supply, street light services, and sewer line connection from the house. All these services were provided from the end of 2014. It then took some time for me to set up my workplace and pay annual rent to the landlord. Even my sons were allocated houses at this site and they haven't moved yet.

**(In):** Your sons have been allotted houses in this site, why haven't they moved yet?

**(Re):** My elder son sells breakfast and snacks and the younger son uses a rented space to repair watches. They will lose their clients and networks to competitors if they shift. Also, my grandchildren are studying in a government school; here there are no schools. In the vicinity and no proper transport facilities. However, the biggest problem for them is the distance from their workplace and they can't afford to spend on travel every day.

**(In):** Were you informed about the relocation site before allocation? Was this site allocation done according to your choice?

**(Re):** After confirming the beneficiaries, there was no communication from the officials, they didn't discuss about the relocation site. I was only informed that I will be relocated elsewhere. My inability to afford house rent is the only reason I agreed to relocate..

Before allocation, there was a meeting between the state housing board and the zonal commissioner. In that meeting we were informed that Paradesipalem-Madhuravada, Pendurthi and Parvada are the chosen relocation sites and that we could select the one we wanted to move to. We gave our preferences and were subsequently allocated sites through lottery. In that, we got what we asked for.

**(In):** Why did you choose Paradesipalem specifically?

**(Re):** Among the given sites, Madhuravada Paradesipalem seemed to be good option because it is located close to the highway and we thought that the govern-



ment would provide bus facilities to enable connectivity to our workplace.

**(In): How much did you pay for this house?**

**(Re):** After I was confirmed as a beneficiary, I paid Rs.15,000 for documentation. I paid Rs.8,000 in two instalments to get a clearance certificate to stay in a flat. I am yet to pay Rs.35,000 to the bank in instalments to get the house certificate.

**(In): What kind of problems are you facing in terms of access to your workplace after moving to relocation site?**

**(Re):** I earn between Rs.200 and 250 per day of which I spend Rs.100–150 on food per day. I invest the rest to purchase dry fish from Srikakulam which is another district in the state. After relocation, my markets have been taken over by competitors and I can't save the Rs.100 that I used to earlier. Earlier, I used to sell dry fish every day, now I sell only on alternate days because I need to build new networks in the relocated site. In addition, I need to travel to the city every day which costs me Rs.50–60 per day. All the money that I earn is just sufficient for my survival. The only benefit is that I am no longer threatened by a landlord to pay rent.

**(In): What problems did you face at work post cyclone Hud Hud ?**

**(Re):** After Hud Hud, I didn't open my watch repair shop for more than a month, although there was no damage to my work related assets.

**(In): Did you face any problems to complete the procedures related to housing? If yes, what are they?**

**(Re):** I applied for an allocation without a ration card. At the time, the officers said that I can produce it for verification later. Recently, the Aadhar card has become mandatory to get a ration card or any other services from government. As I don't have an Aadhar card, I can't get a ration card and because of this, I have not been able to open a bank account to start the house certificate payment process (Rs.35000 to get a house occupancy certificate). I don't understand why they can't continue the same procedure which we had. Because of these new rules that come up, the process of getting house certificate is getting delayed.

Interview with Project Coordinator, Pandhey Associates

**Location:** Visakhapatnam; **Date:** 19th November 2015; **Language:** English; **Interviewer (In):** Aishwarya Balasubramanian and Sunil Kraleti; **Documenters:** Aishwarya Balasubramanian and Sunil Kraleti; **Responder (Re):** Project Coordinator, Pandhey Associates

**(In): We are a team of researchers from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore. We are studying the impacts of the cyclone Hud-Hud and the related resettlement programmes in Visakhapatnam. The material from this interview will be used only for research purposes.**

**(Re):** Sure

**(In): How were you chosen for the government project on reconstructing housing post Hud Hud?**

**(Re):** We have already built 9000 pre-fabricated houses in Andaman for the tsunami affected. This experience helped us get this project.

**(In): How many pre-fabricated houses have you built in Visakhapatnam so far?**

**(Re):** The pre-fabricated houses in Visakhapatnam are built for those affected by Hud Hud. A total of 119 pre-fabricated houses have been built so far. Most of them are ground plus one (G+1). Each block has 32 houses and the cost of building one block is around Rs 7–8 lakhs. Each house measures around 350sqft.

**(In): What are the measures taken to safeguard against risk in these newly built houses?**

**(Re):** We have used foam bricks which can withstand wind speeds of 280km/hr. In general, the way the houses are built, materials used etc., can withstand high wind speeds. We have also done soil capacity testing in each area and used materials specific to location and soil capacity.

**(In): Do you also provide other infrastructure facilities?**

**(Re):** Other than building houses, we provide pipeline and electrical lines. Infrastructure is being provided by another company.

**(In): How long does the construction take?**

**(Re):** We started in June 2015 and we are aiming to finish all the 2500 houses by end of Feb 2016.

Interview: Deputy Executive Engineer, Andhra Pradesh State Housing Corporation Limited, Visakhapatnam.

**Location:** Visakhapatnam; **Date:** 23rd November, 2015; **Language:** English; **Interviewer (In):** Garima Jain, Teja Malladi; **Documenter:** Garima Jain, Teja Malladi; **Responder (Re):** Deputy Executive Engineer, Andhra Pradesh Housing Board, Visakhapatnam.

**(In): Good morning Sir. Thank you for taking time to meet us. We are a team of researchers from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore. As a part of a research project we are here to study the impact of the cyclone Hud-Hud, post cyclone and other resettlement, relocation projects in Andhra Pradesh. All the material and information collected will be used for research purposes only and your identity will not be disclosed to anyone at any point. You can stop us at any point during the discussion and ask us questions if you have any and you can choose not to answer if you do not wish to.**

**(Re):** Yes

**(In): Can you tell us about the housing program for the families affected by the cyclone Hud-Hud last year?**

**(Re):** This is the first time in the State that a housing project is using prefab technologies. We are using Steel frame structures with Aeon brick infills for the construction of houses. 10,000 houses were sanctioned for the three cyclone affected districts. A major chunk of this—nearly 6300 houses are being built in Visakhapatnam district. The land will be identified by the Revenue department and GVMC and the construction of houses and infrastructure is by the housing corporation. The selection of company for the construction of houses was by a tender process. The use of construction technology and period of construction were decided by the government, whereas design of houses and construction is done by the construction company. The officials from the department continuously monitor the construction process and the quality.

A total of 32 sites in the district were identified for the housing construction and work has already started in 22 sites. Jalaripeta was one such site, where the construction has not yet started yet, because of the issues with land and the cost of construction. Owing to the type of soil and technology used for construction, per unit cost in Jalaripeta is higher as compared to the rest of the sites. So identification of suitable site for the fisherfolk is in process.

The composition of financial resources for this housing project is also first of its kind. 50 per cent of the funds

are collected through donations to the Hud Hud Cyclone Relief Fund and the remaining is matched by the government. Along with this, private institutions are also constructing houses for the cyclone affected families in some locations bearing all the costs for construction on land provided by the government.

**(In): Could you tell us about these fully donor-funded housing and where they are located?**

**(Re):** In addition to contribution to the relief fund, institutions like Infosys and Eenadu wanted to build houses on their own for the cyclone affected families and approached the government for a suitable site for this.

A total of 600 houses —200 units each at 3 different sites were proposed at Pudimadakha, a fishing village located to the south of Visakhapatnam. Of these 600 houses, Infosys came forward to build 200 houses at one location. The housing units are built in partnership between private organisations and the government. Where the government provides infrastructure and the organisations build the units. The construction of the housing units is almost complete. Infosys has decided to construct using Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC), whereas the remaining 400 houses will be built using prefab technologies. Similarly, Eenadu, a news daily agreed to build 75 housing units in Yerada village.

In Pudimadakha, the three new sites will be connected by a new road to the old village, as most people will have to travel to the village for their livelihoods. We made sure that the location of the new sites is acceptable to the beneficiaries and they were also involved in the process of designing the unit.

**(In): What is the process of beneficiary identification?**

**(Re):** The housing units are built in partnership between private organisations and the government. Where the government provides infrastructure and the organisations build the units. We don't want to relocate 200 families first and then the rest later. The allotment will be based on lottery.

The beneficiaries were already identified from the damage survey done by the revenue department for the compensation. All the houses with temporary roofing materials, especially located on the coast are eligible for the new housing units.

**(In): Thank you for taking time and talking to us**

**(Re):** Thank you. You are free to visit the site anytime and talk to the affected families in the old village.

**(In): Thank you**

**Interview –Secretary, Sewanagar Scheduled Caste (Sc) Sewa Sangam**

**Location:** Sewanagar, Visakhapatnam; **Date:** 20th November, 2015; **Language:** English; **Interviewer (In):** Sunil Kraleti, Garima Jain, Aishwarya Balasubramanian; **Responder (Re):** Sewanagar SC Sewan Sangam Secretary

**(In): Sir, I'm from Bangalore. I'm part of a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements. We are here to study the processes pertaining to the pre and post resettlement and the challenges faced by beneficiaries. This interview information will be used only for project research purposes and it will not be disclosed to anyone. If you are okay with this, can I take 20 to 30 minutes of your time for this interview? You can choose to stop the interview at any point. Can I please start the interview?**

**(Re):** I'm fine with it.

**(In): From when are you living in the current location (resettlement site)?**

**(Re):** We were evicted on 9 December 2011 and have been rehabilitated here, from then we are staying in this location.

**(In): How far is the previous location from here?**

**(Re):** It is nearly 25 kms to 30 kms from here; near the Visakhapatnam Railway Station.

**(In): Can you please describe the history of Sewanagar?**

**(Re):** With a total of 180 slums, Sewanagar slum was situated in Warn No. 44 within Greater Vishakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) limits. The slum existed for nearly 60 years next to the side of East Coast Railway (Eco. Railway) Stadium. It houses more than 300 families, most of them belonging to below the poverty line families, and depend on daily wage labour for their livelihood. Women used to sell vegetables in the nearby market and earn nearly Rs.100 to .150 per day. In 1993, the Eco. Railway authorities based in Waltair, threatened the slum dwellers and asked them to evacuate the place which covers an area of 3 acers 33 cents with a town survey number 308. In response to this the resident society of Sewanagar Schedule Caste, Sewa Sangam with registration number REG NO. 385.83 collected funds from the slum dwellers and approached the High Court of Andhra Pradesh and obtained a status quo order on 28 October 1993, in which the High Court directed the respondents namely Divisional Railway Manager Eco. Railways, Waltair, General Manager Eco. Railways,

Kolkata and the District Collector, Visakhapatnam, not to evict the slum till the final decision of the case came out. After obtaining the status quo order, Sewanagar was safe and nobody asked the slum dwellers to leave the slum until 23 April 2004.

On 24 April 2004 the Eco Railways authorities issued door to door eviction notices to the slum dwellers. In response the same slum dwellers filed a writ, challenging the order in the Estate Court of Eco Railways, Waltair. Both the cases were pending, one in Andhra Pradesh High Court and another in Railway Estate Court and no final judgement was delivered. On 9 December 2011 the Eco Railway authorities and GVMC authorities have forcefully evicted the slum dwellers without prior notice and rehabilitated the residents to three different locations in the city; namely Komadi and Sewanagar in Madahurawada area and Polagawani Palem in Pendurthi Mandal. After the immediate rehabilitation most families lost their livelihoods, as the rehabilitation site is very far from the old Sewanagar and lacked proper transport connectivity to the new location. And the transportation charges to the city cost us around Rs.100 and we earn nearly Rs.200 as daily wage, which is not profitable at all. The new Sewanagar (or the rehabilitated site) has substandard medical and basic services such as water supply and sanitation. 27 members of the community have expired in the past three years due to supply of bad drinking water. There is no burial ground for the community as well.

The JnNURM houses allocated by the government are of low quality and pose a threat to the residents. The Urban Community Department of GVMC has been fraudulent by not allocated houses to a few families who were staying in Sewanagar previously. The registered society has taken up this matter and filed a writ in the Andhra Pradesh High court recently, requesting for prompt enquiry and allocation houses to the original beneficiaries who were left out. The conditions in the new site are very bad and we are not satisfied from rehabilitation. We don't have any job opportunities in the nearby locality. There is no good school nearby either..

**(In): We heard from a few women that residents here are addicted to alcohol? If yes, what are the reasons behind it?**

**(Re):** We were busy in our own work back in old Sewanagar, if we were not busy with work, we use to have other forms of entertainment like movie theaters nearby. But here we have four liquor shops near to our homes. Kids generally don't go to school and are getting influenced by their elders who are addicted to liquor. Many young people are addicted to drinking and gambling. Lack of job opportunities in the new site is one of the main reasons for people getting addicted to such social evils here.

**(In): In old Sewanagar, did the slum ever face flooding or any such extreme climate hazards?**

**(Re):** Yes, the slum used to get flooded very frequently, but none of us fell sick due to such incidents. It is after coming to this locality that we are facing such issues and deaths as well. Water used to get logged in the slum but it use to recede in a few hours and everything use to be normal again.

**(In): In your opinion what is the best solution to this problem?**

**(Re):** Take these houses back and let us live in our old site. We can earn some money by working in the railway station or work for a daily wage in the city. That is the best solution.

**(In): What kind of problems did the present site face during Hudhud?**

**(Re):** Nothing much, tanks got damaged and have been replaced by the government in a few days. Until then a water tanker was distributing water for us. Few people on the top floor complained of leaking roofs.

**(In): What kind of arrangements does this site have during emergencies?**

**(Re):** Few youngsters drive autos here and we call them if there is any emergency. The locality is connected with public transport but timing of the buses is a problem, so during emergencies we rely on autos.

**(In): Sir I would like to thank you for your time and responses.**

**(Re):** All the best.

## Focus Group Discussions

### Berhampur, Ganjam District, Odisha

#### Focus Group Discussion - Kajha Sahi

**Location:** Khaja Sahi, Berhampur **Date:** 2nd October, 2015; **Language:** Hindi and Telugu; **Interviewer (In):** Aishwarya Balasubramanian, Sunil Kraleti; **Translator:** Sunil Kraleti; **Documenter:** Sunil Kraleti; **Responder (Re):** Women residents of Kajha Sahi; **Size of the group:** Ten women; **Age group of respondents:** 25-70 years

**Description of the slum:** Kajha Sahi slum is situated just on a garbage dump site. This slum is predominantly occupied by Muslims. Most of them work in a market close to the slum. Most men work for daily wages in the market nearby while women work as house maids. The slum lacks access to drinking water, sanitation and other basic services like housing, electricity, etc. The slum was completely damaged during Phailin and people are still recovering from those damages. Families lived in tarpaulin tents until they received assistance from Islam Committee. The slum has been surveyed under Slum Free City Plan of Action and is eligible for Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY).

**(In):** Namaskar, we are part of a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements from Bangalore. We are studying the impacts of cyclone Phailin and the related resettlement programmes in Odisha. Is it okay if we could take about 30 minutes of your time for some discussion?

The material will be used for only research purposes and your identity will not be disclosed to anyone at any point. You can choose not to answer anything that you do not wish to and you can stop the interview at any point.

**(Re):** Sure

**(In):** How old is this slum?

**(Re):** The slum is 20 years old. We all came from different parts of the city and started living here

**(In):** What kind of basic service arrangements does the slum have?

**(Re):** Till last year, the slum did not have water supply and they used to go to Aska road (which is 15 minutes away) to fetch water. However last year people got together and collected a sum of Rs.20, 000 and got a water pipe installed in the slum. When there is no water available, the councillor sends a water tanker.

People in the slum defecate in the open. Due to water stagnation and snakes during rainy season, people find it difficult to defecate. Women especially face problems to defecate at night.

**(In):** Do you know about Swachh Bharat Campaign?

**(Re):** Yes, it's an awareness campaign. Our surroundings are not clean, so is the city. The city is also full of filth, so the Swachh Bharat campaign makes no difference to us.

**(In):** How did you come to know about Phailin? Who informed you? Where did you go during Phailin? Can you please describe the series of events during Phailin?

**(Re):** People were informed about the cyclone two weeks earlier by the councillor and mayor. Everyone was moved to a school.

**(In):** What do you do when a disaster occurs?

**(Re):** We use to go to other people's houses in the nearby locality and return when the storm had passed.



During Phailin our houses were damaged. This community was totally destroyed.

**(In): Then did you ask for help after the event?**

**(Re):** Islam Committee and Kajha Sahi Masjid Committee provided tarpaulin sheets and other assistance to people. Government gave Rs.1900 and Chuda (flattened rice) to eat the event.

**(In): Did you get any assistance for construction of houses after the cyclone?**

**(Re):** Few of us got it.

**(In): Is there an Anganwadi nearby?**

**(Re):** Yes. Anganawadi staff does visit the slum at times.

**(In): How did you come to know about their programmes?**

**(Re):** Anganwadi staff came here and informed us about the Mamata Yojana Scheme. Under the scheme, mothers receive *chatuva* from 7th month and kids till the age of 5 receive *chatuva* and egg. However, people aren't satisfied with quality of food.

**(In): What other services do you people avail?**

**(Re):** Few people get old age pension.

**(In): Do women in the neighbourhood work?**

**(Re):** Most women work as housemaids. They earn around Rs.200-300 per month.

**(In): Do you manage to save?**

**(Re):** People do not earn much to save. Whatever they earn is spent on the household and they have nothing left to save. However, few people save money in chit funds.

**(In): Do kids in the slum go to school?**

**(Re):** Kids go to school and they study till 10th grade. They will continue school further depending on their financial situation. The school provides food and books free of cost. Most kids go to tuition. Girls learn stitching as well.

**(In): Are there any dropouts due to distance of the school?**

**(Re):** Though the school is far, there are no dropouts because of the distance.

**(In): What are the most prevalent diseases in your slum?**

**(Re):** Fever is the most common disease of this slum. Sometimes few Christian missionaries come to the *Madrasa* (it's an Arabic word for educational institution) and provide medical assistance. So during that time *Madrasa* is a very important place for the community.

Otherwise without any medical assistance and living on a dump site can generally be harmful.

**(In): During few discussions it was mentioned that the slum is going to get relocated, can you please tell us if you know anything about the same.**

**(Re):** Before elections, the councillor promised to provide houses but they still haven't received any. The slum has been surveyed under RAY but people are unsure if they will be relocated. People prefer on-site development.

### Focus Group Discussion - Pichi Picha Nagar (Sri Ram Nagar)

**Location:** Sri Ram Nagar, Berhampur; **Date:** 2nd October, 2015; **Language:** English & partly Hindi; **Interviewer (In):** Aishwarya Balasubramanian; **Documenter:** Sunil Kraleti; **Translator:** Sunil Kraleti; **Responder (Re):** Households of Pichi Picha Nagar; **Size of the group:** 5 Women and 3 men; **Age of the group:** between 35- 60

**(In):** Namaskar, we are a team of researchers from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore We are studying the impacts of the cyclone Phailin and the related resettlement programmes in Odisha. All information from this interview is confidential and will be used for the purpose of research only. We require your consent to conduct the interview, which will take 20–30 minutes; you can choose not to answer our questions and stop this interview at any point.

**(Re):** Sure

**Description of the slum:** Pichi Picha Nagar (Sri Ram Nagar) is situated near Aska Road and Bada bazar and holds nearly 167 households. The neighbourhood is 30 years old and is dominated by Goud, Telaga and Dhaulia communities.

The slum is dependent on Bada Bazar for their livelihoods, most men work as labourers and rickshaw pullers for traders in the market, and women work as housemaids. The neighbourhood was severely damaged during Phailin and is still recovering from the damages. There is an open drain that runs through either side of the slum.

**(In):** How old is the slum?

**(Re):** People have settled here 25 years ago when this place was densely forested. The forest eventually was cleared out and people moved into huts permanently. Women in the neighbourhood still defecate in the open.

**(In):** What kind of basic service arrangements does the slum have?

**(Re):** Pichi Picha Nagar is dependent on a hand pump and four public taps for drinking water. With the help of the councillor and the local government, the neighbourhood was provided with public taps after 10 years.

None of the residents have a toilet at home. Most of them defecate in the open and the rest use public/community toilets. Snakes thrive in the neighbourhood due to stagnant water during the rainy.

**(In):** How did you come to know about the cyclone Phailin? Who informed you? Where did you go during the cyclone? Can you please describe the series of events during the cyclone?

**(Re):** Two weeks prior to the cyclone, our neighbourhood was informed about it by the councillor. Most of the houses were damaged during Phailin and people were relocated to a school nearby for the next two weeks.

**(In):** Where did you stay immediately after cyclone?

**(Re):** Post the cyclone, people temporarily lived under tarpaulin sheets and later reconstructed their houses. People observed an increase in reconstruction cost post Phailin than after the super cyclone in 1999.

**(In):** How have you dealt with climate related disaster in the past?

**(Re):** During the Super cyclone in 1999, we were staying in thatched houses which collapsed completely. Later people built semi *pucca* houses (asbestos roof). The cyclone Phailin, completely destroyed these houses again.

**(In):** Did you seek help post disaster?

**(Re):** Post the cyclone Phailin, most people approached the councillor for assistance while others also took help from informal money lenders/microfinance groups.

**(In):** Did you receive any assistance to reconstruct your house after the cyclone?

**(Re):** A few families received Rs. 3200/ and tarpaulin sheets

**(In):** Do you have an Anganwadi nearby?

**(Re):** The neighbourhood has an Angawadi and most people avail them

**(In):** How did you come to know about their programs?

**(Re):** The anganwadi staff have come here and informed us about the Mamata Yojana scheme. Under the scheme, expecting mothers receive *chatuva* starting from their 7th month and kids receive *chatuva* and egg till the age of 5. However, a few families reported that the anganwadi is too small to accommodate kids and there is insufficient storage space.

**(In):** What other services do you avail?

**(Re):** All of us have zero balance account and the older people get pension.

**(In): What economic activities are the men in your neighbourhood involved in?**

**(Re):** Men either work as coolies at markets or pull rickshaws under a contractor/trader.

**(In): Do women in the neighbourhood work?**

**(Re):** A few women operate manufacturing units that make plastic bags at the household level and sell them in the market. While others work as housemaids in the neighbourhood and earn 200–400/- rupees per month.

**(In): Do you manage to save?**

**(Re):** No, we generally don't save money on a regular basis

**(In): Do kids in the slum go to school?**

**(Re):** Most kids go to schools. However, they have to walk few kilometres to go to the government school every day. The quality of the mid-day meal isn't good. Most kids drop out after 9th or 10th grade and usually repair cell phones for a living.

**(In): What are the most prevalent diseases in your slum?**

**(Re):** The most common health problems in the neighbourhood are malaria and other viral diseases.

**(In): During few discussions it was mentioned that the slum is going to get relocated, can you please tell us if you know anything about the same.**

**(Re):** Despite people living here since 25 years, none of them have a patta. The neighbourhood has been surveyed under RAY and people have demanded for in-situ development (only individual houses and no apartments) and provision of patta. As most of their livelihoods depend on the nearby market, people are not willing to move out.

**(In): How did you come to know about Phailin? Who informed you? Where did you go during Phailin? Can you please describe the series of events during Phailin?**

**(Re):** People were informed about the cyclone two weeks earlier by the councillor. They were moved to a nearby school and stayed there for almost 20 days. The neighbourhood was dependent on an open well and a hand pump for daily water services for few months and there was no electricity for almost a year.

Before moving to the cyclone shelters residents carried their clothes and a few important documents with them.

Rickshaws owners have taken their rickshaws along with them to the school the residents reported that saving their rickshaws was more important than their household items.

**(In): How is the Cyclone shelter that you relocated to?**

**(Re):** As the cyclone shelter did not have any emergency medical facilities, a pregnant woman had to deliver baby in the shelter with the help of few women in the village. It was after five days that the woman was taken to a hospital for a check-up. Though the baby and mother are safe, residents expressed their distress over the lack of emergency medical facilities in the cyclone shelters.

**(In): We have seen few Telugu families residing in the slum, are there any difference or any issues?**

**(Re):** Most people speak Oriya and a few speak Telugu. However, there are no language barriers in the neighbourhood and people share a cordial relationship. The neighbourhood also get together for festivals and have built a temple in their neighbourhood. The neighbourhood lacks properly laid roads, schools and community centres. Women prefer working in the neighbourhood than outside due to safety issues.

**(In): What are the three most important things for your slum?**

**(Re):** Women Respondents:

- House with patta
- Job opportunities for their kids
- Job opportunities for women within their neighbourhood

Men Respondents:

- House with patta
- School
- Water and electricity

**(In): Thank you for your time. Do you have any questions from your side?**

**(Re):** No.

**(In): Thank you once again.**

## Ganjam District, Odisha

Focus group discussion- Devi Nagar

**Location:** Devinagar, Chhatrapur Block, Ganjam District; **Language:** English and Hindi; **Interviewer (In):** Aishwarya Balasubramanian; **Documenter:** Sunil Kraleti; **Translator:** Sunil Kraleti; **Responder (Re):** Group of villagers from Ramayapalli who have been relocated to Devinagar under Orissa Disaster Recovery Project; **Size of the group:** Eight people - Five women and men; **Age group of respondents:** 35-60 years

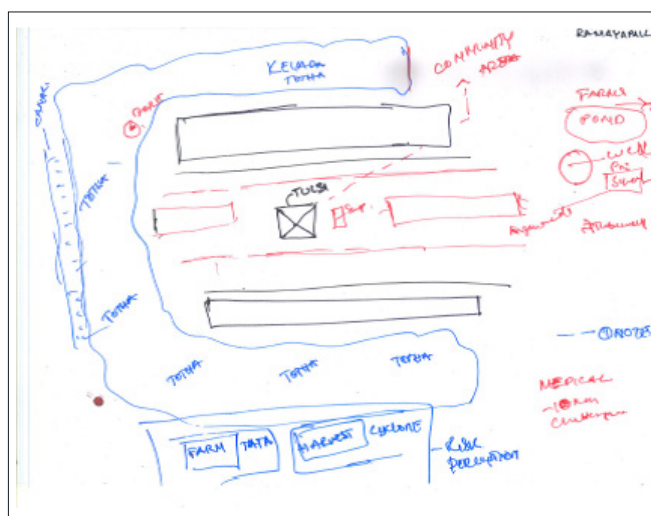
**(In):** Namaskar, we are part of a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements from Bangalore. We are studying the impacts of cyclone Phailin and the related resettlement programmes in Odisha. Is it okay if we could take about 30 minutes of your time for some discussion?

The material will be used for only research purposes and your identity will not be disclosed to anyone at any point. You can choose not to answer anything that you do not wish to and you can stop the interview at any point.

**(Re):** Sure

**(In):** Can you please describe Ramayapalli village and help me map your village? What are the prominent spaces in your village? (Memory map exercise)

*Memory Map of Ramayapalli (given below)*



**(In):** How old is this village?

**(Re):** The village is almost 100 years old. Most of the responders were born in this village.

**(In):** What kind of plantation/crops do you grow in your village?

**(Re):** Cashew; Kevada; Coconut; Banana; Mango; Pine-apple; Papaya

Everyone has Kevada farms; few people also grow banana and coconut. Most of people grow their own food.

**(In):** Was your village warned before the cyclone?

**(Re):** Most of the villagers knew about the cyclone a week before through news, but no action was taken. The village has nearly 10 to 15 acres of land which got damaged during to Phailin. It takes nearly 2 to 3 years for Kevada to grow fully until it can be harvested. Apart from the fields many houses got damaged as well.

**(In):** Did members of the village receive any compensation after Phailin?

**(Re):** Few received compensation for loss of crop. However farmers with small farms didn't receive any compensation for crop damage.

**(In):** What is the source of income in your family?

**(Re):**

- Rates for crops have not increased
- Farmers often face threats from monkeys as they destroy the Kavuda crops and it takes almost three years for the crop to bear flowers.

### Issue of Land Acquisition:

Around the mid-1980s, TATA acquired large pieces of land from the farmers. Initially, the farmers revolted against this decision but later they were given compensation for the acquired piece of land under the Land Acquisition Act of 1894. Apart from compensation, farmers were promised jobs in the TATA plant. However, the project was delayed and it only began three years ago. Few people who worked at TATA plant were disappointed with their pay and felt they were doing much better financially, before TATA's interventions. Few years ago the villagers had requested the TATAs to release few acres of pasture land from the acquired land for village cattle to graze in. In response the TATAs released six acres of land which was full of Kevada growth, which was not suitable for grazing. This has angered the villagers.

**(In):** Where do you sell the Kevada flowers harvest?

**(Re):** Few farmers sell the harvest to traders while few sell them in Gopalpur. They sell the harvest in Narendrapur on Wednesdays and at Chamarkuni on Sunday.

They walk, cycle or use public transport to reach these markets.

**(In): Do you have sanitation facilities in Ramayapalli?**

**(Re):** None of the residents have a toilet at home and they all defecate in the open. However, people have toilets in their new house at Devinagar.

**(In): Are you happy about moving to the new site? What issues are you facing on the new site?**

**(Re):** Though people are happy to own a house worth Rs.3 lakh, they complained about the increase in distance from the new house to their fields. Due to threats from monkeys, farmers have to leave very early to their fields. The new place does not have transportation facilities and farmers have to walk almost 7 kms.

**(In): Other than farming do the farmers have any other skills?**

**(Re):** Most of them are only involved in agriculture or horticulture and do not know of any other skill but was willing to learn any new skill. The respondents are aware of Mahila Mandalas (women groups) functioning in other areas and have mentioned about having a Mahila Mandal in their area. A self-help group in the village helps people save money, but they don't provide any skills training.

**(In): Are you part of or aware of any insurance scheme?**

**(Re):** Few of farmers are aware of the farmers insurance but most don't have it. Few people have health insurance provided by the Life Insurance Corporation of India. They are not part of any chit funds either.

**(In): How many people have bank accounts for the Orissa Disaster Recovery Project?**

**(Re):** Most people have opened bank accounts for the ODRP project.

**(In): What are the problems in staying here (Devinagar relocated site)?**

**(Re):**

- Lack of livelihood opportunities.
- Though the new site is close to Chatrapur, schools there do not have enough seats..

- Few women complained that there are no water bodies near the new site and also mentioned that it was a part of their culture to live beside a water body. Few people also complained about the lack of a common cremation ground. out the lack of a common cremation ground than the cyclone, what other issues do your crops face?

**(In): Thank you for your time. Do you have any questions from your side?**

**(Re):** No.

**(In): Thank you once again.**

#### Focus Group Discussion - Devinagar

**Location:** Devinagar, Chatrapur Block, Ganjam District; **Date:** 3rd October, 2015; **Language:** Telugu; **Interviewers (In):** Sunil Kraleti and Teja Malladi; **Translator:** Sushmitha Ramoji; **Documenter:** Garima Jain, Aishwarya Balasubramanian; **Respondents (Re):** Residents of Devinagar; **Size of the Group:** 8 Women and 10 Men; **Average age group:** 40 years

**(In): Namaskaaram. Thank you for taking the time to meet us. We are a part of a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore. As a part of a research project we are here to study the impacts of the cyclone Phailin and post cyclone resettlement, relocation projects.**

**All the material and information collected will be used for only research purposes and your identity will not be disclosed to anyone at any point. You can stop us at any point during the discussion and ask us if you have any questions and you can choose not to answer if you do not wish to. Can we start the discussion?**

**(Re):** Sure

**(In): How many of you here are from Ramayapalli and how many from Lakshmipur? Can we please have a show of hands?**

**(Re):** 10 respondents from Lakshmipur and 8 respondents from Ramayapalli.

**(In): How many of you were relocated from Lakshmipur?**

**(Re):** 19 families

**(In): Can you please tell us about Lakshmipur and help us map the village? Please describe key land-**



**marks, streets, and location of your agriculture and horticultural lands etc.**

**(Re):** The community hall and a space near water well are the main gathering spaces in our village. There is a temple and a pond on the west and a canal a little far from the village on the east. We have our agriculture and horticulture farms all around our village. Ramayapalli village is located less than one kilometer from our village on the south. *(Map given below)*

**(In): What do you cultivate?**

**(Re):** We grow Kevada, Sapota, Guava, Mango, Cashew, Badam, and Coconut in these farms.

**(In): What was the source of water in Lakshmiapur village?**

**(Re):** We had a piped water connection in all the houses in our village. A few years back the government constructed a water tank and pumping unit in our village. All the households contribute 35 rupees per month for the operation and maintenance of the pumping unit. Before that we used to depend on the well in the village.

**(In): How many of you were relocated from Ramayapalli?**

**(Re):** 22 families

**(In): Can you please tell us about Ramayapalli village and help us map the village? Please describe key landmarks, streets, and location of your agriculture and horticultural lands etc.**

**(Re):** There are two main streets in the village and one temple at the centre of the village and another on the east of the village. We have our farms all around our village.

**(In): What do you cultivate?**

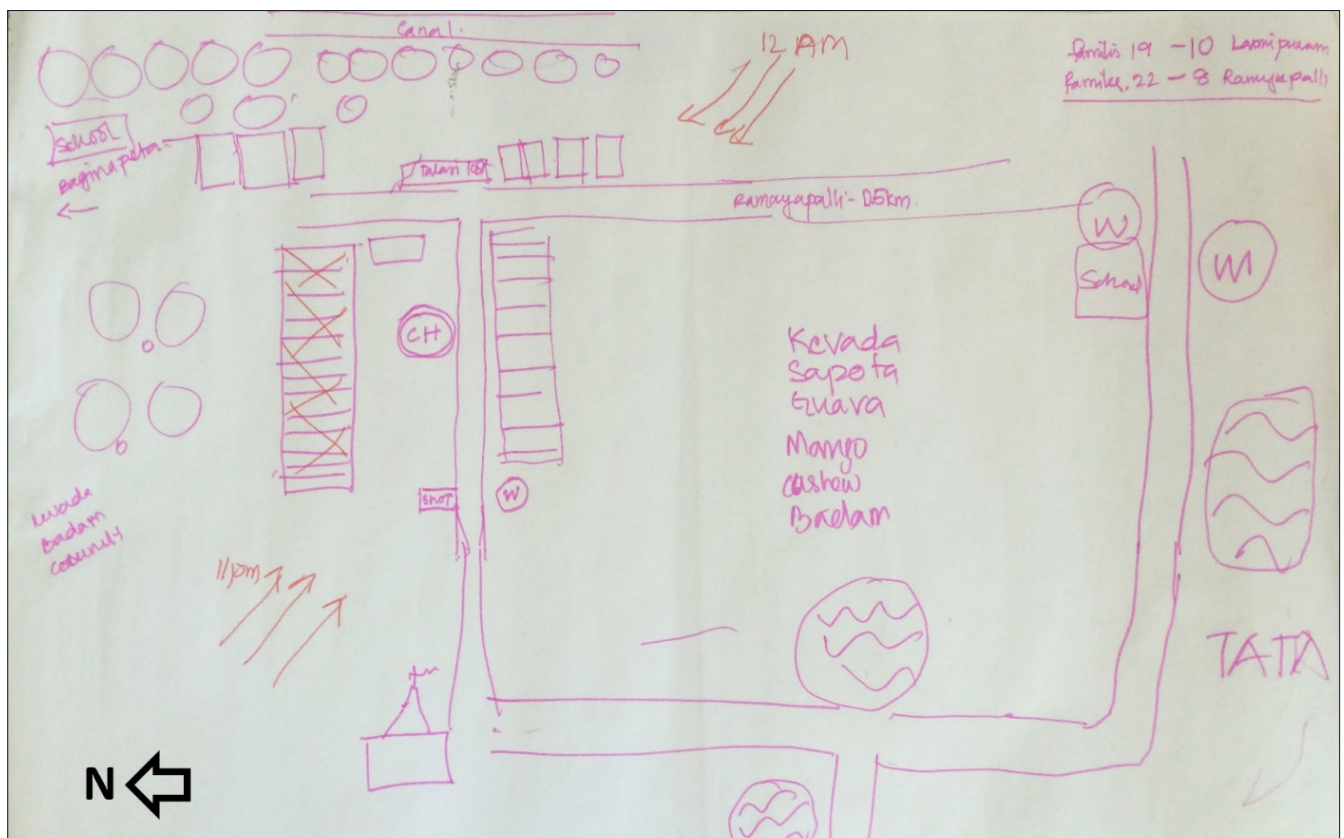
**(Re):** We grow kevada, coconut and badam.

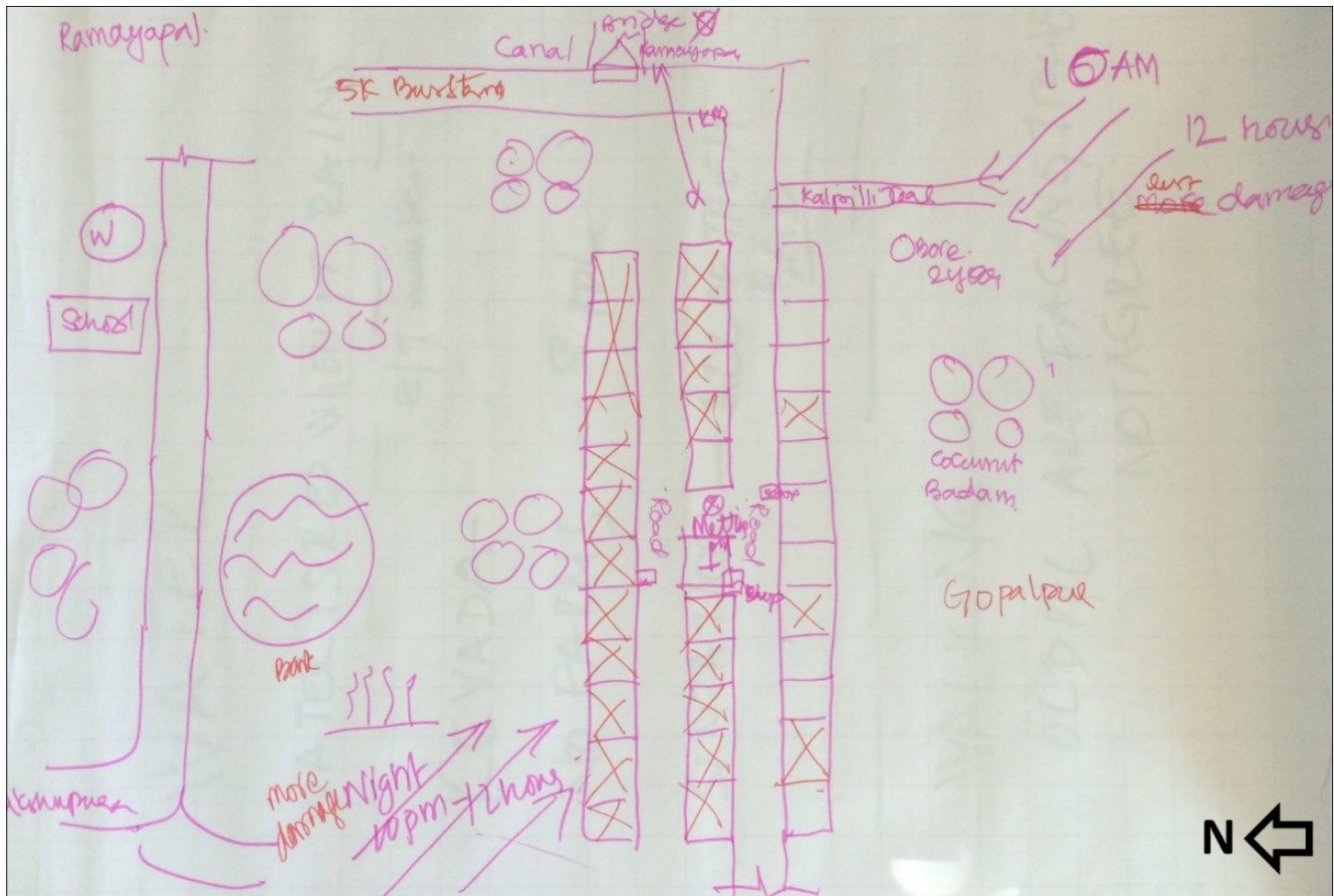
**(In): What is the source of water in Ramayapalli village?**

**(Re):** There is one borewell and pump located on the east which is the main source of water. The borewell was dug two years back and before that we got water from hand pumps.

**(In): Could you please tell us about the damages caused by the cyclone phailin?**

**(Re):** The cyclone Phailin hit us during the night. For the first 12 hours the wind direction was from north to west and around midnight it reversed and the wind direction was from south to east for the next 12 hours. The winds from the north to west were more damaging as compared to the winds from south to east. All the





houses with temporary roofs like CGI/Asbestos/Thatch roofs were damaged and most of the plantations were destroyed. All of us who didn't have a *pucca* house were taking shelter in neighbours house's with *pucca* (RCC) roofs.

**(In): How many of you wanted houses in the old village and how many of you wanted to relocate?**

**(Re):** All of us wanted to houses in our own village. The relocation site is nearly four kilometers from our village. The government relocated us here because we don't have sufficient land for the construction of Odisha Disaster Recovery Project (ODRP) houses in our village.

The main problem is access to our old village and farmland and we have to walk nearly 8 kilometers to every-day and it is very difficult, especially for old people.

**(In): Are you happy with the quality of water here?**

**(Re):** Yes, the water quality is good. Initially the colour of water use to be red because of the soil here, but we only have that problem when it rains.

**(In): Do you have toilets in your old village?**

**(Re):** No. Open defecation.

**(In): Do you have toilets in the relocated site?**

**(Re):** Yes. A few men still defecate in the open, but most of us use toilets.

**(In): How many of you have bank accounts?**

**(Re):** All of us have bank accounts. All of us opened bank accounts for receiving money for construction of the house. We also have opened zero balance accounts Pradhan Mantri Jhan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) recently.

**(In): How many of you had bank accounts before this project?**

5 participants said that they had bank accounts before the project

**(Re1):** Only few of us opened bank accounts even before the project. I opened it few years back for National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) work.

**(Re2):** I opened one 10 years ago when I started working with the Tata group

**(In): How many of you have insurance?**

5 out of 18 said they pay for life insurance

**(Re1, 2, 3)** I took it in the name of my daughter.

**(Re4)** My wife and I have life insurance

**(Re5)** I have insurance in my name

**(In): How many of you save in chit funds, self-help groups etc?**

**(Re):** 2 respondents said they invest in chits and all the women respondents save in women self-help groups. We are paying Rs.200 every month for the last 18 years. We still don't have it in the new location and pay in our old village.

**(In): How many of you know about PM Bhima Yojana?**

**(Re):** None of us know about it.

The participants were then briefed about the PM Bhima Yojana.

**(In): Do you go to panchayat office to tell them about your problems?**

**(Re):** We are under the jurisdiction of the Chamakundi Panchayath. Usually our local leader goes to the panchayath, but in a few cases, when there is a need all of us approach the panchayath. We also go to collect out pension—old age and widow pension from the panchayath.

**(In): What other problems do you currently face here?**

**(Re):** Finding work and access to work is a major problem here. We still have to go to the old village to work. Our work ends at five o'clock in the evening and it is dark by the time we reach here. If we are not present on the site when government officials visit, they report that the house is unoccupied.

**(In): What are some important things that you require in the new location?**

**(Re):**

- Anganwadi Kendra
- A community Hall for meetings
- School
- A temple and pond for cultural and religious reasons
- Street lights
- Work

**(In): Thank you all for taking time and talking to us. Do you want to ask us anything?**

**(Re):** We don't have anything to ask. We thank you for coming to our village and talking to us. Our village will be much more green and beautiful next time when you come and meet us.

**(In): Thanks again.**

## Focus Group Discussion: Lakshmipur

**Location:** Laxmipur, Ganjam District; **Date:** 4th October 2015; **Language:** Telugu, Hindi; **Interviewer (In):** Garima Jain, Teja Malladi, Sunil Kraleti; **Documenter:** Zohrab R, Aishwarya Balasubramanian, Teja Malladi; **Translator (Tr):** Teja Malladi, Sunil Kraleti **Responder (Re):** Residents of Laxmipur village. A few members of the group have been relocated to Deveinagar under ODRP. **Size of the group:** 16 members (10 women and 6 men) **Age of the group:** Mixed (between 20–60)

**(In):** Namaskar, we a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore. We are studying the impacts of the cyclone Phailin and the related resettlement programs in Odisha. Is it ok if we take about 30 mins of your time for some discussion? The material will be used only for research purposes and your identity will not be disclosed to anyone at any point. You can choose not to answer anything that you do not wish to, and you can stop the interview at any point.

**(Re):** Sure

**(In):** After 2013 how many people from the group lost or faced damages to your houses after Phailin. Can you please raise your hands?

*8 women from the group lost or had damages to their houses after Phailin.*

**(Re):** A few of our houses were damaged during Phailin and a few others lost their houses. A few houses are still leaking and are under repair till date. In a few houses, the walls collapsed, and in a few houses, the roofs blew off. People who had money could recover from the cyclone while the others are still trying to recover.

**(In):** From the group how many of you got a housing allocation under Orissa Disaster Recovery Project (ODRP)?

6 from the group got new houses under ODRP

**(Re):** Under ODRP, some of us were allocated housing and others weren't.

**(In):** (To one of the respondent from the group) You mentioned that your house was damaged during Phailin and you weren't allocated housing, can you please explain why?

**(Re1):** I don't know but the revenue office has not recorded my house for allocation.

**(Re2):** People living in semi-pucca houses (asbestos roof) and kutcha houses (hay thatched roof) were allo-

cated housing. However, pucca houses (RCC slab) were not considered under ODRP. Even if the pucca house is damaged, they were not considered for allocation. House that are a combination of semi-pucca and pucca house, where a portion of the house is pucca and rest is kutcha or the extension of pucca house is kutcha, were not considered under ODRP.

**(In):** Are there any such houses (Pucca +semi pucca or kutcha house as extension) in you village?

**(Re):** Yes, there is one at the entrance of the village and the people living there were not allocated housesd, although their house was damaged.

**(In):** (To one of the respondent from the group) You said your house was damaged and you didn't receive any allocation? Why is that so?

**(Re1):** Yes, because I lived in a pucca house, so I was not considered for allocation.

**(Re2):** I lived in a hut (hay thatched roof) therefore I was allocated housing.

**(Re3):** I have a pucca house but the parapet wall of my house collapsed. However, I didn't get any allocation.

**(In):** After Phailin what kind of losses did you face.

**(Re):** Four houses were completely damaged in the cyclone. In few houses, walls collapsed and in few others walls developed cracks.

**(In):** We heard from some of the residents that there is monkey menace here?

**(Re):** Yes, even monkeys cause damage to our houses. If it is a hay top house, the monkeys can damage them easily and in the recent past, monkeys are causing damage to our crops like coconuts and kevada too.

**(In):** (To one woman who was not allocated a house) You did not get a house despite facing losses to your houses, so did you take action to seek housing allocation by contacting the government?

**(Re1):** Yes we did but the Revenue Inspector (RI) saw our houses said we are not eligible for allocation. The RI said that since I have a hay top temporary structure attached to my pucca house, I was not eligible for a house under ODRP even if my house is damaged.

**(Re2):** The other lady has asbestos topped structure as an extension to her house which is partly pucca even she was denied allocation. This is how the allocation happened here.



**(In): Did you ask anyone other than RI, for example; any other Government official or Sarpanch?**

**(Re1):** No, we didn't ask any other government official or the Sarpanch. We only asked the revenue inspector

**(Re2):** My daughter has approached the RI thrice but was not considered for allocation. She is now staying in a rented house, and neither the villagers nor the government has taken an action on the same. She has been to Chattarpur and met the Tehsildar too.

**(In): (To respondent 2) Then did you not inform the same to Gram Vikas mobilisers?**

**(Re2):** Yes we did, but still there was no action on the same.

**(In): While speaking to a member of another village, we were told that there is another round of allocation that may happen? Do you know anything about the same?**

**(Re):** No, they visited our village once after Phailin after which they didn't come. It may be happening in other villages but has not in our village and we don't know why.

**(In): What kinds of problems do people who have not been allocated housing but whose houses have suffered damages, face?**

**(Re):** We are somehow managing to stay in damaged houses. A few of us moved into rented houses. A few others have reconstructed their houses according to their financial capacity.

**(In): For the households who were denied allocation, do you face any trouble during monsoons?**

**(Re):** Yes our house leak; even some of the old *pucca* houses do. People who can afford costs are repairing their houses; some of them sold their land and got their houses repaired.

**(In): How many people from the entire village were allocated housing?**

**(Re):** Of the 44 households in the village, 18 have been allocated housing in Devinagar. We did not having any In-Situ development in our village, but there are few In-Situ house in another village.

**(In): How many people are staying in the allocated houses?**

**(Re):** Almost all the allocated households have moved to their new houses. Early morning we come to this village

for our work and by evenings we go back to our houses again. The new site is nearly 4 kms from here.

**(In): (To one of the allocated respondent) What about you madam, do you also return to the new site?**

**(Re):** Yes, I work as an agricultural laborer in the village and I return to the new village by night.

**(In): What kind of problems do you face in the new site?**

**(Re):** There are no income sources in the new site. The houses that were built under the program are also not up to the standard. Some of the houses have developed cracks already.

**(In): (To one of the allocated respondent) Madam, are you facing any challenges in staying in the new location?**

**(Re1):** We only have houses in the new location, but no income sources. It's 4km away from the village, the journey is is exhausting.

**(Re2):** There are no transport facilities to the new location; we have to walk all the way there. It takes nearly one hour for us to walk there.

**(In): What about children's education? Are there any facilities in the new location or do they come here everyday?**

**(Re):** They come to the village daily.

**(In): Are you satisfied with the allocated house?**

**(Re1):** No, doors are so weak there. There is a chance that they fly away if there is huge wind like Phailin.

**(Re2):** In my house the door was not properly fitted. In few houses the roof has started leaking.

**(In): Do you people use the toilets provided in the new house?**

**(Re):** Yes, a few of us do.

**(In): Were anyone from the group allocated housing under the Indira Awas Yojana scheme?**

**(Re):** A few of us were allocated housing under the Indira Awas Yojana scheme after the 1999 super cyclone.

**(In): So did the households, who were allocated housing under the Indira Awas Yojana scheme, get a new house under ODRP now?**



**(Re1):** No

**(Re2):** One person didn't get a house either after Phailin or after the super cyclone because she stays on rent. Even the owner of the house wasn't allocated housing.

**(In): Were the ODRP houses constructed by you or the contractors?**

**(Re):** Contractors

**(In): Were there any delays in the construction of your houses?**

**(Re):** According to the proposal the houses had to be constructed in a year, but the District Collector ordered that the construction of the new houses be completed in a month because Mr. Navin Patnaik (Chief Minister, Orissa) had to inaugurate a few houses. Therefore, the tehsildar and the Government forced the contractor to build the house in two months and the contractor built it. That is why the houses are substandard.

**(In): Did people in your village receive any compensation after Phailin?**

**(Re):** Yes

**(In): What kind of compensation did you receive?**

**(Re):** Those who lost their entire house got Rs.17500 those whose houses suffered severe damages got Rs.3600 and those whose houses had minor damages got Rs.1900.

**(In): What kind of preparatory measures will you take if you are told that there will be another cyclone in the near future?**

**(Re1):** None, we cannot say.

**(Re2):** We will relocate ourselves to a safer place like Berhampur, or go into the school for those few days.

**(In): Who all have bank accounts here?**

**(Re):** All of us have bank accounts

**(In): How many of you have an Aadhar card?**

**(Re):** Some of us have and others don't have an Aadhar card. Now the RI is working on it. Individuals who do not have an Aadhar card will be receiving one in few days.

**(In): How many of you have BPL cards?**

**(Re):** 29 families in the village have BPL cards.

**(In): How many members in the village have life insurance?**

**(Re):** A few may have, but not many.

**(In): Will those who have moved to your allocated houses stay there if there is a cyclone alert?**

**(Re):** We will stay in our house. If there is a greater risk we will go to places which are safer.

**(In): What about people who are living here, will you stay in your own house or go anywhere else?**

**(Re):** We will go where there is safety. We will arrange transportation for ourselves and move from the place of risk.

**(In): What are the 3 important things that you need in the new site?**

**(Re):**

- Drinking water
- School
- Medical facilities

**(In): What are the 3 important things that you need in the old site or the current location?**

**(Re):**

- A few years back, the Tata's have occupied our land. Either give our land back or provide us with some job opportunities.
- Pensions for the old
- Indian Rare Earths Limited (IRE) has opened up their operations in this area, ever since the ground water is getting contaminated. Therefore, provide us with clean drinking water.
- Every house needs a bathroom. We face problems when we go the fields to defecate in the open.
- Our ponds are full during monsoons, rest of the time they dry up. So the region needs a few projects like lift irrigation, so that we can farm during any season.

**(In): What kind of risks do you fear other than cyclones?**

**(Re):**

- Monkeys are a huge risk for us; they are causing huge damage to our crops.
- Diseases like malaria, typhoid have become very common in our village and our village has a huge mosquito problem.
- There is a huge risk due to the IRE plant. A lot of groundwater is being contaminated and many people are falling sick after consuming the contaminated water. After IRE got functional in our region, a village near to the plant lost nearly 25 members from their village due to kidney failure and recently 3 people expired due to kidney failure. IRE has turned in to a risk for our region.

**(In): Did you consult any government official to address the IRE issue?**

**(Re):** Yes we did, a medical team was here and we with the medical team visited the collector and asked for water purification plant for our village. Surface water is fine but ground water is getting contaminated by the IRE plant.

**(In): That's all from our side. Do you wish to ask us any questions?**

**(Re):** No. Thank you

**(In): Thank you for your time, patience and active participation.**

### Focus Group Discussion - Markhandi

**Location:** Markhandi, Rangeilunda Block, Ganjam District; **Date:** 6th October 2015; **Language:** Telugu, Hindi; **Interviewer (In):** Suhmita R, Sunil Kraleti; **Documenter:** Zorab R, Aishwarya Balasubramanian, Garima Jain; **Translator:** Teja Malladi; **Responder (Re):** Residents of Markhandi village. **Age of the group:** Mixed (between 20-60)

**(In): Namaskar, we are a team of researchers from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore. We are studying the impacts of cyclone Phailin and the related resettlement programs in Odisha. Could we please take about 30 mins of your time to discuss about the same? The material from this discussion will be used only for research purposes and your identity will not be disclosed to anyone at any point. You can choose not to answer anything that you do not wish to, and you can stop the interview at any point.**

**(Re):** Sure

**(In): How many of you from this village have faced damages to your houses? Either roofs, walls or have completely lost your homes.**

| Damages                              | Beneficiaries (25) | Non Beneficiaries (14) |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Roof                                 | 25                 | 9                      |
| Wall                                 | 14                 | 5                      |
| <i>Count from the show of hands.</i> |                    |                        |

Nearly 60 households didn't get any allocation

**(Re1):** Almost all of us have lost our houses.

**(Re2):** My house collapsed and I lost everything. The roof, made up of seven asbestos sheets blew away during the storm.

**(Re3):** The walls of my house collapsed and we lost all our belongings.

**(Re4):** If the roof either asbestos or hay collapses, the walls are going to get damaged. Most of the walls are mud walls, and after the cyclone it rained continuously for nearly three days. So the walls got wet and a few walls collapsed due to the rain. The small stream that flows adjacent to the village flooded and it almost reached our village. As the village is on a higher ground it didn't affect our village. As our houses collapsed all our households assets were completely damaged.

**(In): (To respondent 2) You mentioned that your house collapsed completely during Phailin, what were the measures you took afterwards. Did you rebuild your house?**

**(Re2):** Yes, I rebuilt my house. We covered the roof with hay; the government provided some financial support and tarpaulin sheets for the same. I covered the hay top with the tarpaulin sheets.

**(In): Is there anyone in the group who stays on rent?**

**(Re):** No, in the whole village there is no one who stays on rent.

**(In): Is there anyone from the group who is government employee?**

**(Re):** None

**(In): How many in the group have BPL cards? /**

| Group                               | BPL cards |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Beneficiaries (25)                  | 15        |
| Non Beneficiaries (14)              | 13        |
| <i>Count from the show of hands</i> |           |

**(Re):** Many in the group have BPL cards.

**(In): Did all the members in the group receive the housing allocation provided by the government?**

**(Re1):** Almost all of us got the allocation. If 3 brothers are living in one house, only one person got an allocation. Therefore a few have been denied allocation. There are nearly 60 families in this village who have been denied housing.

**(Re2):** It is good that we have been provided housing but we also have a broken house in the current site and if the region is once again struck by cyclone, we will be losing our home again. Therefore, in-Situ upgradation would have been better as we would have been in the same place. We cannot see the houses constructed by us being destroyed.

**(In): Other than housing what kind of losses did you suffer after Phailin?**

**(Re):** Our boats and nets have been extensively damaged due to Phailin. After the cyclone the government provided us a standard compensation of Rs4500 irrespective of the scale of loss. The ones with a loss of Rs1 lakh have received the same compensation as those with a loss of Rs10,000 also received the standard compensation. Losses to housing can be recovered,

but it is very difficult to recover losses from damages boats and nets.

**(In): If given a choice between boats and house what would you choose?**

*From Observation*

*Women: House*

*Men: Boats*

**(Re):** The ones who go into the sea are men, so they would ask for boats, but we women are at home so we would ask for house.

**(In): Did anyone from the households who were not allocated housing through the programme, approach the government and ask for housing?**

**(Re):** Yes we did it as a group and the group was represented by our village head and we approached the Block Development Officer (BDO). The block office responded by saying that the government has provided one house to a family and asked us to adjust with the same.

**(In): A few villagers mentioned that because of the construction of houses they were facing trouble in going to work.**

**(Re):** Yes, if we outsource the work to a contractor to build our homes then the allocated money wouldn't be sufficient. So we ourselves are constructing our houses. Therefore we are not able to go work and earn money.

**(In): (To the beneficiaries) You mentioned that your work is being disturbed due to the construction activity. What kind of work were you involved in before the construction work started?**

**(Re):** A few of us used to sell fish and some others were involved in construction work as daily wage laborers in Berhampur.

**(In): Have any of you finished constructing your house?**

**(Re):** No

**(In): When did the construction start and are there any delays?**

**(Re1):** Construction started in November 2014 and as of now we are facing delays. The delay is because money for our submitted bills is being released late and if the money is released we are not able to find a head mason for the construction. If the bills were reimbursed on time, nearly 50 per cent of the construction would have been completed by now.

**(Re2):** The houses which were completely damaged were given the first priority and money was released to them first. I used to have a semi *pucca* house and we received money late. My house is constructed till base-ment and from then we haven't received money until now, so the construction of my house is halted. I have received only Rs 20,000.

**(Re3):** Four of my house walls have been constructed and now I am waiting for the rest of the money to complete my house. Even I have to pay money to the head mason

**(In): Did any of you face an issue in receiving money?**

**(Re):** Yes, all of us have faced issues

**(In): Is the allocated money sufficient to build the houses?**

**(Re1):** No, the money that is allocated won't be sufficient to complete construction.

**(Re2):** The money will be sufficient if we construct the houses according to their standard. To construct up to slab, it going costs us Rs2,50,000 after which to receive the next trench money (i.e., Rs 50,000) the Junior Engineer (JE) has asked us to construct a toilet after which we will be eligible for the money. However, we do not have money to construct toilets. So the last trench of money is stuck. We have raised the issue near the Block Development Officer (BDO), he responded asking us to construct a toilet after which he will release the last trench of money.

*Money released v/s Money spent*

| Level of construction activity | Allocated money | Spent    |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Plinth level                   | 20,000          | 50,000   |
| Columns                        | 70,000          | 50,000   |
| Slab                           | 1,00,000        | 1,00,000 |

**(Re):** I was allocated a land which is uneven. So I had to level the land which has increased my foundation cost to Rs 60,000/-

**(In): Did anyone borrow money to construct a house?**

**(Re):** Yes, all of us have borrowed money to construct our houses. Every member of the group has borrowed close to Rs 50,000 for construction purposes.

**(In): On whose name is the house being allocated?**

**(Re):** Most of the houses are allocated on the women's name.

**(In): How many from this group have attended the mason training program?**

**(Re):** A few from the village have attended the mason training program but they are not present here as of now. From every village only 50 members were allowed to participate in the training program. Non beneficiaries were not keen on the training program as they were not being provided housing. The program was aimed at providing skills to the poor. People who were a part of the program also couldn't learn much as it was a very short course.

**(In): Did you observe changes in prices of daily goods after Phailin?**

**(Re):** The price of all basic food items had gone up for nearly 3 to 4 months after Phailin. Now the rates have reduced a little. However, overall, we have observed an increase in prices of all basic needs.

**(In): Who informed the village about Phailin?**

**(Re):** We came to know about Phailin 8 days before the storm. A few of us moved away from the village to Tulu, Berhampur and a few moved in to a nearby school.

**(In): How did you manage drinking water needs immediately after the storm?**

**(Re):** We stored water packets for emergency purposes. Water was supplied by water tankers for a few days.

**(In): Did the village receive any help from the Anganwadi ?**

**(Re):** Yes, once the roads got cleared the Anganwadi workers approached us and provided us with basic medicines.

**(In): How many women go to work from the village.**

**(Re):** All the women go to work in this village.

**(In): Do the kids go to school?**

**(Re):** Yes, a few kids go to the government school and a few have completed their graduation too, but because they haven't been able to find employment, they took to fishing. There aren't enough teachers in our school and the school also lacks basic infrastructure.

**(In): For how many days was the school shut?**

**(Re):** The school was shut for nearly 10 days.

**(In): Do kids from the village participate in skill development programs?**

**(Re):** No

**(In): What are the most prevalent diseases that people in the village face?**

**(Re):** Fever, jaundice and malaria are the most prevalent diseases in our village. We go to the Berhampur Medical Hospital. If we go to a private clinic it will cost us nearly Rs 2000 for every trip which is a huge burden on us. Even if we go to Government hospital in Berhampur, only the doctor charges are free. The medicines are expensive for us, and it would help if they are subsidised.

**(In): What are the three important things you will require as a village?**

**(Re):**

- Mouth open: We then can venture in to the sea even during odd seasons.
- Fishing nets and boats
- Ration cards for every house
- Jobs for our kids
- Identify our village fishermen community as Schedule Caste.

## Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

Individuals from Jalaripeta

**Location:** Pedajalaripeta, Visakhapatnam; **Language:** Telugu; **Date:** 25th November, 2015; **Interviewer (In):** Garima Jain, Teja Malladi, **Documenters:** Garima Jain, Teja Malladi; **Translator:** Teja Malladi; **Responders (Re):** 8-10 Women from Jalaripeta.

**(In): We are part of a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore. As a part of research project, we are here to study the impacts of the cyclone Hud-Hud, post cyclone and other resettlement, relocation projects in Andhra Pradesh.**

**All the material and information collected will be used for only research purposes and your identity will not be disclosed to anyone at any point. You can stop us at any point during the discussion and ask us if you have any questions and you can choose not to answer if you do not wish to.**

**(Re):** Yes

**(In): What kind of damages and problems did you face due to cyclone?**

**(Re):** Most of our houses got damaged during the cyclone. Whoever had *pucca* houses in the neighbourhood gave us shelter during that time. The roof was blown away and so did most of the household items like clothes, beds etc. It took a few months for us to rebuild these houses.

**(In): Did you all get compensation?**

**(Re):** Only a few of us got compensation. The ones who didn't get money went to the collector's office a few times, but there was no response. Relief provided was also insufficient. Only food was provided by outsiders for few days and no relief other than that from the government. There was no water and electricity for almost a month. Owing to the ban on fishing by the government, our husbands couldn't go out fishing for few weeks.

**(In): What kind of problems do you regularly face living here?**

**(Re):**

- The dumping yard next to our houses is the main problem. There is lot of bad smell from the waste dumped there. Sometimes it becomes impossible for us to live here, especially during monsoons



because of the smell. Breeding mosquitos frequently cause malaria and other diseases.

- We don't have toilets in the neighbourhood. We all defecate in the open and it becomes a major problem during rains and also if we have to defecate during the day.
- Scarcity of drinking water. There is only one tap for many houses. We take turns to get water. For example, suppose there 20 families, a few families take water on one day and other families on the other days. So if there are many people in the house, it is a problem.
- Some of us are getting very high electricity bills over the last few months, especially after the cyclone. All we have is a fan and a light and we get bill around Rs.600–700 every month. If we don't pay on time, they disconnect electricity and heavy fines are imposed for late payments.
- There are no government schools in the neighbourhood. Kids just roam around the neighbourhood during the day.
- Our husbands drink every day and are alcoholic. More than 50 per cent of the earnings are spent on their drinking.

**(In): Are you involved in any other kind of work other than fishing?**

**(Re):** Some of us work as maids in the neighbourhood nearby. When our husbands go fishing, we go and work as maids in households and come back by the time they return from the sea. Then we go to the harbour to sell the catch and come back in the evening. Our day to day work gets affected when we go to get for our monthly ration because they have recently introduced biometric system and all of us have to go to give our finger prints to get our monthly ration. If the machine does not recognise our fingerprints, we have to return the next day. Sometimes this goes on for a week and our work gets affected.

**(In): Thank you for taking time and talking to us.**

**(Re):** Thank you. We will be very grateful if you can tell the government about the dump yard and the toilet problems in our neighbourhood and get them resolved.

**(In): We will try and do whatever we can. Thank you**

### Focus group discussion - Peda Jalaripeta

**Location:** Peda Jalaripeta; **Date:** 23rd November 2015; **Language:** Telugu ; **Interviewer (In):** Amir B; **Documenter:** Aishwarya Balasubramanian; **Translator:** Sunil Kraleti; **Responder (Re):** Fishermen; **Size of the group:** 10–12 men; **Age of the group:** between 20 and 60

**(In): Namastay, We are a part of a research team from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements. We are here to study the impacts of the cyclone Hud Hud on your community and the various issues pertaining to risk and exposure of your community to cyclones. Also, we would like to know about the rehabilitation and resettlement measures that the Government may be taking in the near future and its impacts on your livelihoods. All information from this interview is confidential and will be used for the purpose of research only. We require your consent to conduct the interview, which will take 20–30 minutes; you can choose not to answer our questions and stop this interview at any point.**

**(Re):** Sure

**(In): We are new to this place; can you tell us more about Peda Jalaripeta? What do the people here do?**

**(Re):** A few decades ago, some fishermen settled here and started entering the sea for fishing. The calm shores are conducive for fishing and we have a good way to enter the sea; the neighbourhood grew slowly. We have been fishermen for a long time now and are dependent on the sea (referred locally as Ganga) for our livelihood. We had all started earning well from the catch. A few years back the government approved 2 to 3 large mechanised fishing vessel which has drastically reduced our catch. The nets of these vessels spread over a large area and catch a lot in one go. We generally earn Rs 200–300 in a day and at times we end up earning as much as Rs 3000 in a day. The amount of money we earn is completely dependent on the day-to-day catch size. At times we return to shores empty handed. In the mid-80's a large fire broke out in the neighbourhood and destroyed the whole community. Almost all our huts got burnt. Then the MLA Ramakrishna Babu had provided us assistance to rebuild our houses. Very few politicians have actually worked towards development of this neighbourhood—like providing drains, providing solid waste bins or construction of Sulabh toilets. Today, most of the neighbourhood mostly has *pucca* houses and few hutments towards the shore.

**(In): Did anyone go out of the neighbourhood in search of a formal job? Do the young also participate in fishing activities?**

**(Re):** The neighbourhood in recent times has seen 5 to 6 youngsters going out seeking formal jobs. It is because of education, awareness and reduction of catch. Fishing has become a very risky and laborious business, because of which fishermen started educating their children. There has been a change in the attitude of the community too, before the community was very aggressive and showed resistance to change, which is now changing and leading our community towards education. However, still a few members in the community encourage their kids to pursue fishing as a career, because formal jobs will require us to work under someone else, but that's not the case with fishing; we are not answerable to anyone. Jobs on the other hand are very low paying. We can earn better money in fishing than a low paying job.

**(In): What kind of problems do you face in fishing now days? Did you observe any changes in the pattern of fishing?**

**(Re):** We are facing a lot of harassment from the fisheries department. At times fisherman fall into the sea and go missing, most of the times their bodies are not found. The fisheries department insists the families to show the missing persons body to avail compensation. Many families lost compensation on these grounds. Handling authorities has become a huge problem for us.

**(In): Where do you sell your catch? Are you happy with fishing?**

**(Re):** Traders come to Jalaripet and buy the catch. A few also go to harbour to sell their catch. Many young people in the community have taken to auto driving from Jalaripet to harbour as a livelihood option. They charge according to the catch. If the catch's worth is Rs 4000, they will charge us Rs. 400. We wish we could have better business out of fishing.

The fisheries department, from past few years, has asked us not to venture in to the sea for a span of two months during which the fish breed, so even we don't venture in to the sea during those months. The fisheries department compensates us for those two months. These measures are being taken now because of heavy mechanical fishing in this region and reduction of fish in the sea.

**(In): Can you please describe what happened during Hud Hud?**

**(Re):** The water from the sea came up very close and washed away a few huts along the coast and winds were very strong. We didn't expect it to be so strong and dangerous. A few people moved into the cyclone shelters. Luckily the cyclone made a landfall during the day, so we all were alert. After the storm receded, we came out of our houses and started reorganising ourselves. Most of the boats were damaged and many of us lost our fishing nets. Overall it was a huge loss for us. A few fishermen lost everything and some faced minimal damage. The community then took a collective decision of not venturing into the sea until all our boats are repaired and we recover completely. The ones with minimal damage waited until all the fishermen recovered from their loss. We didn't venture in to the sea for a month.

**(In): What if the government provides you with housing facilities along the shore, for example near Rushikonda?**

**(Re):** After Hud Hud, we were told that we would be provided housing but nobody has approached us till date. If they approach us with any such proposal, we will ask for housing in the same location. Even if we are provided houses along a different shore we may not want it because we want to live in a place where we can enter the sea. Near Rushikonda the sea is very rough and we cannot enter the sea with our boats. If there was a possibility to enter sea, a fishing community would already be there by now. In addition, the harbour is very far for us.

**(In): What assets do you all own?**

**(Re):** Boats, nets, motor for our boats and our homes, that's it

**(In): You say the sea is your god and provides you with food and opportunities, then why is the whole bay so dirty? Don't you feel the responsibility to keep your home clean?**

**(Re):** The sea is our mother, she accepts anything. The amount of waste we see here is nothing compared to its vastness. Sea is very huge.

**(In): As a community what are three most important things you would need?**

**(Re):** Hospital, school and good houses

**(In): That's it from our side. Do you want to ask us anything?**

**(Re):** None, thank you

**(In): Thank you for your time.**

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) at the Alluri Sitarama Raju (ASR) colony

**Location:** ASR Nagar, Thatichettlapalem, Visakhapatnam; **Language:** Telugu; **Date:** 21st November, 2015; **Interviewer (In):** Sushmitha Ramoji, **Documenters:** Sushmitha Ramoji; **Responders (Re):** ASR Nagar Residents.

As a part of the primary work, the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) research team conducted an FDG on 21st November 2015 in the ASR colony, Visakhapatnam. The responders from this colony are non-beneficiaries of JNNURM housing project. This interview included semi structured and open ended questions. The main context of this research revolved around their income generating activities and related problems and the impact and challenges faced during, pre, and post the cyclone, Hud Hud. . Respondent's reactions during the FGDs helped gather more information on livelihoods, identification of beneficiaries and allocation of houses.

**(In): We are a team of researchers from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore and are here to study the impact of the cyclone Hud Hud on the affected population, their livelihood, and relocation and other challenges faced in the process of recovering from the damage. Also we would like to know about house allocation issue. All information from this interview is confidential and will be used for the purpose of research only. We require your consent to conduct the interview, which will take 20–30 minutes; you can choose not to answer our questions and stop this interview at any point.**

**(Re):** We consent to being interviewed. You may begin.

**(In): What are the income generating activities that people here are involved in?**

**(Re):** People are involved in income generating activities such as selling utensils, making hair wigs, making broomstick and collecting iron metals from various households, etc., some also work as daily wage labourers. Women are mostly involved in selling utensils and broomsticks or they work as domestic help. 30 years back the scenario was worse. Begging, alcoholism, and unemployment were rampant before.

**(Re2):** We are *Chenchus*, a designated Scheduled Tribe. Here, this is the most dominant caste followed by Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Groups. Prior to its ban by the government, we raised pigs for a living. Since then, we have been involved in making broomsticks and hair wigs, and some of us are auto drivers.

**(In): Were you skilled in handiwork and trade earlier?**

**(Re1):** No, an NGO trained us.

**(Re2):** An NGO (Varala Vijaya Samastha) helped us finance our own enterprise and taught us different income generating activities. We practiced these skills for a month and found that they were helpful for us good, since then we have continued to engage in these income activities.

**(Re3):** I'm happy with these skills. I am now accustomed to this. I am not interested in learning anything new.

**(In): What income generating activities were prevalent in your community?**

**(Re1):** In our community, the first, second and third generations did not study. Everyone has been involved in selling utensils, making hair wigs, making broomstick and collecting iron metals, etc for over 40 years. Even people, who are in their early 20s, have been involved in these income activities, only a few are studying. We have never attended school. Now, we are sending our grand kids to school.

**(Re2):** In the second generation, very few people studied till class 8. I stopped sending my son to school because they said he won't get a caste certificate. I thought that my son will not be employed if he's not recognised as ST. Then I stopped sending him to school. He is now working as an auto driver.

**(Re3):** My father, I and my sons did not attend school. Now, the third generation i.e., our grand kids are going to school.

**(In): What kind of problems did you face during the cyclone Hud Hud?**

**(Re1):** No one cared about us. People from an NGO supported and helped us. They supplied rice, clothes and utensils. We approached an MLA through NGO, but he didn't respond. All our houses suffered damaged during the cyclone Hud Hud but only 10 per cent of them were recognised and confirmed as damaged. We brought this issue to light, to the collector, through a protest and rally. Yet, there was no response from the government.

**(Re2):** My entire house was damaged. I lost all my assets. I borrowed money for an interest of 3 per cent from a money lender. I constructed this house using asbestos. I did not receive any compensation. What else I could do? I can't wait for compensation—I have children.

**(In): What kind of damage did the cyclone Hud Hud cause?**

**(Re1):** I lost everything after Hud Hud. No one helped us. We suffered from fever, mosquitoes menace and other health issues

**(Re2):** Most of the houses were completely damaged. To rebuild a house with an asbestos roof, it will cost Rs.50000. Where can I get money from? Even if I get, I can't repay.

**(Re3):** The government gave us a 50 kgs rice bag soon after Hud Hud. The quality of rice was not good. There were a lot of rice weevils and stones in the bag.

**(Re4):** My household belongings like TV, cooking utensils, cupboard and gas stove etc., were damaged. Even tube lights and fans were damaged. I lost approximately Rs.50000.

**(In): When were you informed about the cyclone Hud Hud?**

**(Re1):** We were informed a day before Hud Hud. They asked us to move to the nearby government school. I did not take it seriously when they told us by then many people were evacuated. I had no idea about high winds. They were very high. Later, I also moved to the government school with my kids.

**(In): On what basis, was the compensation given? Did you face any problems? If yes, what?**

**(Re1):** I spent between Rs.80000 to 1 lakh for building a house with an asbestos roof. The compensation I received was Rs.5000. On what basis did they calculate this? It wasn't even sufficient for food for two months. There were material costs and labour costs as well. Each labour charges Rs.300 per day. We need at least 2-3 labourers who take 3 days to construct the house. So labour accounts approximately Rs.2000 of the cost.

**(Re2):** Only few members received compensation. A few people received it within 15 days, few others, in a month and some, after three months. **(Re3):** Officials took photos of damaged houses and names of the affected population after Hud Hud. Again, they took photos and names of people for second time because they told us that they misplaced earlier information. By then, many of us made some temporary arrangement with the help of an NGO and borrowed some amount from a money lender. They took picture of our temporary and claimed that our houses were not damaged. This was the reason many did not receive any compensation after Hud Hud.

**(In): How many months did it take for you to reconstruct/recover from the damage?**

**(Re1):** It took 3 to 4 months for me to rebuild the house.

**(Re2):** It took 4 months for me—only to clear the broken asbestos sheet and other damaged things. How long can we wait without building houses? We have small children. We faced difficulty even in cooking food.

**(Re3):** Most of them borrowed money at an interest of 4-5 per cent from a money lender to build their house.

**(Re4):** I borrowed money from a money lender. We faced so much difficulty.

**(In): How long did you take to repay?**

**(Re1, 2):** We all still haven't repaid.

**(Re3):** Both principle and interest are due. I'm still paying.

**(Re4):** Still paying interest.

**(Re5):** Haven't paid till now.

**(Re6):** We still have not repaid the debt taken for the construction of this house.

**(In): According to you all, what are the most important problems in your colony?**

**(Re1):** We do not have toilets. We bathe on the road. Sometimes it is difficult to bathe, given male passerbys and vehicular movement. Our rooms are too small to bathe in.

**(Re2):** There are only six bathrooms, all of which are being used by women. I pay Rs.2 per usage and Rs.10 to take bath.

**(Re3):** There are only six toilets for men currently. This insufficiency has led us to defecate outside.

**(Re4):** We don't have toilets at home. Community toilets were constructed a few years back. There are only 6-7 toilets for 200 households. How is that sufficient?

**(Re4):** Women need to pay Rs.10 per day to take bath and Rs.4 for other uses. Currently, it is being used only by women as they can neither bathe nor defecate outside. Toilets provided are insufficient for men, so we had to defecate in the open. We earn around Rs.150-200 per day. We would have to spend Rs.60 for accessing toilets, how is that fair? We complained to the MLA. Even the people who maintain the toilet don't respond positively.

**(Re 2, 3):** Though the government provided us with a hand pump. Water supply is infrequent and insufficient. They supply water once in two days. We don't have enough storage space.

**(In): What are the three important things for your community?**

**(Re1):** Patta, own house, school and hospital

**(Re2):** School, Community hall and good leaders

**(Re3):** Toilets for women, drinking water frequency.

**(Re4):** *Pucca* house with patta, School and toilets

**(In): Were you offered housing during JNNURM allocation?**

**(Re1):** Yes, we were offered houses at Kommadi which is located between 25 and 30 km away from here. We were informed about the JNNURM house allocation by officials a few years back. Only 30 of the nearly 200 households were allocated houses. What about rest? As a sign of protest, most people who were allocated houses refused to move. Some people from this colony moved to Kommadi in 2005, some among them returned after two years as they couldn't survive there.

**(In): Why didn't you all move to Kommadi?**

**(Re1):** We don't want to move elsewhere. We want houses here only. It's convenient for us; we have established networks here, the hospital and market are at walkable distances and we do not need to spend on travel. Even if I make Rs.150 per day, I will be able to survive here.

**(Re2):** Here, the hospital and market are at walkable distances. If we move elsewhere, everything will be far and will be disadvantageous for the women who manage household work and also earn. We can't survive elsewhere.

**(Re3):** We have been staying here for 40 years now. We want houses in the same location.

**(Re4):** Everything here is easily accessible. In case we move elsewhere, we can't survive because we can't afford to spend on travelling to our workplace.

**(In): What happened to the people who moved to Kommadi?**

**(Re1):** They came back here. They couldn't survive in that forest. There they don't have employment opportunities and hence cannot survive. A few of them are living there in deplorable conditions as they have no choice.

**(Re2):** Officials didn't provide services such as water supply, sewerage lines, street lights, etc. There are no grocery shops around. People who moved to Kommadi did not find work. After 2 years, in 2008, they came back. These people told us that they couldn't survive at Kommadi.

**(Re3):** They have their houses in that location. They didn't sell their house. A few people moved here for rent.

**(Re4):** They locked their house at Kommadi and are staying here. They are working here as daily wage labourers.

**(Re5):** They could not earn there and hence came back here

**(In): Where do you want your house?**

**(Re1):** We want houses here only.

**(Re2):** We are happy with locations such as Kancharapalem, Ganapuram, etc. We will be able to survive even if we were provided houses anywhere in this town. We will be happy to move anywhere in this town. We depend on households to sell and collect materials. In the city, it's easy to do business

**(Re3):** In case they provide us with a house in the outskirts, it will be difficult for us to travel every day to our workplace. We earn approximately Rs.150–200 per day, of which we need to pay Rs.100 every day to money lender. Even if we spend Rs.30–50 on our travelling every day how can we survive? What will we spend on food at the end of the day?

**(In): Please could you tell us more about your economic activities?**

**(Re1):** Here, I don't need to go to the market to sell my material. I depend on households to collect hair/iron metal/papers, etc. My income depends on the amount of material that I collect in a day. I come to ASR colony to sell. I have wholesale shops located around my place. I clean the hair I collect and assemble in proper length and the wig is collected by a contractor once in a week. I invest this income on utensils. I spend around Rs.3000 to 4000 on utensils. While collecting hair/iron metals/paper, I either need to pay money or give utensils in return to households. The size of the utensil that I offer depends on the amount of hair I collect from them.

**(Re2):** For 2 kgs of utensils, we spend around Rs.250 and we get approximately 5 utensils. I get money from money lender at an interest of 3 per cent. I need to pay him either every day or monthly.



**(Re3):** The risk of moving to a new place is the difficulty in earning the trust of the people there.

**(Re4):** We collect materials from households in Pendurthi, Kancharapalem, Gopalapatnam, Anakapalli and Kothavallasa.

**(In): Some people told us that a few people from this area moved to Kommadi, Why?**

**(Re1):** No one has moved to Kommadi from here. Though we were offered houses at Kommadi, we denied the offer because if a person from the Sonia Gandhi locality was allotted housing here, why can't government do the same for us as well?

**(Re2):** Only a few people were provided housing here. These are the people with households having more than 3 families. One family moved to Kommadi. Here, more than three families stay in one house, because of lack of space and inability to afford rent. How will three families stay in one room? My brother has three children and I have two children. My brother moved to Kommadi. This doesn't mean I was allocated housing. The others are giving false statements because we don't talk to them.

**(Re3):** Officials have records. They won't provide two houses to one family. They have our identity details. Even if I claim that I am a non-beneficiary, officials will know about the house allocation made to me. People who used to stay here for rent with many families in a single house were allocated houses.

**(Re3):** Very few people moved to Kommadi in the year 2005. Those who moved were those who used to stay here for rent, because they couldn't afford to pay rent here. They moved to Kommadi despite the problem of access to workplace. The residents of ASR colony did not move. Some people make false statements because we have conflicts and we won't interact with each other. Those who came back here, we asked them to move from ASR colony. They are just taking revenge on us by making such statements just to deprive us of our rights and facilities.

**(In): Why are there two groups? What was the reason for conflicts? What happened?**

**(Re1):** 10 years ago, caste and work conflicts divided ASR colony into two groups. ASR colony is bounded by railway land on one side. After many years, railways gave up a piece of land to ASR colony and built a wall. This land now remained as ASR colony. Sonia Gandhi Colony was on the other side. It was built 10 years ago under VAMBAY housing which is a government land. Within ASR colony there has been caste issues because of which we don't get along with each other.

Those who are associated with a party get things done in their favour by the MLA. Others are not considered as members of ASR colony. Our people won't interact and engage with them in any form. We have our own colony president and different welfare activities.

**(Re2):** During the process of house allocation, everyone protested that we move out from ASR colony, but some people from our group didn't support their decision. About 150 families, who lived here on rent, and those with more than three families moved to Kommadi. This has led to severe group and class conflict which led to the rift.

## Focus group discussion - ASR Nagar

**Location:** ASR Nagar, Visakhapatnam; **Language:** Telugu; **Interviewer (In):** Amir B; **Documenter:** Aishwarya Balasubramanian; **Translator:** Sunil Kraleti ; **Responder (Re):** Group of young residents of ASR Nagar; **Size of the group:** 6 men; **Age of the group:** between 15- 30

**(In):** Namastay, we are a team of researchers from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore. We are here to study the processes pertaining to the pre-resettlement and the challenges faced by you to oppose resettlement and how you negotiate with the local authorities to stay here. Also, we would like to know about the problems you faced during the 2014 cyclone Hud Hud. This interview information will be used only for project research purposes and it will not be disclosed to anyone. If you are okay with this, can I take 20 to 30mins of your time for this interview? You can choose to stop the interview at any point. Can I please start the interview?

**(Re):** Sure

**(In):** Can you please brief what ASR Nagar is? When did it come up, what kind of work do people in ASR Nagar do?

**(Re):** There are two dominant castes in the ASR Nagar—Chanchu and Schedule Caste. A few decades ago, the city was not a huge as it is now and then our primary occupation was to rear pigs. However, during Mr. Chandra Babu Naidu's regime, rearing pigs was banned across the city and so we started to sell brooms. Now the younger generation in the city are mostly auto drivers. They either rent or own an auto. Most women work as housemaids in the neighbourhood.

**(In):** Do you make brooms in the community or you go to any market and buy brooms? Can you please explain what kind of transaction happens in your broom business?

**(Re):** We as a community go and purchase brooms in bulk from a trader in Salur (a town near Visakhapatnam, approximately 130 kms). We purchase brooms worth approximately 10 lakh rupees which we divide among ourselves to sell and earn a living.

**(In):** Who owns this land?

**(Re):** The land belongs to railways. There are boundaries on both sides. The other end of the land belongs to another department which we don't know of.

**(In):** Did you ever get an eviction notice?

**(Re):** Once in 90's we did get an eviction notice, but we resisted. After that we did not receive any. Our current MLA from BJP is very helpful. He has promised us housing on the current site itself. So we are hoping to receive it.

**(In):** You have mentioned that the younger generation drive autos for a living, do they own autos or rent it, can you brief us on it?

**(Re):** A few of them own autos while few others have taken auto loans from private finance groups. If we earn Rs 300 per day, we save around Rs100 to repay our loan.

**(In):** What are the other livelihoods options here? How much do people earn?

**(Re):** A few of them sell hair, or rear cattle while others work for daily wages and a few manufacture indigo dye for laundry services these people earn around Rs100 to Rs200 a day.

**(In):** Do people aspire for a better job/better education?

**(Re):** No. The young kids in the community don't go to schools as they are not interested in education. They get influenced by other boys who have not been part of any formal education. The younger generation here involve themselves in some small-income activities like daily wage work, or auto driving etc.

**(In):** If the younger generation is not going to school what do they do? How do they spend time?

**(Re):** Our living conditions are bad and to spend time we end up playing volleyball. We go to sell brooms in the morning and return by 11:00 AM and play volleyball. We have a small piece of land close to where we live and we go there to play.

**(In):** Do you save?

**(Re):** We earn nearly Rs 300 per day and from that we save Rs 100 to repay the money lender. We manage our daily needs with the money that is left. So we are unable to save. If we need money in between we borrow money from others and repay them when whenever possible.

**(In):** What do you aspire to become?

**(Re):** Nothing, the conditions are such that we have no aspirations.

**(In): But you must be having a dream?**

**(Re):** *(One of the respondents)* Yes, maybe to buy a house. However, we don't have a specific plan to achieve it.

**(In): If you are given Rs 10 lacs, what will you do?**

**(Re):** I will invest in a house and buy an auto. A house gives me a sense of security .

**(In): Do you know to use computers?**

**(Re):** No, but few years ago we used to go to internet shops, but only to play games online.

**(In): How do you manage basic services in the slum?**

**(Re):** There is a Sulabh toilet complex in our slum and few of us use it while others defecate in the open. We got water connection recently and a tap was installed post Hud Hud

**(In): What did you do during Hud Hud?**

**(Re):** We were asked to move to a school nearby and during Hud Hud the whole community moved to the school. Post Hud Hud, we returned home and fixed our houses.

**(In): Do you watch movies?**

**(Re):** Yes, we watch all Telugu films. Pawan Kalyan is our favourite hero.

**(In): As individuals what are you looking forward to in terms of livelihoods?**

**(Re):** We are looking forward for better job opportunities and to expand our businesses.







**iihs**<sup>TM</sup>  
INDIAN INSTITUTE FOR  
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS



**dpu**  
Development  
Planning Unit



**FLACSO**  
Secretaría General



**CDKN**  
Climate & Development  
Knowledge Network