

**DISASTER RELIEF SERVICES IN INDIA:
EQUITABILITY, SENSITIVITY AND
EFFECTIVENESS ACROSS GENDER**

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RELIEF

- **Meet the immediate survival needs of the affected community**
- **Setting up of temporary shelters**

Relief is an act of right rather than of charity

COMPONENTS

Physical

- food ,clothing and shelter

Economic

- Compensation, Ex gratia payments ,losses and damages incurred

Social

- Social context, psychosocial counseling, taking care of the local needs, Looking after orphans, curb violence etc

APPROACH

- Short period according to the relief codes but for all practical purposes till the permanent shelters are build.
- Focus on physical needs
- Community is equally affected irrespective of the economic and social status
- Has uniform needs

One blanket fits all

Differential needs of women

during the relief phase

- Relief camps with no privacy for women esp. pregnant and lactating women
- Sanitation
- Cleanliness and hygiene of menstruating women
- Poorly lit toilets at far off places might become a security concern
- Sexual harassment and trafficking

Differential needs of women

during the relief phase

- **Gender sensitive clothing**
- **Take children along on relief works**
- **Increase in responsibilities**
(sick and injured)



Differential needs of women

during the relief phase

Health needs

- absence of female doctors
- distance from clinics

Psychosocial counseling needs

- Kumbakonam

Exploitation on account of ExGratia and other monetary payments received

- The Orissa Supercyclone, 1999
- Kumbakonam

BHILWARA

Routine of Women in Drought Hit areas of Aasind and Raipur Block- 2004

Getting up early for Household chores

Reporting at 6 am for Food for Work Programmes till 1 'o' clock

Fodder and taking care of the livestock

Arrange for drinking water

Minor agriculture tasks ,if required

Household chores



ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

Relief camp at Gol Ghar

1. **Girls rescued from islands**
2. **Relief camp turned into Girls hostel**
3. **Victims to stay back till the board exams are over**
4. **Books, fees and counselor provided. Yoga sessions held**



Need of the hour

micro level measures

□ Provisions to ensure **safety**

□ **Physical and mental health professionals** to cater to **specific needs**

□ **Adequate representation** of women in all schemes and activities related to the relief process.

Need of the hour **micro level measures**

- **Arrangement of crèches for children at workplace**
- **Transportation facilities for Food for work programmes.**
- **Separate washrooms, mobile lavatory and sanitation measures at relief camps.**

Need of the hour

macro level measures

- **Specific policy** on relief management ensuring equitability, effectiveness and sensitivity of needs of women
- **To do away with a uniform approach and plan** for separate more vulnerable groups.
- **Women to be made partners** in the relief process



The Road ahead.....

- **Planning with less than half of the community would create lacunae in the process**
- **It is better to plan with women than for women.**

THANK YOU...