



ARTHIK SAMATA MANDAL

Determined Efforts in
Troubled Waters



Message from the Chief Functionary, ASM

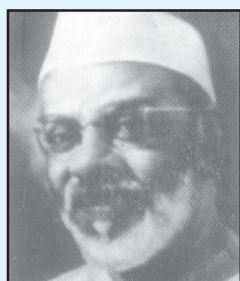
The year 2004 carved a new chapter in the disaster history of Andhra Pradesh. New disasters such as Tsunami pose greater challenge to the coastal communities and hence, we need to move from a culture of reaction to a culture of preparedness so that the communities become resilient to disasters. ASM and its team of dedicated workers have been able to keep up with the challenge and work to reach out to people who have been victims of tsunami. I thank Ms. Nau Gora, Executive Secretary, ASM, Mr. Hari Subramanyam and Mr. Ch. Satyanarayana, Project Directors, ASM, Mr. Vikas Gora, Director, Disaster Management Wing, ASM, Mr. Rama Krishna, Coordinator, ASM CBDP Program who have coordinated the relief & rehabilitation efforts. I also thank the right time help rendered by the humanist, freethinker, atheist and skeptic community who have realized their social responsibility towards secular social work. I am sure that this report will help in giving a glimpse as to how ASM over the year has been able to reach out to the needs of the people which created ripples in bringing a new leaf of life in scores of coastal communities. The efforts have majorly focussed on addressing the livelihood options in order to revive the plight of Dalits, women, disabled, elderly and children who were the worst affected in the Tsunami. In order to further enhance their capacities, ASM will concentrate in providing alternative livelihood options as well as strengthening the existing ones so as to help people to help themselves.



-- **Veeraiah**, Chief Functionary
January, 2006



Gora



JC Kumarappa

Arthik Samata Mandal was founded by Gora and J.C. Kumarappa, well-known gandhians and atheists. *Arthik Samata* is the 13th item of the Gandhian Constructive Programmes which means Economic Equality.

ASM was started as a relief call in the 1977 Diviseema Cyclone and Tidal Wave which devastated the coastal life killing more than 10,000 people and destroying livestock and later on phased up to rehabilitation, reconstruction and comprehensive rural development. It was formally registered (No. 45) under Societies Registration Act of 1860 in 1978. FCRA No. 010260025

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Introduction

The December 26, 2004 has unleashed a new disaster on the coast of Andhra Pradesh. Infact Andhra Pradesh has the longest coastline in India covering 1030 kilometers from Srikakulam in the North to Nellore in the South. Nine of its coastal districts (Srikakulam, Vijayanagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam and Nellore) face the Bay of Bengal which is also known as 'Bay of Storms.' Andhra Pradesh has been a victim of cyclones, tidal waves, floods, earthquakes, drought & desertification and other natural disasters.

On 9.29 a.m., December 26th, Sunday, when the coastal communities were in a holiday mood, a series of tides with no warning started to creep towards the coastal villages. With 7 years of drought condition on the coast, people were completely caught off guard as the water level started to rise and the sea's wrath was visible. Some of the fisherfolk were in the seas on their way back from the islands along with their previous day's fish catch, whereas some were busy with the festivities on Christmas eve, others were in the market selling their catch. Little did people realize that a sunny day had a disaster on the cards!

As a 60 year old man in Pattauppakalli Village says "I have seen all the cyclones that hit us since 1977 to 2003, but never

saw something like this. We can predict the cyclone as the clouds start to get dark and then there is rain, but tsunami was all of a sudden. We are afraid of the sea. We did not go back to the sea. But what to do, we have to go out fishing to feed ourselves, or else we will have to sleep hungry. All the savings for the year have been washed away."

The Tsunami is just one more disaster in the lives of the coastal communities who have over the years have seen other disasters. They are victims of circumstances caught up in coping and recouping themselves all through their lives. As they are socially, economically marginalized communities, the geographical vulnerability further adds to their plight. Banking on 28 years of experience in integrating disaster management with development work, Arthik Samata Mandal could help in reviving the lost hopes of those communities who were badly affected by the tsunami.



An Overview of Destruction

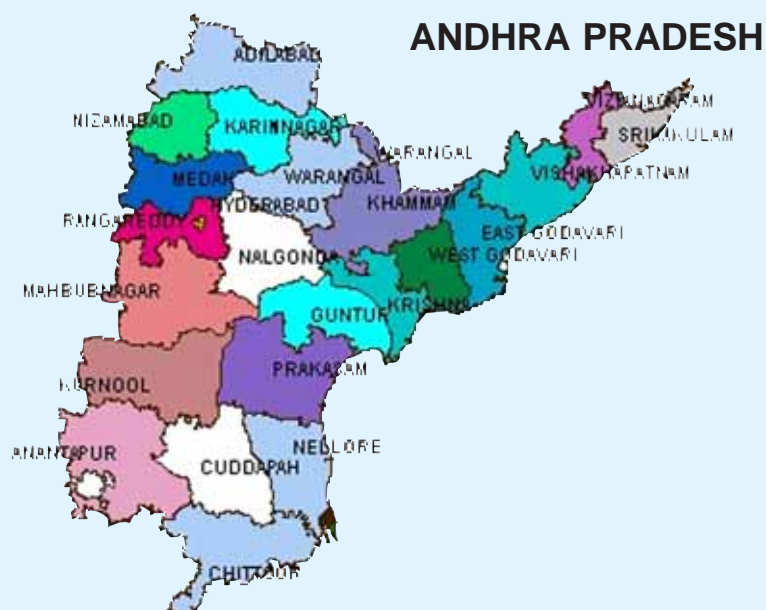
	Tamil Nadu	Kerala	Andhra Pradesh	Pondicherry	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Total
Population affected in Lakhs	8.97	13	1.96	0.43	3.56	27.92
Number of Villages Affected	376	187	301	33	192	1089
Deaths*	8009	177	107	599	3513	12405
Orphaned Children	289	3	6	39	143	480
Houses Damaged	190000	13735	481	10061	21100	235377
Cropped Area Affected in Hectares	19168	7763	302	792	11010	39035
Boats damaged	52638	10882	12189	6678	1401	83788
Livestock lost	1653	0	86	2685	27331	31755
Damage in Crores	4528.66	2371.02	342.67	466	3836.56	11544.91

* Does not include the "missing" in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Source: Tsunami – A Report to the Nation, published by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Govt. of India.
(The Hindu: Tsunami A year after, Monday, December 26, 2005)

In ANDHRA PRADESH :

District	Affected Villages	Death Toll	Scattered	Displaced Pop.
East Godavari	6	4	18	725
West Godavari	8	8	--	4
Krishna	15	29	50	2000
Guntur	6	12	4	1000
Prakasam	26	32	750	10000
Nellore	22	21	200	5000
Total	83	107	1022	18729



Activity and Outreach

District	Date	Village Name	Mandal	No. of Families	Primary Help	Secondary Help	
KRISHNA	Jan 26	Pattauppakalli	Nagayalanka	114	50 Mtrs Blue Mesh for 5 fishing nets, 2 Mtrs White Mesh Fish Net, 80 Mtrs of Plastic Rope, 70 Mtrs of Plastic Cloth & Aluminium Pot per family	Clothes & Bedsheets & Health Camp	
		Basavanipalem	Koduru	62			
		Koduru		60			
		Ismailpeta		40			
		Nakkavanidari		40			
PRASAM	Mar 29	Peddapallipalem	Chinnaganjam	162	140 Kgs White Pampret Net, 140 Kgs Mackrel Net, 90 Kgs. Seer Fish Net, 94 Kgs 18 No. Net, 60 Kgs 16 No. Net, 15 Units Canal Fish Net	Four Health camps and special help to a girl by way of bicycle	
		Bapaiah Nagar		50			
		Turupallepalem		70			
		Padamarallepalem		25			25 Units of Crab Nets
		Ramachandranagar		60			60 Units of Crab Fish Nets
		Kunkudachantlapalem					Clothes
KRISHNA	Apr 8	Irali	Koduru	61	Knitted bamboo sticks of different sizes, a cone shaped bamboo basket, jute & plastic ropes	Clothes Health Camps	
		Dwaraka		6			
		Chintakolla		13			
		Ramakrishnapuram		24			
PRASKASAM	May 4	Kunkuduchantalpalem	Chinnaganjam	30	140 Kgs of 0.23-5.4 No. Nets 65 Kgs of 0.23-6 No. Nets 130 Kgs of 0.16-36 No. Nets	Blankets Two Health Camps	
		Chinnaganjam		10			
		Jeedichantalpalem		70			
		Rudramambapuram		50			
		Neerikshanagiri		20			
		Seetaramapuram		30			
		Vadarevu	Cheerala	20			
Ramachandrapuram	Vetapalem	20					
KRISHNA	May 10	Koduru	Koduru	20 Girls	Vocational Tailoring Training and Machines		
	Aug 29	Kamanamolu	Nagayalanka	225 Families in 300 Acres	3 Agricultural Motors (One 7.5 HP & Three-5.HP) with pumpsets & other accessories as well as covering pending electricity bills		
	Sep 14	Pallivanipalli	Ghantasala	34	Housing Support		
	Dec 1	Koduru	Koduru	20 Girls	Vocational Tailoring Training		
	Dec 15	Mallampalli	Ghantasala	16	Housing Support		
	Jan 3	15 Schools from 15 Villages	Koduru & Nagayalanka	1000 Children	Note Books to Children		



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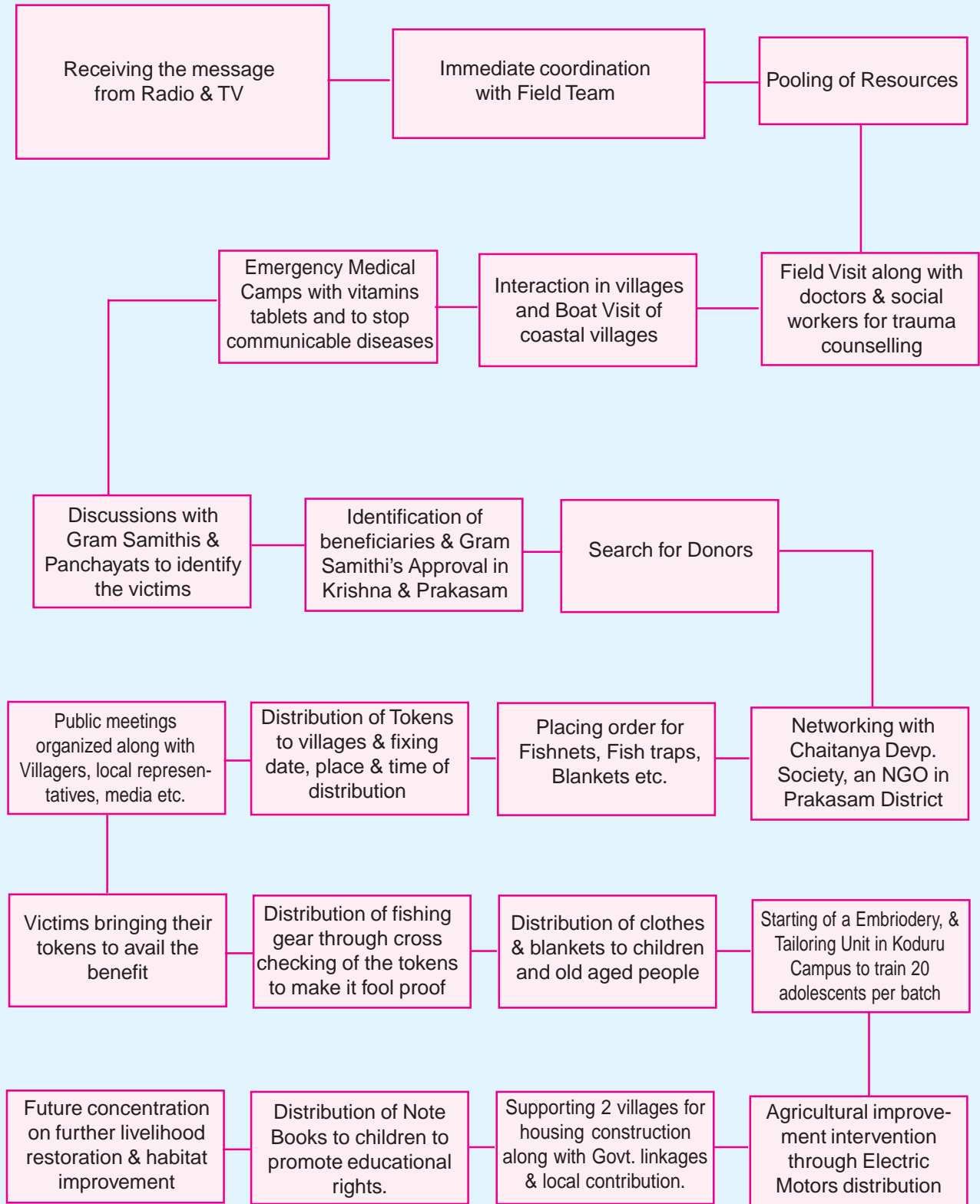
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Tsunami Relief & Rehabilitation Process



Core Interventions



Arthik Samata Mandal for qualitative and quantitative outreach partnered with Chaitanya Development Society, an NGO based in Prakasam District to undertake Tsunami relief and rehabilitation work spread across 20 villages in Krishna District and 13 villages in Prakasam District covering an approximate population of 11760 including 2352 families and 1000 Children. The following are the core activities undertaken to revive, the health, habitat, livelihood and education situations of the communities. ASM had taken up a three pronged approach towards tsunami rehabilitation: Immediate (trauma counseling, fishing gear distribution, health camps, blankets etc), Short term (alternative vocational skill improvement) & long term (agricultural revival, housing support & Community Based Disaster Preparedness).

Wherever possible ASM undertook the work along with the help of Government, Community Based Organizations, Women Thrift & Saving Groups, Youth Clubs etc. Some of the core interventions are listed below:

Trauma Counselling:

As Tsunami was first of its kind in India and in particular Andhra Pradesh, the children, women, disabled & elderly were traumatized, which prompted ASM to undertake trauma counselling session with the help of doctors and social workers.

Distribution of Fishing Nets:

Based on the kind of nets the communities use and keeping in mind the seasonality of

fishing, fishing gear was distributed to the communities. According to the village specific fishing needs, the fishing gear was divided in 7 varieties of nets: White Pampret Net, Mackerel Net, Seer Fish Net, 18 No. Net, 16 No. Net, Canal Fish Net & Crab Net.

Distribution of Fishing Traps:

Special focus was given to communities which are dependent on fish traps which received wide attention from government as they were not covered under by it. Infact those communities which are dependent on canal fishing come from the lowest rung of the social ladder, dalits.

Health Camps:

In order to address the health concerns of children, disabled, elderly, pregnant and lactating mothers, emergency health camps were conducted and medicines were given accordingly. The communities voiced that nobody have so far come with such an initiative which is the prime necessity immediately after the disasters. A medical team consisting of Dr. Maru and Dr. Demos Gora and nursing staff from Vasavya Nursing Home & ASM Health Workers visited the villages to conduct the camps.

Distribution of Clothes & Blankets:

Thanks to the efforts of the residents of ICRISAT Colony of Hyderabad clothes were collected for distribution in the Tsunami hit areas. Seventeen villages were identified as needy villages for clothes and blankets they were distributed through the local school teachers. Blankets/bedsheets were also distributed to the disabled and elderly as the Tsunami struck during the winter season on the coast.

Vocational Skill Based Training:

Inorder to provide an opportunity for adolescent girls & women to empower themselves by contributing towards their family incomes, tailoring and embroidery classes are started in which one batch of 20 girls completed their training and the second batch is undergoing the training ever since December 2005. An Alternative Vocational Skill Training Unit is set up in Koduru to provide skill based training to youth in particular girls. The training has a tremendous impact on adolescent girls as after disasters, the girls are either married off, or succumb to earn desperate income by migrating to nearby cities or take up prostitution as a source of income. In order to address this, a six-month tailoring program is conducted. On completion of training, the girls receive a sewing machine, a chair and a box with thread & needles. This initiative is helping them to start home-based self employment.

Improvising Education:

Due to the Tsunami, many people lost their incomes, livelihood tools and hence it had a direct bearing on the parent's responsibility to cater to the educational needs of their children as they were caught up in recouping themselves from the past & present debts. In order to encourage children to continue their education, ASM has provided 1000 note books to children from 15 schools from 15 villages to realize the child's right to education. The Villages and number of books distributed include Irali (60), Kamanamolu (139), Hari Puram (129), Jaruguvanipalem (128), Dhintimeraka (55), Vetapalem (24), Mundadugu (25), Basavanipalem (45), Padalavaripalem (20), Chintakolla (35), Pattauppakali (60), Ramakrishnapuram (64), Ismailbegpet (72), Vadripalem (72) and Narendrapuram (72).

Agricultural Improvement:

In order to revive the lost agriculture due to the salinity, ASM provided electric motors to Kamanamolu Village so that 300 acres are reversed back to agriculture. This initiative had helped the communities which are completely dependent on agriculture as a prime source of income. The motors help to pump the sweet water from a nearby river into the agricultural lands so that natural process of regaining of the fertility takes place. ASM also covered the outstanding electricity bills so that electricity is restored in the fields. This has a long term

impact, wherein those communities which could not invest on reviving their lands so far, are now able to plough the same. This also is helping in reverse migration of people and facilitating people to bring them out of their debt traps.

Coastal Zone Improvement:

In order to promote community based disaster preparedness, coastal mangrove regeneration initiative was undertaken by ASM through a tree plantation program in Basavanipalem village with the help of international volunteers from Germany, U.K., Ireland, Scotland and Canada. The mangrove plantation helps in curbing the wind and water speed thereby reducing the coastal damage.

Habitat Improvement:

To reduce the vulnerability of the coastal communities, ASM has identified 2 villages towards housing support covering 50 houses. The program is undertaken along with government housing program and individual beneficiary contribution. The support includes providing housing material which would help in the completion of the houses. The communities feel that the help has come at the right time as they were not in a condition to raise resources and hence are thankful to ASM for providing the same.

Thanks to the Donors for their humble contributions:

- International Humanist & Ethical Union (IHEU) being the Umbrella Organization
- German Freethinkers Association, Germany
- Institute for Humanist Studies, USA
- Norwegian Humanist Association, Norway
- American Humanist Association, USA
- South Australian Rationalist Association, Australia
- Humanist Society of Victoria, Australia
- Atheists & Other Freethinkers of Sacramento, USA
- Atheists for Human Rights, USA
- British Humanists and Other likeminded Organizations & Individuals
- Arpan Trust, Mumbai, India

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