

## SUMMARY

Prashant was a young boy of nineteen years of age. He belonged to Kalikuda, a village in the coastal state of Odisha. He had lost his mother seven years ago.

On 27 October 1999, when he was visiting a friend in Ersama, a super cyclone hit the area. There was large scale devastation. The gushy winds and rains continued for two days. They remained on the rooftop of the house and survived on the tender coconuts from the coconut trees that had fallen on the roof. As the rain stopped, Prashant left for his home as he feared the worst for his family. He took a stick to help him find the road. At times, he had to swim through the flood waters. On the way he met two friends and their uncle and the group moved together. They came across dead bodies of human beings and animals which floated with the current. As they crossed villages, not even a single house could be seen. Prashant's house was shattered too and he saw the belongings hanging on the branches of the trees. He wept as he felt that he had lost his beloved. He went to the Red cross shelter in search of his family. There Prashant met his maternal grandmother. She was elated to see him alive as they had not expected that he would have survived the storm. Prashant saw a crowd of 2500 people at the shelter. Many had lost their families in the disaster. They were grief stricken as the catastrophe had snatched everything. For the last 2 days they had survived on coconuts but they were running out of stock. Prashant took control of the situation. He formed a group with some elders and young people. They forced the merchant to give them the stock of rice and were successful. After 4 days the crowd ate a meal. Then the group of volunteers cleaned the shelter and tended to the injured people. Prashant engaged the widows to work in the NGO named "Food for work". He engaged the children by arranging sports matches for them. The volunteers managed to set up foster families comprising of the widows, orphaned children and lone men who would form a family and support each other. Like this Prashant overcame his grief and learnt to smile even in the face of adversities.

Q1- What does this lesson speak about?

- A) storm
- B) A young boy and his ventures
- C) Importance of courage and positive approach towards life
- D) How to face storms

Q2- Where did the storm hit?

- A) Coastal town of Ersama in Odisha
- B) Odisha
- C) A town
- D) A remote area

Q3- When did the storm hit the town Ersama?

- A) 1989
- B) 1979
- C) 1969
- D) 1999

Q4- Who faced the fury of the storm?

- A) A young boy Prashant
- B) Villagers
- C) People
- D) All

Q5- How old was Prashant?

- A) 18 years
- B) 17 years
- C) 19 years
- D) 20 years

Q6- What was the name of Prashant's village?

- A) Maligudi
- B) Kalikuda
- C) Ersama
- D) None

Q7- Why did Prashant go to Ersama?

- A) to see a new place
- B) to visit his relatives
- C) to visit his friend
- D) none

Q8- How did people in Ersama survive during the storm?

- A) by eating tender coconut and remaining on the rooftops
- B) remaining in the water
- C) by hanging on trees
- D) all

Q9- Whom did Prashant meet on the way back home after the storm?

- A) two friends and their uncle
- B) cousins
- C) his father
- D) none

Q10- What was the impact of the cyclone?

- A) destruction
- B) homes were lost
- C) many lives were lost
- D) all

Q11- How did Prashant help the storm victims?

- A) by arranging food for them
- B) formed a volunteer group and NGO to help widows
- C) helped in fostering families and playing with the orphans
- D) all

Q12- Whom did the flood victims send signals to for food help?

- A) Military helicopters
- B) Strangers
- C) People of the town
- D) Government

Q13- Who helped the orphans?

- A) widow women
- B) military
- C) men
- D) all

Q14- Why did Prashant and other volunteers not want a separate institution for widows and orphans?

- A) to save them from isolation and grief stricken feelings
- B) for their personal benefits
- C) to take work from them
- D) none

Q15- What are the things which could be used by youngsters to help overcome any adversity?

- A) strength
- B) courage
- C) energy
- D) all

Q16- What happened when Prashant visited Ersama?

- A) A cyclone hit the village
- B) two friends came to meet him
- C) he saw many things on the road
- D) none

Q17- What role did the women of Kalikuda play?

- A) mothers' role
- B) caretakers
- C) cooks
- D) none

Q18- What kind of person was Prashant?

- A) wise
- B) helping and caring

- C) thoughtful and courageous  
D) all

Q19- What did Prashant love to play?

- A) badminton  
B) football  
C) cricket  
D) chess

Q20- How did Prshant clean the filth?

- A) With the help of volunteers  
B) with machines  
C) hired sweepers  
D) none

<b>Q. No.</b>	<b>Answer</b>	<b>Q. No.</b>	<b>Answer</b>
1	C	11	D
2	A	12	A
3	D	13	A
4	A	14	A
5	C	15	D
6	B	16	A
7	C	17	A
8	A	18	D
9	A	19	C
10	D	20	A

## Question and Answers

1. What havoc has the super cyclone wreaked in the life of the people of Orissa?

Ans: The super cyclone led to mass destruction. People lost their homes. Many people lost their lives too. Children lost their parents, women became widows and were rendered homeless. The people were left with nothing.

2. How has Prashant, a teenager, been able to help the people of his village?

Ans: Prashant helped the people in the following ways -

He formed a group of volunteers and got rice for the people.

They cleaned the shelter and tended to the injured.

They sent messages to the passing helicopters demanding food and other necessities.

Prashant guided the widows to work in the food for work NGO.

He arranged sports events for the orphan children.

Prashant and the volunteers set up foster families for them.

3. How have the people of the community helped one another? What role do the women of Kalikuda play during these days?

Ans: Under the leadership of Prashant, the people of the community came together and decided to help each other. They went to the local merchant and got his stock of rice. They cooked the rice on a fire burned with the branches from the trees and ate a meal after four days.

They signalled the military helicopters for food and help. The widowed women looked after the orphaned children and the men arranged food and other necessities.

4. Why do Prashant and other volunteers resist the plan to set up institutions for orphans and widows? What alternatives do they consider?

Ans: Prashant and other volunteers resisted the plan to set up institutions for orphans and widows because they felt that isolation would increase their grief.

They wanted to settle them in foster families of their own community where they would love and support each other.

5. Do you think Prashant is a good leader? Do you think young people can get together to help people during natural calamities?

Ans: Yes, Prashant is a good leader. He overcame his grief and took charge of the situation. Young people can get together to help others during any calamity. They can use their strength and energy to help others in times of need.

# Short Answer Type

Question 1.

Why had Prashant gone to Ersama? What happened there?

Answer:

He had gone to Ersama to spend a day with a friend. He was caught in a terrible cyclonic storm, the likes of which he had never been a witness to.

Question 2.

Describe the storm that hit Ersama on the 27th of October, 1999?

Answer:

It was a dark and menacing storm which had a terrific wind velocity of 350kms/hr. It was accompanied by heavy and incessant rain flooding the whole area.

Question 3.

How long did the cyclone last? How did Prashant and his friend's family spend the stormy night?

Answer:

The cyclone continued for almost thirty six hours. They spent the night sitting on the roof of the house in the open, because water had filled into the house.

Question 4.

How was his friend's family luckier than the rest of the villagers?

Answer:

His friend's family had a strong house made of brick and mortar which was able to withstand the fury of the wind, even though coconut trees had fallen onto the roof, damaging it. However, these trees provided the family with food till they were rescued.

Question 5.

Describe the scene that met Prashant's horrified eyes in the morning at Ersama?

Answer:

It was a devastating sight. A raging, deadly brown sheet of water covered everything as far as the eye could see. Only a few fractured cement houses still stood. Bloated human corpses and animal carcasses floated in every direction.

Question 6.

How long did Prashant stay at his friend's house? What were the thoughts that kept disturbing him?

Answer:

He stayed at his friend's house for two more days. The only thought that kept disturbing him was whether his family had survived the calamity or if he was going to lose his loved ones once again.

Question 7.

Why did the two days seem like two years to Prashant?

Answer:

As he sat on the rooftop of his friend's damaged house, unable to venture back home through the rain and flooded roads, he felt helpless and worried about his family back in his village. He was so keen to return to them that the two days seemed like two years to him.

Question 8.

What made Prashant venture out from the safety of his friend's house in the dangerous situation?

Answer:

Prashant was worried that his family may have been swept away in his village, and he was determined to find out what had happened to them without any further delay.

Question 9.

How did Prashant prepare himself for the long trek home?

Answer:

He took a sturdy stick and then started on his eighteen kilometre long expedition back to his village, wading through the swollen flood waters.

Question 10.

What were the dangers faced by Prashant on his way back to his village? How did he face them?

Answer:

The whole path back to his village was under water. He used his stick to determine the shallow parts that he could walk on. At places, he had to wade through waist deep water.

Question 11.

What did Prashant see on his way back home?

Answer:

He saw a number of dead bodies of humans and animals floating in the flood water. He also saw that several villages had been entirely destroyed, where not even a single house remained standing.

Question 12.

Why did Prashant's heart sink on reaching his village?

Answer:

His heart sank on seeing the extent of damage that his village had sustained. He saw only the remains of the roof of his house in place of the house. Some of the family belongings were caught in the nearby branches of trees. His family was nowhere to be seen.



Question 13.

Where did Prashant go to look for his family? Who did he spot first?

Answer:

Prashant went to the Red Cross shelter to look for his family. He spotted his grandmother first.

Question 14.

Why did his grandmother rush towards Prashant?

Answer:

She rushed towards him out of joy at seeing him alive. She considered it a miracle that he was safe and sound and had been restored to the family.

Question 15.

Who were the family members that Prashant found at the shelter?

Answer:

He found his grandmother, his brother, sister, his uncles and aunts at the shelter.

Question 16.

What was the extent of damage caused by the storm in Prashant's village?

Answer:

Eighty six lives had been lost in the village, and ninety six houses had been washed away in the village.

Question 17.

Why did Prashant decide to step in and lead the villagers?

Answer:

Prashant realised that the people at the shelter were being engulfed by a deathly grief and there wasn't enough food for the survivors. He also realised that someone had to show the people a way out of the situation and gain control over their feelings and emotions.

Question 18.

What was the first successful mission organised by the group of villagers under Prashant's leadership?

Answer:

The first mission was to pressurise the village merchant to part with his rice so that the hungry villagers could be fed.

Question 19.

After feeding the survivors, what was the next task organised and fulfilled by Prashant?

Answer:

He organised a team of volunteers to clean the shelter of filth, urine, vomit and floating carcasses, and to take care of the wounds and fractures of the many who had been injured.

Question 20.

What was the event that took place on the fourth day at the camp?

Answer:

On this day, a military helicopter flew over the shelter and dropped some food parcels on the ground close to the shelter.

Question 21.

Why did Prashant ask the children to lie on the sand with utensils on their stomachs?

Answer:

He did this so that the helicopter pilots would see them and drop down the food packets for them.

Question 22.

How did Prashant help the orphaned children?

Answer:

He brought them together and put up a polythene sheet shelter for them. Women were mobilised to look after them while the men got food and materials to build the shelter.

Question 23.

How did Prashant help the women to overcome their grief?

Answer:

He did this by persuading them to start working in the food-for-work programme started by an NGO.

Question 24.

Why was Prashant not keen to send the orphans and widows to government institutions?

Answer:

He was against this idea as he felt that in such institutions, children would grow up without love, and widows would suffer from stigma and loneliness.

Question 25.

How did Prashant's wounded spirit heal?

Answer:

It healed because he was so busy making sure that the victims were taken care of by various government agencies and NGOs that he had no time to worry about his own loss and pain.

## **Long Answer Type**

Question 1.

What havoc had the super cyclone wrecked in the lives of the people of Orissa?

Answer:

The super cyclone caused great damage and destruction, leaving hundreds of men,

women, children and animals dead or injured. It blew away houses, brought down trees and wiped out entire villages. The whole area was submerged in water. Family members were separated and it left behind many orphans and widows. In addition, people had to go without food for days together.

Question 2.

How has Prashant, a teenager, been able to help the people of his village?

Answer:

Prashant took over the responsibility of leading the village. He was instrumental in organising the survivors into groups to cook, clean, and rebuild the village from scratch. He supervised the building of shelters and made sure that people who were wounded and injured received adequate medical help.

He also made sure that the orphans and widows were not packed off to impersonal foster care at government institutions, but resettled them in their own community, in new foster families made up of widows taking care of the orphans. He also organised cricket matches and other sports events to bring some joy into the lives of the children and persuaded the women to work in the food-for-work programme started by an NGO.

Question 3.

How did the people of the community help one another? What role did the women of Kalikuda play during these days?

Answer:

First of all, they worked as a team under the leadership of Prashant. They helped him in pressurising the local merchant to part with rice to feed the survivors. They cooked food by collecting branches from fallen trees. They cleaned the shelter of filth, urine, vomit and floating carcasses and took care of the people with wounds and injuries. They also helped to create new foster families made up of childless widows and children without adult care. The women also worked with an NGO in their food-for-work programme.

Question 4.

Why did Prashant and the other volunteers resist the plan to set up institutions for orphans and widows? What alternatives did they consider?

Answer:

Prashant and the other volunteers were aware of the stigma attached to being sent to the government institutions, and the loneliness that the widows would have to suffer there. Similarly, the orphans would have to live a life away from their roots, at the mercy of people who would not be sensitive to their emotional needs. To solve this problem, they came up with the brilliant idea of creating foster families where the childless widows would care for the orphaned children, thereby fulfilling their mutual emotional needs.

Question 5.

Do you think Prashant is a good leader? Do you think young people can get together to help people during natural calamities?

Answer:

Undoubtedly, Prashant is a born leader, which he proves by helping the people of Kalikuda village. He helps them to literally rise from the debris of a super cyclonic storm that had almost wiped out the whole village. He leads by example, selflessly identifying the most urgent needs and working to fulfil them. In the process, he puts aside his own grief and suffering, in trying to find relief and help for the other survivors.

He gauges the falling spirits of the village people and gets them to work manually to remove the debris, rebuild structures, and ensure that the people get something to eat. In a bid to help his people, he even forgets about his own loss, pain and grief. He finds a brilliant solution for the care of those left widowed or orphaned, by creating foster families with childless widows looking after orphaned children. From his example, we can see that it is possible for young people to work together and make a huge difference to the entire community in situations like natural calamities.