

Community Development Project

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A community development project on Assam Flood 2022

Introduction:

A flood is an overflow of water that submerges land that is usually dry. In the sense of "flowing water", the word may also be applied to the inflow of the tide. Floods are an area of study of the discipline hydrology and are of significant concern in agriculture, civil engineering and public health.

Human changes to the environment often increase the intensity and frequency of flooding, for example land use changes such as deforestation and removal of wetlands, changes in waterway course or flood controls such as with

levees, and larger environmental issues such as climate change and sea level rise. Flooding may occur as an overflow of water from water bodies, such as a river, lake, or ocean, in which the water overtops or breaks levees, resulting in some of that water escaping its usual boundaries, or it may occur due to an accumulation of rainwater on saturated ground in an areal flood. Floods can also occur in rivers when the flow rate exceeds the capacity of the river channel, particularly at bends or meanders in the waterway.

Problem Identification and the Cause of the Problem

Due to the monsoon season, river water flows above the danger line and comes up the bank as a result of the heavy rain. Overfilling with water, these rivers begin to erode on the riverbanks, destroying homes and making entire communities homeless. Wooden or tin boats and rafts of banana plants are being used to transport those fleeing for their lives, along with the few possessions they were able to save. This transportation method is inadequate as well as hazardous, and the situation of those affected by the flooding is becoming increasingly desperate.

The flood situation of the Barpeta district has become significantly worse as a result of the release of Kurishu Dam water by Bhutan Govt. The situation has become so disastrous that thousands of people have lost their homes and are living in various camps. The condition of the farmers has worsened because they have not been able to transport their crops. Drinking water sources are being submersed.

Roads are inundated and disconnected everywhere. Affected communities rush to high ground, hoping for safety. In addition, the animals that have not been lost in the flooding that sustain the livelihood of families do not have feed, particularly cattle, goats, sheep, and poultry. These animals are also difficult to transport, but their loss is devastating to familial income.

Most displaced people are living in small, crowded spaces in camps or on makeshift boats, with little food and other supplies. Health and hygiene have been major concerns for children, who are also victims of malnutrition. Issues of maintaining fires in the continuous wet weather and areas for excretion, among others, are cropping up. Even finding clean

drinking water has been a big issue, as most of the drinking sources are now covered by the floodwaters.

Government's current response in flood affected areas:

So far, 11,881 people have been safely evacuated by the above forces and agencies. Relief materials were distributed to affected populations who are not taking shelter in relief camps through 232 relief distribution centers and temporarily opened sites.

The National Disaster Response Force, the Assam State Disaster Response Fund, fire & emergency services personnel, police forces, and AAPDA Mitra volunteers of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority have been aiding the district administration in efforts to safely evacuate individuals from affected areas of the region.

Brief on silchar(Cachar)

Silchar, the gateway to Assam's Barak Valley, is in the grip of severe floods with the town remaining submerged since Monday, and people facing acute shortage of food and drinking water, besides frequent power outages.

Silchar Lok Sabha MP Rajdeep Roy on Thursday said this was the worst flood that Silchar had witnessed in the last seven decades. Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi, the three districts of Barak Valley, are reeling under severe floods with the Barak and Kushiya rivers flowing above the danger level, affecting over six lakh people — 2,32,002 in 565 villages in Cachar district and 2,81,271 in 469 villages of Karimganj.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma made an aerial survey of the marooned town, which has a population of approximately three lakh, visited a few relief camps, and reviewed the prevailing flood situation with public representatives and district officials on Thursday.

The dyke breached on Sunday following which water entered the homes of people, disrupting power and water supplies and the flood-affected population waiting to be evacuated.

The water level of River Barak was already flowing above the danger level since the rains but with the breach in the dyke, it gushed into the low-lying areas of Sonai Road, Rangirkhari, Link Road, Ambicapatty, Ashram Road, College Road, Public School Road, Fatakbar, Betkundi and other areas of the town.



The people were evacuated to a relief camp, set up in a school, that too under water. In Cachar, 33,766 people have taken shelter in 258 relief camps while in Karimganj 20,595 inmates are in 103 relief camps.

The Silchar MP on Thursday posted pictures on social media of the road outside his home in Bilpara area, which is completely submerged with only the upper portion of vehicles in sight.



Most of the residents of the town are facing an acute shortage of food and drinking water with the Indian Air Force helicopters dropping food packets from Thursday.

Cachar Deputy Commissioner Keerthi Jalli requested people not to go to roof tops for food packets on hearing the sound of the helicopters.

“Nearly three lakh people, including our officers, staff, traders, drivers, and relief workers have been affected by the flood and as such we are unable to give optimum facilities.”

“Despite the problem of reaching out to the suffering people with relief, we have so far distributed 40,000 L of water, 24,000 milk cans, 10,000 quintals of rice, pulses, and oil,” Jalli said.

“The district administration is receiving requests for food, medicines, and water, and we are trying our best to provide these to the people.”

The Cachar deputy commissioner said massive rescue evacuation and relief operations were continuing round the clock in the worst affected areas of Silchar town to help the marooned people move to safer places. She appealed to people to be patient and extend maximum support to the NDRF, SDRF personnel, and others who are engaged round the clock in evacuating the marooned people.



Objectives to be achieved

The main objectives which were to be achieved was to somehow help the people which were severely affected by the flood , like the people whose houses and shops were completely or partially damaged from the disastrous effects of the flood. With the help of some of the members of the club from Agranee club, all the members of the club along with me decided to donate the necessities to the flood affected people and provide them with sufficient required daily household items like rice, cooking oil, lentils, and some other items like drinking water.

Effectiveness of the project

With the help of the respected members of the club I volunteered in the process of providing relief items to the affected people which started from around 10 am in the morning till 5 pm in the evening in due time in which the necessities would be brought to the club by the other volunteers and then the distribution would be started.

The entire arrangement started from 23rd June, 2022 till 3rd of July, 2022 in which my bare minimum participation as a volunteer was of 30= hours and I was able to help a lot of poor families to contribute to suffice their needs to some extent. As an acknowledgement, I would like to thank Mr. Shashanto Roy, Secretary of Agranee club , for allowing me to contribute to this auspicious event and help me in my project hoping to help and lead my community towards development.









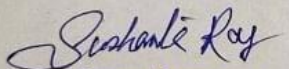


Certification by the NGO regarding the Student Project

(On the letter head of the NGO)

This to certify that the Mr./Ms. Deep Biswas carried out the Project titled Contribution in flood relief in the supervision of Sushanta Roy in our organization Agranee club. It is further certified that he/she spent a minimum of 30 hrs hours on the Project and his/her contribution because of the Project undertaken has been successfully completed.

(Authorized Signatory)


General Secretary
AGRANEE CLUB, SILCHAR

Conclusion

Although this havoc has distressed lakh of people in all over assam and has made thousands of people homeless but this has also again taught us as humans that we always must help the ones in need irrespective of their socio-economic statuses and other categories and try to be equally happy abiding by all the difficulties we face in our lives. Through this opportunity given to me I hope to be a part of this change and feed a few hungry bellies to comfort not all but some of their distresses and has been to some benefit for the community.