

Chapter - 06

Weathering the storm in Ersama.

By - Harsh Hander

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

Ans:- This story is true. When we go through this story our heart begins to melt because a catastrophic day came all of sudden in Orissa. The story teller said that a super-cyclone took place in the coastal towns and villages of Orissa in October 1999. No doubt it was a devastating cyclone. It remained two days. It swelled thousands lines and at least hundred villages washed out. It rained cats and dogs and wind blew at the speed of 350 Kms. When we imagine then our body begins to thrill and it compels us to think about the miserable condition of the people of Orissa. It uprooted the ancient trees. The wind was burning like a furnace. Huts and buildings collapsed. Crops washed away.

The carcasses and corpses were floating all over. This scene presented a pitiable scene. People took shelter on roofs and higher places where Red cross arranged food ~~and~~ clothes and medicines.

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

Ans:- Prashant and other volunteers began to help the widows and orphan children. The initial government plan was to set institutions for orphans and widows. They tried to drive out their mental agonies. We find that children would grow up without love and the widows suffer from stigma and loneliness. Prashant and volunteers took effort to resettled the orphans in their own community. The group mobilised the women to look after the orphans. The group also formed foster families in which childless widows adopted the orphans.