



TSUNAMI TO 2015 FLOODS

“NO RESPITE FOR DALITS IN DISASTER RESPONSE, TAMIL NADU”

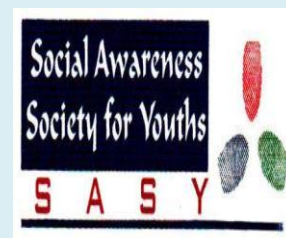
Report of Initial Findings from Immediate Needs Assessment and
Monitoring Responses towards Affected Dalit Communities



**National Dalit Watch - National Campaign on Dalit Human
Rights, New Delhi**

With

**Social Awareness Society for
Youth – Tamil Nadu**



NO RESPITE FOR DALITS IN DISASTER RESPONSE

Introduction

On November 9th when whole country was preparing for the Deepawali festival and waiting for the joy and happiness the deep depression over Bay of Bengal with the heavy rain brought the sadness to the various villages of coastal districts of Tamil Nadu state. The depression brought in gusty winds with the speed of 60-90 kms per hour throughout the day and out of 13 blocks of cuddalore districts the immediate rain affected the total 11 blocks and various villages.

The disaster affected severely and left number of dead, rendered lakhs of hungry and homeless, flattened thousands of houses and buildings, orphaned and dislocated many more. Even after 15 days life is hard for a majority of the affected populace. Death, disease, hunger, deprivation, dispossession, distress migration and constant poverty are now stalking them relentlessly. Though various reports have already talked about the situation of the flood in Tamil Nadu, This Survey report reveals the issues around non-discriminatory and equitable access to rescue and relief provisions by Dalit communities in the immediate flood relief operations in 20 most affected villages of Cuddalore district.

Social Awareness Society Youth Tamil Nadu and National Dalit Watch New Delhi conducted assessment survey of 20 villages of 2 blocks called Parangipettai and Bhuvanagiri. With 20 villages and almost 1500 households the preliminary survey of the villages reveals that since Tsunami to Flood 2015 in Tamil Nadu the exclusion and caste discrimination against Dalit communities during disaster has not lessen. The Dalits are still waiting for the justice in response; report also reveals how Dalits have been treated during the floods and process of Rescue, Relief and Post Disaster Care. The narratives of villagers also shows how children, women, elderly, especially those who have lost their houses, are struggling without basic facilities and living in depression.

OVERALL VIEW OF GOVERNMENT PROVIDING RELIEF AND REHABILITATION TO FLOOD VICTIMS¹

- Tamil Nadu government have announced Rs. 500 crore for relief package and central government has announced Rs 940 Crores
- Army is busy in rescuing people in different parts and district of Tamil Nadu.
- Total 169 deaths have been reported till now in this disaster.

¹ Source : media and online reports

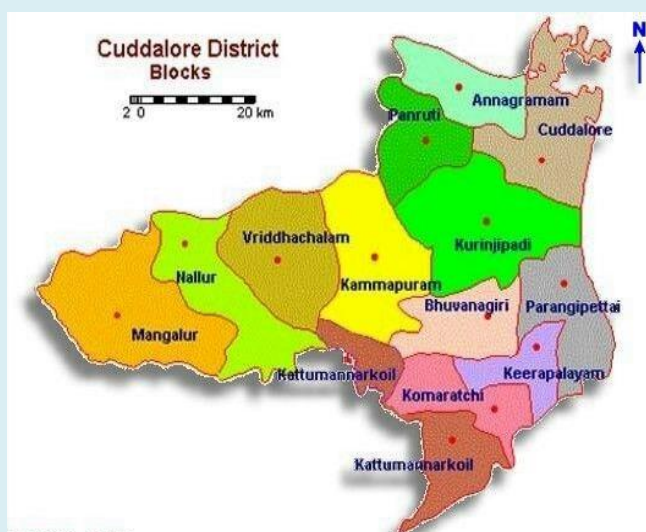
- As many as 121 camps have been held to Cater to cattle while fodder for animals was being given free of cost
- As per the govt reports in 70 relief camps 58000 food packets were being distributed
- In Chennai of the 587 areas , water has been removed in 207 locations and corporation of CMC area and workers were involved in clearing water in rest of the places
- Detailing the Govt initiatives in the affected Districts , especially the worst affected Cuddalore the Govt said that the power supply has been restored in 671 out of 683 rural body areas , Besides 40 medical camps were functioning

Why this Report?

Locating Dalits in Tamil Nadu and finding exclusion and discrimination during disaster

Tamil Nadu has recorded caste based discrimination and exclusion in various forms, various reports has shown that the community faces the social, economic and political discrimination. The discrimination during disaster is another form of exclusion which Dalit community faces not only by dominant caste people but also government doesn't recognize their basic needs. The socio-economic status/conditions of the Dalits are low in comparison to the other dominant castes. Illiteracy is extensive among Dalits and exceptionally low percentages of the community have accessed and received higher education. Land ownership is negligible among them and also the poverty rate is very high within Dalit community.

Cuddalore is one of the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu situated near Bay of Bengal became hub for flood and cyclone, it is a district with total population of 18001033 of which male and female were 908626 and 891507 respectively. The total SC population of the district is 625788 from which 315039 are male and 310749 are female. The district comprises of total 13 Panchayat Union with total 683 village Panchayats. Parangipettai & Bhuvanagiri are two major Panchayat Unions (Blocks) of Cuddalore districts.



Block wise Dalit Population in Cuddalore					
	Block	Village Panchayats	Total Pop	SC Pop	SC %
1	Cuddalore	51	2,21,801	57,991.00	26%
2	Annagaramam	42	1,29,400	45,649.00	35%
3	Panruti	42	1,62,692	34,844.00	21%
4	Kurinjipadi	51	1,90,068	65,919.00	35%
5	Kattumannar Koil	55	1,06,904	45,024.00	42%
6	Komaratchi	57	1,16,951	47,907.00	41%
7	Keerapalayam	63	1,18,476	48,698.00	41%
8	Bhuvanagiri	47	86,255.00	33,344.00	39%
9	Parangipettai	41	1,10,073	33,939.00	31%
10	Virudhachalam	51	1,19,444	41,185.00	34%
11	Kammapuram	53	1,52,650	44,408.00	29%
12	Nallur	64	1,36,695	63,726.00	47%
13	Mangalur	66	1,48,724	63,154.00	42%
	Grand Total	683	18,00,133	6,25,788	35%

The total population of these blocks is 86255 out of which the SC Population is 67283 which comprise the 33788 male and 33495 female populations.² The hamlets of Dalit communities in these villages are located in a segregated manner they lives in a separate settlement their houses which are made of mud and thatch are located far from the dominant caste hamlets.

Most of the villages of these two blocks are situated either nearby sea or river also there are villages situated nearby the big canals and streams, therefore whenever the heavy rain falls in coastal districts and villages of Tamil Nadu, due to their geographical location these villages gets affected more than the other areas.

In the general context, these places are mostly unsafe, low-lying areas and are vulnerable to floods, cyclones, etc. The villages are far from national highway without proper road and basic facilities even normal primary schools and government running Public Health Centers are more than 1to 5 km from the villages or they are situated in the other dominant caste hamlets. Not geographical but the socio-economic condition of these village people is very low.

The Dalit people don't engage with other higher caste community people because of fear of violence. When it comes to livelihood Dalits of these villages are engaged in labourer jobs like agricultural land Labour, house maid jobs, construction workers etc. They don't have any permanent jobs most of them are depended on the dominant caste and their

² Census of India 2011

lands for their livelihood. The Dalit hamlets are lacking various basic facilities like health, education and sanitation (toilet) and their social economic profile is very low. Therefore there were huge chances that the Dalit who are socially and economically vulnerable will become more vulnerable. They will not receive their rightful entitlements in this disaster (flood 2015) unlike Tsunami, Thane and other disasters where government neglected the Dalit community people again government who is supposed to provide the basic amenities to these people, will not take care of the needs of the poor and marginalized. With this hypothesis and also carrying past experiences of various disasters SASY along with NDW conducted the survey with following objectives:

- Identifying most affected Dalits villages for immediate needs assessment and monitoring of immediate rescue ,relief response services being provided
- Identifying, orienting and deploying a dedicated vigilance task force spread across the affected Villages in Cuddalore district.
- Facilitating ‘Left Outs’ to connect and access to proper relief and rehabilitation
- Connecting with the political representatives, government officials and other humanitarian actors at the village, district and national levels Immediate Needs Assessment of Dalit Communities in affected Districts
- Connecting service providers with
- To come out with a joint assessment report on the findings for Policy level work and engagement with Humanitarian Actors

COVERAGE OF THE ASSESSMENT

District	Block	Villages
Cuddalore	Parangipettai	Vadakkuthurai
		Kaduvetti
		Ambedkar Nagar
		Vadukathirumedu
		Periyapattu
		Villiynallur
		Chillankuppam
		Varahurpettai
		Agaram
		Alamelumangapuram
	Bhuvanagiri	Annavilai
		Kamarraj Nagar
		Ponnagkovil
		Sirukallur
		Yennagaram
		Melavaniyur
		Kongarampalayam
		Melamanakudi
		Siluvaipuram
		Nalanthittu

Data highlights from the villages

	Total Villages Condition	Total number	Number of Dalit	Number of Non Dalit Population
1	Household	8392	3424	4968
2	deaths	3	2	1
3	Injuries	10	9	1
4	Concrete houses damage	311	305	6
5	Kutchha/mud house damage	1026	971	55
6	Crop Loss	433	376	57
7	Goat Livestock Damages	146	128	18
8	Cow Livestock Damages	20	20	0
9	Poultry Livestock Damages	292	274	18

SALIENT FINDINGS FROM THE FIELD ASSESSMENT AND INTERACTIONS WITH AFFECTED DALIT COMMUNITIES RESCUE

Though the rescue efforts by government and international agencies have been continuous, and rescue teams have tried their best to save all lives in affected Districts and villages, still there were various villages where government has shown inadequate response in terms of early warning and rescue. The communities have shared their experiences of exclusion and discrimination by the government. In conversation, both Dalit and non-Dalit communities stated that there was no rescue team in their village.

In the number of sharing meetings, our assessment team shared the information that Dalit residences in the affected areas are mostly made of by mud brick house, whereas a high number of cemented houses belonged to non-Dalit people. The monitoring team has observed the following findings are based on the series of discussion and interactions held with the communities about rescue services being provided by the state to the affected Dalit communities.

According to the affected communities in cuddalore district there were rescue operations but they were focused in rescuing the people living in town centers and on the edge of main highways

- In our sharing meetings with villages, the villagers from Vadakkuthurai , Ponnankovil , Siluvaipuum , Ennanagaram , Nalanthethu have shared that since most of the houses belongs to Dalits were thatched houses and kutchha houses so it was very difficult for Dalit communities to have safer locations

- On one hand where Dalits were struggling to get the safer sheds on other hand majority of non- Dalit population was having no problem since there are having large number of concrete houses to save themselves

There was no rescue team to save us in this difficult situation.



I am a woman with eight children I have lost my husband six months back, I have a physically disable son of age 24, it was late night when flood entered in our village and everyone in the village started rescuing their own children. In that circumstances I was not able to carry my child to safe place, It was very difficult situation for me whether I should save my other children or my child who is not able to walk on his own. (Dalit Widow from Kongarampalayam village (Parangipettai Block)

- In lack of government infrastructure like School , Community hall etc Dalit communities from Vadakkuthurai, Kongarayanpalayam, Agaram and Ambedkar Nagar faced more problem to even use the public facilities for safer locations
- Dalt communities from Alamelumangapuram said that due to lack of government rescue operations and transporation they had to hire private transportation and other mediums to take them away from the villages.
- Many of villagers from Sirukalur C.Melavanniyur Annavalli said that, the government, and other rescue operation team has neglected their villages because we are poor and they must have believed that we have nothing to lose in this flood. They have visited the places situated near highways and town which are easily accessible with transportation
- A woman from Vadakkuthurai of parangipettai block said that it is a negligence of government and a result of political rift between the parties, she told the team that when they went to the president of the village regarding rescue and relief he said that his party is not in power and he is from opposition party therefore he can't do anything in this situation

IMMEDIATE RELIEF

After the flood occurred in Tamil Nadu the govt and non govt (INGO and others domestic NGOs) machinery has taken massive task of helping people with relief , emergency support and other supplementary systems for immediate survival of the affected communities in various districts. Although the process so far was one of the remarkable and fastest for the affected population but during the visits and focus group discussions in the affected Dalit villages and Panchayat , the team has observed the following findings as follows :

PROVISION OF SHELTER

- During the discussion in the affected Dalit villages the team has found that none of the affected families have received the immediate shelters on behalf of government.

Most of the affected Dalit families are landless and their houses are made of mud they worked on the field of dominant community and are totally excluded while relief and rehabilitation.

- It has been found that all the Dalit villages are located nearby sea, river, streams and canals etc *average distance from sea & river is 1.5 kms from villages*



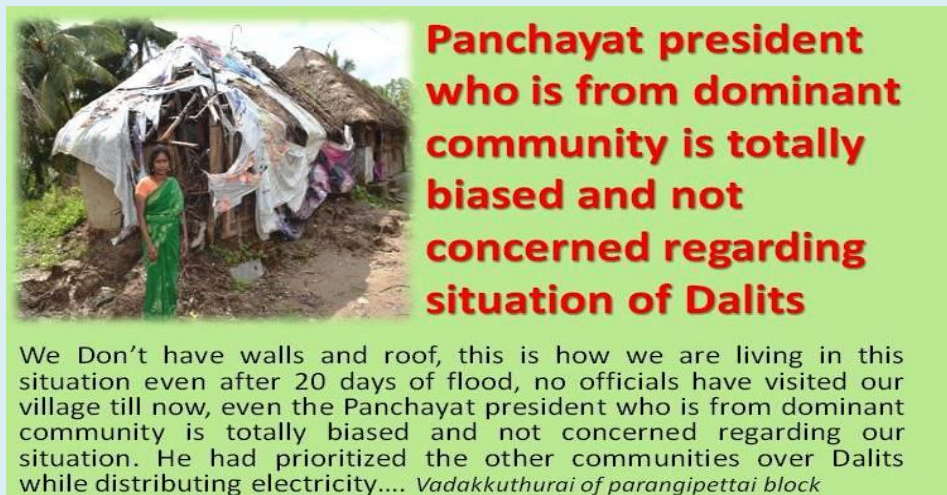
**I am suffering
with this
injury and
experiencing
pain at this
old age**

My age is more than 72. When flood water entered in my house I was running to go at safer place and this old age It was difficult and I couldn't reached safely, this is why I broke my leg during the chaos. My family has already spent lots of money for my medical treatment because there was no rescue operation and medical assistance provided by the government in our village. **P. Sarawati. Village: Malavanur in Cuddalore district Bhuvanagiri**

- 80 % Dalit community in Kaduvetti , Varagurpettai , Melmanakudi , Agaram , Sirukalur , C.Melavanniyur said that they have heard that government is distributing tarpaulin and other materials for shelter but our village has not received such item till now. It's only those dominant villages situated near highways and are

easily accessible have received such facilities because we have interior habitant that also secluded from the habitants of dominant caste people the government couldn't took care of our amenities .

- Communities from Thenharijarapuram , Kavarapattu , Kavarapattu , Pichavaram , Varagurpettai , Melmanakkudi , Parankipettai panchayats have expressed that there was inadequate response of the government that even after 15 days of flood Dalit community people are still looking for proper shelter and safe places



- It was evident and shared that most of the Dalit families from Vadukathirumedu Chillankuppam, Kaduvetti Varagurpettai Annavalli could not shifted to safer place after the huge flood hit in their villages.
- There has been a deliberate discrimination in providing shelter facilities to the Dalit families who have lost their mud houses (villagers from ambedkar nagar)
- They shared that there was no relief camp for their villages and the camps which were not easy accessible.

PROVISION OF FOOD ITEMS

- During the village visits and entailed discussion, people from Ambedkar Nagar village told us that they have received food support after the flood for 2 days, but that food which they have received was distributed by the political leader Vandayar not from government relief or any other relief programme organized by government.
- The food which Dalit communities of Ennanagaram, Kongarayanpalayam, Ambedkar Nagar, Vadukathirumedu and Chillankuppam have received is inadequate, it doesn't have quantity and quality to feed enough, and therefore they are still struggling with their hunger.

- Dalit people of vaddakuthurai said that Government even after 10 days has not provided any relief camp and food for Dalit communities.
- During discussion we have found that Dalit community people were talking about the free ration provided by PDS to flood victims, which we thought as a positive sign for vulnerable communities, but none of the Dalit family of these 20 villages had received such ration. The village Alamelumangapuram had received 1 liter of kerosene through PDS told us that they had paid Rs 15 to PDS for per 1 liter kerosene oil and it's not free as government has told us.



**We have Given
Money for Kerosene
Oil to PDS Dalits
from Alamelumangapuram
village**

PROVISION OF DRINKING WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE FACILITIES:

Dalit families has not received any drinking water and sanitation facilities, they are forced to drink contaminated water, and had to travel a long distance for medical assistance

- In 90 % of Dalit villages, which team has visited there was no adequate provision of drinking water. Mostly the distribution of water bottles, supply of water has happened nearby the highways and market places.
- In this serious situation Dalit villagers from Vadukathirumedu, Kaduvetti Varagurpettai and Annavalli are forced to drink water from panchayat water supply and other sources which is contaminated because it has mixed with flood and sewage water, there is serious threat of water borne disease.
- Most of the public sources of drinking water are destroyed and villagers Vadakkuthurai, Ennanagaram and Kongarayanpalayam are bound to walk an average of 2-3 km to fetch water

- Through interactions with Vadakkuthurai Dalits we found that dominant caste persons have refused to allow take water from the sources owned by Non-Dalits or in the dominant locations.
- There has been total neglect in taking care of the Sanitation and Hygiene needs and provision of temporary toilets, hygiene / menstrual kits for affected Dalit women.

PROVISION OF IMMEDIATE HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES

- In most of the villages like Kaduvetti, Varagurpettai, Annavalli, Periyapattu and Williyannallur the team has found that there was no immediate medical services been provided to any of the affected Dalit locations also no medical camps has been organized in the villages .
- In one village called Alamelumangapuram only, a medical camp has been organized that also in the location where high caste people are living. Dalit community due to the fear of violence and discrimination didn't attend that camp.



- Most of the Public health service centers and sources are located almost 2-5 km away from the Dalit locations, even its nearby there were no provision of providing any health or sanitation facility.
- Majority of the villages have been filled with water of flood which has got mixed with sewage. Village like Nalanthethu, Alamelumangapuram and Vadakkuthurai are in threat of mosquito's bites causing malaria and dengue has increased in these villages. But till now nothing (like bleaching powder) has been provided to villagers.

PROCESS OF RELIEF DISTRIBUTION

- No relief has been reached properly to the community till now. During the distribution of food relief there has been priority to the families having concrete houses, people having connections with leaders of village.
- Relief camps and medical facilities has been organized far away from the villages or are in dominate caste area which Dalit people cannot access due to the lack of transportation and fear of discrimination and violence.

POST DISASTER RESPONSE FROM AUTHORITIES

- In most of the villages where the team has visited, there were very few instances of visits of government officials to analyze the loss in Dalit locations.
- Most of the government officials have visited the locations which are dominated by Dominant caste peoples and households and are easily accessible with transportation.



- In some of the cases even if the officials had come they have not done the proper assessment and announcement regarding the situation and immediate relief.
- The overall focus of the assessment team was on mainly Concrete Houses and the locations.
- In most of the places Dalit households have complained about the “willful negligence” of government and other agencies of assessing the losses occurred to Dalits. Government has neglected the concern regarding Dalit issues and has excluded the Dalit communities during this disaster.
- As per as the compensation related to deaths and severe Injuries are concerned families are still waiting for the complete announcements and proper compensations.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF FLOOD AFFECTED DALIT COMMUNITIES

RESUCE AND EVACUATION

- Immediate positioning vehicles and other transportation materials in remote locations especially Dalit villages and hamlets
- Prioritizing rescue team to be set up in remote locations
- Setting up places and establishment to provide safer locations to evacuated communities in upcoming event of floods.

IMMEDIATE FOOD ASSISTANCE

- Looking into the grim situation of Dalits , Immediate Establishment of Relief camps in all the remote affected areas specially the hamlets and villages populated by Dalits and Adivasi
- Due to the low coping capacities of affected Dalit communities there is an urgent need of Dry ration supply for 3 months as per the NDRF/SDRF norms of Disaster Relief and Compensation to all the vulnerable communities especially affected Dalit Population in flood affected areas.
- Along with dry ration kits separate provision of Milk powder, Nutritional Biscuits etc in order to take care the needs of pregnant mothers and children.
- There should be effective mechanism for storage of food materials in the affected locations So that the communities can fully utilise the food resources
- All the distribution must be done through local community volunteers and affected community members
- Special focus to the affected children , women , elderly , differently able etc should be given during the provision of food assistance

SHELTERS

- During the village visit and interaction and continuous rain in the district there is an urgent need to have temporary shifting process of the families and communities which are totally marooned in the flood waters.
- Separate identification and immediate attention to all differently able persons and make sure all the relief and post disaster help.
- In order to provide immediate solutions for communities there is need to build semi permanent shelters within or nearby affected villages

- Urgent supplies of tents and shelter materials for the affected Dalit locations and HH with proper size and quality.
- Immediate provision of Household Items, Blankets and other items for the families who have lost their complete houses and Belongings.
- Special focus to the affected children , women , elderly , differently able etc should be given during the provision of shelter

HEALTH

- Effective provisioning of Health facilities to women, children and elderly should immediately start with proper follow up.
- Immediate activation of paramedics and make sure weekly health checkups and nutritional facilities for women and children.
- Immediate hospitalization of all the pregnant women in government hospitals and nearby Pvt hospitals.
- Urgent initiation of health camps in affected areas to control the possible outbreak of waterborne diseases.
- Immediate provision of Mobile health care unit for provision of medical assistance to the affected Dalit households.
- Distribution of hygiene kits to adolescent girls and women to address menstrual hygiene.
- Immediate restoration of all the public health facilities to stabilize the health situation of affected families

EDUCATION

- Immediate restoration of all the government schools in affected locations.
- Due to huge number of child labour and drop outs from Dalit community, efforts are needed to have special attention to give priority to restore schools of Dalits villages.
- In absence of restoration , immediate provision of Temporary Schooling for Children in Affected Dalit Locations through provision of Mobile Schools in the affected areas.



- Distribution of Books and stationary items (Books + Pencil + School Bags + Uniform) to all the students from affected villages
- Immediate counseling of all the students in remote locations to save them from Child Trafficking , Sexual Abuse etc
- Identify community youth that can provide learning environment to children – which will also address their fear and trauma.

PSYCHO SOCIAL CARE

- Regular Trauma Counselling for the severely affected Households should be organised in the affected Dalit locations.
- Immediate organising condolence meetings and programmes of grief sharing for effective trauma relief within the communities from Dalit villages.

EARLY RECOVERY & IMMEDIATE COMPENSATION

- Immediate disbursement of all the compensations for deaths , grievously injured , hospitalised , house collapsed through village level camps .
- Immediate disbursement of Rs 12000 per family for purchase of household items lost during tamilnadu floods 2015.
- Immediate setting up of a district level for enumeration of losses occurred to Dalit Families

- There should be separate window for disbursement of adequate Compensation for the losses occurred to Dalit Households.
- In the post flood scenario there has been a major loss to the daily wages and dependent livelihood of Dalits, taking that in concern there should be a special relief package for the lost livelihood opportunities
- There should be additional relief announcements for the loss of Caste Based occupations (Black Smith , Tailoring , Leatherworks , sweepers etc)

RECOMMENDATION FOR DIGNIFIED INCLUSIVE RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION

IMPLEMENTATION LEVEL

- Immediate Damage assessment of all the affected villages , giving priority to Dalit hamlets and locations
- Immediate disbursement of compensations for all the losses occurred during floods 2015 (as per NDRF/SDRF norms 2015-2020)
- Provision of Concrete houses to all the Dalit families who have lost their houses in Tamilnadu floods 2015 in time bound manner.
- Immediate restoration of the entire public infrastructure in affected Dalit Location on priority basis.
- Sustainable livelihood support of Rs 1000000 to the families of deceased persons.
- Family pension of Rs 15000 per month to the family of deceased persons.
- Creation of Community Shelters in the affected Dalit locations for their future safety during any disasters.
- Restoration of all the Schools, health, public buildings etc on priority basis in Dalit Locations
- All the loans pertaining to affected Dalits families should be waived off. Interest free loan to all the affected families without any mortgage
- Regularization of small farmers living in floods prone areas should be done to ensure direct access of compensation in case of loss of crops and further livelihood.
- The housing construction and allotment should be done with a time bound action plan with adequate budget allocations at disposal.

- Provision should be made for every victim to register his complaint on the government website and getting a receipt for the same and assurance of relief within the prescribed time frame.
- Immediate formation of a district level vigilance team to see any matter of discrimination pre-during- post disasters
- Proper accessibility to public infrastructure facilities public buildings i.e Schools, Colleges, Shelter and Others is needed for the better sustainability of the communities living in disaster prone Areas.

PRACTICE LEVEL

- Involve community people and community level organization especially of Dalits and indigenous peoples in all efforts of rehabilitation and reconstructions.
- Initiate multi-stake holder and rights holder dialogue with the authorities including the central and local governments, private sector, civil society, media, financial institutions and international aid agencies.
- The government should appoint a committee to look into the matter to investigate the reasons as to why Dalits were most badly affected in the tamilnadu floods 2015 ; why there was a delay in providing relief and rehabilitation to the Dalits and thereby, recommend measures to address and prevent caste based exclusion in tamilnadu floods 2015 management in future

POLICY LEVEL

- Immediate Creation of District Level Task force to review the current actions towards disaster risk reduction.
- Review of District Disaster Management Plan
- There should be a separate cell to see any cases of Discrimination on the name Caste and Religion during Rescue, Relief and Rehabilitation. (as per the NDMA act 2005)
- Proper pre assessment of the assets and belongings Dalits Communities living in the floods Prone Areas.
- There should be mandatory representation of Dalits in Disaster management team for inclusion of Excluded communities.
- Urgent initiation of task force to strategize the “Actions towards inclusive disaster risk reduction” at District level

Annexure

Annexure I: Format for Data collection

Village Level Information Format

A- BASIC INFORMATION

Name of the Panchayat	
Name of the Village	
Name & Number of Dalit Hamlets	
Total Households	
Number of Dalit Households	
Number of Children	
Number of Women	
Number of PWD/Elderly and Pregnant women	
Distance from Highway	
Distance from River / sea	
Distance from district headquarter	

B- OVERVIEW OF THE EFFECTED POPULATION

Number of Deaths	Dalits	Non Dalits
Number of Injured people		
Number of concrete house damage		
Number of Mud / kutchha houses Damaged		
Number of Children affected		
Number of Pregnant women		
Number of Elderly		
Number of person with disability		
Crop loss in (area)		
Type of crop		
Livestock Damage Goats , Pig , Poultry etc		
Loss of Public Infrastructure – Road / Bridges / School etc		

C- RESPONSE FROM GOVERNMENT

Early Warning System

- Was there any early warning received from an official for shifting to safer areas?

Evacuation

- Have you able to access rescue boats and other evacuation services of the govt?

Relief

- Were you able to access relief material in time?
- When was the relief camps initiated?
- Was there any caste-based discrimination while distributing the relief material?
- Did the govt. serve enough food for the family?
- Is there any provision of water and sanitation in response?
- Are the women's special needs being taken care of?
- What is the current position of the affected communities

Damage assessment by the officials

- (i) Has any survey been conducted by the officials to assess your loss and damage?
Y/N
- (ii) Reason as per the respondent for no such survey

D-TRENDS / ISSUES OF CASTE BIASNESS IN DISASTER RESPONSE SO FAR

- Early Warning , Rescue , Relief , Compensation , Damage Assessment

(This will be mainly based on the collective information from the villagers and communities)

E- Immediate Needs

Area	Needs
Shelter	
Health	
Food	
Children and Women	

Annexure II: Highlights of Data collection
House Holders

Number of households		
Dalit	Non Dalit	Total
3424	4968	8392

Deaths

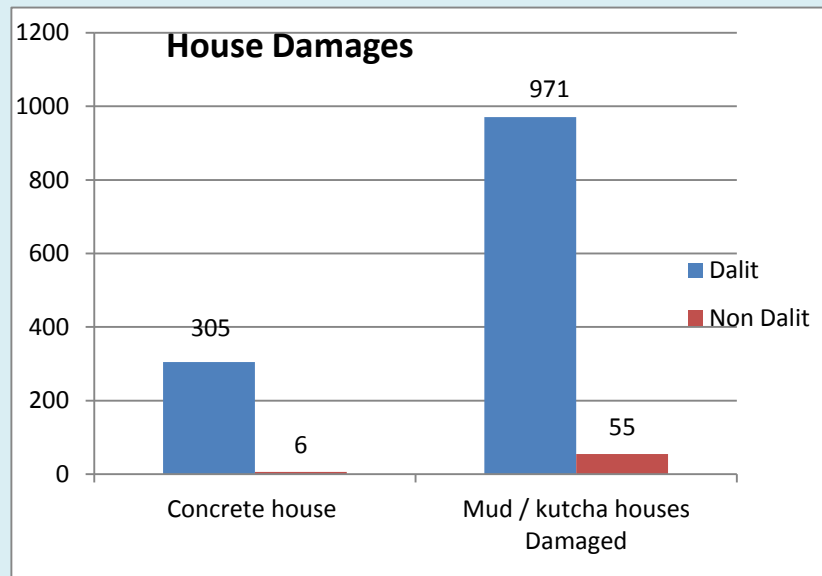
Number of Deaths		
Dalit	Non Dalit	Total
2	1	3

Injuries

Number of Injured people		
Dalit	Non Dalit	Total
9	1	10

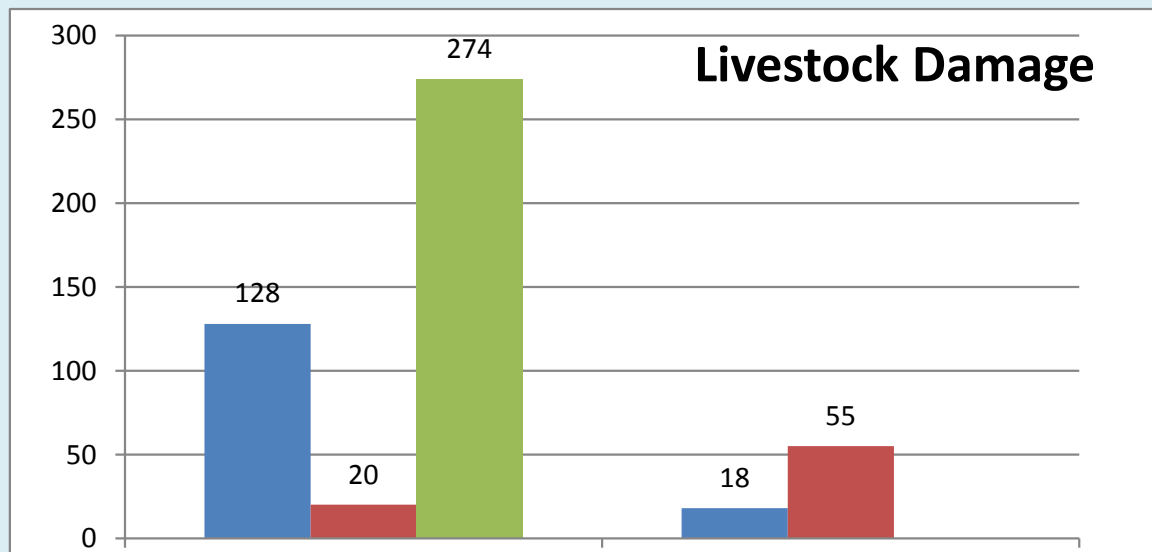
House Damages

House Type	Dalit	Non Dalit	Total
Concrete house	305	6	311
Mud / kutchha houses Damaged	971	55	1026
Total	1276	61	1337



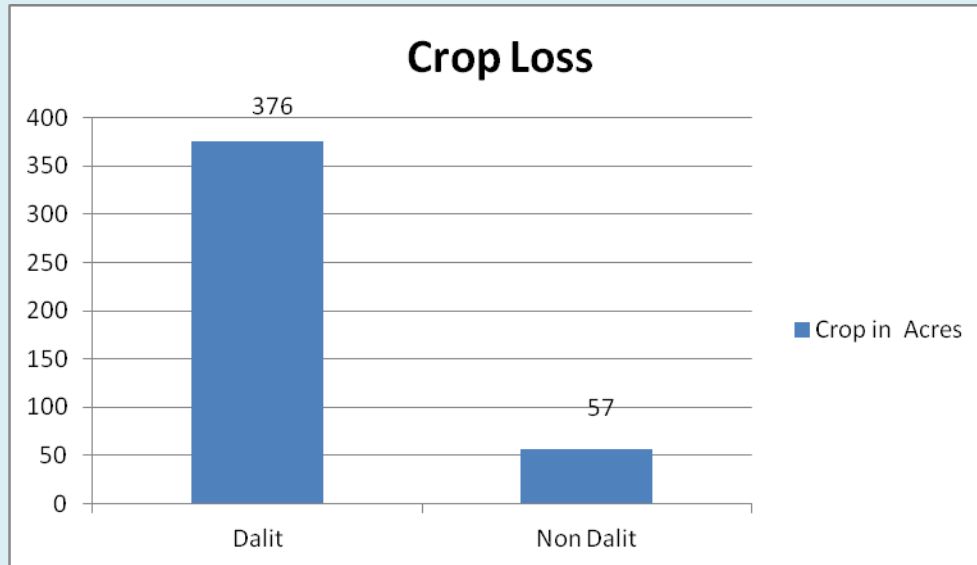
Livestock Damages

Livestock Damages	Dalit	Non Dalit	Total
Goat	128	18	146
Cow	20	0	20
Poultry	274	18	292



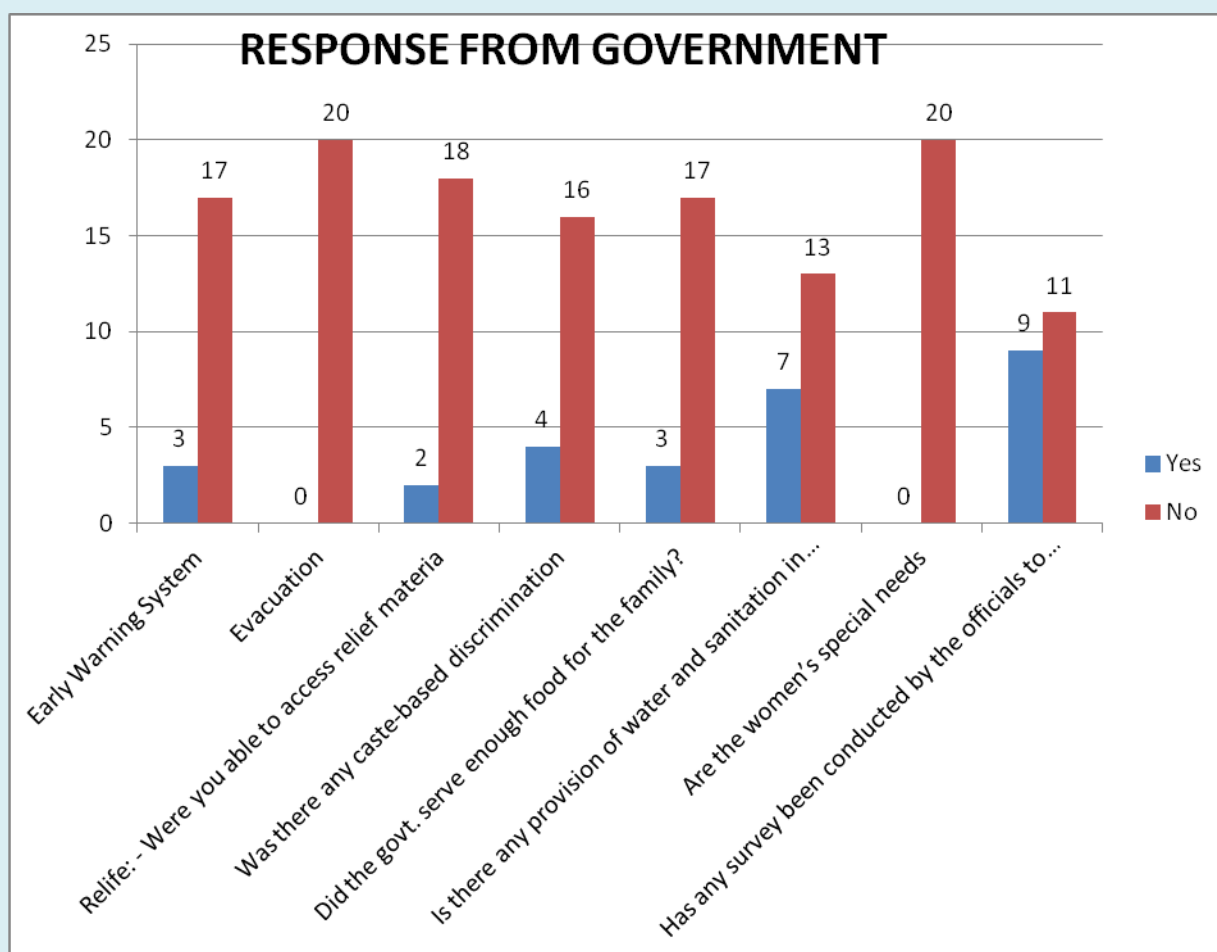
Crop Loss

Loss	Dalit	Non Dalit	Total
Crop	376	57	433



Response from Government

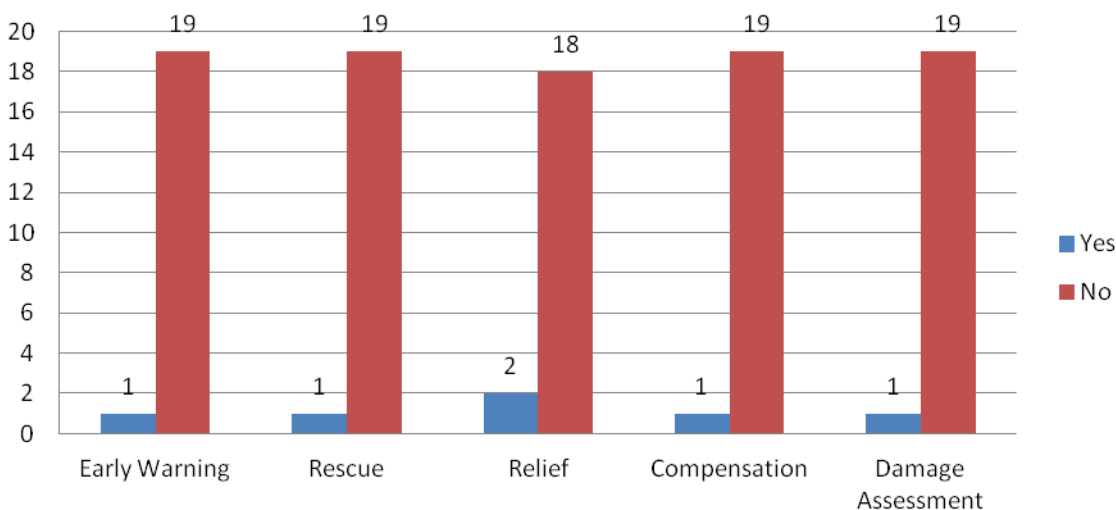
Response from Govt	Yes	No	Total
Early Warning System	3	17	20
Evacuation	0	20	20
Relife: - Were you able to access relief material	2	18	20
Was there any caste-based discrimination	4	16	20
Did the govt. serve enough food for the family?	3	17	20
Is there any provision of water and sanitation in response?	7	13	20
Are the women's special needs	0	20	20
Has any survey been conducted by the officials to assess your loss and damage?	9	11	20



**TRENDS / ISSUES OF CASTE BIASNESS IN DISASTER
RESPONSE SO FAR**

TRENDS / ISSUES OF CASTE BIASNESS IN DISASTER RESPONSE SO FAR	Yes	No	Total
Early Warning	1	19	20
Rescue	1	19	20
Relief	2	18	20
Compensation	1	19	20
Damage Assessment	1	19	20

TRENDS / ISSUES OF CASTE BIASNESS IN DISASTER RESPONSE SO FAR



Annexure III: Narratives from Villages

Ambedkar Nagar a Dalit village of Parangipettai block was one of the most affected villages during the flood 2015. The village comprises of total 45 households made of mud of thatch only out of 45 houses 7 are backward community houses and 11 houses of this village are made up of concrete, it is located in a very low lying area and very near to river from the northern side and kolli dam on the eastern side. It was 10th of night when the whole village due to the heavy rain fall and water from both river and dam got washed away. Families started carrying their children and important items to safe areas and shelter most of them took shelter to the neighborhood houses made of concrete. For almost 3 days there was no electricity and drinking water. Most of the Houses made of mud have been damaged severely also there are few houses which have been totally washed away in this flood, they said that every year they have to spend almost 10 thousand to repair their houses which is very expensive for the poor villagers therefore now due to the threat of flood for past 4-5 years they not building and sand or mud houses only thatch huts are their only option to reduces the expenses of building and repairing of house. There was no help at night and the situation became worst when water got clogged in their village. When team visited their even after 10 days it was raining and the water was still there in low lying areas. The villagers told us that there was no early warning by any government official even till now no government official has visited their village. They are still struggling for food and basic amenities; they told our team that a political party leader Vandayar only distributed food to the various villages through that only they were feeding their children but that food was also not of good quality and quantity. The situation of village has become very worst due to the problem of health and sanitation. The water in this village has got clogged and there is

no drainage system due to which the mosquitoes are breeding very fast, which might result into dengue or communicable diseases. Many of children in this village are suffering from fever and the public health centre which is around 1 km from the village doesn't have any provision or basic medicine for them also no health camp has been organized by the government till now. Therefore it has become very difficult for them to take care of the health of their children in this situation, they are going for open defecation because there is no facility of toilet the public toilet is almost 5 km away from the village and with this rain and climate it is very difficult for them to go for toilet, this has become a very difficult situation especially for women because women are not able to take care of the sanitation other monthly problems. A primary school which is located half km away from the village is also filled with water somehow student are managing to sit in the classroom though children have started going to school but they are still worrying about their uniform and wet books. Many of villagers have lost their cattle's in this flood they have lost goats, chicken and rabbit etc in this disaster, also for past 15 days they are not able to go for their jobs. The villagers are engaged in farmland labour or Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes(MANREGA), due to heavy rain and with this situation they are not able to go for jobs therefore they do not have any livelihood for buying or taking care of their basic amenities it has become very difficult for villagers to survive in this catastrophic situation.

Vadakkuthurai of parangipettai block is another affected village which our team has visited for assessment survey. It is a village with total 105 Dalit families along with 6 backward community families. At one side the village is situated near the bakingham canal which is almost 1 km away and from other side it is surrounded by the Bay of Bengal almost 2km away. It was 10th of November when the water from both from canal side and sea side entered in the village and had washed away every household in the village. There was no warning from the officials and village administration officer visited after one week of flood that also from the outside area where road was fine there was no proper visit and assessment made by the officials. The villagers told us that most of the houses in village which are made of mud and thatch have been washed away rest are not in condition of living, they are not able to cook and sleep and there is no space in the house, therefore the villagers took shelter in a nearby newly constructing building. Government even after 10 days has not provided any relief camp and food for them, because the storage food got washed away in water the villagers are still struggling for food and water, though for first two days the neighborhood muslim families provided food but after 2 days they also stopped it. Now the villagers are living on the leftovers of the Muslim families where the women of this village are working as a maid. They are arranging drinking water from the Panchayat water supply because till now no drinking water has been provided to the village on behalf of the government or any other organization. The worst situation is that due to the lack of drainage facility the flood water has got mixed with the sewage water and it has become dirty, there is no provision

of providing sanitation from government side even it has not provide a minimum amount of bleaching powder or any other chemical to spray in this dirty water to take care of the health issues of the villagers, therefore mosquitoes has become a major problem. The villagers are suffering from communicable diseases but the medical facilities are totally out of reach. There was one medical camp which was organized by the government but that was very far from the village the villagers could not accessed it. The village is almost 2 km away from the main road, even that 2km distance is also full of water. The villager told us that the Panchayat president said that “because he is from the opposition party and they are not in power he cannot do anything for the village in this situation”, they also told us that after election their village has been neglected by the politicians. It is a worst situation that due to political rift and benefits Dalit community of this village is suffering without food , drinking water and medical facilities. They have spent more than 15 day without and basic amenities but still government is not taking any action in the village. They are in immediate need of food, shelter and medical benefits and are looking for justice in this response which government has given towards the flood victims.

Kongarampalayam of Bhuvanagiri Block is another village which our team has visited for assessment survey the village was almost similar as other villages, located nearby river and stream where Dalits are staying in most outward area. When we entered the village we saw Non-Dalits family households sharing the same village but are in a good place in comparison to Dalit families. Total 62 Dalit families are staying very near to river and sewage in this village. It was 10th of night when flood hits the village and the water entered in the village. There was no early warning from the authority and other officials regarding arrival of flood. Most of the houses which are made of mud and thatch got washed away in flood. They have taken shelters in the concrete houses in their neighborhood. Those who are still managing to live in the damaged houses have put sarees to cover and build walls around house. There is no help from the officials they haven't even visited the village; the village president is also not very concerned about the condition of Dalit community people residing in same village. Villagers told us that president prioritized the other communities over Dalit communities; he even took care of the electricity of Backward Community first. The major problem of this village is health and sanitation, there were no provisions of distributing any sanitation material in village; no health camps have been organized. The village almost 5-6 km away from the main road therefore it's very difficult for villager to access any public transport. The schools and public health centers are also more than 5km away for villagers to access in an immediate need. Most of the people of Dalit community in this village worked as laborer in the farmland of Dominant community where males are getting wages 300 R.s per day and female are getting 100 R.s per Day as a laborer. But due to this flood they have lost that only source of income, they are not able to go for their jobs.

ANNEXURE- IV: Glimpse of Post Flood News Coverage

1. Nine washed away in flash floods near Cuddalore.

November 10, 2015 15:24 IST

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/nine-washed-away-in-flash-floods-near-cuddalore/article7864899.ece>

2. Toll Rises to 120; More Rains Forecast for Tomorrow in Tamil Nadu.

November 20, 2015 15:44 IST

<http://www.ndtv.com/tamil-nadu-news/toll-rises-to-120-more-rains-forecast-for-tomorrow-in-tamil-nadu-1245616>

3. Jayalalithaa Asks PM for Rs. 2000 Crore Gets Rs. 940 Crore as Flood Relief.

November 23, 2015 15:43 IST

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/jayalalithaa-asks-pm-modi-for-rs-2000-crore-for-now-as-flood-relief-1246419>

4. Situation remains grim in flood-hit Tamil Nadu; Army, Air Force join relief ops.

November 17, 2015

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/situation-remains-grim-in-flood-hit-tamil-nadu-bjp-panel-to-survey-region/1/524640.html>

5. Five children dead in rain-related mishaps in Kadapa.

November 17, 2015 22:16 IST

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/tamil-nadu-rains-update/article7887856.ece>

6. Tamil Nadu municipal bodies unprepared for flood: Union ministers.

November 21, 2015, 23:28 [IST]

<http://www.oneindia.com/india/tamil-nadu-municipal-bodies-unprepared-for-flood-union-ministers-1934051.html>

7. Tamil Nadu 2015 floods, a Man-Made disaster, “Tamil Nadu floods could have been clearly avoided if only we have learnt lessons from what happened in 2005 and previous floods”.

November 17, 2015

<http://satyavijayi.com/tamil-nadu-2015-floods-a-man-made-disaster/>



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