Organised as part of assessing

The Impact of Kerala Flood 2018

JANAKIYA PANKALITHAVUM PUNARNIRMANAVUM

An initiative under the auspices of

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

&

Government of Kerala

Organised by

Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA)

&

The Department of Economics
Sacred Heart College, Chalakudy

Date: 21/08/2019

Time: 02:00 PM

Place: Chalakudy Municipality

Location of FGD: Sacred Heart College Auditorium, Chalakudy

Facilitator: Dr. Chacko Jose P

Associate Professor & Head, Department of Economics, Sacred Heart College, Chalakudy

Department of Economics, 21st August 2019

A Focus Group Discussions for Adolescent Group was organised as part of assessing The Impact of Kerala Flood 2018 - Janakiya Pankalithavum Punarnirmanavum (translated as *Mass participation and Reconstruction*), an initiative under the auspices of United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) & Government of Kerala Organised by Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) & The Department of Economics, Sacred Heart College, Chalakudy on 21st August 2019 at 2:00 pm in the Sacred Heart College Auditorium. The programme was aimed at involving the students and the public in the process of policy formulation and structuring in the context of the natural disaster, the flood of August, 2018, that impacted the Chalakudy region. The flood created a deep impact on the economic and social arena of the region which makes it necessary to involve the people in the region in the process of policy formulation.

Dr. Chacko Jose P, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Economics, Sacred Heart College, Chalakudy was the facilitator. Mr. V.K Sreedharan, Expert, Disaster Management, KILA was the Co-facilitator and observer. Mr. Babu VJ, Member, KILA was the rapporteur. Mr. Nijil Jacobi, Assistant Professor (on contract), Department of Economics, Sacred Heart College, Chalakudy was the programme convenor. Mr. Sudhakaran, Thrissur District Coordinator, KILA, addressed the gathering. Ms. Bindu Sasikumar, Ward Councillor, 23 ITI, Chalakudy Municipality, Dr. Laina AL and Smina Haridas, NSS Programme Officers, 76 & 84 Units, Sacred Heart College, Chalakudy were the invitees for the same.

There were 14 other participants representing the flood affected area of Chalakudy Municipality including the students of our college. There were 13 Second MA Economics students as volunteers of the programme. Various questions were asked to the participants followed by a discussion. The questions and the answer verbatim including the major findings of the Focus Group Discussions for Adolescent Group are attached below.



Director: (0487) 2201312 Fax: (0487) 2201062 Website: www.kila.ac.in Email:info@kila.ac.in

Dr. Peter M Raj Associate Professor Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) Mob - 9447821046, Email Id-raj@kila.ac.in

Ref.No: 2016/101/1055

EXPERIENCE CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that staff and students of the Department of Economics, Sacred Heart College, Chalakudy has functioned as volunteers/ participants in the Focus Group Discussions for Adolacent Group organised as part of assessing the impact of Kerala Flood 2018 - Janakiya Pankalithavum Punarnirmanavum Initiative - under the auspices of UNICEF and Govt.of Kerala and organised by Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA). The FGD for the adolescent group was held at Sacred Heart College, Chalakudy on 21st August 2019 for which Dr Chacko Jose P, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Economics, Sacred Heart College, Chalakudy was a resource person.

Challe

Dr.Peter M Raj

Date: 05.05.2021

Final Report of Focus Group Discussion

Group 1 – Adolescent Date: 21/08/2019 Time: 02:00 PM

Place: Chalakudy Municipality

Location of FGD: Sacred Heart College auditorium, Chalakudy

Facilitator: Dr. Chacko Jose P

Co-Facilitator/observer: Mr. V. K. Sreedharan

Reporter: Mr. Babu V J

Participants of FGD

No.	Name	Occupation				
1	Selvi T Joseph	Degree Student				
2	Dona Mary	Degree Student				
3	Nayana M Vijayan	Degree Student				
4	Anisha K A	Degree Student				
5	Niranjan M	Higher Secondary Student				
6	Alfred Antony	Higher Secondary Student				
7	Alex Antony	Bio Medical Diploma Student				
8	Amal P S	Higher Secondary Student				
9	Dilith Dinesh	Employed				
10	Saina M B	Degree Student				
11	Sivasankari K K	Degree Student				
12	Aparna V Sasi	Degree Student				
13	Sai Keerthana Raj	Employed				
14	Santosh P	Employed				

1. What was the impact of the flood on you? (in this locality)

(Ask any one group member to respond what happened on the flood days)

Description of happenings on what happened

Verbatim

It was heavy rain in those days. Water started raising around our house. From August 15 to 17 it was heavy rain and flood. No one thought water will rise so high. Elderly in the families said water will recede soon. But it did not, instead it continued to rise. We moved household articles to the higher places inside the house. But as water level started reaching such places, we had to leave home. All those days there was no electricity and telephone connectivity. This further intensified the situation. Roads, drainages and streams all got flooded and became undistinguishable. A man died in our neighbourhood, but his funeral couldn't be held as everywhere was flooded. Homes lost documents, students lost documents, uniform, books, bags ... everything. It took three months to get back to normalcy.

How did it affect you? : (own and community)

i. Infrastructure related: house, house plot other household equipments, drinking water (ask every one of their house loss)

Verbatim			
1. "Since water raised all on a sudden			
couldn't move many household items			
to safe places. As the ground floor			
completely got submerged, all			
equipment and switch boards got			
damaged. Walls developed cracks.			
Paint fell off from walls. Was full of			
mud, bad odour."			
2. "Wells got contaminated due to			
flooding".			
3. "Two wheeler and car got submerged			
and damaged. Spent a lot of money to			
repair"			

ii. Livelihoods? -farm land/agriculture/animal husbandry/fishing, diary, cottage industries etc

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim			
Farms, workshop, bus, irrigation facility, show room, saw mill machinery, shops were all destroyed.	 "Plantain, nutmeg tree, pepper, tapioca plant etc in our homestead got submerged and destroyed" "Sheep, cows and livestock of our neighbours got killed" "Our main earning was a bus my father rented out. We had two buses, both got damaged. One was damaged beyond repair, so sold as scrap. The other one is still under repair. Our lively hood affected" 			

iii. Financial? - Income, movable assets like machines, Loss of employment, debt, loans, business enterprises etc

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim				
Loss of employment for several days, income lost, shops got affected and livelihood affected, machinery in small scale units got damaged.	 1"There is a saw mill near my house. All the logs they had stored washed away. Machinery also got damaged" 2. "All shops in or locality submerged, all the merchandise got damaged. We also found it difficult to buy things for our daily needs as all the shops in the locality got affected" 				

iv. Community assets: roads, anganwady, school, hospitals, library, parks, playgrounds, bund etc

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim		
 Roads got damaged with pot holes 	1. "All roads in our locality got damaged.		
2. Some schools got damaged	Waste and dirt got accumulated on the		
 College was severely affected, laboratories, library, office, documents of students and college all got destroyed. 	road. JCB had to be brought in to clear the road"		

- 4. Railway station was water logged and train service was disrupted.
- 2. "Road and rail got blocked, no electricity, no cell phone connection, we got isolated"
- 3. "Ground floor of our school was submerged in water. It took many days to clean and start classes"
- 4. "Our college was under 9 feet of water.
 Our Physics, Chemistry, Computer
 Science laboratories were all
 devastated. Our mark list and other
 certificates kept in the college office got
 destroyed. Classes were lost for three
 weeks. We had to depend neighbouring
 colleges for doing practical sessions and
 university examinations"

iv. Social relations/social network like SHGs/ Mutual understanding/Emotional crisis/diseases/death

Findings / Conclusions drawn Verbatim 1. Since there was no electricity and cell " We were isolated in the house. We phone connection, people could not had no idea wat was happening. In the communicate with any one. initial periods, we did not know how to 2. Since many people were isolated in get out or whether anyone will provide without any us food and water or whether any one homes means communication, they had traumatic will come to rescue us" 2. "The church near our house was first panic attacks. 3. No information of relatives, whether selected as relief camp. But after some they were safe or not time as it also got folded, we had to 4. NRI families were in more trouble with move to a school." lack of proper communication. 3. "Could not communicate with friends and class mates for several days. Was sad as we did not know whether our class mates were safe or not" 4. "My brother was abroad. Since there was no communication facility he could not get any information about us" 5. "An elderly person neighbourhood fell sick. His two sons took him to hospital. By evening their home was flooded and someone rescued the mother of the house. They were in great grief as they could not communicate about the status of the patient" 6. " I was a volunteer. I feel relatives / members of same family / friends / neighbours who got trapped in camps located in different places had problem"

v. Who was affected by Flood most in your locality and why?

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim

 Those who built houses filling paddy 	1. "Our neighbour's house was				
fields	constructed filling paddy field. Flood				
2. Traders	first affected them"				
3. Farmers	2. "Since it was Onam season, shops were				
4. Small scale entrepreneurs	stocked in full. All got destroyed"				
5. Students	3. "I lost my all mark lists and certificates"				

2. How did you overcome the flood crisis? (Relief measures and services)

i. Infrastructure related : house, houseplot other household equipments, drinking water (ask every one of their house loss)

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim		
Voluntary agencies, military, police, fire force, local body, councillor / ward member, revenue department, local church etc helped to clean the house and premises.	 'Since there was no electricity, cleaning was difficult due to lack of availability of clean water" "Since fuel stations were closed, operating non-electricity operated pump sets was also difficult" 		

ii. livelihoods?-farm land/agriculture/animal husbandry/fishing, diary, cottage industries etc

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim		
 NGOs, merchant organisations and 	"NGOs and merchant associations helped"		
government agencies helped.			

iii. Financial? - income, movable assets like machines, Loss of employment, debt, loans, business enterprises etc

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim		
1. Friends helped finically	1. "I got Rs. 10,000/- from Government"		
NGOs helped financially	"Friends and relatives helped		
3. Government helped financially	financially"		

iv. Community assets: roads, anganwady, school, hospitals, library, parks, playgrounds, bund etc

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim		
 Municipality repaired badly damaged 	1. " The college suffered loss of about 5		
roads.	crores. But we did not get any finical		
2. The college did not get any financial	help from any source even though this is		
assistance from any source. However	a government aided college. We spent		
voluntary help was given for cleaning	huge amount for re construction"		
by various agencies.	2. "College was helped by military, fire		
	force, NSS volunteers, church, political		
	organisations, police, NCC to clean"		

v. Social relations/social network like SHGs/ Mutual understanding/Emotional crisis

Findings / Conclusions drawn		Verbatim				
Mutual exchange of information		"Churches		temples	in	the
latest flood situation, rescue effo	t etc.	neighbourhood were in the forefront to				
2. Neighbourhood groups of v (Kudumbashree) helped.		offer help - camps and p "Our class helped"	provide	food"	•	

vi. Has there been any differential treatment in getting the relief services?

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim
Compensation was given irrespective of the level of water.	1. "All got Rs. 10000, without any consideration of loss. Houses that
Actual loss occurred was not taken into account in distributing the initial	submerged 1 feet and 10 feet got same amount"
financial help.	 "Some houses in our neighbourhood refused help from volunteers representing political organisations other than the one they had allegiance" "I was involved in rescue and relief measures. When we come back to relief camps rescuing people, it may not be normal meals time. Then it was difficult to get food. But food was served to officials in the upstairs even at that time"

vii. Which group is still stuggliing to get out of the crisis? And why?

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim
Chalakudy market	1. " Most of the merchants of Chalakudy
2. Some parts of V R Puram /	market suffered huge losses. They had a
Tachudaparambu	lot of stock for Onam. They lost
3. Sacred Heart College	everything. They are still to recover"
	2. "Some families in V R Puram /
	Tachudaparambu are still in temporary shelter"
	3. "College suffered huge loss. Equipment in the laboratory was damaged. We are able to only replace the most essential ones as we did not get any financial help from anyone"

viii. Information regarding services? (given by whom, was it adequate etc)

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim
 Ward councillor gave information 	1. "Councillor Bindu was with us
on relief, rescue, camps, financial	throughout."
help.	2.

ix. Any consultation with the public on the priority services and needs

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim
- 1. No attempts were made	1. "Without enquiring what each family
	needed, officials gave what they had"

3. Who has been involved in relief work?

Individuals: (personal)

Institutions/Groups (NGOs, colleges, CBOs, FBOs)

Government depts:

LSGs (Member, President, Secretary etc)

Kudumbasree/SHGs:

Who was involved most in relief services?

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim
 Military, fire force, NSS volunteers of 	1. "Our ward councillor Bindu informed us
college, Merchant Association, youth	first and then others joined"
etc.	
Fishermen	
Navy	
 Revenue dept., Panchayat members and 	
officials, Police, Health Dept. etc.	
 Kudumbasree 	

4) Relief Services available during the time of flood? (relief measures)

Relief materials

Services

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim
1. Relief kits were given with supplies of	1. "First got help from local church. Then
food, cloth, services, medicines, sanitary napkins etc.	got food and other materials from various sources"
	2. "Medical assistance and medicine were
	provided in the relief camps"

5. Adequacy of services and schemes? (grievances)

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim
1. Had limitations	1. "There was food materials in the supply.
	But fuel was not there as LPG stove was
	damaged. Utensils were aloo not there"
	2. "There was rush in grocery supply stations
	/ stores"
	3. "We were not in relief camp, we were in
	houses of relatives. By the time we returned
	supply of relief materials were over"
	4. " Initially preventive medicines were not
	supplied"
	5. " No electricity, generator not available,
	fuel not available"
	6. "There was not enough support to restore
	laboratory facilities in the college. Class days
	were lost"
	7. "Asked for photo copy of certificates and
	mark lists to issue new ones. But originals
	and copies were lost as both my college and
	house got flooded"

6. Did you have complaints regarding services?

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim
1. Yes. Compensation was not	1. "Compensation should be in proportion
proportional to damage	to damage"

7. Did you give complain?

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim
 Complaint given to collator. Institutions (College) did not get any financial help. 	 " Complaint was given to district collator about in adequacy of finical help"
	"Complaint was given to the University, Higher Education Department"

8. Are the complaints addressed effectively?

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim
No action was taken about the complaints.	1. "No one has even responded by way of a letter to the complaints of the
	college"

9. The best examples / activities / individuals / institutions involved with the relief measures

	Findings / Conclusions drawn		Verbatim
1.	Municipal ward councillor Bindu	1.	"Ward councillor was with us from the
2.	College helped to get back lost mark lists		beginning"
	and certificates.	2.	"College helped to get back lost mark
3.	College provided books and uniform		lists and certificates"
4.	Panchayat staff and members, various	3.	"Unknown people helped"
	government departments, along with	4.	"Text books and uniforms were given
	village officer provided valuable services		free of cost by the college"
	for arranging relief camps and providing	5.	"Class mates helped to compensate for
	facilities.		lost classes"

10. Any suggestions for more effective implementation of relief measures in the future?

	Findings / Conclusions drawn		Verbatim
1.	Educational institutions should not be made relief camps	1.	"Colleges should not be made relief camps. Since many working days were lost due to
2.	University should provide e copy of certificates / mark lists		relief camps, university postponed all the examinations, thus lagging the completion
3.	Give training on disaster management / emergency services to citizens and students.		of the semester" "Encourage facilities like e certificate" "Give training to college students in disaster
4.	Do not allow to build houses filling paddy fields		management with practical hands on training"
5.	Compel people to move to relief camps in case of emergency	4.	"Do not allow to fill paddy fields"

Rehabilitation & Reconstruction

11. Have different categories of people recovered from the effect of flood : details

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim

1.	Most people are yet to recover from the	"People had to spend all their savings to recover.
	flood.	That is unfortunate"
2.	Lost working days are compensated by	
	arranging extra classes.	

12. Which Govt. agency/departments was critically involved in response, relief and rehabilitation?

Adolescent	Adolescent
1. Rescue: Grama Panchayat, Village office,	
Navy, Police.	
2. Relief: Village office, Panchayat, St. Antony's	
Church, Merchant Association etc.	
3. Rehabilitation and reconstruction:	
Panchayat, Revenue department, Life Mission,	
Kudumbasree	

13. List three areas (sector) that was done well in relief and rehabilitation activities

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim
 Life saving measures 	"We were unable to charge our mobile phones
2. Emergency supply of materials	or to up them as the shops were not open. We
Communication / mobile charging facility	were provided facility for both"

14. List three areas that still needs improvement

	Findings / Conclusions drawn		Verbatim	
1.	Better warning mechanism	1.	"We were supplied many relief	
2.	Better facility to students in camps to		materials which were not of use to us or	
	study		that we did not require"	
3.	Measures to find out the material	2.	"Students should be given facility for	
	requirements in each camp before		learning in the camps"	
	supplying them			
4.	People should be trained to reduce			
	"emotional attachment' to their homes			
	and should be made willing to leave			
	them in case of warning.			

Disaster Awareness and Risk Reduction:

15. How prepared are you to cope with such calamities in the future?

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim
 Prepared to move to safe zone soon 	"We are now willing to move out in case of
after receiving warnings	warning. We now know to some extend what to
	do if we have to move out"

16. What all actions taken at present to prevent disaster – individual level, community level, Govt. level

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim	
 Early warning system 	"Now we know how to prepare in case we have	
Awareness of hygiene in camps	to leave homes"	
3. Relief camps		

17. What are the support mechanisms you require?

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim	
Training for rescue operations	1. "Training should be given in disaster	
2. Training in precautionary measures	management"	
3. Parent alert system in schools in case of	2. "We had to leave one camp as it also	
emergency	got flooded"	
4. Camp sites should be fixed in advance		

18. Are people in the community more knowledgeable and aware about what to do should a disaster strike? Yes/No. If yes, How?

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim
Yes. They are.	"We now know how important it is to listen to
	warnings given"

19. Has the LSG taken any decisions/ initiated activities that will protect/help people cope better in case of future disasters? What and How?

Findings / Conclusions drawn	Verbatim
Yes. They have taken measures for better	"Municipality has now started cleaning
protection of wet lands, pre monsoon clearing of	drainages"
drainage etc.	

- Students lost books, uniforms, mark lists, certificates etc should digitise all certificates and made available online (Eg. Digi locker).
- Students lost certificates kept at home and college office
- Class days were lost examinations postponed
- Schools were made relief camps classes had to be suspended alternatives should be made
- As college was under 9 feet of water for three days, laboratory equipment were damaged beyond recovery and is yet to be restored fully. All documents kept in the college office lost. Library reference section was under water.
- Emotional attachment with the community increased

21st August 2019



Dr. Chacko Jose P, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Economics, Sacred Heart College, Chalakudy, Facilitator of the Focus Group Discussions for Adolescent Group addresses the participants.



Ms. Bindu Sasikumar, Ward Councillor, 23 ITI, Chalakudy Municipality shares her experiences during flood 2018 and how she coordinated the rescue operations in her ward and Chalakudy Municipality.



Mr. Sudhakaran, Mr. Sudhakaran, Thrissur District Coordinator, KILA, addresses the gathering and speaks Janakiya Pankalithavum Punarnirmanavum, an initiative under the auspices of United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) & Government of Kerala Organised by Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) & The Department of Economics, Sacred Heart College, Chalakudy.

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VOLUNTEERS

The following students of the Department of Economics, Sacred Heart College, Chalakudy were the volunteers of the Focus Group Discussions for Adolescent Group, 21st August 2019.

Sl. No.	Name of the Student	Class
1.	Amritha AB	II MA Economics
2.	Ankitha PR	II MA Economics
3.	Aswathy Babu	II MA Economics
4.	Aswathy VS	II MA Economics
5.	Hiranya VA	II MA Economics
6.	Jeslin Johnson	II MA Economics
7.	Melvi Wilson	II MA Economics
8.	Nazia Salam	II MA Economics
9.	Poojitha Thilak	II MA Economics
10.	Reshma PS	II MA Economics
11.	Sandra Babu	II MA Economics
12.	Stephy Sebastian	II MA Economics
13.	Thasneem KB	II MA Economics