

Impact of and Recovery from Tsunami 2004- focus on rural households, Tamilnadu, India

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Abstract

This paper analysed the impact of 2004 tsunami on the rural households of Nagapaatinam district in Tamilnadu, India. 240 households from 24 villages (0.25 Km to 2.5 Km distance from the sea.) were studied from 2004 to 2008. The results indicated that 36 % of the respondents lost productive assets, another 36 % lost productive assets and their income also declined and 10 % lost their jobs. Further, 50 % the household's consumption in terms of quality and quantity has reduced. 20% households had reduction in children schooling. However, 96 % of the households received aids from different sources after tsunami. Mental distortion and stress were major sociological impacts of tsunami. Farming activities have reduced from 77% to 25% after tsunami. The percentage of farm households had increased from 33 % to 40 after tsunami. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) provided major work to the rural households. Totally 33 % of the households received credit from friends, neighbours, relatives and money lenders to manage the financial crisis. However, there was not much significance difference in amount spent in recreation and health services after tsunami.

The recommended strategies include the provision of incentives to farmers to continue farming. Enhancement of rural employment activities such as irrigation rehabilitation works, small farm mechanization and development agriculture and animal husbandry programs is considered important. Strengthening of the self help groups will help the women households significantly.