

Report:

Title: Workshop on “Challenges in Permanent shelter Construction”

Date: 24-08-05

A workshop on the “Challenges in Permanent shelter Construction” organized by NCRC was held in Nagapattinam Collectorate on 24 August 2005. The relevance of this workshop was to discuss various issues faced by NGO’s and the community. The workshop intended to thrash out various problems faced by each stake holder and also to ensure the rapid progress in the construction.

In his keynote address the Nagapattinam District collector Mr. J.Radhakrishnan urged the NGO’s to start the in-situ construction of the permanent house in a war-foot level. As the monsoon is approaching and once the construction starts before the monsoon comes, the process would be much effective. Since there are success stories of in-situ construction of the tsunami-affected areas like Tazhampettai, Vellappallom etc this can tested to other affected area also. The issues related to land allocation and all other matters could be settling soon. Now the Government attention will mainly go for the strategic approach to permanent construction rather than psychosocial support for the affected lots. He stressed the role of the NCRC to synchronize the whole process connected with insitu construction. Collector expressed his concern on the women in the affected area that if we delay the housing construction it will affect their life style the more.

Earlier the workshop started with the presentation of “The need of vulnerability Mapping and Total station survey in permanent shelter construction “by Mr. Benny Kuriakose, the project director of the SIFFS’ house reconstruction in the Tarangambadi and Chinnangudi villages. Citing the example of the chinnangudi village where the inundation mapping done for the new and old area he points out that the new site is more dangerous from the flooding point of view. We have to discuss with the villagers and make them aware of the risk in moving into new site as well as the dangers involved in living in the old sites. For the low lying area providing basic amenities will be the major problem and in order make site safer we can raise the ground level by filling up the land or by constructing two storied building. But the land filling affects the drainage and in Tarangambdi, the Buckingham canal forms the drainage channel. So we have to think of the

ecological impact of the land filling also. It should be able to provide the minimum basic standards for the infrastructure.

Mr.Kamesh of ICMA (International City/Country Management Association) presented the Habitation and Sanitation of the temporary Shelter. Vulnerability assessments of the temporary shelters have to be measured during rainy season

Mr.V.Vivekanandan CEO (SIFFS) presented the implications of GO172 on the livelihood of the fishermen. GO 172 does not compel everybody to move out of 500 meters but it offers an incentive to move out. And in different area it works out differently. If the fishermen move out of the proximity, it will affect the livelihood. But all houses within 0-200m are eligible to move to new location irrespective of the type of damage. Within 200-500m kutchha, puccah damaged and fully damaged are eligible to move. Beyond 500m only repairs and rebuilding in-situ is necessary for damaged.Un damaged kutchha houses within 200-500m, which are eligible and GO172 can be given house insitu and undamaged and partially damaged semi puccah houses can be upgraded.

Ms. Annie George of NCRC told that it is high time to all of the NGO's to walk up to a strategic time bound activity.

Additional collector Ranbir Prasad, other Government officials, and representatives of all the NGO's were also presented in the workshop.