

## **Research Project**

**Sea-born Disaster Risk Reduction, Governance and Management in Odisha:  
A Comparative Study of Policy and Innovation**

**Project Director: Dr. Sitaram Kumbhar**

**Sponsoring Agency: Indian Council of Social Sciences (ICSSR), New  
Delhi.**

**Grant Amount Received: Four Lakh.**

### **About the Research Project:**

The natural disasters have become one of the undesired frequent visitors ravaging lives and properties of many in India. It is more so in coastal states. Natural disasters have started to threaten the very existence of most of the states which are small in size. The vulnerabilities of the state have increased manifold primarily because of the remarkable changes in the global climate. India is surrounded by water in the east, west, and south. And due to rapid changes in the global climate it is natural that many natural disasters will keep appearing in different forms. It is hard to fully eliminate natural disasters from the earth but we can reduce vulnerability. In India the occurrence of natural disasters primarily emanating from the ocean in the form of cyclones are managed ineffectively by different states. However, Orissa has evolved into a successful model in terms of disaster governance and management in India which has been recognized internationally. The proposed research will empirically analyse the evolution of disaster governance and management in India with main focus on Odisha's experiences. How policies succeed and fail in a democratic polity like India is a chronic question for policy makers and administrators.

## **Objectives**

The study of the evolution of disaster governance and policies among Indian states is a highly negligible area in social science research. It is more so in cases of sea-born disasters.

Understanding these causal factors through an empirical and comparative study can help us in the formulation of new policies by Centre and states governments.

This research is an empirical and comparative study of the evolution of a successful disaster risk reduction and governance model. Its aim is to understand the genealogy of a successful disaster risk reduction model in Odisha.

## **Rationale of Research**

India is a democracy and public policy making is more participatory in nature. The research outcomes will help in improving existing policy on sea-born disaster management. It will make recommendations as to how successful and innovative policies can be replicated in different states. Draw lessons from empirical studies of successful cases/models of disaster; help in formulation of effective policies and promotion of Security and welfare of people.

Casualty free disaster prevention, risk reduction; preparedness, reducing negative is an important objective of all governments. The impact Findings will help in furthering security and welfare of common people and reduce vulnerabilities. The whole world is experiencing natural disasters emanating from various sources. It is important to secure the life and welfare of the people in such a changing scenario.

## **Research Questions**

Why could a state with a poor governance track-record could become a successful model in disaster risk reduction, management and governance?

Why did it fail in poverty alleviation but succeeded in disaster risk reduction?

What are the main causes of such grand successes?

Why do resourceful states often fail in managing disasters?

How does such a successful disaster risk reduction evolve?

Why do such policies succeed in some cases and fail in others?

How is the Zero-Casualty model developed in Odisha?

What are the causal factors in the evolution of successful disaster policy?

### **Hypotheses**

The evolution of a successful disaster risk reduction model is due to rationality of bureaucracy with a clean leadership at the top.

The autonomy of bureaucracy matters in the evolution of successful policy models and their effectiveness.

It is a collective endeavor and the effective participation of all stakeholders helps in the success of such public policies.

### **Methodology**

This study will apply mixed-methods for the purpose of proposed empirical research. It will garner data from various sources and use both primary and secondary data. This research will be a comparative study of disaster governance and its genealogy in Odisha. The methodology will be more ethnographic and will involve intensive study of the emergence of a successful disaster governance model in Odisha which has received international acclamations. It will use all government records, legislative records, reports of various agencies, and various government departments of the state and assembly debates. It will also involve both ethnographic study and field survey of cyclone affected areas of Odisha. It will also conduct some interviews with both structured questionnaires in the field and elite interviews as well. It will interview policy makers in the bureaucracy, politicians, media persons, social activists, civil society members, and members of non-governmental organizations. The local social movements are said to have played significant roles in the post-disaster activities and

it will look into this aspect through the empirical investigation following above mentioned methods.

Methodology is one of the substantive aspects of original research in natural Sciences as well as Social Sciences. Hence, use and selection of right methodology for the purpose of empirical research is the primary requirement that a researcher cannot avoid. The selection of methodology for the purpose of the research is dependent on the kind of research topic a researcher selects for investigation.

Reports of NGO, Policy documents, administrative records, media reports along with field study of the affected regions, families, media persons, bureaucrats, politicians, activists, policy makers with ethnographic focus is the main methodological focus of the proposed research.

This study has selected Odisha's successful model of disaster governance and the policy evolution in the field of sea-born disasters. It will empirically study the evolution of disaster governance and policy into a successful model. It will analyse the policies of some of the coastal states with an in-depth study of Odisha's model of Zero-Casualty. It will adopt an analytical approach with minimal statistics as well.

This proposal is seeking five Lakh under various heads. It will take a maximum of 24 months.

**Faculty participated in the project:**

**Dr. Sitaram Kumbhar, Department of Political Science, Shyam Lal College**

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