

ORISSA SUPER CYCLONE

HEALTH HAZARDS AND HOMOEOPATHY

Department of Meteorology forecasted / warned on 28th October, 1999 onwards about a severe cyclone that would strike the coastal areas of Orissa, some where between Gopalpur-on-sea (in Southern Orissa) and the Sagar Island (in West Bengal) in next 48 hours. Later warnings indicated that the Cyclone had intensified further in to "Super Cyclone". When the cyclone finally slammed into the coast of Orissa on October 29th & 30th 1999, it left the state in a condition of stunned and stupefaction. Never was a calamity before, of such magnitude and of such ferocity to struck the state. (1)

The cyclonic storm and flood that caused serious devastation of the coastal 14 districts of the state which were considered as the prosperous landscape of Orissa totaling 19,000 villages and 28 Municipal areas with about 13 million people affected and 1.65 million houses damaged and destroyed. (2)

Of course, storms and cyclones were not new to the state, it was a regular visitor for the state between June to November. This time having just born and brunt of a severe cyclone 11 days earlier in the southern coast of the state followed by this Super Cyclone of this intensity / magnitude was a matter of deep concerned to the administrators / ecologists / epidemiologist / physicians / environmentalists / psychologists etc. However no one could anticipate the severity of the event, nor could they know that it would last for 36 hours; nor that could more so far in land as to engulf / effect even the state capital, the nerve centre of the state, Bhubaneswar. (3)

Only on the evening of October 30 did the torrential rain and gushing winds stop, after the cyclone raged for two days the cyclone wrought enormous destruction to life starting from unicellular organization to homosepiens, property, trees, houses, electricity, telephone structures, roads etc. Everything succumbed to its furry. Affected areas were left without water supply, without food, without communication rail and road, without electricity, without telephone. (4)

The impact of Super Cyclone in details presented in white paper of Govt. of Orissa, December 1999 was as follows:

Effect of the 29th October Super Cyclone in Orissa

Figures taken from Government of Orissa White Paper, December 1999

Number of people affected	13,000,000
Number of districts affected	12
Number of blocks affected	97
Numbers of municipal areas affected	28
Number of deaths	9,885
Number of injuries	7,507
Number of cattle killed	315,886
Number of small animals killed	316,372

Total number of houses damaged or destroyed	1,650,086
Number of houses washed away	23,129
Number of houses fully destroyed	746,337
No. of houses damaged	880,620
Hectares of paddy crop damaged	1,300,000
Hectares of vegetable land damaged	176,000
Hectares of other crop land damaged	257,000
Number of villages with affected power supply	17,032,
Number of high schools damaged	3,425
Number of primary schools damaged	14,901
Number of colleges damaged	66
Number of fishing boats damaged	9,085
Number of trees uprooted.	9,000,000

Effect of 29th October Super Cyclone by District (as at 5th December 1999)

Figures taken from Government of Orissa White Paper

Sl. No.	Name of the district	No. of Blocks / ULBs affected	No. of GPs affected	No. of villages / wards affected	Total population affected	Total agricultural land affected (hectares)	No. of human casualties	Details of house damage			
								Washed away	Fully collapsed	Partially collapsed	Total
	Balasore	8/3	155	1748	1226000	138000	49	11180	37485	48125	96790
	Bhadrak	7/2	166	1356	1347000	179000	98	292	33221	82931	116444
	Cuttack	14/4	278	1977	2367000	197000	471	0	140626	147193	287819
	Dhenkanal	8/3	144	766	70000	138000	55	5	7909	54318	62232
	Jagatsinghpur	8/2	165	1308	1200000	101000	8119	9948	217174	57215	284337
	Jajpur	10/2	242	1160	1550000	176000	188	0	61895	187998	249893
	Kendrapara	9/2	205	1567	1400000	136000	469	40	145884	125175	271099
	Keonjhar	3/1	60	546	250000	125000	31	1164	7393	39698	48255
	Khurda	8/3	124	1167	1310000	80000	91	0	30000	65540	95540
	Mayurbhanj	9/2	63	341	198000	211000	10	500	6000	3000	9500
	Nayagarh	2	40	350	150000	80000	3	0	196	14059	14255
	Puri	11/4	204	1714	1500000	162000	301	0	58554	55368	113922
Total:		97/28	1846	14000	12569000	1733000	9885	23129	746337	880620	1650086

Following this kind of devastation, humanitarian assistants poured from various corners, including national to international bodies. In an humble way the N.S.S. Division of Dr. A.C. Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital, Bhubaneswar with all teachers and students went to the affected areas with medical treatment unit for continuously a period of 15 days. The kind of patients came for treatment and remedies required are projected below.

1. Respiratory disorders (includes common cold, pharyngitis / bronchitis / bronchial asthma etc.) – 30.49%.
2. G. I. disorders (includes dyspepsia, indigestion) – 8.66
(diarrhoea / dysentery / vomiting / constipation) – 19.32%
3. Fever (viral / malaria / enteric) – 12.66%
4. Sinusitis – 8%
5. Injuries -7%
6. Skin (scabies / fungal infection, boils) – 6.6%
7. Conjunctivitis – 3%
8. Miscellaneous – 2.33 %

Very frequently used Homoeopathic Medicines in above conditions are as follows:

1. Respiratory Diseases:

- Ars.alb.
- Belladonna
- Ant. tart.
- Dulcamara
- Spongia
- Carb. veg.
- Rhus tox.

2. G.I. disorders:

- Nux.vom.
- Pulsatilla
- Carb.veg
- Bry.alb.
- Merc.sol.
- Colchicum.
- Alumina.

3. Fever:

- Rhus tox.
- Bry.alb.
- Gelsemium.
- Belladonna
- Eupt. perf.

- Cinch. off.
 - Baptisia
 - Ars.alb.
 - Chin.sulph
4. **Sinusitis:**
- Nat.mur.
 - Belladonna
 - Pulsatilla.
 - Bry. alb.
 - Sang.can.
5. **Injuries:**
- Punctured wound – Ledum pal..
 - Incised wound - Hypericum
 - Abrasion wound – Calendula off.
 - Bruised wound – Arn.mont.
6. **Skin Disorders:**
- Merc.sol.
 - Silicea
 - Hep.sulph
 - Echinacea
 - Sepia
 - Dulcamara
7. **Conjunctivitis:**
- Euphrasia
 - Belladonna
 - Arg.nit.
 - Thuja

Conclusion:

From above study it is envisaged that

- a) Diseases commonly occurring after cyclone are
- i. Respiratory disorders – (common cold / pharyngitis / bronchitis / bronchial asthma etc.)
 - ii. G.I. disorders – (dyspepsia / diarrhoea / dysentery / constipation / vomiting)
 - iii. Fever (malaria / viral / enteric)
 - iv. Sinusitis
 - v. Injuries
 - vi. Skin Disorders (scabies / fungal infection / boils)
 - vii. Conjunctivitis

- b) Homoeopathic remedies required are polycrest / common drugs such as: Rhus tox., Bry.alb., Bell., Ars.alb., Carbo veg., Gels., Puls., Merc.sol., Nux vom., Arn mont. etc.
- c) Above learning can be useful for future planning for Homoeopathic treatment for such occurrences at any part of the world.
- d) Apart from that, it is concluded that Homoeopathic medicine do act curatively and has ample scope to combat the conditions / diseases created / noticed, after cyclone.

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