

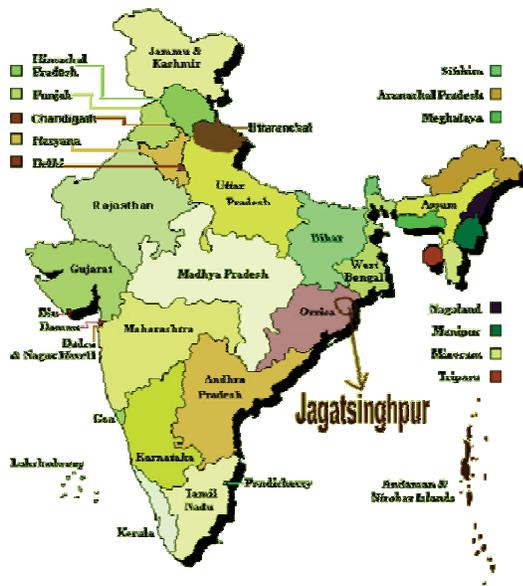
Voluntary Health Association of India

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Survey Site: Jagatsingpur district, Orissa, India

Background of the Study

Figure 1: Map of India



Source: www.wherethecity.com

India is among the world's most disaster-prone areas. It is vulnerable to wind storms, earthquakes, floods, droughts and tsunamis. These hazards threaten millions of lives and cause large-scale losses that hinder India's development. Orissa is one of the poorest states situated on the east coast country. VHA has taken Jagatsingpur district in Orissa, as one of the survey sites under MICRODIS Project.

The September 2008 flood in Orissa was due to heavy rainfall in the upper as well as lower catchments of the Mahanadi River System resulting out of the effect of a deep depression in Bay of Bengal. The magnitude and severity of this flood has even surpassed the ferocities of both 1982 and 2001 floods which were known to be greatest floods in the system and caused massive and unprecedented damage.

The MICRODIS study to examine health, social and economic impacts of this flood was done from November 2008 to January 2009.

Summary Statistics

Social Impact

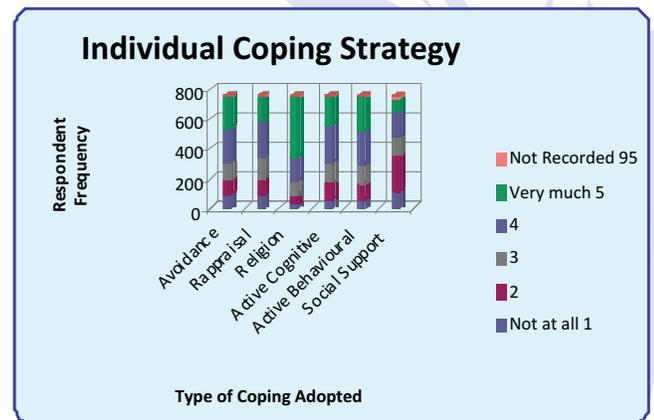
Table 1: Co-relations between traumatic experience and degree of coping

		Traumatic Experience	Degree of Coping
Traumatic Experience	Pearson Correlation	1	.072*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.046
Degree of Coping	Pearson Correlation	.072*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.046	
	N	758	758

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

Interpretation: Degree of coping negatively influences the traumatic experience. The above table shows that the degree of resources available to cope with the situation is negatively co-related to the perception of the stressful situation.

Figure 2: Showing individual coping strategy

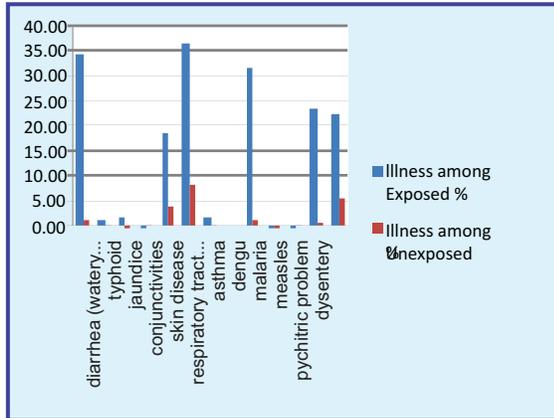


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Health Impact

Figure 3: Main acute illnesses reported within one month after flood

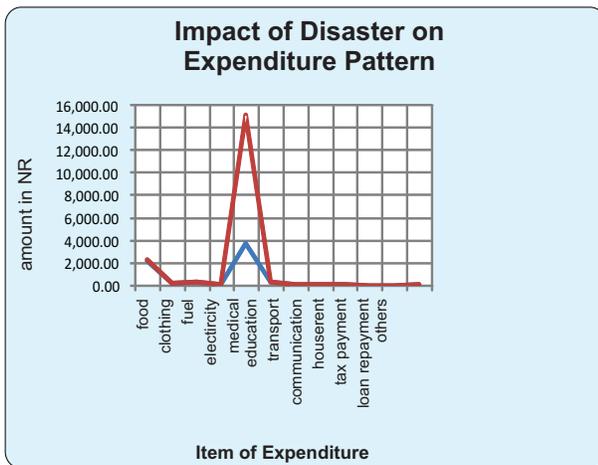


Conclusion

This study underlined the need for understanding disaster impacts and development of contingency plans to prevent consequences. Recurrent disasters increase vulnerability due to lack of access to, health services and safe environments, poor education and nutrition and cause limited coping capacity. It suggests a public health approach to disaster risk management which will help in decreasing the vulnerability through prevention and mitigation measures and increasing the coping capacity of the health sector and community.

Economic Impact

Figure 4: Impact of disaster on expenditure pattern



PRA exercise by women of Jagatsinghpur district showing seasonal impact on nutrition.



Photo: VHAI MICRODIS Team