#### ****WEATHERING THE STORM IN ERSAMA****

#### ****By–****Harsh Mander

**Q.1. What havoc has the super cyclone wreaked in the life of the people of Orissa?**

**Ans.** There was a heavy rain with a fierce storm. The trees were uprooted and crashed to the earth. The water entered into the houses and washed away the most of the household things. Many houses collapsed and a lot of people died.

**Q.2. How has Prashant, a teenager been able to help the people of his village?**

**Ans.** Prashant was just nineteen years old. l le organises a group of youths and elders to make the merchant give them rice. They succeed in their mission. Then he makes a team of youth volunteers to clean the shelter of urine, vomit and floating carcasses.

**Q.3. How have the people of the community helped one another? What role do the women of Kalikuda play during these days?**

**Ans.**The people of the community show a great cooperation. They join hands with Prashant to drive out a cleanliness campaign. The women of Kalikuda looking after the orphaned children and the men secure food  and materials for the shelter

**Q.4. Why do Prashant and other volunteers resist the plan to set up institutions for orphans and widows? What alternatives do they consider?**

**Ans.** The government plans to set up institutions for orphans and widows. Prashant and other volunteers resist this plan. They think that in such institutions, the children will grow up without any love and the widows will suffer from Stigma and loneliness. They suggest that they should be resettled in their own community.

**Q.5. Do you think Prashant is a good leader? Do you think young people can get together to help people during natural calamities?**

**Ans.** No doubt Prashant is a good leader. He has an optimistic view of life. He organises both young and elder people to get rice from the merchant. He makes teams provide help to the storm victims. He inspires women to look after the orphans and start working in the food-for-work programmes. He successfully protests against the plan of setting up institutions for the orphans and widows. I think young people can get together to help people during natural calamities and play an important role.

**TALK ABOUT IT**

**1. Talk about the preparedness of the community for a natural disaster. (You can talk about evacuation plans and rehabilitation; permanent safe shelters; warning systems; relief effort: building materials to withstand cyclone/flood/earthquake i.e. safe housing; peoples’ organisation of their own rescue, the survival instinct, etc.)**

**Ans.** The Himalayan Range of India is a highly sensitive earthquake prone area. It is right to say that we can’t forecast about earthquake but it is in our hands to minimise the harm caused by it. Some precautionary steps should be taken in this regard. People should make wooden houses to live in. M the time off, earthquakes people should come out of the houses in some open space. The government should develop such technique that people may get the warning even just a few seconds earlier. After this havoc, people should show generosity to stand with the victims. Relief camps should he set up. Medical facilities should be provided at tie earlier. Rehabilitation work should be started urgently. Victims should be given utmost help, care and attention to lessen their miseries.