

Brief Report on Tsunami Ready Activities at Veliancode Panchayat

Report prepared by

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Report on Tsunami Ready Program Activities in Veliancode Panchayat, Malappuram

Introduction

As part of the **Tsunami Ready Program**, initiated by the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) and the College of Climate Change and Environmental Science (CCCES), Kerala Agricultural University (KAU), a series of detailed and community-driven activities were conducted at Veliancode Panchayat along with the help and assistance from DDMA, Malappuram. The program aimed to prepare coastal communities for tsunami-related emergencies through capacity building, community engagement, and practical preparedness exercises.

1. Consultation Meetings with Stakeholders

Consultation meetings were conducted with local stakeholders, including panchayat representatives, fishermen, school authorities, elected representatives and community leaders. These meetings served as a platform to identify specific needs, vulnerabilities, and priorities. Participants actively contributed by sharing insights from past disaster experiences and offering suggestions for improving disaster preparedness and response mechanisms.

2. Training and Awareness Programs

A key component of the initiative was the execution of specialized training and awareness sessions aimed at different sections of society, including local government officials, emergency responders, and the general public. These sessions covered various aspects of tsunami preparedness, including:

- **Tsunami Basics:** Informing the public about tsunami triggers, such as undersea earthquakes, and the associated risks for coastal areas.
- **Early Warning Systems:** Explaining how early warning messages are disseminated through SMS, sirens, radio, and TV, and how the public should respond to these alerts.
- **Evacuation Procedures:** Educating the community about safe zones, evacuation routes, and assembly points.
- **Household Preparedness:** Encouraging families to prepare emergency kits, including essentials such as food, water, first-aid supplies, and important documents.

These programs were facilitated by experts from disaster management authorities, local government bodies, and non-governmental organizations, ensuring that participants received accurate and practical information.



3. Training Programs for Map Preparation and Disaster Planning

Selected community members and local leaders were trained to prepare hazard maps and evacuation plans. Training programs included the use of GPS tools enabling participants to create accurate maps of hazard-prone areas and safe zones. These maps have become vital resources for the community to rely on during tsunami emergencies.





4. Seven-Day Camp at Palappetty School

A seven-day residential camp for students from CCCES, along with the help of NSS unit of CCCES, was organized at GHSS Palappetty named “Thanal” to provide hands-on training and community-based disaster preparedness activities.

A significant highlight of the camp was the **Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)** exercise, a method used to involve the community in disaster risk assessment and mitigation planning. During this exercise, we have conducted:

- **Mapping Vulnerabilities:** Identifying high-risk areas in the Panchayat.
- **Resource Assessment:** Evaluating available local resources such as shelters, medical facilities, and rescue equipment.
- **Checked the knowledge about climate change and disasters:** Questionnaire (Google form) was created incorporating questions regarding climate change and disaster management.

Detailed report on the survey is attached separately.





5. Awareness Class for Kudumbasree

Recognizing the significant role of women in disaster preparedness and community resilience, a special awareness class was conducted for members of Kudumbasree in selected wards. The session covered:

- **Household Preparedness:** Educating women on steps to safeguard their families, such as preparing emergency kits, securing important documents, and establishing a family communication plan.
- **Community-Based Disaster Management:** Encouraging active participation in neighborhood disaster response teams.

By involving Kudumbasree members, the program aimed to empower women with essential knowledge and skills to act as first responders in their communities.



Conclusion

The Tsunami Ready Program at Veliancode Panchayat has successfully instilled a culture of preparedness and resilience among the local population. Through structured training sessions, community mapping, and practical drills, the initiative has equipped residents with the knowledge and tools necessary to respond effectively to tsunami-related emergencies. By fostering collaboration between local authorities, community leaders, and disaster management agencies, the program has strengthened the region's overall disaster readiness.

The participation of various stakeholders, including students, fishermen, and Kudumbasree members, ensured that preparedness efforts were inclusive and tailored to the specific needs of the community.

Moving forward, continued engagement and periodic drills will be essential to maintain the momentum of disaster preparedness. The lessons learned from this program can serve as a model for other coastal regions, demonstrating the importance of proactive disaster management strategies. Strengthening early warning systems, updating hazard maps, and enhancing public awareness campaigns will further solidify the resilience of Veliancode Panchayat, ensuring that its residents remain well-prepared for any future tsunami threats.