



Gaon Panchayat EMEx

2017

Towards a Disaster Resilient State

Gaon Panchayat Emergency Management Exercise 2017

Be Prepared... Stay safe

Assam, which was well known as “Pragjyotishpura” in Mahabharata times, has a rich green land of rolling plains and dense forests. Assam is the gateway to the north eastern part of India viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya. These states are connected to the rest of India via Assam’s border with West Bengal and a narrow strip called the “Chicken’s Neck.” Assam also shares international borders with Bhutan and Bangladesh. It spans around 78,438 km² and population over 3,11,69,272 (Census 2011). The mighty Brahmaputra River that has its origins in Tibet flows through the state.

Assam is a multi-hazard State prone to floods, earthquake, storms and landslide besides man-made disasters. It falls under seismic zone V making the entire State prone to earthquake of moderate to very high intensity. Also the State faces acute flood & erosion problem. Assam has a history of disaster ranging from large earthquake to severe floods. This has impeded the development gains of the State by many times.

Therefore, to sustain the pace of development initiative by minimising losses, the Government of Assam envisages building a State Prepared and Disaster Resilient.

Vulnerability Analysis:

- Entire Assam falls under Seismic Zone V. High density urban population combined with haphazard growth exposes the major city dwellers to high risk.
- Rainfall ranges between 1500 mm to 2600 mm under normal circumstances. However, the city also experiences high intensity rainfall in short durations which results in Urban Flooding.
- Unplanned land use pattern in surrounding hills aggravate the landslide risk in the city
- The city experiences multiple waves of storms on the onset of the monsoon season impacting public utilities.
- Besides, natural hazards, the city is also vulnerable to human induced hazards like accidents, fires, blasts etc.

Why GP EMEx?

Building Community Resilient has always



been on the Agenda of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA). It has been our endeavor to establish a meaningful dialogue with the community to build a robust understanding around the organic and integrated concept of disaster management. The Living Planet Report 2016 comes with cogent support for this approach. It underlines the alarming increasing in the ecological footprint of human activities and says that we are consuming as if we had 1.6 Earths at our disposal. The Report emphasizes that if we have to protect and sustain the bio-capacity of land, it is necessary to take into account nine critical aspects of conservation, which it calls as nine Planetary boundaries. These include, land use changes, Green Cover, Water Resources etc. The Report presents adequate evidence to suggest that the efforts at keeping the ecological footprint at a sustainable level have succeeded only when local communities were integral part of these efforts.

The idea of conducting Emergency Management Exercises at the grass root level has evolved from this need of reinforcing the understanding of the multi-dimensional nature of conservation and Disaster Management at the community level.

PURPOSE OF GP EMEx:

The purpose of the G.P Level EMEx is to help community discover what it needs to care about and create an institutional framework for critical thinking on challenges confronting it. The real face of Disaster Management presents itself in the ability of the people to discern the small issues that a big impact on the ecology and lives of people. It is pertinent here to quote Trevor Nunn – **I always believe it is better to have 30 imaginations working on a project rather than one imagination telling the other 29 what to do.** H. E. Luccock beautifully makes the same point when he says – **No one can whistle a symphony. It takes an Orchestra.** The EMExes are intended to create a symphony of creative and imaginative minds and voices at the grass-root level.

*Margaret J. Wheatley observed –
“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”
Taking this point further, Margaret Mead says – “Never doubt a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”*

BASIC STRUCTURE OF GP EMEEx:

In the two rounds of training of Village Land Management and Conservations Committees (VLMCC), several areas like management of flood, earthquake, landslide, wetlands, open and Green Spaces etc. were discussed.

The Emergency Management Exercise was aimed to sharpen the experiential learning of the community by involving them in a mix of knowledge sharing and skill demonstration activities. This included, Procession by School Children and Villages, decorating the Village with Poster and Pamphlets made by the School Children and Community Members, exhorting every household in the village to display at least One Slogan on Disaster Management issues, organizing debate and drawing competition in the Schools, Organizing Earthquake Safety Drill in the School, Organizing a Mock Drill on preventing measures to cope-with floods, holding a Street Plays on Disaster Management issues involving local youth, Organizing practical demonstration at different places in the village on the measures that can be taken to protect the grazing lands, wetlands and Open Spaces,

Organizing demonstration on First-Aid and injury management, Effective Management of Relief Operations and Camps etc.

For all these activities, IEC materials were shared with key stake holders,

A Task Force for each of the Emergency Management Exercises was created. The Task Force was headed by the GP President, Presidents of all the VLMCC in the GP, Member Secretaries of the VLMCC, One of the Principals of the Schools and three- four active and enthusiastic persons from the GP. The Member Secretary of the Village where Emex was organized functioned as the Convener of the Task Force.

MAJOR STAKE HOLDERS

Students, Teachers, Principal/Principals of Schools in the selected Village, Supervisor/ Anganwadi Worker, ANM and ASHA Worker, VLW, Veterinary Field Assistant, Field Level functionary of PHE Department and Gram Sevak, VLMCC members and community as a whole

GP EMEx 2017: AT A GLANCE

Total Districts	Number of GP EMEx conducted	Total number of Participants	No. of School involved
26	2088	3,65,254	2272

DATE ON WHICH GP EMEx WAS HELD:

5TH JUNE 2017

(GP EMEx was not conducted in the Sixth Schedule Districts because they do not have Panchayati Raj System. The Districts are Udalguri, West Karbi Anglong, Dima Hasao, Chirang, Kokrajhar and Baksa)

ACTIVITIES HELD IN GP EMEx**Before the Event- GP EMEx:**

The main motto behind conducting such a program on large scale was to generate awareness and so as to undertake this noble cause it was important to go through a pre-publicity process. To undergo this pre-publicity process banners, leaflets and posters were printed. The banners and posters were projected all around the GPs for full participation of the people from all strata of the society, VIPs, villagers, kids, others. This helped in creating a mass awareness that something was going to be organized named as GP-EMEx and it also helped to increase the number of attendants on the day of the program. The pre-publicity and display of IEC materials also helped us in understanding and identifying the

entities that came up to us to move on with this cause. Apart from this the volunteers of some of the NGOs were also trained by the NDRF team so as to carry on the various activities of GP-EMEx related to presentation of various mock drill easily and precisely.

During The Event

Prabhat Pheri/ Procession: The day began early with this activity wherein a huge procession was carried out involving School Children, teachers, NGOs, Local functionaries, ASHA/AW Workers, GP members, VLMCC members, & other community members. It is known as "Prabhat Pheri" in colloquial language. The rally started from a specific point and moved along through the G.P and ended up at the point where it started. The rally included slogans of environment safety by all,

which were voiced by all of them present. It also displayed some placards prepared by the children on environment safety, awareness, etc.

Public Meeting: This was conducted to generate mass awareness and to make people understand the significance of the occasion and the importance of safeguarding the environment. Another objective was to make people aware of the prominence of the necessity of preparedness and risk reduction and how each member of the community has a huge role to play and can bring in a huge difference in preservation of the environment.

Debate and Drawing Competition and Quiz Competition in the School:

To involve children and youth of the Gaon Panchayat, various competitions like, Extempore speech competition quiz competition, debate,. It is believed that they are the torch bearers of the society and they would internalize the message and deliver to a larger audience

Plantation Drive:

The trees were planted in various designated venues. The plantation

programme was carried out by NDRF and SDRF, Circle Officers, Field Officers, GP members, others.

Mock Drill on Flood Preparedness:

Mock drills were organized to make the community people aware of the do's and don'ts during the time of any sort of disaster. In some districts the drills were carried out by SDRF, NDRF Civil Defence, Indian Red Cross Society. In some venues in some districts Mock drill were carried out by volunteers from the NGOs who were previously trained by the NDRF team. The Mock Drill was on Rescue, Injury Management and First Aid

Street Plays

Street plays were organized in GPs to bring the disaster related awareness. The street plays were performed by

Prize Distribution & valedictory function:

After the day long programme, the children were facilitated in a ceremonial function. Children and youth who won in different categories of competitions were duly awarded in the function.

GP EMEEx 2017: District wise Coverage				
Sl No.	Total Districts	Number of GP EMEEx conducted	No. of School Involved	Total number of participants
1	Sonitpur	92	92	11450
2	Nalbari	65	65	17912
3	Biswanath	64	64	5309
4	Lakhimpur	81	81	12041
5	Cachar	163	163	36944
6	Dhemaji	65	65	12862
7	Dhubri	129	145	33314
8	Goalpara	81	81	8328
9	Golaghat	102	102	8919
10	Morigaon	82	83	23227
11	Jorhat	85	100	8634
12	Nagaon	173	184	27156
13	South Salmara	34	34	3516
14	Tinsukia	86	86	18000
15	Kamrup (Rural)	135	138	27092
16	Hailakandi	62	60	6588
17	Sivsagar	82	82	5904
18	Barpeta	129	95	16258
19	Karimganj	96	96	10618
20	Bongaigaon	53	53	10314
21	Dibrugarh	93	176	16378
22	Kamrup (Metro)	14	14	10385
23	Charaideo	36	36	8510
24	Darrang	75	75	14976
25	Majuli	20	20	1915
26	Hojai	65	82	8704
	Total	2162	2272	365254

SNAPSHOTS OF THE GP EMEx



Public Meeting at Pub Kollongpur LPS, in Krishnapur GP in Bishwanath District



Tree PLantation at Baliyan GP in Bishwanath District



Prabhat Pheri (procession) Alupara GP Gohpur Circle, Bishwanath District



Distribution of Awards to students at Pabhoi GP, Bishwanath District



Prabhat Pheri in Jonai Revenue Circle, Dhemaji



Public Meeting in GP EMEx in Dhemaji District



Rally at GPEMEx at Dhubri District



Demonstration during the GP EMEx in Dhemaji District



Art Competition at School at Dhubri District



Plantation during the GP EMEx in Dhemaji District



Prize Distribution at Dhubri District



Prabhat Pheri at Nagarbera Revenue Circle, Kamrup (R)



Mock drill conducted during GP EXEx in Golaghat



Drawing competition at Nagar bera Revenue Circle, Kamrup R



Fire Safety Demonstration by SDRF during GP EMEx in Golaghat District



Public Meeting at Golaghat District



Prabhat Pheri at Kothaguri Gaon, Khumtai Revenue Circle in Golaghat



Prabhat Feri under Topatoli GP, Kamrup M



Prabhat Pheri at Diju GP, Nowboicha Revenue Circle, Lakhimpur District



Demonstration on Drop-Cover-Hold position under Khetri GP, Kamrup (M)



Drawing Competition at , Nowboicha Revenue Circle, Lakhimpur District



Extempore Speech competition under Khetri GP, Kamrup (M)