

Gujrat after Earth Quake

Ahmdabad :

14 Buildings fell.

We went and saw five of these, which were in Mani Nagar. Total toll of persons in these five building were more than hundred. Most of the deaths occurred while running away from the buildings. Building materials hit them.

Probable cause of the buildings fell, were poor building material and lack of structural design, and methods for cost cutting.

Surat :

4-5 buildings fell.

We saw 2 of these. Which were in south west of Surat.

Some 50 persons died. Probable cost of death they were trapped in buildings or hit by falling debris.

Probable cause of the buildings fell, were poor building material and lack of structural design, and methods for cost cutting.

Note no help is needed in these two cities Surat and Ahmdabad, as all debris removed and building structure removed and ground is leveled, but investigations like soil test and material testing were going on.

Gandhi Dham :

Main market most of the structures are affected visible cracks, but repaired say some 20 –30% cannot be repaired. The other major building were Railway station, bus station, and other public buildings were damaged were beyond repair.

Some 1000-2000 persons died.

Help had reached so far to all affected persons.

Anjar:

The town is almost ruined . Only some 10% building were in tact.

Persons effected got help and most of the town working from tents and living in tents. Question about relocating the town was heatedly discussed, people are evenly divided over this issue of relocation.

Loss of life estimated about 10,000 strong.

BHUJ:

Town center, City with in boundary walls almost gutted, but traders did not want to move from business center. Hence one can see bustling trade side by side food kitchens. These are run by VHP, mahrastrians, bengalies, orissa and other provincial people and some international organizations like from French Unesco etc.

Help reached to all. And racking balls doing their jobs full time.

Only multi story buildings in which shady building material or bad structural design were used.
Loss of life is high order of some 10,000 persons.

Ratnal:

100 % destroyed. No house is safe to live in.
Many casualties may be 10000+.
Help reached and everybody who survived living in tents or left town to live with his or her relatives.
Need of bulldozers is eminent.
It's a sub divisional head quarter town of some 50,000 people.

Maringada:

100% destruction not even a single building is structurally sound. A village which was once, home of some 100+ families.
Only 80% got tents . Manaav Kalyan Trust (MKT) A NGO taken the responsibility to provide tents and other essentials like food, utensils, temporary shelter and see that their permanent shelters need is fulfilled before they are left to themselves.
No body got heart in this village.

Chubdaka:

115 families all are Muslims lost their homes most of these inhabitants are not owning any land.
Only few got the tents but got utensils and groceries etc from MKT.
Casualties: three children died in this village.
The need as they see it: Green vegetables, and money to buy other things, as there are no jobs in market for such unskilled labors. And tents are needed urgently.

Narain Sarover;

This place is about 240 km away and very near to Pakistan borders.
Most of the building have cracks but safe to live in.
Very poor inhabitants needs, cash to repair cracks.

+ Reflections:

We saw beautiful Gujrat before the Earth Quake in Dec 2000, and had very positive memories about it.
It was one of the finest state of Indian subcontinent. Safe night buses , no man driven rickshas, well lighted cities at night, etc. etc.

Then we saw Gujrat after the worst earthquake, it was a shocker at first sight and wanted to make some sense out of this destruction, but could not come with any at that time.

But some time later talked to many persons and some very heart touching stories, which we would like to share with you. Muslims saving idols of a Jain temple. Hundreds of Hindus stayed at a mosque for thirty

days during after shocks of Earthquakes. Hindu giving utensils to Muslims, and high cast Hindus opened their homes for low cast Hindus and Harijans. All walks of people come together at time of great calamity. They will bounce back into life after suffering are over, and we will have a strong community.

Govt. had started collecting data to help the sufferers. The initial phase of help to provide immediate relief is over and now all are thinking in long term solutions to very complex problems. Politician had stop making tall claims like "To provide 50,000 houses by June 2001" etc. etc.

We noted one thing that circular structures were not broken, and it is believed that in past Kutch people used to make even huts of stone in circular shape.

We feel god is telling us some things " Break the walls between rich and poor, Hindus and Muslims, high cast and low cast. God is and will only take care of all affected, provided we do what we are supposed to do like help them in whatever way best we can do at this time of great despair.