

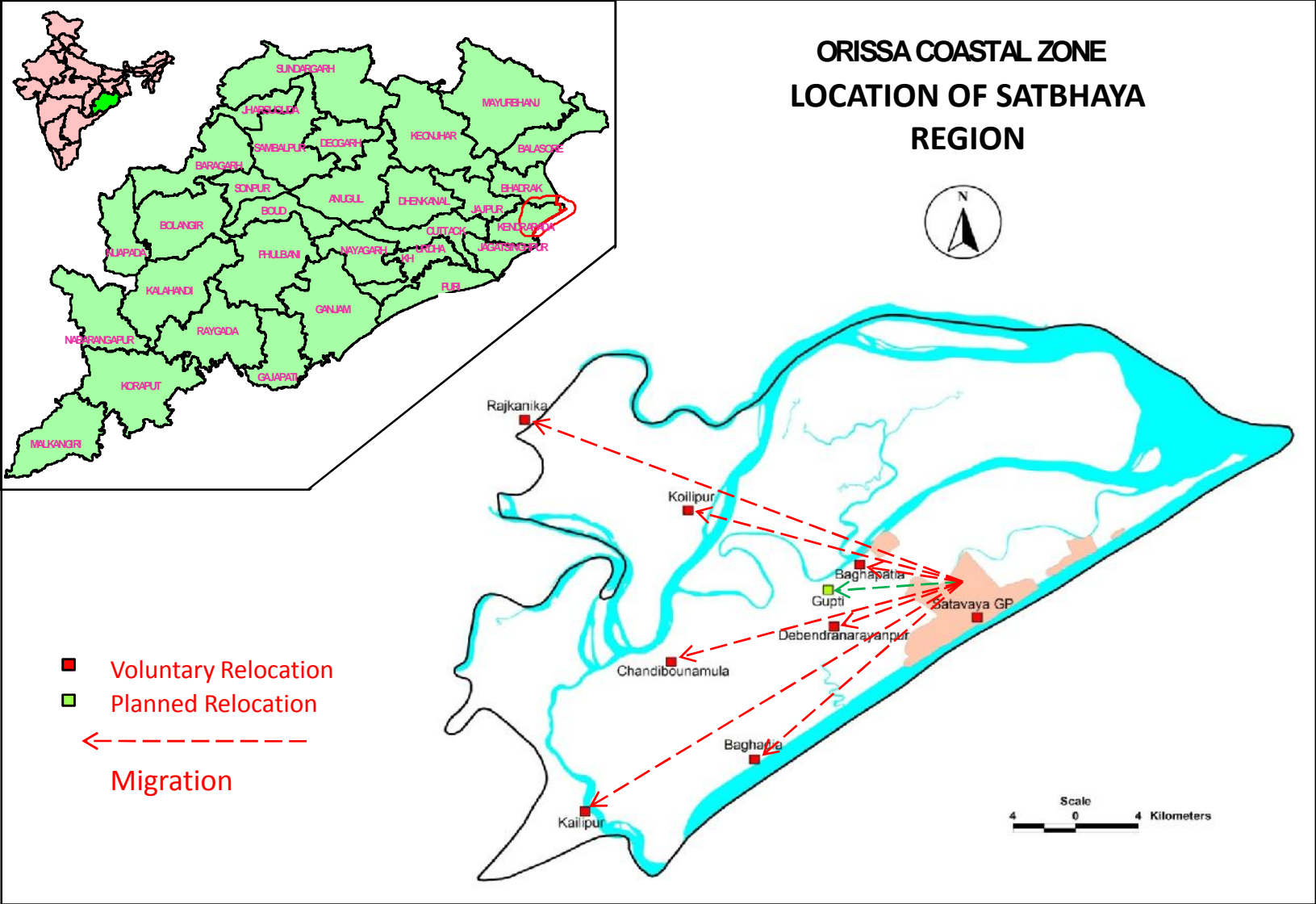
WOMEN’S PERSPECTIVES OF COASTAL EROSION AND PLANNED RELOCATION
IN MAHANADI DELTA - A CASE STUDY OF SATBHAYA, ODISHA

Name & Institution: Jasmine Giri, Sansristi, Bhubaneswar

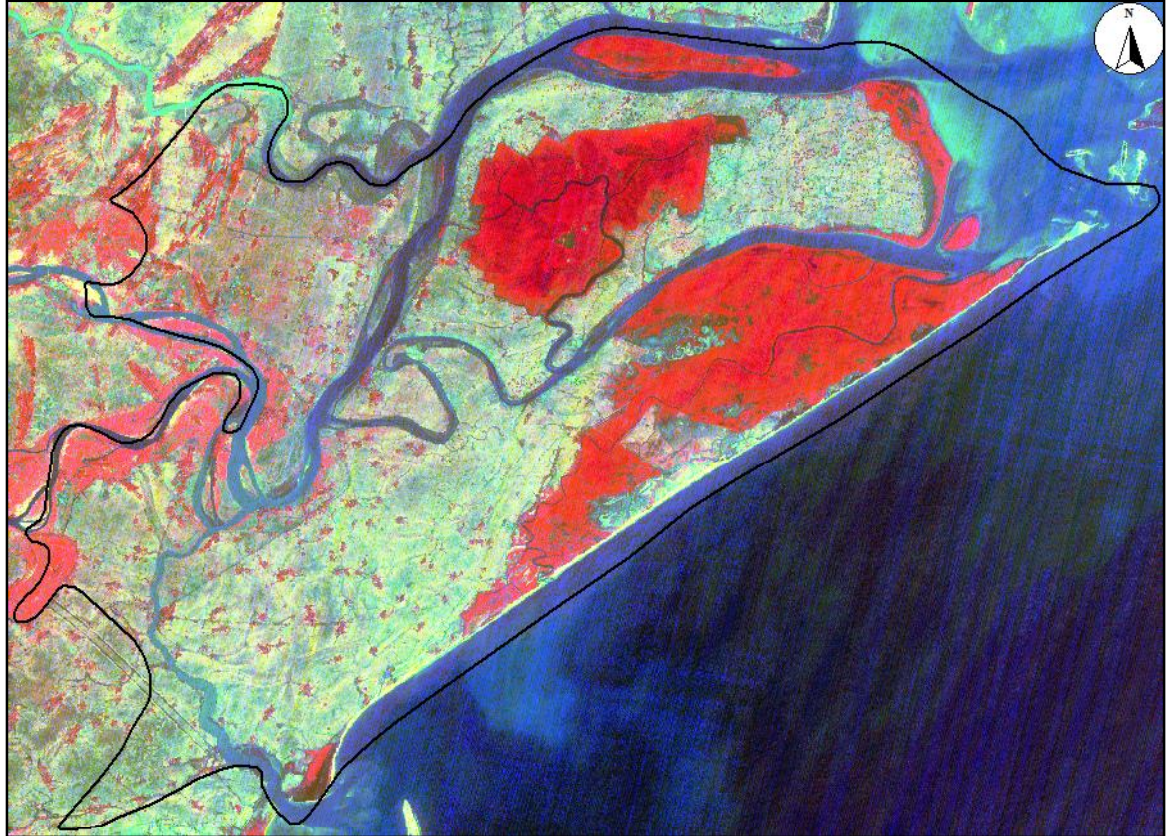
DECCMA 6th Consortium Workshop (17 – 20 Jan 2017), UK



- Coastal erosion and salt water intrusion is a global reality in the present times.
- The coast of the Rajnagar block in Kendrapada district of India is one such affected area.
- So a planned relocation by the Government of Odisha, of the affected families of the Satbhaya Gram Panchayat of Kendrapada district to Bagapatia under Gupti Panchayat is underway.
- The poster is based on women’s voices.



COASTAL EROSION (IN SATELLITE IMAGE)



IRS LISS III FCC Satellites Image of year 2005 & 2012 are indicating the Coastal Erosion Impacts along Satbhaya Coast

EXPERIENCES IN THE PROCESS OF RELOCATION
.....WOMEN PERSPECTIVE

- The women did not particularly have any idea about the relocation plan but they have participated in the movements (dharanas) demanding resettlement.
- The leadership of the Rehabilitation Committees are all dominated by men and we didn’t get any information about women leaders, though there was some mention of a previous lady Sarpanch (elected head of the village).
- The relocation is an expensive proposition. Hence the well off have shifted but for many shifting is happening in phases.

“Shifting from Satbhaya to the colony is a difficult task. My husband had to travel 10 to 12 times up and down to carry household articles in his bicycle”

- Life in Satbhaya was difficult. But the trajectories of relocation has been multi location with people leaving Satbhaya first for one place and then now shifting to the colony.

“One gets showered with sand in case his or her head hits the thatched roofs of the houses in Satbhaya”

“ We left Satbhaya 5 years ago and stayed in Rajkanika. It is only 5 months ago that we shifted to this colony to build our house.”



Kitchen in the make shift house in the colony

Gain
Or
Loss
???



Still Incomplete Pucca House (House made of brick & cement)

LIFE IN THE NEW LOCATION

- A single room is insufficient to live in.
- There seems to be decline in livelihood options as agricultural land is not available. The people of the colony are mostly share croppers now.
- There is no forest or sea nearby for any livelihood support.
- The men and women are going for wage labour as construction is on going in the colony but later once the construction is over, there may be a problem.
- The school going children are now out of school as the school is still not functional.
- Because of poor quality of soil, there is no growth of vegetables or any other fruit bearing plants.
- Though some people have brought their cattle with them, grazing and feeding them is a problem.
- Since Satbhaya is near to the sea, adequate quantity of fish and crab was available. Women used to pick crab and fish either for selling purpose or for personal consumption.

“As I have left my cattle in Satbhaya and there is no scope of kitchen garden in resettled area, my workload has reduced. But here, I have to buy all vegetables”

“Because of scarcity of firewood and absence of kitchen, cooking has become a difficult task for us”

“There are no opportunities for livelihood here, had there been an industrial house here, we would have got employment”

“As the construction work is underway now, we manage to earn our living working as daily wage labourer. However, we are clueless about what to do after the ongoing construction work will be over”

“So far very few have shifted to Bagapatia. All of us are managing our livelihood working as share croppers and wage labourers. Since, there are very few people in resettled area now, availability of land for farming as share cropper is not a problem. However, we do not know what would be the scenario after all the people of Satbhaya area are settled here”

“My son and daughter-in-law were working in Gujrat and sending money for me. But both of them lost their jobs after demonetization. They have come back home. We do not know how to manage now”

FACES OF WOMEN IN RESETTLEMENT COLONY



I would like to acknowledge the help provided by Chilika Development Authority, Geoenvitech, Government officials of Rajnagar block, Nature’s Club (NGO) and the women of Bagapatia.

This work was carried out under the Collaborative Adaptation Research Initiative in Africa and Asia (CARIAA), with financial support from the UK Government’s Department for International Development (DFiD) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. The views expressed in this work are those of the creators and do not necessarily represent those of DFiD and IDRC or its Board of Governors.

ISSUES

- Poor quality of drinking water.
- Scarce Livelihood options .
- Poor quality of soil (as the colony land was earlier being used for prawn culture)– so no kitchen gardening possible as yet
- Livestock still not yet relocated
- Schooling facilities yet to be started so children can’t attend school
- Inadequate house building financial assistance and also comes in installment – so families are taking debt to complete the house. Women are mortgaging/ selling their gold to raise money for house building
- No compensation given for loss of livelihood and/ or relocation
- No compensation as there was no land acquisition per se.

GAINS

- There is no fear of ingress of sea water.
- Availability and access of services : Facility of doctors and hospital; Electricity is available; mobile network

“Vegetable market is located near the resettled area, so shopping has become convenient for us”

- Pucca house with toilet
- young girls are setting up small business for income generation.

“ I am happy that I am selling snacks in the colony. I am not continuing my studies after class 10th. Many girls have gone out of Odisha for work but I am here trying to do some earning.”



Canada

DECCMA