

GAJA CYCLONE RELIEF WORK BY NIRT - ICMR

Cyclone Gaja made its landfall with wind speed of 120 – 140 kph, leaving behind a huge trail of destruction in the costal districts of Tamil Nadu such as Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, and in the Union territory of Pondicherry. The strong wind damaged several thatched houses and uprooted many trees and electric poles. The Department of Social & Behavioural Research, NIRT took the initiative to raise funds and procure some materials for the people who had lost their homes and belongings. Friends and families of the NIRT staff were generous enough to donate a sum of Rs. 100000 and also contributed materials such as groceries, clothes, stationeries tarpaulin and mats. A team from NIRT –DSBR as well as volunteers from outside visited the villages and worked day and night to help them restore what they had lost and distribute the materials collected to 310 families from villages that were unreachable. The Medical Officer of the PHC in the village Dr. Manikandan was kind enough to accommodate the team in the PHC and extended his full support in distributing the materials. The interaction with the villagers and the smiles that were left back with the villagers when the teams finally left the villages made this relief work most memorable.

