

## RECONSTRUCTION OF BATTICALOA AFTER TSUNAMI

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Batticaloa district, the land of '*Singing fish*', situated in the eastern coastal part of Sri Lanka was severely affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2004. Even though nearly two years passed since its occurrence, the damages were not yet fully recovered and the grievances of the people of Batticaloa continue without proper assistance.

This study analyses how the tsunami has impacted on the housing, infrastructure and livelihoods of the people directly affected; and also suggests the ways to bring them back to normal without any delay.

Primary data for this study was collected through interviews and field observation. Secondary data was gathered from internet, government and non- governmental organizations, and through books and magazines.

It was found that the main livelihoods of the people in Batticaloa district namely, fishing and agriculture experienced immense damage, but the reconstruction is in a sluggish state. The reasons for this slow progress are identified as the prevailing war situation, inefficient co-ordination among the government and non-governmental organizations and insufficient skilled labour in reconstructing of the affected houses.

The study concludes that, co-ordination among the government and non government organizations, sincere and dedicated services of the organizations involved in the reconstruction and peoples' participation are a must for the speedy recovery of Batticaloa after tsunami.

**Key words:** Reconstruction, Housing, Livelihood, Infrastructure, Sluggish State, Prevailing War, Inefficient Co-ordination, Insufficient skilled labour.

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