

# CHALLENGES TO CHANGE



ONE DAY, A MONKEY GOING FOR A WALK ON THE SEASHORE MET A CROW. THIS WAS JUST A FEW DAYS AFTER THE TSUNAMI.



HI! CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT IS IT THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE WAITING FOR -JUST SITTING AROUND LIKE THIS?

WELL, MONKEY. THEY ARE GREATLY AFFECTED BY THIS GREAT DISASTER THAT HAS BEFALLEN THEM.



GENERALLY, HUMANS, ESPECIALLY THESE FISHERFOLK, ARE VERY HARDWORKING. THEY ARE VERY CREATIVE TOO!



**BUT IT IS AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TIME FOR THEM SINCE THE TSUNAMI.**



Picture Courtesy: A & D



**ALL OF THEM HERE HAVE LOST THEIR HOMES. MOST OF THEM HAVE ALSO LOST MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILY.**

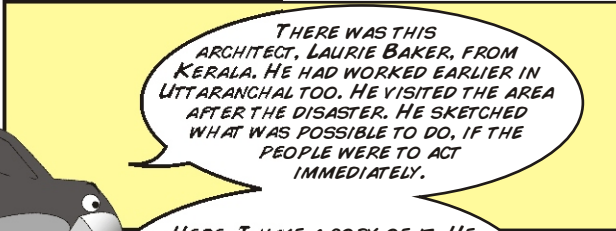
Picture Courtesy: A & D



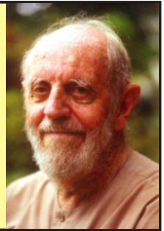
YOU KNOW, I SAW SIMILAR SCENES SOMEWHERE ELSE. HERE, I HAVE A PICTURE OF IT.

IT HAPPENED IN UTTARANCHAL, DUE TO AN ENORMOUS EARTHQUAKE.

OH! THAT IS SO SAD!



THERE WAS THIS ARCHITECT, LAURIE BAKER, FROM KERALA. HE HAD WORKED EARLIER IN UTTARANCHAL TOO. HE VISITED THE AREA AFTER THE DISASTER. HE SKETCHED WHAT WAS POSSIBLE TO DO, IF THE PEOPLE WERE TO ACT IMMEDIATELY.

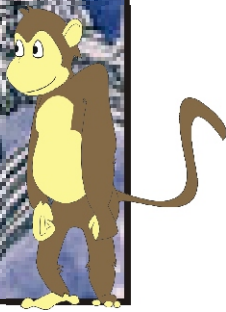


HERE, I HAVE A COPY OF IT. HE BELIEVED THAT MOST MATERIAL, COULD BE SALVAGED ... REBUILDING, DOES NOT LOOK SO DAUNTING WHEN WE REUSE WHAT IS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE!!!



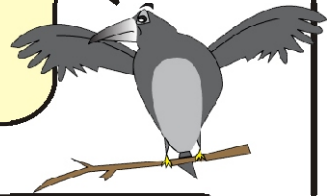
HAH! THAT IS POLITICS. OR PERHAPS MONKEY BUSINESS!

IF THEY HAD DONE THAT, THE GOVERNMENT BABU WOULD NOT HAVE GIVEN THEM ANY COMPENSATION!



*AFTER HIS EXPERIENCE, LAURIE BAKER CONCLUDED THAT*

- ❶ The Government must deal with the compensation impediment.
- ❷ If necessary, take photographs now. Settle compensation later.
- ❸ Get on with salvage and cleaning up operations immediately.
- ❹ All villagers of what ever caste should participate.



*OK OK,  
SO HE SAID THIS.  
BUT, HAS IT EVEN  
HAPPENED IN  
PRACTICE?*



***YES! IT DID!**  
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT  
SANDEEP VIRMANI DID IN  
TANGDHAR VALLEY, KASHMIR.*



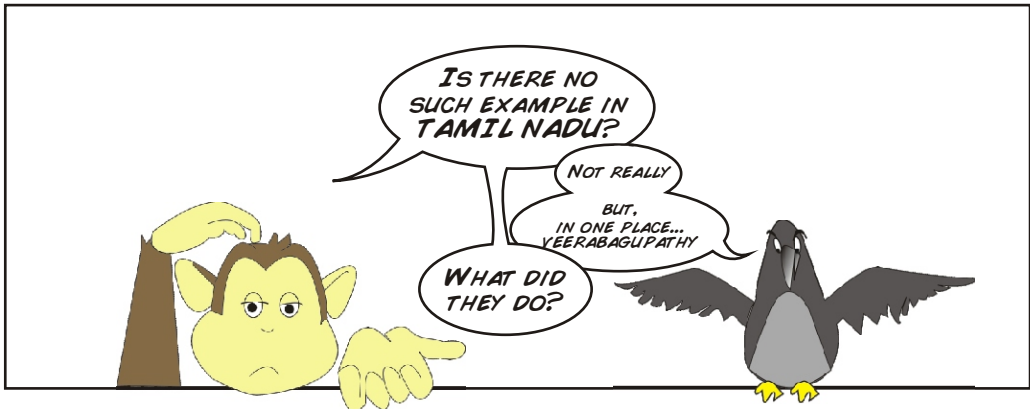
*WHAT WAS DONE WAS SIMPLE*

- ✓ Allocated a certain sum of money and promised to give it to people for supplies for building.
- ✓ They then organised a place where material for building was supplied, and people were given material to the extent of the money promised.
- ✓ So the people re-cycled all stone and timber from their own houses, made better houses that what they had earlier
- ✓ They also completed their house in record time, and most o them used their own labour to be able to purpose more material.

***HA! THAT'S KILLING  
TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!  
THEY GOT THEIR HOUSES DONE, AND THEY  
PARTICIPATED IN THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT...  
MAKING THEM A MORE SELF  
CONFIDENT LOT...***

Pictures: Sandeep Virmani's presentation





WITHOUT WAITING FOR THE GOVERNMENT, THEY BOUGHT THEIR OWN LAND. THEN THEY WERE CAREFUL ABOUT SELECTING THE NGO WHO WOULD WORK WITH THEM. THEY ULTIMATELY WORKED WITH HABITAT TECHNOLOGY GROUP (HTG), WHO HAD THE SUPPORT OF ARCHITECTURE & DEVELOPMENT (A&D) THROUGH FUNDING FROM FONDATION DE FRANCE (CDF).





THEY WENT TO THEIR OLD BROKENDOWN HOUSES, AND SALYAGED OLD BRICKS, STONES, DOOR FRAMES



THEY EVEN GOT THE TECHNICAL SUPPORT AGENCY TO ALLOT SOME OF THEIR PROJECT FUNDS TO BUILD KITCHENS OUTSIDE.



NOW THEY HAVE BUILT SIMPLE WALLS ENCLOSING THE KITCHEN, TOILETS AND NOW THEY ALSO HAVE A COURTYARD, AND AANGAN AND WATER TANK!





**MANY OF THEM HAVE STARTED BUILDING EXTENSIONS TO THEIR HOUSES. THEY HAVE BUILT STAIRCASES TO REACH THEIR TERRACES, AND MAKE KITCHEN GARDENS.**

**IN FACT AGENCY ENGINEERS HAVE HELPED THEM WITH DESIGNS, AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT.**



**AH! YES. I SEE NOW. WE CANNOT UNDERESTIMATE THE HUMANS!**

# CAN WE CUT THROUGH THE RED TAPE AND GET RID OF THIS SENSE OF HELPLESSNESS?

**YES! IF...**

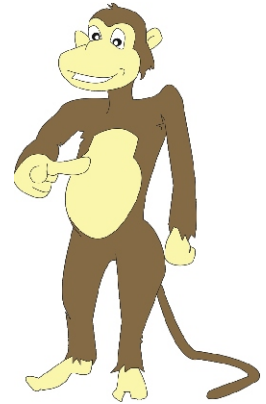
- ✓ we find a way to identify and enumerate the affected families immediately;
- ✓ we make use of the modern technology at our disposal to document the damage to life and property on an emergency basis;

and, most of all,

- ✓ we devise relief and rehabilitation such that people are encouraged to "HELP THEMSELVES" and "SALVAGE" the debris of their belongings and livelihood

**IF THIS IS DONE. ...**

# PERHAPS!



## References:

Disaster Rehabilitation, giving direction to Sustainable Development

A talk by Sandeep Virmani, Recorded in April 2006, Paris.

Http://59.92.116.99/website/RDC/RDC-

interviews/SandeepVirmani\_Transcript.doc

[L.Y03.VB34]

Earthquake, Laurie Baker

Published by Vidyaonline.org, 08 April 2007,

<http://www.vidyaonline.org/arvindgupta/earthquake.pdf>

[C.ELDOC1.Y03/Laurie\_Baker\_Earthquake.pdf]

Disaster rehabilitation – Experiments in Sustainability,

Sandeep Virmani, Hunnarshala Foundation, Paris/April 2006

[C.ELDOC1.0709/Sandeep\_Virmani\_Disaster\_Rehabilitation.pdf]

Concept: John D'Souza Character Sketches: Tabrej Khan & Vikram V (Arena Multimedia, Indiranagar) Visualisation: Karuna D'Souza



[www.doccentre.net](http://www.doccentre.net)  
Centre for Education and Documentation

No.7, 8th Main, Domlur 2nd Stage, 3rd Phase, Bangalore 560 071  
email: [cedban@doccentre.net](mailto:cedban@doccentre.net)  
☎ 25353397

Produced under Reconstruction for Development Centres (RDC); [www.rdc.net.in](http://www.rdc.net.in)

A collaborative information system for informed and participative reconstruction by A&D, CED, Praxis, ISED and TNDTF supported by Fondation de France



Some rights reserved. Licensed under a Creative Common's Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 2.5 Licence. ([creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/))