



Notes of Moments Chapter 6 – Weathering the Storm in Ersama

1. What Havoc Has the Super Cyclone Wreaked in the Life of the People of Orissa?

Ans: Heavy rainfall and strong gusts were brought by the cyclone. As a result, the majority of the houses were destroyed, with just the robust cement structures surviving. The country was covered in filthy water as far as the eye could see. Many individuals died as a result of the incident. All around them were floating human bodies and bloated animal carcasses. Even the most powerful trees had been uprooted. The scenes were horrifying. Many people had lost relatives, and a large number of youngsters had become orphans. There was a food shortage. People were depressed and helpless, and a pall of sadness had descended on everyone.

2. How Has Prashant, a Teenager, Been Able To Help the People of His Village?

Ans: Prashant aided the people of his community by first gaining control of himself after witnessing the cyclone's aftermath. He decided to become the village's leader. He gathered a group of young people and elders to pressure the merchant into providing rice to the people living at the shelter. This was a task he completed successfully. His next assignment was to assemble a group of young volunteers to clean the shelter and tend to the wounds of those who had been harmed by the cyclone. Prashant also gathered a group of orphaned children and built a polythene shelter for them. Men secured food and other necessities for the shelter while women were mobilized to look after them. When he realized the women were growing too depressed, he convinced them to join a food-for-work program run by a non-governmental organization. He also arranged children's sporting tournaments.

3. How Have the People of the Community Helped One Another? What Role Do the Women of Kalikuda Play During These Days?

Ans: Under the leadership of young Prashant, the residents of the town banded together and began to assist one another. They worked together



to persuade the merchant to donate rice to the residents at the shelter, gathered fallen tree branches, and built a fire, over which they cooked rice for everyone to eat. When a military helicopter dropped some food boxes but failed to return, the young task force took empty utensils from the shelter and forced the children to lie in the sand with the utensils on their stomachs to signal passing helicopters that they were hungry. The message was received, and the helicopter returned to the refuge regularly, dropping food and other necessities. Women were enlisted to care for the orphans, while men gathered food and supplies for the refuge. Despite their loss, the women began working in a food-for-work program established by an NGO.

4. What Do Prashant and Other Volunteers Resist the Plan To Set Up Institutions for Orphans and Widows? What Alternatives Do They Consider?

Ans: The plan to establish orphanages and widows' institutions was opposed because it was considered that children would grow up without love and compassion in such facilities, and widows would face disgrace and loneliness. Instead, Prashant and his organization advocated for the children and widows to be re-settled in their native communities, where they could live in a more comfortable setting. They advised that childless widows and children without adult care form foster families.

5. Do You Think Prashant is a Good Leader? Do You Think Young People Can Get Together To Help People During Natural Calamities?

Ans: Yes, Prashant is an excellent leader. Despite his anguish, he gathered himself and resolved to take over as the village's leader. He did a great job in his post and went out of his way to aid the people of his town in every way he could. Yes, young people may certainly band together to assist people during natural disasters and other times of need. They can help others by using their power and enthusiasm.

Difficult Words and their Meanings in the Chapter

- 1. Menacing:** threatening; something that poses a danger



2. Incessant: without a pause; unstoppable
3. Surge: a large and sudden increase caused by a powerful natural occurrence
4. Bereaved: feeling great amounts of sadness having suffered the death of a loved one
5. Waded: to walk through water or any liquid substance but with some difficulty
6. Macabre: something gruesome and disturbing due to connection with death
7. Motley: a group of a diverse or varied set of people
8. Tumult: a confused, loud, and agitated noise, usually created by a crowd
9. Mangled: to destroy or disfigure by cutting, tearing, etc.
10. Triumphantly: showing great happiness at a victory or achievement

