

Flood in Tamil Nadu and its impact on the healthcare system



Pradhan AK

Correspondence to:

editors@pubmedhouse.com

Dr. Arun Kumar Pradhan, Professor, Physiology, Editor-in-Chief, Medical Science.

Editors for this Article:

Dr. I.A. Khan, MBBS, MD. Editor, Medical Science.

Cite this article:

Pradhan AK. Flood in Tamil Nadu and its impact on the healthcare system. Medical Science. 2015;3(4):284-5.

Information about the article

Published online: Dec. 30, 2015

Long and heavy rainfall during November-December, 2015 resulted a devastating flood in Tamil Nadu. As a part of winter monsoon, from October to December each year, Southern states of India, including Tamil Nadu, the coastal regions of Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry, receives around 30% of the annual rainfall. In this year between 9-10 November 2015, Neyveli received 483 mm of rainfall; Cuddalore, Chidambaram and Chennai also continued to lash. Within next two days, low-lying parts of Chennai were inundated, and evacuation of over 1000 people from their houses. Between 15-16 November, 246.5 mm of rainfall in Chennai, flooded most areas of the city. This was the highest amount recorded past 10 years.

The reason of this flood in Chennai was not only the heavy rainfall within a short time; Meteorological Department has said the exceptionally strong El Niño, along with a rare "coincidence of various factors". Condition was also worsened by years of illegal development and inadequate levels of flood preparedness. Although rainfall had largely ceased, Chennai remained flooded in the middle of November. This heavy rainfall in November was highest since 1918, when 1,088 mm (42.8 in) of rainfall was recorded - a worst in a century. Schools and colleges remained closed across Puducherry, Chennai, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur districts in Tamil Nadu. Red alert was given to fishermen against sailing because of high waters and rough seas. On 2nd December Chennai was officially declared a disaster area. Hospitals, nursing homes across the affected areas of the state was struggling for emergency supplies. 14 patients were died after power and oxygen supplies failed at the MIOT Hospital. With a letup in rainfall, floodwaters gradually began to recede in Chennai on 4 December, but a vast majority of the places was submerged and there was scarcity of safe food and drinking water. As an approximate over 300 people in Tamil Nadu were estimated to have died because of the flooding since 8 November, though relief workers alone had reported hundreds more who were missing. Over 1,100,000 people had been rescued in a safe place. There is no report of outbreak of any water-borne or vector-borne disease in the flood-ravaged Tamil Nadu.



Central Govt. and State Govt. worked together, which minimize the loss of lives or disease outbreak. Flood prevention and mitigation strategies are required and need to be seriously thought and implemented in these regions.

Competing interest

None declared.

Authors' information

Dr. Arun Kumar Pradhan, Professor, Physiology, Editor-in-Chief, Medical Science.