

Tsunami Relief & Rehabilitation Coordination

– TamilNadu & Pondicherry (TRRC)

**Report of the study on,
“People’s Perceptions on G.O.172”**

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Key observations of the Sample study on, “People’s Perceptions on G.O.172”

#	Name of the District	No. of villages studied		No. of houses within HTL				No. of families resisting to move beyond 200 mts	No. of families willing to move without relinquishing	No. of families willing to move unconditionally	No. of families who opine that their livelihoods will be affected on moving	No. of families who opine that the moving will create new types of caste / religious/cultural issues
		Ocean fishing	Non-ocean fishing	200 mts	500 mts	Above 500 mts	Total					
1	Kanyakumari	16	1	9690	2089	75	11854	5519	5329	1006	11168	8828
2	Kancheepuram	12	1	2114	1309	100	3523	68	3455	-	3523	2533
3	Thoothukudi	10	-	1281	1585	1570	4436	1348	1893	1195	4436	1376
4	Thirunelveli	3	1	1834	325	82	2241	663	1398	180	2156	85
5	Ramnad	2	-	1040	1030	480	2550	550	1950	50	2550	2550
6	Nagapattinam	8	2	2735	1169	445	4349	-	4145	204	3886	2992
6	Chennai	3	-	19010	2550	-	21560	19560	2000	-	21560	1010
7	Thiruvallur	4	-	405	502	-	907	815	-	92	907	815
8	Tanjore	3	-	205	887	62	1154	-	1092	62	1154	-
	TOTAL	61	5	38314	11446	2814	52574	28523	21262	2789	51340	20189
	Percent Total			73	22	5		54	41	5	98	38

Key Findings

- **A large majority trust that the G.O. 172 will be withdrawn / nullified by another G.O, soon.**

It was surprising to learn that the fishing communities do not view this G.O that seriously. They have expressed that the government will sooner or later come out with another G.O that could make the present one null and void. In general, the fishing communities firmly believe that their demands will be appropriately and adequately responded by the government. They only view this possibility in relation to the coming elections and to the fact that these fishing communities at large have been the strong vote bank for the present ruling party.

- **95% people resist to relinquish their existing house / properties**

The 5% '*willing to relinquish*' people belongs to non-ocean / dependant communities who do not have any assets to relinquish. They view this as an opportunity to own a house and so open for any conditions, what so ever.

- **Resistance towards relinquishing has another dimension of their resistance to 'public use'**

Interactions with the communities reveal that the government's promise of keeping the relinquished space for 'Public use' is not acceptable to them. Their right on the coast was expressed in unequivocal terms. Still for all,

they are not much bothered about the government's statement on 'Public use' since they are not going to 'relinquish' any way.

- **Relinquishment involves certain amount of spiritual and sensation issues since it requires indirect relinquishing of their places of worship**

One more reason for these communities to resist for relinquishment is their religious / spiritual believes and values. Be it a church, a temple, a mosque, one can be constructed only after a series of rituals and almost each of the worship places has a native story behind it. People are of a fear that on relinquishment, these worship places will also be demolished which could adversely impact on their lives.

- **There floats a fear among many communities that there are possibilities of communal tension, on relocation.**

Although, 62% of the people feel say that the re-location will not create any caste / religious conflict, they do not completely deny such possibilities. They have justified their saying on the grounds that the communities will not agree for common settlements, but only for settlements of present composition, if at all they have to agree for re-location.