

Nibedita S. Ray-Bennett

Avoidable Deaths

A Systems Failure Approach to Disaster Risk
Management

Contents

1	Avoidable Deaths in Disasters	1
1.1	Justice	3
1.2	Practical Solutions	5
1.3	Goal	6
1.4	Odisha: A Case Study	7
1.5	Disaster Management in Odisha	12
1.6	Disaster Management Organisations	13
1.6.1	Institutional Arrangements for Disaster Management	15
1.7	Fieldwork	16
	References	17
2	Systems Failure in Disasters	21
2.1	Traditional Perspective	22
2.2	Vulnerability Perspective	23
2.3	Complex Perspective	26
2.4	A ‘Wicked’ Problem—Deaths in Disasters	28
2.5	Systems Failure	30
2.6	Components of Systems Failures	36
2.6.1	Coordination Failure	36
2.6.2	Communication Failure	38
2.6.3	World Views	40
	References	42
3	Super-Cyclone in 1999	49
3.1	Super-Cyclone and Cyclone Phailin	51
3.2	Systems Failure in 1999	53
3.3	Enacting Systems Failure	55
3.3.1	Coordination and Communication Failures	55
3.3.2	Conservative World Views	58
	References	59

4	Cycolne Phailin in 2013	61
4.1	Coordination and Communication	61
4.2	Coordination and Communication at the Districts Level	65
4.3	Enlightened World Views	67
4.4	Leadership for Avoidable Deaths	70
4.5	Target Groups	73
4.6	Justice for Event Violence	75
	References	77
5	Systems Failure Revisited	79
5.1	Systems Alignment	80
5.1.1	Enhancing Coordination and Decision Making Processes	82
5.1.2	Aligning Communication Sub-systems	89
5.1.3	World Views	93
5.2	Limitations	95
5.3	Potential Impact	97
	References	103
	Index	109