

Restoring Homes

Post-earthquake reconstruction in Kashmir



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Kashmir earthquake '05

On October 8th 2005, 7.6 magnitude earthquake hit the land of Kashmir at 9:20 a.m. Tremors were felt up to a 1000 km stretch from the epicenter, extending its damage to a radius of 140 km.

Number of lives lost: 87,000+

Injured: 70,000+

Homeless: 3 million



The worst affected districts of Jammu and Kashmir were Baramulla, Jammu, Srinagar, Budgam, Anantnag, Poonch, Pawariyan, Soker and Uri.

A Permanent and Safe house

Keeping in mind the dwellings that existed prior to the earthquake, cement mortar was used for the construction of disaster resistant houses which were strong enough to withstand shocks and were safe.

Earthquake resistant bands were added at the plinth and lintel levels with vertical reinforcements. Light weight ceiling and roofing was done using timber and CGI sheets and a lavatory and a bathroom was provided in each house for a hygienic living.



People's Participation

CASA initially planned to construct 50 disaster resistant houses and wherever possible the beneficiaries acted as active participants during the construction. The people contributed by providing transportation for construction material from the dumping point to their respective sites and also helped in gathering the stones required for random rubble masonry in foundation of construction.



Self Improvements

Since CASA's construction of disaster resistant houses, there were some changes and modifications that were made by the people themselves as per their own needs and requirements. Appreciating the brick construction, some rooms were made larger by bringing down the partition walls.

Small extensions of kitchen walls, building internal chimneys in the kitchen and further ideas of vertical expansion were done by the beneficiaries.



Adaptation of Traditional Stove

CASA provided kitchens with modern style stoves which were installed outside the wall. The idea was a little inconvenient for the people cooking food in their traditional style stoves. So, the beneficiaries built their local style/ traditional stoves which were fixed in the wall at a ground level and chimneys were installed for releasing the smoke via attic.



- With mason requirement for construction of shelters by CASA, the beneficiary contributed towards the construction process in the form of labor for transportation of construction material. An interest was expressed by the people; they were retained in the construction process by the contractors on daily wage basis.
- The material used in the shelter reconstruction was initiated for shock proof houses and were safe as compared to the dwellings that existed before the earthquake. Timber and CGI sheets for light weight ceiling and roofing, good cement mortar, bricks which were thermally sophisticated, stones in random rubble, etc were used as the basic material.
- Seismic bands at plinth level & level of door and windows and wall junctions with vertical reinforcement rods were used to withstand any kind of shock and sudden jerks.
- With a house area of 700 sq.ft. (approx.) including 3 rooms, kitchen, provision of a lavatory bathroom, toilet, attic and **verandah** was initiated in all the houses built and gifted by CASA.

Pawadiya and Sokar

Uri is a town on the river Jhelum in the Baramulla district and is located just 18km away from the line of control. The geographical height of Uri is 4,472 ft.(1,363m). Pawadiya and Sokar are the two villages that are located apprx. 1500ft higher than the Uri town. Pawadian is situated about 14 kms from Sokar and is at a lower altitude than Sokar. It receives about 2.5 feet of snow in winters. The villages, being closest to the epicenters, were damaged to a very large extent, specially in the case of Sokar because the road connectivity was at a greater risk due to heavy rains and landslides.



Considering the difficult geographical terrain and harsh weather conditions, the factors posed a stiff challenge to the CASA team and their commitment to provide a shelter to the victims of the village.

