



“Trapped! Between the Devil and Deep Waters: The story of Bihar’s Kosi River”

Special Seminar

At the Third International Film festival – Voices from the waters 2008, Bangalore
 Thursday 18th September 2008, 10am – 3.30pm
 Jnana Jyothi Auditorium
 Seminar Hall, Bangalore University
 Central College Campus
 Palace Road, Near Mysore Bank Circle
 Bangalore - 560001 - Karnataka India

The Kosi embankment was once again breached, as Kosi River changed course flooding large areas of Bihar. More than two million people have been displaced and hundreds of lives have been taken including 20 people who drowned whilst being rescued.

Experts have said that the flooding was not simply an act of nature, and that the failure of the Indian authorities played a large part in the making of the disaster as the river's flood defenses have once again failed the people of Kosi. Reports of relief not reaching the large section of the poorest communities are grim reality for us all.

According to D K Mishra, a flood expert and author of many publications on the Kosi river,
“the worst is yet to come. When the water recede, the people of Kosi will get to know how much of their land is sand cast, how much is waterlogged and Kharif is already lost and the chances of Rabi being affected are high as moisture of the land will not allow for ploughing, affecting immediate agriculture. No explanation of this disaster will satisfy the hapless victim of the tragedy”

At the seminar you will hear from experts working in Bihar for over 30 years to help us not only understand the why, of the floods but also to discuss the process of continuous social audit to ensure that funds/relief/rehabilitation reach all the affected communities of Bihar. The GOK Disaster management Centre will discuss the role of DMC in managing disasters.

The seminar will bring together the Bihari community in Bangalore to appraise them of institutions and civil society groups working with flood victims, the mechanisms for help and how the communities can directly engage in solution seeking.

Seminar Agenda

- Chair: Bharti Patel, Director, Svaraj
- Key Speaker: Dr. D K Mishra Author and activist - Trapped! Between the Devil and Deep Waters:
 The story of Bihar’s Kosi River
- Responses: Ekalavya Prasad – Arghyam Partner, Bihar
 Mr V S Prakash, Disaster Management Centre, Karnataka
 Vijay Krishna, India Water Portal
 Revathi Rugmini, Arghyam

During the seminar the film “Dui Paatan Ke Beech Mey” (Between the devil and the deep river is the English title)
 Directed by: Arvind Sinha,
 Duration: 53 minutes long

For further details contact Manish Sharma Ph: 98860 52803

