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The Voices of Ghoramara Island A case for planned relocation

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Exposure to:

- Coastal flooding
- Storm surges
- Cyclones

Leading to:

- Salinity intrusion
- Coastal erosion

India

West
Bengal

Lohachara
Island

Ghoramara
Island

Sagar
Island

Bay of Bengal

Ganges Brahmaputra
Delta

Ghoramara Island



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A 'trapped' population?



Lacks the ability to move

Needs to move

Wants to move

Immobility intensifies vulnerability



A need and desire to move

“The government needs to move us. Otherwise, where will we live? If the river erodes so fast, then where will we live? We have to live somewhere, anywhere. We are drifting away here.”

(Female, 45 years old, Ghoramara Island)

“The island is being washed away. What can we do? If the Government can arrange for our houses to a different location, then we can survive, otherwise we have to die in hunger.”

(Male, 32 years old, Ghoramara Island)

Planned Relocation to Sagar Island

A fair planned relocation?

A planned relocation that positively impacted multidimensional wellbeing?



Planned Relocation as Adaptation

A measure of last resort:

- Exposure to severe environmental risks
- Decreased habitability of an area
- Other in-situ interventions have failed
- Homelessness



Planned Relocation as Adaptation

Voluntary Planned Relocation:

- Choice to stay or to move
- Free and informed consent
- Participatory processes
- Expectations of government



Planned Relocation as Adaptation

Developmental in nature:

- Reduces exposure to environmental risks
- Reduces vulnerabilities





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**Thank you
for listening**