



ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES IN MUNGER DURING EARTHQUAK,1934

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Abstract

1934 Bihar–Nepal earthquake was one of the worst earthquakes in India's history. The towns of Munger were completely destroyed. This 8.0 magnitude earthquake caused widespread damage in northern Bihar and in Nepal. The areas of greatest damage stretched from Kathmandu to Munger in the North–South direction, and from Purnia to Champa ran in the East–West direction. The number of deaths was 10,700–12,000 with 7,253 recorded in Bihar. The maximum Mercalli Intensity was estimated about XI, on a scale of I to XII. Paper will address public health facilities in affected district and specially damage in Munger during earthquake .and we know, what was response of British government to tackle after shock. What was casualties in monghyr.how was relief work taken in Munger. And we know the role of civil society and non gov agency and BCRC., and to find out the public health system during earthquake in Munger.

Keyword-earthquake, Munger, relief work, BCRC, civil society, causalities, public health system, Government

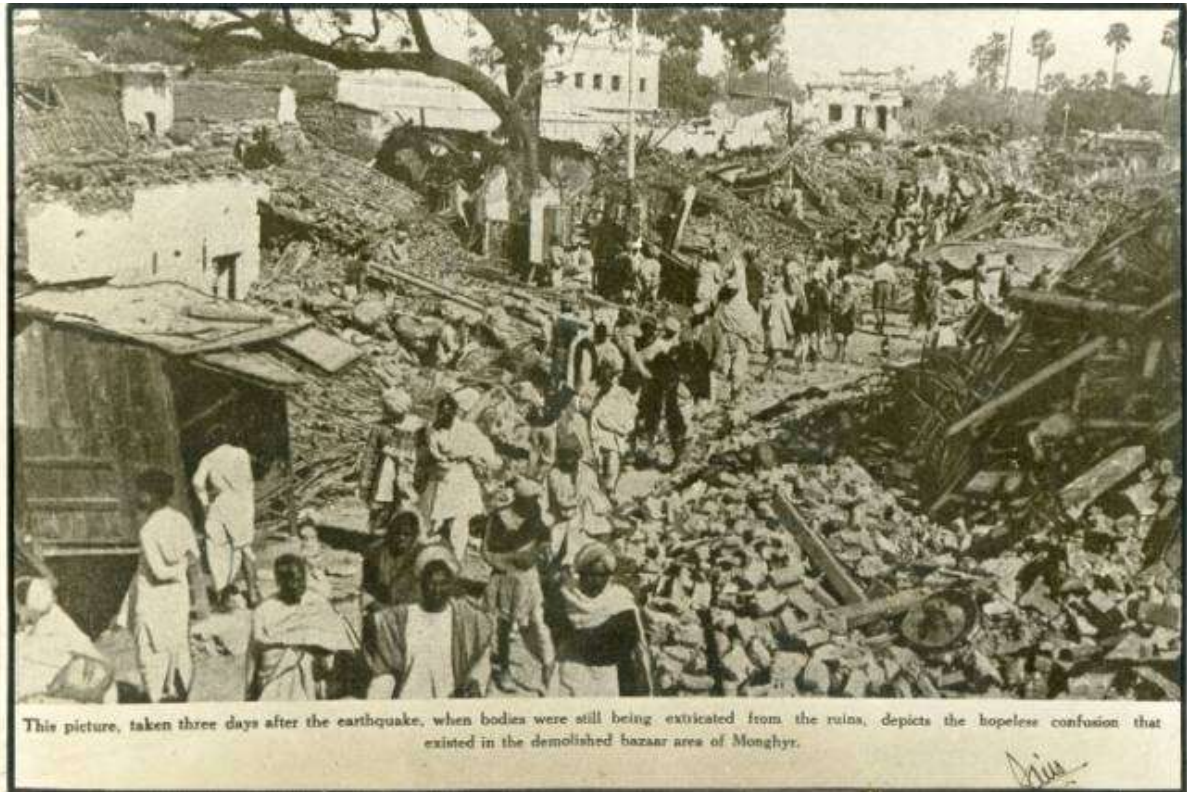
INTRODUCTION

This Bihar–Nepal earthquake was the worst in the subcontinent in the modern era, and memories of it came rushing back in 2015, when Nepal was struck once again, with an earthquake of 7.8 magnitude. The city of Kathmandu was almost flattened; 9,000 people were reported dead.

1934 Nepal Bihar earthquake was one of the worst earthquakes in Nepal and India. Munger, Kathmandu and Muzaffarpur were completely destroyed. This 8.2 magnitude earthquake occurred on 15 January 1934 at around 2:13 PM., the subcontinent convulsed, sending shockwaves across Northern and Central India. It was one of the worst earthquakes in India's history and it was called the Great Bihar–Nepal Earthquake. With its epicentre a few kilometres from Mount Everest in Eastern Nepal, shockwaves reverberated from Punjab to Assam, and Bombay to Lhasa in Tibet. But it was Bihar and Nepal that were most devastated. Death rate was mostly in Bihar state. Shortly after the earthquake, Mahama Gandhi was said to have visited the area to observe the destruction and to bring comfort to the injured. He wrote that the Bihar earthquake was providential retribution for India's failure to eradicate untouchability. Rabindranath Tagore took offence to the irrationality in his statement and accused Gandhi of superstition, even though he was totally in agreement with Gandhi on the issue of untouchability. In Bihar, Sri Babu (Shri Krishna Sinha) and the other great leader Anugrah Babu (Anugrah Narayan Sinha), threw themselves into relief work. Maghfoor Ahmad Ajazi, an eminent freedom fighter, worked extensively in the earthquake relief operations. He operated several relief camps providing the affected people with food and shelter. He wrote that the Bihar earthquake was providential retribution for India's failure to eradicate untouchability. Rabindranath Tagore took offence to the

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. Bihar's official death toll was 7,253. Fortunately, many people were saved that day only because they were out in the fields. Numerous fissures and geysers in the ground caused water and sand to spout, while flooding added to the chaos.

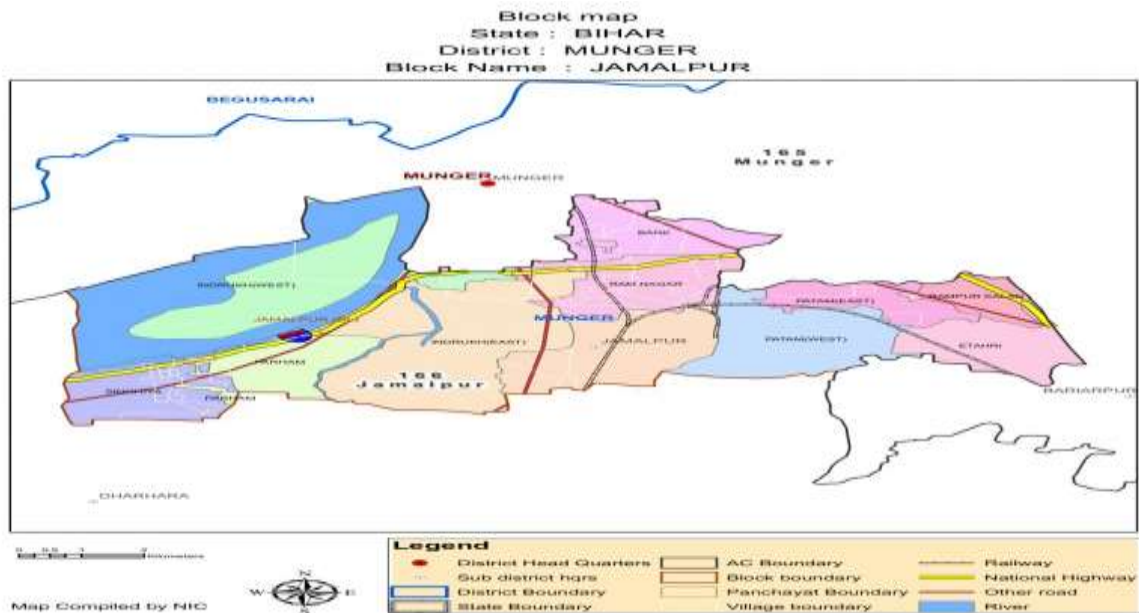


This picture, taken three days after the earthquake, when bodies were still being extricated from the ruins, depicts the hopeless confusion that existed in the demolished bazaar area of Monghyr.

Munger

Munger, formerly spelt as Monghyr [city of 5300 inhabitants, occupies peninsula jutting into northward Ganga, backed by rocky hill, and 100 miles east of Patna.] a twin city and a Municipal Corporation situated in the Indian state of Bihar. It is the administrative headquarters of Munger district and Munger Division. Munger was one of the major cities in Eastern India and undivided Bengal during Mughal period and British Raj. It is one of the major political, cultural, educational and commercial centres of Bihar and Eastern India. Munger is situated about 180km from east of capital city Patna, about 480km west of Eastern India's largest city Kolkata and 1200km from country's capital New Delhi.

The territory included within the district of Munger (famously Manghir) formed part of the Madhya-desa as "Midland" of the first Aryan settlers. It has been identified with Mod-Giri a place mentioned in the Mahabharata, which was the capital of a kingdom in Eastern India near Vanga and Tamralipta. In the Digvijaya Parva of Mahabharata, we find the mention of Moda-Giri, which seems similar to Mod-Giri. Digvijaya Parva suggests that it was a monarchical state during early times. A passage in the Sabha-Parva describes Bhima's conquest in Eastern India and says that after defeating Karna, king of Anga.



Impact of earthquake on Munger

Munger. After the earthquake on 15 January 1934, Munger and Jamalpur cities were completely reduced to a pile of rubble. The tragedy of the earthquake silenced the lives of 1434 at time. All the big leaders of the country struggling for independence had reached Munger. Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel etc. carried out relief and rescue operations with a fountain in their hands. The people who witnessed the tragedy of the 1934 earthquake are no more. But many people heard this story from their elders. The Jamalpur rail factory was also badly damaged in the 1934 earthquake. After this, the British government called a team of engineers from England. The engineer's team resettled the city of Jamalpur and Munger. The day of 15 January 1934 is considered to be a black chapter in the history of Munger. The earthquake in the afternoon had thrown the city into disarray and there was a scene of destruction all around. Hundreds of people died in this earthquake, while the entire city was turned into rubble. There was also a huge loss of money power. There were cracks in fields and roads. People like Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Sarojini Naidu, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, Yamuna Lal Bajaj, Acharya Kripalani came to Munger and helped in relief work. In memory of the earthquake in 1934, the Disaster Management Department celebrates January 15 as Earthquake Day throughout Bihar.



Bodies of victims entreated from the ruins at Monghyr awaiting identification. The death-toll here is estimated at nearly 1,300. Many persons were buried beneath the wreckage of their own bungalows. The factory of the Imperial Tobacco Company was partly destroyed but the all, numbering 2,300, were evacuated with but a single fatality. In one case even the ruins were so complete that it was impossible to see where the line of the street had been.

Munger; total death -1434.

Building: Munger town was more urban than all north Bihar district, so totally demolished after shock; Madhupur, chuak quarter demolished. mass of debris, foundation was scattered in main bazar of monger. and monger district, where many house made of mud and Kachchi soil caused of total damaged. a peninsular tobacco factory in monger was demolished with one causality, 400 people escaped during shock. Main reason of mass demolition in monger because of congested bazar, narrow road.

Causalities: in monghyr after earthquake, dead body was being recovered during relief work, reconstruction. 200 body was recovered from debris from monghyr main town by police personal under working of w.h Willson [subrident of police of monghyr].

It cannot say real number of causalities in manghir because of not count of single death in monghyr. causalities were far in excess of the number.

Munger town-1260 death

Munger district-237 death (Munger district administration report)

The number of causalities was reported different by various agency.

Relief work

District administration: during earthquake in monghyr, superintendent of police; w.c Magrath and District magistrate; A. J Mainwaring and divisional commissioner (Bhagalpur) J.R. Dain. SP w.c Magrath was injured by the fall of his house during earthquake, then DM A.J. Mainwaring taken charge and mobilised arm police and extra guard on treasury. They reached jail where jailor save 250 prisons under shed, they deployed guard for prisoner and sent extra troops to relief work Munger town. All night police personal patrolled bazar and worked relief work. They save a little girl from main bazar. At mid night R.P. Willson S.P. Og Bhagalpur came at with 45 constables from training school. Relief work set about relief work with police under direction R.P Willson.

First message was delivered by telegraph from divisional commissioner office, Bhagalpur to Patna. immediately five senior medical student was sent to Munger. And extra arm police were deployed at Munger for relief work. The public health officer of the Bhagalpur district board, dr. D.B Mukherji arrived on site with two member Santhal mission. D streever and C.J jangen come with a car and assisted the salvation army office with ambulance work.

District judge started preparing shelter for patients in the hospital and a messenger was sent to Patna for medical supplies required by civil surgeon's Munger Dr.D.P. Verma. An officer put on duty for food supplies. Subdivisional officer jamun sent kerosene, lamp and more labour.

Women patients was being treated women hospital. men patients were not persuaded to take shelter in women hospital during emergency.

The salvation army office started ambulance work and with the help of the Jamalpur hospital motor ambulance.122 injured brought in and treated. on 18 January power house running again.

Divisional commissioner and east railway arranged extra police and supplies for Munger. special train sent to Munger with essential commodities required for relief work smoothly. Commissioner and DM reached at east railway Jamalpur workshop for tools to cleaning.

Non-government relief work.; after earth quake many civil society, organization and Private firm sent relief team and essential supplies to monghyr. As emergency relief, Tata company has sent special train to monghyr with medical essential, food supplies and 120tonn iron shit, mechanics for homeless survivors and temporary building for hospital. Tata had also started sanitation centre by 24th January.

Tobacco factory provided open truck for relief work .and sent staff to clean debris from bazar. District official contacted for essential help for survivors.

Redcrosss hospital from Calcutta had started relief work with health care centre in monghyr. And operated hospital services to injured men. they provided beds, medicine, etc to survivor.

Other civil society Marwari Sangh, Ganga coolies and individual efforts also paid work during relief work. all these efforts were taken immediately after shock –provide basic services food supplies, medicine, shed etc. SK trader from Bhagalpur started ambulance work at. Bhagalpur Marwari samiti began to work. tents came from jamuai and were supplied to the hospital. On 18 January relief party came from nawada for helping survivors.

BCRC; The experience of leading Congress members and the INC's institutional organisation and networks helped the committee to collect funds, outline a relief programme and set up an administration for the distribution and management of relief BIHAR central relief committee began work in monghyr with prominent congress figure. Rajendra Parsad was leading this relief work in Bihar... By June 1934, the BCRC Head Office, located on Exhibition Road in Patna, coordinated and served as storage for the considerable national and also international contributions pouring in from purse collections, charity organisations and private persons before being sent to the districts.182 In addition to a publicity department, the office contained 15 departments, including a medical, an agricultural and an engineering department and seven branch offices in the districts. The BCRC's costs for administration by the end of June 1934, amounted to 1,33,423 rupees, covering the costs for travelling, volunteers and office equipment, huts, cars and cycles. The amount spent on administration reflected the set-up of a fairly large organisation for relief which included 258 centres and 2,277 workers by June 1934. 3 Administratively experienced politicians such as Jawaharlal Nehru advised in the organisation of the Head Office, and J. C. Kumarappa, a chartered accountant, was sent by M. Gandhi.BCRC collected 3 million rupee from country and outer world. They provided reconstruction work, essential medical services, foods in monghyr.

Conclusion: public health services in Munger was not much as required at the time of earthquake because we have seen relief work was being mostly by non-official agency in monghyr. They had provided ambulance to rush injured to Patna. During period, prince of Wales medical college [PMCH] was only big hospital opened in Bihar on 1925 just before 9 years of earthquake. Which is hundred miles from Munger. That decade in Munger, small dispensary was being operated in district. Which was not provide required medical assistance to affected people during emergency Tragedy. In first hour of earthquake is golden period, rescue operation could save many lives those were recovered as dead body during cleaning debris from town. lack of relief team, rescue force was fewer in Munger. Munger was under the extreme earthquake zone then district administration should have reserved a disaster force and rescue team for tackling any tragedy. government had much focus on political vision in Bihar because civil disobedience movement was organised just before 4 years. Even government had blamed charge on BCRC For corruption and influence public to vote in his favour.it can be seen Munger administration had sought help from neighbour district for police personal, foods supplies and other non-government agency. Red cross hospital came from Calcutta and set temporary hospital to treat injured people.so, if government has sufficient rescue team, hospital in Munger then we could save many lives .it can predict that public health services was insufficient in all Bihar that time, then what was condition in monghyr. British authority was much focus on British enclave for health services.

Eventually, after earthquake 1934, Munger was reconstructed town with new planned geographical mapping, earthquake resistance building, wide road and open space in town.

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